



SC/Rep/2011/01  
6 July 2011

## **Report of the Meeting**

### **Standing Committee on Political Affairs**

**5-6 July 2011**

**Seoul, Republic of Korea**

1. The Standing Committee on Political Affairs held its meeting on 05-06 July 2011 in Seoul, the Republic of Korea. APA Delegations from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Maldives, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia and Thailand participated in this meeting. The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

2. Honorable Dr. Cheung Ui-Hwa, Vice Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, delivered his welcoming remarks at the beginning of the meeting. He underscored the growing economic power of Asia in recent years. He also commented on the complexity, diversity and a history of wars and divisions in Asia. He closed his remarks, however, on a positive note, expressing his hopes for the productive results of the Meeting.

Hon. Dr. Kim Sung-Gon, Chairman of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs, made his opening remarks in which he welcomed all delegates from 12 APA member nations as well as Korean lawmakers. Chairman Kim also mentioned various disputes and confrontations in Korea, Asia and the world. After outlining the meeting agenda, he emphasized the need for Asia to restore spiritual values as a cradle of many splendid civilizations. He also cited a maxim of Confucius to highlight the role of politicians in building peace. In closing, he expressed his hopes that the Seoul Meeting plays a role in building and spreading peace in the world as well as in Asia.

H.E. Dr. Masoud Islami, APA Assistant Secretary-General made an opening statement highlighting the role of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs and the importance the APA attaches to parliamentary diplomacy. He also elaborated on the achievements of APA towards peace, prosperity, democracy and justice in the region. Dr. Islami mentioned the principles and guidelines that the APA Secretary-General had outlined earlier on the need for the APA to develop a vision and a set of missions to be able to play an effective role in the realm of politics and security in Asia.

3. In the first working session of the meeting, the agenda was adopted. Then Honorable Dr. Kim Sung-Gon was elected as the Chairperson; Honorable Mr.

Kimyeat Chhit of Cambodia was elected as Vice-Chairperson; and Honorable Mr. Syed Muhammad Zafar of Pakistan was elected as the Rapporteur of the Committee.

4. The list of documents before the Meeting included:

i) APA/Res/2010/09 of 30 November 2010, on Reinforcing the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia,

ii) APA/Res/2010/11 of 30 November 2010, on Enhancing Cooperation between APA and Asian Governments,

iii) APA/Res/2010/07 of 30 November 2010, on the Role of Asian Parliaments in Promoting Comprehensive Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Occupation Strategies

iv) APA/Res/2010/12 of 30 November 2010 on APA Cooperation with International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP); Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians Union (APPU) and similar organization

5. The Report of the APA Secretary-General to the Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs was printed and distributed among all delegations and also orally explained to the participants. In his Report to the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs, the Secretary-General reported the latest state of each of the following items in order to provide a ground for further deliberation by the Standing Committee and pave the way for further action by the APA:

- a) promoting friendship; cooperation; and solidarity in Asia;
- b) enhancing cooperation between APA and Asian governments;
- c) expanding cooperation with regional and international organizations;
- d) major issues of peace and security in Asia;
- e) strategies and measures to counter terrorism and occupation;
- f) humanitarian crisis in Palestine and condemnation of atrocities committed by the Zionist Regime;

6. General Debate on the modalities to promote and implement the previous four Resolutions kicked off starting with the APA Resolution on Reinforcing the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia followed by two other Resolutions on Enhancing Cooperation between APA and Asian Governments, and on APA Cooperation with International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP); Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians Union (APPU) and similar organizations) Deliberations by distinguished delegates went on to cover APA Resolution on the Role of Asian Parliaments in Promoting Comprehensive Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Occupation Strategies.

7. Discussions in the second sessions began mainly on the two out of three agenda items proposed by the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, namely the regional disputes in Asia and dispute resolution measures; and measures to form a security community in Asia. Eight designated speakers delivered their remarks followed by lively interaction and comments.

8. After extensive deliberation by participants, the APA Secretariat prepared four new Draft Resolutions and presented them to the Meeting which was considered in the following order:

1. Draft Resolution on Consolidation of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (SC/Political/Res/2011/01);
2. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments: Together for Solidarity and Prosperity in Asia (SC/Political/Res/2011/02);
3. Draft Resolution on Supporting Palestinian State and Protecting Rights of Palestinian People (SC/Political/Res/2011/03);
4. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments against Terrorism and Foreign Occupation (SC/Political/Res/2011/04).

The Standing committee recommended these Draft Resolutions to the first APA Executive Council Meeting of 2011, to be forwarded to the APA plenary for its consideration and adoption

9. Annexed to this Report, are the following:

- Agenda of the Meeting;
- List of delegation members;
- Draft Resolutions considered by the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs and recommended to the APA Executive Council
- Minutes of the Meeting

10. The Standing Committee expressed special appreciation to the National Assembly of Republic of Korea for excellent organization of the meeting and the hospitality extended to all participants. On behalf of all distinguished delegates, the Rapportuer wishes to particularly thank the APA Secretariat for outstanding service it has provided for smooth running of the meeting. Our thanks and appreciation goes also to the staff of the local secretariat for their effective contributions to the meeting.



## **ANNEX - I**

### **Asian Parliamentary Assembly**

#### **Meeting of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs**

**4-6 July 2011  
Seoul – Republic of Korea**

#### **AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Rapporteur of Standing Committee Meeting
3. Statement by the Chairperson
4. Report of the APA Secretary- General
5. General Debate
6. Consideration of the modalities of cooperation between APA and Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians Union (APPU)
7. Consideration and deliberation on Draft Resolutions to be recommended to the APA Executive Council
8. Adoption of the Report of Standing Committee on Political Affairs
9. Any other matter
10. Closing



## **ANNEX- II**

### **List of Participants in the Meeting of Standing Committee on Political Affairs**

| No. | Name of Parliament | Delegates  |
|-----|--------------------|--|
| 1   | Afghanistan        | Honorable Mr. Abdul Hanan Haqvaun, M. P.<br>Mr. Najibullah Hashimi, Director   |
| 2   | Bahrain            | 1. Honorable Dr. Salah Ali Abdulrahman, Deputy Speaker<br>2. Honorable Mr. Fuad Ahmed Al-Hajee, MP<br>3. Honorable Mr. Abdul Hameed Almeer, MP   |
| 3   | Cambodia           | 1 - Honorable <b>Senator Mr. Chhit Kim YEAT</b><br><b>2-Mr. Hok Bunly -Assistant</b>   |
| 4   | Indonesia          | 1. Honorable Mr. Fardan Fauzan, M. P., Head of Delegation<br>2. Honorable Helmi Fauzy, M. P.<br>3. Mr. Robert Juheng Purba, Secretary of Delegation<br>4. Mr. Ibrani Pangran Situmorgang, Secretary of Delegation<br>5. Mr. Adwita Kristy Hapsari, Secretary of Delegation |
| 5   | Iran               | 1 - Honorable Mr. Mohsen Nariman, MP<br>2 - Honorable Mr. Amir Taherkhani, MP  |
| 6   | Jordan             | 1 –Honorable Mr. Mihjim Al- Khraisheh, MP. Head of Delegation<br>2 – Honorable Shroush mohammad, MP<br>3 – Mr. Hazen Hawamdeh, Secretary of Delegation   |
| 7   | Kuwait             | 1 - Honorable Mr. Saleh Ahmad Ashour, M P<br>2 – Honorable Mr. Ali Saleh Al- Omayer, MP.   |
| 8   | Korea              | 1 - Honorable Mr. Kim Sung Gon, MP. Head of Delegation<br>2 - Honorable Mr. Hwang Jin Ha, MP<br>3 – Honorable Mr. Jeon Hae Sook, MP<br>4 – Honorable Mr. Lee Han sung, MP  |
| 9   | Maldives           | 1 - Honorable Mr. Abdul Muhsin Hameed, MP. Head of Delegation<br>2 - Honorable Mr. Nazim Rashad, MP.<br>3 – Mr. Hussain Waheed, Director of Legal Affairs  |
| 10  | Pakistan           | 1 - Honorable Senator Mr. Syed Muhammad Zafar, Head of Delegation<br>2 - Honorable Senator Mr. Seyed Zafar Ali Shah<br>3 – Mr. Ghulam Shabbir, Section officer<br>4 - Mr. Mehboob Ali, Additional Secretary  |
| 11  | Palestine          | 1 - Honorable Mr. Zuhair Sanduka, MP   |
| 12  | Russian Federation | Honorable Mr. Rudik Iskujin, MP  |
| 13  | Thailand           | 1 – Honorable Senator Mr. Tassana Boontong, Head of Delegation<br>2 - Honorable Senator Mr. Pangake Apiraksyothin<br>3 – Ms. Kitti Saereprayoon, Foreign Affairs Officer   |
| 14  | APPU               | 1 – H.E. Tetsuya Hirose, Secretary- General of Asian Pacific Parliamentarians' Union ( APPU)   |
| 15  | APA Secretariat    | 1 – Dr. Masoud Islami, Assistant Secretary General on Legal and Political Affairs<br>2 - Mr. Bijan Moshirvaziri, Assistant Secretary General on Administration and Financial Affairs   |



### **ANNEX - III**

Draft Resolutions Considered by the APA Standing  
Committee on Political Affairs and Recommended  
to the APA Executive Council



SC/Political/Res/2011/01  
6 July 2011

## Draft Resolution on Consolidation of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia

*We the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly*

**Recalling** relevant APA Resolutions on Reinforcing the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2010/09, 30 November 2010); Resolution on Pursuing Implementation of the Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2008/09, 29 November 2008) and Resolution on the Friendship Pact in Asia; (APA/Res/2007/06, dated 19 November 2007); Text of the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2007/06/Annex, 19 November 2007);

**Welcoming** the organization of an international conference on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia by the Parliament of Indonesia to be held in September 2011;

**Cognizant** of the deep-rooted ties of history, geography, culture, and civilization which bind Asian peoples together and the common interests pointing to the need for further cooperation;

**Convinced** that the Declaration on the Principles of Friendly Relations in Asia provides a framework for promoting peace and security and prosperity in Asia

**Recognizing** the constructive role of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in paving the way for strengthening amity and the friendly relations among the Asian Nations and States in all areas;

**1. Call Upon** all Member Parliaments to expedite passing and endorsing the Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia, as contained in APA/Res/2007/06/Annex, 19 November 2007, in accordance with their own internal procedures and to report to the Secretary-General on the progress they have made in this respect prior to the first meeting of the Executive Council in 2012;

**2. Determine** to utilize capacities and good offices available to the Member Parliaments, Asian Parliamentary Friendship Associations, and the APA Secretariat to promote, publicize, and disseminate information about the Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia;

**3. Encourage** further expansion of friendly relations including cultural, diplomatic, scientific, and commercial relations among all Asian States and further communication and interaction among Asian Parliaments and Nations in pursuance of the purposes of the Declaration;

**4. Call Upon** all Member Parliaments to support and collaborate in organizing the second international conference on Friendship and Cooperation in **[a volunteer Member Parliament]** in 2012 in order to consolidate the achievements of the first conference in Indonesia and requests the Secretary-General to provide necessary assistance in this respect;

**5. Decide** to continue deliberations in order to make recommendations on ways and means of promoting and publicizing the APA Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia by Asian parliaments and Governments for its international recognition;

**6. Request** the Secretary-General to make necessary consultations and coordination with the APA Member Parliaments as well as interested Asian organizations and academic institutions for promoting further activities and joint initiatives pertaining to Friendship and Cooperation in Asia.



SC/Political/Res/2011/02  
6 July 2011

## **Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments: Together for Solidarity and Prosperity in Asia**

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA),*

**Recalling** APA Resolution on Measures for Enhancing Cooperation Between APA and Asian Governments (APA/Res/2010/11, 30 November 2010) and Resolution on Enhancing Cooperation Between Asian Parliamentary Assembly Member Parliaments and Their Governments for Implementation of APA Decisions (APA/Res/2008/10, 29 November 2008)

**Taking note** of the deliberations of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs in its July 2011 Meeting in Seoul, on Enhancing Cooperation between APA and Asian Governments;

**Encouraging** Member Parliaments to consider endorsing and adopting common legislations on issues of particular interest to both APA and Asian Governments with viable monitoring methods;

**Emphasizing** the need to foster closer coordination and cooperation between APA and Governments of APA Member Parliaments;

**Taking note** of the initiative by the Secretary-General of Asian-Pacific Parliamentary Union (APPU) to take part in the meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs and introducing areas for mutual cooperation, and the initiative by the Secretary-General of Asian Mayors Forum (AMF) in requesting Observer status at APA;

- 1. Decide** to continue inviting representatives of Asian Governments of APA Members respective Governments to participate in the Executive Council and Plenary Sessions of the APA and to exchange views on the most significant and urgent issues in Asia and on the APA agenda;
- 2. Decide** to stimulate further contacts and coordination among APA Focal Points within Member Parliaments who are in charge of making regular coordination between APA parliaments and

governments on the one hand, and between APA parliaments and APA Secretariat for the implementation of APA decisions and programs on the other. This requires immediate appointment and introduction of a specific delegate from each Member Parliament to keep in regular contact with the APA Secretariat and be responsible for communication and coordination between ;

3. **Decide** to establish working groups comprising delegates from Member Parliaments as may be desirable to consider and address particular issue of importance and to take parliamentary initiatives for promoting APA goals and objectives and contribute to the implementation of the APA Resolutions;
4. **Request** the Secretary-General to utilize the capacity of interested Member Parliaments in order to expand the scope of his contacts and communications with inter-parliamentary; inter-governmental as well as non-governmental organizations who work on issues relevant to the items on the APA agenda in order to facilitate further interaction and joint efforts with a view to enhancing cooperation between Asian Parliaments and Governments and report thereon to the next session of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs and the Executive Council;
5. **Request** the Secretary General to report to the Executive Council on areas of common interest and feasible initiatives for cooperation between APA and Asian-Pacific Parliamentary Union (APPU); European Parliament; International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP); and Asian Mayors Forum (AMF).



SC/Political/Res/2011/03  
6 July 2011

## **Draft Resolution on Supporting Palestinian State and Protecting Rights of Palestinian People**

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

**Recalling** APA Resolutions on Supporting the Rights of Palestinian People (APA/Res/2010/08, 30 November 2010); Violations of International Humanitarian Law in the Palestine and the War Crimes Committed By the Zionist Regime in Gaza (APA/Res/Political/2009/01, 8 December 2009); and Humanitarian Crisis in Palestine in Particular in the Gaza Strip (APA/Res/2008/08, 29 November 2008);

**Guided** by the principles and objectives of the Charter of the APA;

**Committed** to contribute to the promotion of peace and security at regional and global levels on the basis of justice and the rule of law;

**Affirming** the responsibility of the international community to support implementation of resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations Security Council; the UN General Assembly; the Human Rights Council; and the APA pertinent to the situation in Palestine, particularly Al-Quds Al-Sharif;

**Recognizing** that measures taken by Israeli regime in the occupied Palestinian territories continue to lead to disastrous humanitarian, economic, social and environmental consequences which undermine international efforts towards achieving a just and lasting peace in the region;

**Supporting** the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital;

1. **Call Upon** all governments in general and the Asian governments in particular to establish diplomatic Relations with the Palestinian State and support the Palestinian State in acquiring the membership of the United Nations in the upcoming session of the UN General Assembly in September 2011;
2. **Encourage** all members of the international community to put pressure on the Zionist regime to immediately end the occupation of Palestinian territories according to the relevant Resolutions of the United Nations; release all the

Palestinian prisoners including the Members of the Palestinian Parliament; dismantle all the settlements as well as the entire separating wall in the Palestinian lands;

3. **Condemn** in the strongest terms, the unprovoked attack by Israeli naval forces against the aid flotilla including some members of parliaments on sea bound for Gaza on a humanitarian mission, as a grave act of war crime and a gross violation of international humanitarian law and of the Law of the Sea Convention;
4. **Call Upon** all members of the APA and the United Nations as well as all regional and international organizations concerned, particularly the United Nations Security Council and the International Criminal Court to address, under the UN Charter and the Rome Statute, the crimes against humanity by Israel against innocent civilians attempted to bring help to the besieged people in the Gaza Strip;
5. **Urge** the international community to put pressure on the occupying regime of Israel for opening all borders and crossing points, and to allow the free access of fuel, humanitarian needs and medicine in addition to all necessary materials and equipments needed for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Gaza;
6. **Urge** the international community and aid and humanitarian organizations to double efforts to bring humanitarian aid and publicity to the sufferings of all Palestinian people;
7. **Request** the Secretary General to communicate with the United Nations Secretary-General requesting the reflection of this Resolution to all Members of the United Nations in order to further protect the rights of Palestinian people.



SC/Political/Res./2011/04  
6 July 2011

## **Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments Against Terrorism and Foreign Occupation**

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

**Recalling** APA Resolution on comprehensive counter-terrorism and counter-occupation strategies (APA/Res/2010/07, 30 November, 2010)

**Recalling** United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/Res/64/297, 13 October 2010);

**Inspired** by the principles and objectives of the APA Charter

**Expressing** our commitment to oppose extremism and prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

**Considering** that acts of terrorism threaten peace and security of all nations and is a menace to social and economic development of international community

**Recognising** that foreign occupation violates the United Nations Charter which accepts the territorial sovereignty of all its members and such occupation has provided fertile ground for destructive acts of blind terrorism

**Reaffirming** determination to promote further cooperation and coordination among Asian Parliaments and Governments in establishing a unified front against terrorism and foreign occupation

**Denouncing** stereotyping of any religious, national or ethnic group and condemn any linkage between terrorism and any religion, race, ethnic group and culture.

**Emphasizing** that the struggle of peoples under foreign occupation to gain national freedom and exercise their right to self-determination is not, in any way, an act of terrorism;

1. **Call upon** member parliaments to engage in a continuous dialogue and joint parliamentary activities to combat terrorism in Asia

2. **Urge** all Member Parliaments to harmonize their efforts in promulgating counter-terrorism laws and legislations in Asia with a view to facilitating more effective cooperation among Asian Governments in combating terrorism
3. **Invite** Member Parliaments and their respective Governments to exchange their best practices in fighting terrorism
4. **Encourage** all Member Parliaments to intensify their efforts in utilizing parliamentary diplomacy for the development of international and regional frameworks for combating terrorism and to that end support the setting up of a Regional Task Force comprising Parliamentarians and civil society representatives mandated to monitor, evaluate and coordinate counter-terrorism practices in Asia
5. **Request** the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on measures taken to implement this resolution and to report thereon as well as on the activities of Member Parliaments against terrorism to the next meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs and the Executive Council.



## **ANNEX – IV**

# **Minutes of the Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs**

**5-6 July 2011  
Seoul- Republic of Korea**

**Prepared by:  
Ms. Kim You Jeong & Ms. Moon Sun Hee**

## **Session I**

### **General Debate on Modalities for Promotion and Implementation of APA Resolutions on Political Affairs**

Dr. Islami, the APA Assistant Secretary General partially read through and summarized the main points of the Report of the APA Secretary General highlighting the subject matters for deliberation by the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs. The list of documents before the Meeting included:

- i) APA/Res/2010/09 of 30 November 2010, on Reinforcing the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia,
- ii) APA/Res/2010/11 of 30 November 2010, on Enhancing Cooperation between APA and Asian Governments,
- iii) APA/Res/2010/07 of 30 November 2010, on the Role of Asian Parliaments in Promoting Comprehensive Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Occupation Strategies
- iv) APA/Res/2010/12 of 30 November 2010 on APA Cooperation with International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP); Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians Union (APPU) and similar organizations

As for the Resolution on Reinforcing the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia, Honorable delegate from Bahrain commented that even though three years have already passed since the said Declaration was adopted in 2008, not many have endorsed this Resolution in their respective parliaments as of yet. For more effective implementation of the Resolution, the APA Secretariat should play a more active role, while each Member Parliament is advised to pass this Resolution at the earliest possible time and submit a report on progress to the APA for its smooth coordination amongst Member Parliaments in Asia.

Honorable Chair KIM entirely supports the idea of the distinguished delegate from Bahrain. There are still many countries including even Korea that are not familiar with APA, so if each Member Parliament can pass the Resolution, it will serve as a great opportunity to promote and publicize the existence and activities of APA as well as to further consolidate cooperation amongst Asian parliamentarians.

Dr. Islami, APA Assistant Secretary-General, responded to the delegate from Bahrain by saying that the APA Secretariat hasn't received any report by this time from countries which endorsed or adopted the Resolution in their parliaments although the mandate to pass and endorse the Declaration in all Member Parliaments is incorporated in the operative paragraph 1.

Honorable Chair added that each parliament has its own rules and regulations regarding the passage of the Resolution. After thorough review, if any parliament adopts the Resolution, they are encouraged to report to the Secretariat. Chair hopes that the Committee will be able to see more countries endorse this Resolution by the next time the meeting is convened.

Honorable delegate from Kuwait also stated that each parliament needs to engage in discussions on the principles first.

Dr. Islami, APA Assistant Secretary-General, stressed that this Resolution has already been adopted and on this occasion, the main focus should be placed on the modalities of promotion and implementation of the Resolution. When it comes to international or inter-parliamentary documents, parliamentarians should take the responsibility of publicizing, promoting and implementing those documents including familiarizing constituents with the contents and getting approval from their colleagues.

Honorable delegate from Bahrain reemphasized that members of Asian parliaments are responsible for submitting and passing the Resolution in their own parliaments given that it was adopted in the APA Plenary Session three years ago but regrettably, little progress has been made so far.

Honorable Russian delegate said that his country already passed and has put the Resolution into implementation. What is equally important at this juncture is to work closely with the Executive Branches of our countries in the right direction going forward.

Honorable delegate from Pakistan covered the two Resolutions at the same time including Resolution on Reinforcing the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation and Resolution on Measures for Enhancing Cooperation between APA and Asian Governments. In regards to the issue of inviting Foreign Ministers to participate in the Executive Council and Plenary Sessions of APA, he proposed that not only Ministers of Foreign Affairs but also Interior Ministers be invited. He went on to say that an APA delegate should be appointed as a Focal

Point to be in charge of making regular contacts and coordination between APA parliaments and governments.

In response to this suggestion, Dr. Islami, APA Assistant Secretary-General, mentioned that Foreign Ministers are those mainly in charge of coordinating the position of government in terms of international conferences, but if there is a particular subject on the APA Agenda, interior Ministers can also be invited.

Honorable delegate from Bahrain commented that the proposal to invite Foreign Ministers has already been put forward in Tehran and also in 2008. However, when we extended invitation to Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other representatives in charge, it didn't go well.

Chair raised the point that each country has its own situation. And he said that we cannot invite all the Ministers in charge whenever a certain issue comes up. (For example, cultural ministers for cultural issues and environment ministers for environmental issues) As Dr. Islami told earlier, Foreign Ministers usually represent the position of respective Governments in the arena of international conferences. Against this background, it is a decision that needs to be made by each country on a case-by-case basis; therefore, we find it difficult to include Interior Ministers clearly in the list of invitation.

Honorable delegate from Jordan fully endorsed the Chair's idea. Foreign Ministers are deemed to be the most suitable for invitation, but other Ministers can also be invited where appropriate.

Distinguished delegate from Cambodia made it clear that Ministers are not those who tell parliamentarians what to do; rather, they listen to what Members of Parliament have to say.

Honorable delegate from Bahrain stated that whether Foreign Ministers or other relevant Ministers are invited, the relationship between government and parliament is of paramount importance. Unfortunately, it has been three years since the Resolution was passed; however, there was no such extended meeting between government officials and APA Member Parliaments being held in three years' time, which clearly shows the current status we are facing. In order to publicize and promote the activities of APA to each country, we need to encourage more government officials to future meetings. And under the control of the APA Secretariat, various APA documents should be distributed to each Member Parliament so that it can translate them into their own language to raise awareness on the mission and role of the APA.

Dr. Islami explained that the main purpose of the invitation mechanism of Foreign and other executive officials of governments has been to gradually inform and involve Asian governments with the APA activities. As for Focal Point, there are regrettably less than 10 MPs have been appointed and introduced to the APA Secretariat. Focal Points are supposedly not only responsible for coordinating issues of APA in their own parliaments, but also improving interaction between APA and their respective Governments. So the APA Secretariat urges the Member Parliaments to appoint their respective Focal Points and require them to be active in fulfilling their responsibilities.

Honorable delegate from Russia pointed out that we failed to put discussions made thus far into actual implementation. For more effective implementation of the Resolutions, Russia is more than willing to provide assistance. As part of these efforts, APA Member Parliaments should look beyond the region and forge close cooperation with European Parliament and African Parliament as well. He also added that even though Syria assumes the APA Presidency, which lasts for two years, no delegates from Syria have offered their presence in this Seoul meeting.

Honorable delegate from Indonesia said that parliaments do not have capacity to execute the Resolutions adopted. In this regard, we maintain close cooperation with government including intergovernmental organizations and APA Member Governments by inviting them to the Executive Council to help coordinate and harmonize the decisions adopted in government policies. In Southeast Asia, the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) has been established over the past 20-30 years as the regional inter-parliamentary organization of national parliaments of ASEAN Member States, and ASEAN has been invited to General Assemblies of AIPA and vice versa. During that period, many resolutions have been passed, yet none of them were actually adopted in each parliament. The most important issue here is to tell the government what parliament wants to do, and Resolutions should advise Ministers what to do.

Honorable delegate from Palestine mentioned that when it comes to inviting Foreign Ministers and other relevant Ministers to the APA meetings, further review and discussion should be followed. Especially, these issues need to be dealt with not only on the regional basis but at the global level such as the UN and other international organizations. Hence, relevant Ministers and officials who are deemed necessary and appropriate should be invited, preferably within the multilateral framework.

Honorable delegate from Iran suggested that since there have been many problems associated with Ministers be invited only after Member Parliaments finalize the Resolutions and report to the APA Secretariat on the results of implementation and reasons for success and failure.

Honorable Chair KIM moved on to consider the modalities of expansion of cooperation between APA and the International Conference of Asian Political Parties, or ICAPP; Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians Union or APPU and similar organizations. Dr. Islami reported that APA's outreach efforts will contribute to the realization of APA's objectives and goals and that therefore the APA Secretariat has taken steps in pursuant of resolutions adopted. He said that APA has actively cooperated with governments, parliaments, international organizations such as the U.N., the IPU, the PUIC, the IPU of Arab Countries, ICAPP and NGOs. He added that such outreach efforts with other international organizations will resolve the issue raised by the Honorable Russian delegate. He continued to say that APA is trying to take part in plenary meetings or General Assembly meetings of these organizations and seeking to gain observer status on a mutual basis. He informed that the Fifth Plenary Meeting of APA adopted a special resolution for a closer cooperation with ICAPP and that APA has granted observer status to ICAPP. He said that there will be the first joint meeting between APA and ICAPP in 2011 in order to find common ground and create synergy between the two organizations in an effort to share agenda and cause for cooperation and integration of Asia. He stressed that the APA Secretariat has fulfilled its mandate of strengthening cooperation with other organizations, for example, its meetings at the side of the IPU each year. He cited other successful experiences such as the special resolution to boost cooperation between APA and ICAPP as will be presented by Honorable Hwang Jin-Ha shortly.

Honorable Hwang Jin-Ha, member of the National Assembly and of the ICAPP Standing Committee welcomed all the APA delegations and thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to brief on ICAPP and its activities. He explained to the delegations that the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union of the Korean National Assembly was founded in 2008 as a bipartisan parliamentary group joined by 78 Korean lawmakers from the ruling and opposition parties. He referred to the two booklets for detailed information on ICAPP entitled "Ten Years of the ICAPP" and "Conclusions of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the ICAPP Standing Committee" respectively. He briefly mentioned ICAPP activities such as its engagement in discussions on peace, stability, prosperity, poverty eradication, etc. He said that ICAPP is working hard

to make political parties do their part, urge governments to play their due roles and ask international organization to fulfill their mandates. He added that various discussions have taken place for a closer partnership between APA and ICAPP and that the APA Secretary-General highlighted the importance of the cooperation and interactions between the two organizations by attending ICAPP General Assembly and standing committee meetings. Hon. Hwang also said that ICAPP has held two joint meetings with COPPPAL and is working to enhance cooperation with African countries, too. He explained that ICAPP's 18 Standing Committee member countries are making concerted efforts to gain observer status at the United Nations. He expressed his willingness to invite APA member parliaments to the 16<sup>th</sup> ICAPP Standing Committee Meeting to be held in Seoul this coming October as he agreed with the view that the APA Secretary-General had expressed about the need for a closer cooperation and more robust interactions between the two organizations. He said that he would ask the ICAPP Secretariat to consult with the APA Secretariat on this issue for the fulfillment of APA's objective to increase interaction and exchanges with international organizations including ICAPP.

Honorable Jordanian delegate thanked for Hon. Hwang's elaboration and asked what those 18 Standing Committee member nations are. Hon. Hwang asked delegates to refer to the distributed booklets about the membership and activities of ICAPP and wished that Jordan would soon become a member of ICAPP.

Honorable Cambodian delegate expressed his agreement on the inclusion of ICAPP in the 3<sup>rd</sup> resolution. He also said that the resolution should include AIPA. He also stressed the need for APA to gain observer status at AIPA and vice versa. He explained that AIPA currently has 10 member countries, but has quite many observers including the U.S., Korea, Russia, New Zealand, Australia, Papua New Guinea, India, and so on.

Honorable Jordanian delegate said that APA and ICAPP have similar objectives, whereas ICAPP represents political parties in Asia. He added that the strong partnership between ICAPP and APA would be helpful in resolving disputes peacefully. Concerning the invitation extended by Hon. Hwang, the Jordanian delegate expressed his wish to be part of the upcoming ICAPP Standing Committee meeting in Seoul because he believes there would be plenty of opportunities for cooperation and active interactions between the two organizations are of such importance. The Jordanian delegate asked how many members ICAPP currently has, where its headquarters is located and who some of the key figures are.

Honorable Hwang responded that the Jordanian delegate is one of the key figures of ICAPP. He continued to explain that 340 political parties from 53 nations are registered in ICAPP membership and that ICAPP holds Standing Committee meetings twice a year and the General Assembly once every two years. He mentioned that despite his invitation to the 16<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting to be held in Seoul, attendees would be able to meet only with delegates of Standing Committee member countries since the meeting is not a general assembly.

Honorable Russian delegate made a few suggestions. One suggestion was that the APA Assistant Secretary-General makes a short report on with what organizations APA currently works together, from when such cooperation started and at what stages such cooperative activities stand at the moment. He went on to say that Russia has two Chambers in its parliament – the upper and the lower houses. According to him, MPs of the lower Chamber is affiliated with political parties while those of the upper Chamber are not. He would be pleased to see members of the Russian upper house attend ICAPP meetings even without party affiliation.

Dr. Islami pointed out that APA had submitted a request for an observer status at the United Nations last year and that it is in the process whose final approval takes two to three years to come out. He added that APA is closely following this process and will report to the Executive Council as soon as the approval is out and that APA already has an observer status at the IPU. He also reported on the close contact between APA and PUIC although APA has not obtained an observer status at the PUIC yet. According to him, APA has limited interactions with Latin American IPU and has not gained an observer status yet. He also provided successful cooperation examples such as the one between APA and IPU as well as with ICAPP and between APA and the Asian Mayors Forum.

Honorable Hwang said that he would take into consideration the Russian delegate's input, but that ICAPP is an organization of Asia's political parties, therefore it does not directly contact parliaments. He gave further explanation that anyone who has registered in a political party can be invited to ICAPP meetings and engaged with its activities even if the person is not an MP. He recommended the Russian delegate check on his party affiliation first in order to participate in ICAPP activities.

Dr. Kim Sung-Gon invited Mr. Testsuya Hirose, APPU Secretary-General for a briefing on its cooperative activities.

Mr. Hirose expressed his gratitude to the Korean people, Korean National

Assembly and Korean government for their condolences and assistance for the Japanese people in the face of the natural disaster as the only Japanese present in the meeting. He touched upon APPU's history first and its expanding membership based on the 2-page paper distributed to the delegates. He elaborated on the five pillars under APPU's aim, which he found to be quite similar with those of APA. He said that APPU's annual general assembly takes one main theme and asks member nations to report on the progress each member nation has made in implementing adopted resolutions at the immediate previous general assembly.

Chairman KIM said that Korea is a member of both APA and APPU, but that APPU member nations are mostly from the east part of Asia and the Pacific while APA member nations are Islamic nations from the west part of Asia. He also mentioned that China is a member of APA, Taiwan a member of APPU and Japan is a key member of APPU and just an observer to APA. He expressed his wishes that all the inter-parliamentary organizations in Asia are integrated in the near future, although he did not think it would be easy. He made a proposal that Japan at least be a full member of APA and that APA and APPU grant an observer status to each other as a channel for solidarity and cooperation.

Honorable Jordanian delegate welcomed the Chairman's proposal.

Honorable Bahrain delegate stressed the need to reinforce the interactions between APA and APPU by granting an observer status to each other so that APPU has a better awareness about APA's activities. He went on to say that such cooperative relations would develop democracy and freedom for everyone. He cited the Koran saying that cooperation among different nations is desirable for getting to know each other.

Chairman KIM touched upon the issue of financing APA's active participation and engagement in international organizations although this issue is slightly out of the agenda. APA member nations do not make financial contributions, thus the Secretariat has financial burden in carrying out various activities. He said that this issue deserves further consideration in APA.

Honorable Chhit of Cambodia presided over the last session of the day, moderating discussions on the 4<sup>th</sup> resolution on Comprehensive Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Occupation Strategies. He highlighted the importance of peace and security in Asia and of living harmoniously. He mentioned that the speech by Hon. Boontong touched his heart deeply because Cambodia and Thailand should live in harmony as neighboring countries.

Dr. Islami asked delegates to pay attention to the following. The Resolution on Comprehensive Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Occupation Strategies has been already adopted, so this session is not for review or addition. However, this resolution was included in the agenda because of the operative parts of the resolution as mentioned in the report made by the APA Secretary-General. The three important factors under this main theme of peace and security are (1) terrorism; foreign occupation; and organized crimes (2) disarmament; non-proliferation treaty; and effective security assurance (3) crimes and atrocities committed by Israel in Palestine. He also gave an oral summary on the report made by the APA Secretary-General, referring to the pages 6 and 7.

Palestine delegate said that this is a very important issue. He said that Palestinians are the only people under foreign occupation at the moment and that they only want to enjoy freedom in their own territory. He added that many Palestinians deprived of freedom often go to Europe or Africa because their right to live in their home country has been infringed. According to him, settlements for Israelis continue to be built in Palestine and Israel does not implement what it agreed in the U.N. Charter and U.N. Security Council resolutions. Conflicts are on-going and acts of Israelis are against existing peace treaties. Israel is a stumbling block to peace in the region. Continued air strikes and exploitations by Israel are acts of massacre upon Palestinians. The Israeli Prime Minister said that his country would not go back to the agreed borders of 1967. The territory occupied by Israel has long belonged to Palestine. Israel makes attempts to put Palestine at the center of its territory. Despite Palestine's will to have a dialogue, Israel continues to build settlements against all the agreements it made in Cairo with Palestine. Terrorism is a damaging act but we need to distinguish terrorism from self-defense. While terrorism is an act of crime, self-defense must be respected. He went on to request that APA should send support for Palestine's position against settlements built by Israelis and that APA should express its opposition against building settlements, thereby letting all Asian countries contribute to Palestine's independence.

Pakistani delegate praised Dr. Islami's succinct summary on the Secretary-General's report. He briefed on the casualties left by terrorist attacks in Pakistan. He added that parliamentarians must create policies to stop such attacks and bring civil society to policy-making. He mentioned three factors that should be incorporated into the comprehensive counter-terrorism and counter-occupation strategies, namely injustice, poverty and ignorance, all of which must be resolved to lift us from the hardships facing us. He expressed his opposition to the

view that equals terrorism and Islam. He said terrorism does not have a religion. He welcomed the remarks made by a Korean delegate that Islam is a peaceful religion. In Islam, the death of an individual is equal to the death of entire humanity. We must engage civil society to effectively fight against terrorism.

Mr. Chhit, Chair of the session expressed his agreement and added that religions are supposed to provide good teachings. He recommended Pakistan submit a written document to have its opinions included in resolutions.

After that, Iran made a statement on the peaceful use of nuclear energy under the supervision of IAEA, and pointed out that Israel generates, produces and stores nuclear weapons in the meantime, which is a very provocative act. He also suggested that in the fight against terrorism, occupation of the Palestine territory should end, and supported the Palestine nation.

Afghanistan delegate stressed the role of the APA, which should do a more practical job rather than talking on the paper.

As per questions from Hon. KIM Sung gon, Kuwait delegate clarified that his country is against the development of nuclear weapons and even thought that development of nuclear energy can be a threat or risk, saying that there is no need to develop nuclear technology given the recent incident in Japanese Fukushima nuclear power plants.

Jordanian delegate also mentioned the possession of nuclear weapons by Israel and stressed the importance of NPT.

Further comments were made by Bahrain commenting on the need to devise comprehensive integrated viewpoints and strategies that encompass diversity because there are so many factors intertwined with each other in a complex manner, followed by the statement by Kuwait saying that terrorism in any forms or manifestations should be condemned because it hurts social infrastructure, brings economic and political stability and harms democratic foundation. In this light, Israel troops should be withdrawn, and Iran should stop developing nuclear weapons, which will be the key to prosperity and peace in the region.

## **Session II**

### **Consideration of Proposals Made by the National Assembly of Korea**

There are eight designated speakers for consideration and deliberation on the Agenda items proposed by the Korean National Assembly starting from Hon. KIM Choong Whan, a delegate from Korea, whose presentation is titled “Regional Dispute in Asia and Dispute Resolution Measures.” According to Hon. KIM, in 1995, conflicts that occurred in Asia were mainly internal ones in countries like Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and the Korean Peninsula. But in 2011, we are witnessing more disputes amongst countries such as China vs. Vietnam, China vs. Japan and Russia vs. Japan rather than internal conflicts. Most of the conflicts in the South China Sea and East China Sea surround the energy issue. To solve these serious problems, we should seek common action and close cooperation on the development of energy. ECSC (European Coal and Steel Community), which was formed in 1952 and developed into EEC (European Economic Community) in 1957 ultimately leading to the adoption of the Euro currency and Lisbon Treaty, can be a good model for Asian countries to follow. Likewise, if Asian countries can collaborate on the development of energy along with expansion of trade, it will be mutually beneficial.

Honorable delegate from Russia asked whether Hon. KIM meant further promotion of cooperation with European countries. Hon. KIM responded that the European model can serve as an exemplary case for Asia’s cooperation.

Honorable delegate from Jordan was the next presenter starting with the comment on good relations between Korea and Jordan in recent years since the establishment of diplomatic mission of Jordan in Korea. He also mentioned that the Middle East has long been a host to various crises and conflicts, standing in the way of development, democratic reform and changes. Major reason for such conflict is attack from the outside, causing tremendous suffering and agony to civilians and ripping them of freedom. In the absence of security, regional conflict and dispute exacerbates. In this regard, building a security community is of considerable importance. To this end, we should eliminate nuclear weapons, join the NPT and faithfully adhere to the U.N. Charter. The U.N. can play a large role in bringing security and safety to the Middle East including Jordan as well as Asia through its moderate mediation.

Next speaker was Hon. AHN Gyu Baek to make a presentation on “Measures to Form a Security Community in Asia.” He made reference to Korean patriot and historic prophet AHN Jung Geun and his “Peace in East Asia Theory,” whose value will be a great asset in forming a regional security community in Asia. The security community can be defined as the common identity, belongness and We-Ness of the countries involved in this community, and also an integrated group that has strong confidence in resolving conflicts without physical confrontation amongst members. ARF (ASEAN Regional Forum) is a case in point. But there are still many problems lingering in Asia with regards to security. The reasons are resource acquisition, territorial dispute and hegemonic conflict between the U.S. and China. To resolve those problems, first, we should conduct a joint history study. Second, we shouldn’t be too impatient about forming a security community; rather, we need to come up with multi-faceted and multi-layered approaches in dealing with this issue. Third, we should take preventive measures against security threat instead of using the use of military force to respond to it. Reunification on the Korean Peninsula will take a security forum in Asia to the next level and make significant contribution to peace and prosperity in Asia. To achieve the desired goal in the end, we should apply two-track strategies where the existing ARF remains strong as ever while a multilateral security body is created in the region.

Hon. Helmy FAUZY from Indonesia delivered the next speech on “Major Issues of Peace and Security in Asia.” He stated that the world has been increasingly confronted with ethnic and religious conflicts, organized international crimes, drug trafficking, proliferation of nuclear weapons, environmental disasters and poverty among many other perils. Asia, in particular, is a host to some of very important political and security concerns such as the tension on the Korean Peninsula, the Palestinian quest for freedom, the democratization phenomenon in the Middle East and development in the South China Sea. Against this backdrop, building a secured community is viable and needed to be established in the Asian region. He concluded by saying that given their role as legislators, distinguished members can reflect their agreement here in their respective national regulations so as to create the favorable condition for regulated, peaceful and friendly relations.

Hon. Tassana BOONTONG from Thailand gave remarks on “Measures to Form a Security Community in Asia.” She mentioned ASC (ASEAN Security Community) which aims to ensure that countries in the region live in peace with one another and with the world at large in a just, democratic and harmonious environment and ASEAN Regional Forum

(ARF) which aims to foster constructive dialogue and consultation on political and security issues of common interest and concern as well as to make significant contributions to efforts towards confidence-building and preventive diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region. She emphasized that government-to-government cooperation is very significant, yet the inter-parliamentary collaboration is equally as important in order to bring peace and security to the continent. Driven by this goal, APA Member Parliaments, as the legislative branch, should exchange their experiences and point of views on how to make peace via the channel of parliamentary diplomacy like this forum.

Hon. Abdul Hanan Haqvaun from Afghanistan delivered his speech by asking for support from the international community to his troubled country in terms of the peace process to negotiate with the opposition group and requesting attention of APA to the ongoing peace process in Afghanistan.

Next, Hon. Zuhair Sanduqa from Palestine gave his remarks by briefly offering us background information on the history of conflict in Palestine with neighboring countries due to its strategic location with enormous oil reserves. To solve such conflict, Arab countries must unite and assets and resources must be protected through unity and by joining forces amongst countries in the region. Currently, security is very unstable in this region as Israel poses a threat to the Middle East. Without security, economic and cultural exchanges cannot be ensured. Without the resolution of Palestine issues, nothing can be addressed because no one would be willing to invest in such an unstable country. In the end, an independent state of Palestine must be built. In this regard, he sought Members' support in resolving the issues in Palestine, and once again stressed that Palestine wants peace based on agreement, not violence.

Chair KIM fully agreed with Hon. Sanduqa's position and hoped for the quick resolution of the situation.

The last designated speaker was Chair KIM, who delivered a speech on "Political Movement for Unity: MPPU." He made reference to what Confucius once said, "Cultivate your virtue first, and teach your family with the virtue, and then rule the country with the virtue, and the peace of the world will be realized. In other words, politicians should become one with the universe, and they should also love others as if they were your family regardless of ethnicity, religion and political orientation. He also introduced Political Movement for Unity, which was initiated in Italy in 1943 during the Second World War, to be incorporated in the political arena. The movement teaches us about universal brotherhood and tells us

that we should build a new political culture rather than creating a new political party. In the spirit of the Movement, we should respect diversity and only by doing so, will we be able to overcome conflict and confrontation, and achieve peace.

### **Session III**

#### **Consideration of Draft Resolutions For Recommendation to the APA Executive Council**

The morning session began at 9:15 a.m. and Chairman KIM Sung-Gon presided over the meeting. Session 3 started by dealing with four new draft resolutions based on the discussions and deliberations that had taken place the previous day.

Dr. Islami, APA Assistant Secretary-General briefed delegates on the first “Draft Resolution on Consolidation of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (SC/Political/Res/2011/01, 06 July 2011).” He read out the entire draft resolution paragraph by paragraph and gave explanations and clarifications when necessary.

Regarding the host country for the Second International Conference on Friendship and Cooperation in 2012, Jordan, Bahrain, Russia expressed intention as a potential host, but delegates from these nations said they had to consult with the leadership of their parliaments before they can volunteer as a host.

Dr. Islami explained the schedule of planned APA meetings for consideration – the first Executive Council meeting is held two to three months prior to APA Plenary and the second Executive Council meeting just one day before the Plenary. Usually the Plenary is convened in November, but due to some scheduling conflict of the Syrian Parliament, the 2011 APA Plenary will take place in December this year. He added that the draft resolution will be first reported to the Executive Council and then the Plenary to be adopted finally.

Chairman KIM asked if there are any parliament wishing to host the 2012 International Conference on Friendship and Cooperation. Jordanian delegate responded that he mostly agreed with the content of the draft resolution and that the one in hand showed much progress in comparison with the previous one. He added that he would report to the APA Secretariat after he consulted with the leadership of the Jordanian Parliament about the possible hosting of the 2012 international conference.

Russian delegate asked if there is a deadline for a member parliament to express its will to host. Dr. Islami answered that in principle the dates for a meeting and the specific title of the conference are decided after mutual consultation between the Secretariat and the host parliament. He also added that only the potential host parliament would be decided on this day.

Russian delegate clarified his question that he had not asked about the dates of the conference, but had asked by when any member parliament should express its willingness to host the conference. He suggested that the APA Secretariat should ask all APA member parliaments about their willingness of hosting the conference. He also added that the deadline could be by October this year because the Russian Parliament would resume its work by that time. Dr. Islami said that October is perfect as deadline because there would be an Executive Council meeting in October.

Dr. Islami made an oral report on the second “Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments: Together for Solidarity and Prosperity in Asia.” He read out the draft resolution in question paragraph by paragraph. He explained the third paragraph starting “encouraging Member Parliaments” that other APA standing committees consider a number of items potentially ready to be common legislations in member parliaments, citing such examples as drug trafficking, illegal trade of cultural artifacts. He said this initiative is part of efforts to slowly harmonize legislations among APA member parliaments. He specially mentioned that the operative paragraph 1 and 3 are reflective of the deliberations and discussions of the previous day.

Chairman KIM evaluated the draft resolution to have reflected delegates’ inputs well.

Russian delegate expressed his wish to specify a “working group” to enhance APA’s interaction with other international organizations, because otherwise the resolution would be too general. He added that a working group for monitoring crisis or disputes in the region would be a good idea. He also highlighted the need for APA member nations to get more actively involved with the work of APA, expressing his appreciation to the Iranian Parliament for its hard work and dedication towards APA.

Bahraini delegate offered an opposing opinion about the operative paragraph 1 and suggested that the phrase “including Ministers of Foreign Affairs and/or other relevant Ministers of APA Members respective Governments” be deleted, based on the discussions during the previous sessions. He also suggested to insert the phrase “to appoint” in the operative paragraph 2 before “APA Focal Point.”

Honorable Hwang of Korea asked if APA is authorized to use the term “governments” in the title of the draft resolution. He also suggested that

the resolution adopted between APA and ICAPP be inserted right after “ICAPP” in the operative paragraph 4.

Dr. Islami explained that the term “governments” does not indicate any specific government or put burden on any specific government. Chairman KIM also supported the Assistant Secretary-General’s rationale.

Dr. Islami responded to the Bahraini delegate’s suggestions, saying that his first suggestion to delete the phrase is relevant while the second suggestion would not, because a previous resolution had already mentioned the need to nominate and appoint a focal point within respective member parliaments.

Dr. Islami responded to the Russian delegate’s suggestions about a working group. He explained that the operative paragraph 3 reflected the Russian delegate’s input even though it did not specifically mention “working group” or “an establishment thereof.” He said that any member parliament has the right and opportunity to take part in APA initiatives under the Troika-Plus mechanism which has proven successful in the practice of the APA. He also added that APA experiences show previous attempts to set up groups have failed in many cases.

Chairman KIM also issued his opinion that it would be difficult to specifically mention a working group in the draft resolution at this stage.

Pertinent to Draft Resolution on Supporting Palestine State and Protecting Rights of Palestine People, Honorable delegate from Bahrain made suggestions regarding the format and style of the Resolution, meaning that there are many redundant items. Resolutions on the Israel issues by the international community, with deep regret, have borne no fruits. Jerusalem and Palestine issues cannot be resolved in the near future, frankly speaking. But once security and peace are to be maintained in Palestine, it will have a ripple effect on peace and stability of the entire world. So, the said issue should be given a priority not only in Asia but also in Europe. Jerusalem should be recognized as Palestine’s capital. Jerusalem is also a major issue for all Muslims. Israel is now occupying the Holy Land. Unless we resolve this issue, the Palestine issue cannot be overcome and it will go beyond generations. All the Palestine people want this issue to be resolved, and desire peace. This principle should be upheld. The U.N. and various organizations in the U.S. have been working on solving Palestine issues, but they are not making enough efforts.

Honorable delegate from Palestine said that the Asian region where two-thirds of the world population is living recognized and support the rights of Palestine. He is sure that they will gain our freedom and independence, and are putting in a lot of efforts to this end. And he especially thanked the distinguished delegates present at the meeting for supporting them, which helps greatly to uphold their freedom.

Jordanian delegate stated that the major issues are well reflected in this Resolution. APA is the largest inter-parliamentary organization. And what is important here is the implementation of what is written in this Resolution. This Resolution has been discussed in numerous international conferences, but only in words. As Honorable delegate from Bahrain said earlier, our recommendations should be sent to the U.N. and other international organizations. Only by doing so, will we be able to deliver concrete outcomes. He added that we are pleased to see strong condemnation of illegal actions taken by Israel.

Hon. LEE Yong Kyung from Korea said that it is a very sensitive issue. Although he is not an expert or conduct studies on disputes in this region, the Palestine is sure to pose humanitarian concerns. But the words such as a gross violation seen in the Resolution can be a bit too dangerous. There are points of views on a certain conflict and dispute. Even if intentions are good, we should engage in a lot of discussions so that our recommendations can be made more acceptable in the Plenary Session. To this end, words should be more polished, and need to be taken out if they can trigger controversy. Hon. HWANG Jin Ha from Korea shared this view.

Chair KIM said that the directly-related countries and those who are not might be put in a different position. Israel is part of Asia, but not a member of APA; therefore, we cannot deliver this Resolution directly to them. Israel is more than welcome to this meeting. Without their presence, we cannot make unilateral remarks and positions. Many voices need to be heard. Personally, I am sympathetic about the situation in Palestine. But there may be some different viewpoints. The idea agreed by Korean delegates is to present balanced viewpoints.

Honorable delegate from Palestine stressed that many acts of Israel should be described as a crime because it is unprecedented based on the visit made by the UN envoy to Gaza where field research on what Israelis have done was carried out and reported to international organizations. It is a war crime recognized by the international community. Yet, Israel is not implementing the UN Resolutions. And Palestinians are prevented from going back to their home country. Many Arab countries support the Palestinians through many UN channels. But Israel is blocking these efforts. Israel continues to construct settlements. They are detaining parliamentarians from Palestine, which is a war crime.

Honorable delegate from Indonesia fully supports the substance of the Resolution. And he shared the view with Jordan and Bahrain. He also added that there have been quite a large number of Resolutions on condemning the Israeli government. We need a more applicable Resolution in the operative part. He also suggested that Member countries firstly establish diplomatic relations with Palestine, calling upon Member Parliaments to encourage their respective Governments to establish

diplomatic relations with the Palestinian State. (This phrase has been added upon the request of Indonesia in the operative paragraph 1, reading Call Upon all governments in general and the Asian governments in particular to establish diplomatic relations with the Palestine State and support the Palestinian State in acquiring the membership of the United Nations in the upcoming session of the UN General Assembly in September 2011.)

Chair noted that Korea has already established diplomatic relations with Palestine.

Honorable delegate from Iran mentioned that many useful comments have been offered, but some points of the Resolution are suggesting a minimum level of action. Level of condemnation should be higher and even more because Israeli action is absolutely a war crime. Present APA members should. More operative actions are needed, which can resolve this kind of problems and crimes against humanity, and stop the crime from spreading around the world. This Resolution can be a tool to prevent the crimes against humanity. If we cannot stop this kind of crime at this level, this trend will continue to go on in the future. We request that the items and articles of this Resolution be reported and reflected in the Resolutions of international organizations such as U.N.

Honorable delegate from Bahrain said that U.N. Resolutions on Iran and Sudan have been implemented, but that is not the case for the Resolution on Palestine. Korea and other countries alike shared the view that this must be implemented. There should be no double standards. All countries must uphold democracy and freedom.

Chair introduced Honorable LEE Kyeong Jae, who is serving as IPSS (Inter-Parliamentarians for Social Service) President. And Chair closed the discussion on the third Resolution and moved on to the next one.

Honorable Russian delegate said that he couldn't see his suggestion to form a working group on monitoring the conflict situation. And regarding the last paragraph in the operative part asking to request the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on measures taken to implement this resolution and to report thereon as well as on the activities of Member Parliaments against terrorism to the next meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs and the Executive Council, he said that what we can do on our own should be done by ourselves rather than delegating the authority to the Secretary-General, and that we need to take concrete steps and produce tangible results since there have been too many discussions. The next step we should take is to form a forum or working group to put the principles into practice.

Chair, in response to the Russian proposal, deemed it as appropriate.

Honorable delegate from Iran said that the Resolution is a good one. But he reminded some points raised by Russia earlier and expressed wishes to form a committee to work on this matter. He suggested that a working

group within the APA named a “Peace Committee” be set up where dialogues can take place and opinions can be expressed and communicated where deemed necessary to solve the problems, but not applicable in the case of Israel because they are not implementing any international agreements. Suggestions made by the Peace Committee can be taken into consideration in times of crises including counter-terrorism operation. We can transfer such experiences throughout the Committee members. So, we can take the Russian proposal as a solution in general, but it is not applicable to Israel because they never complied with international decisions.

In response to those two suggestions by Russia and Iran, Dr. Islami explained that it is customary and conventional in most of the international organizations to request the Secretary-General to keep track of subject matters and do certain secretarial jobs. The authorities of the Secretary-General by no means contradict the functions and activities of the Members. The Secretary-General is responsible for all the mandates delegated to him by the organization.

And as for the idea of working groups, Dr. Islami explained that there has already been a mechanism put in place within the APA such as Troika Plus comprising the former, present and next Presidents. When the problem arises at the regional or global level, they get together also invite other MPs. For instance, when there was an incident in Gaza Strip, Indonesia (current), Iran (former) and Syria (next President) along with many other parliamentarians gather together and visited the affected area to conduct a field study. Meanwhile, according to the proposals by those two countries, a new operative paragraph was added in the Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments reading as follows: “Decide to establish working groups comprising delegates from MPs as may be desirable to consider and address particular issues of importance and to take parliamentary initiatives for promoting APA goals and objectives and contribute to the implementation of the APA Resolutions.”

The Meeting’s Rapporteur, who is a distinguished delegate from Pakistan, commented that we should not give the wrong impression that foreign occupation can be sometimes permissible as implied in the part of preamble starting with Recognizing because foreign occupation should never be accepted by any one of us. So, the paragraph was changed to Recognizing that foreign occupation violates the U.N. Charter which accepts territorial sovereignty of all its Member States and such occupation has provided fertile ground for destructive acts of blind terrorism. And he also added that in the paragraph beginning with Denouncing in the preamble, “any race, religion” should be modified to “any religion, race,” which was accepted.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the draft documents prepared by the APA Assistant Secretary-General in close consultation with all participating delegations and after extensive deliberations by the delegations, the Standing Committee recommended the following these Draft Resolutions, as annexed to the Report of the Meeting, to the first APA Executive Council Meeting of 2011, to be forwarded to the APA plenary for its consideration and adoption.

1. Draft Resolution on Consolidation of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (SC/Political/Res/2011/01);
2. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments: Together for Solidarity and Prosperity in Asia (SC/Political/Res/2011/02);
3. Draft Resolution on Supporting Palestinian State and Protecting Rights of Palestinian People (SC/Political/Res/2011/03);
4. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments against Terrorism and Foreign Occupation (SC/Political/Res/2011/04).

Chair KIM concluded that we should not remain in words, but we should put them into action. Since APA's history is relatively short, we haven't done enough work, living up to our expectation. However, we should work harder to develop the APA into the world's leading international organization. He thanked once again for esteemed delegates from 12 Member Parliaments and Secretary-General of APPU coming and attending the meeting, and hopes to further deepen the ties between APA and APPU going forward.