



House of the Federation

2018

Senate of Pakistan



Brief Report of APA Gwadar Meetings

Brief Report

The meetings of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs and the Special Committee on the Creation of Asian Parliament hosted by the Senate of Pakistan Gwadar from 28 - 30 October, 2018.

Feedback by Delegates

“As Secretary General of the IPU, I was elated to participate for the first time in the meetings of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. I found the discussions most useful and identified avenues of cooperation between the IPU and this very important regional parliamentary organisation. I am committed to working with you to that end. I would also like to commend your leadership in pushing for the establishment of an Asian Parliament that would better reflect and articulate the interest of the Asian people. During my discussions with you, you requested IPU assistance in this respect. I wish to reiterate my commitment to that objective.

I also was very pleased to have visited your home province of Balochistan and to witness its economic potential. I come away with very fond memories of Gwadar and I would be very grateful if you could convey to the local authorities of that port city my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for their very warm welcome.”

***Letter to Chairman Senate from
Secretary General IPU Mr. Martin Chungong***

“From my arrival until my departure, I was thrilled by the events and the movement displayed by the various authorities who put together this big event in the up coming town of Gwadar. The natural beauty of Gwadar captivated me, as well as the delegates from the 23 participating countries. We were able to enjoy the scenic beauty of Gwadar which is emerging as the future economic and trade hub of the region.

I was struck by your pertinent remark in your opening speech at the meeting that Chairman Sanjrani had taken an out-of-the-box decision by moving such a high-level meeting out of the comfort-zone of the capital city to a remote area. You will remember that I echoed that sentiment in my speech when I stated that parliaments must come out of their comfort-zone and face existing and emerging challenges, as well as to avail themselves of the rare opportunity of regional peace, prosperity, and development.

You can rest assured that I will share my experience as well as the core messages coming out the Gwadar meetings with all the 178 member Parliaments of the IPU.”

***Letter to Secretary General Senate Mr. Amjed Pervez
from Secretary General IPU Mr. Martin Chungong***

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1. Background

The meetings of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Standing Committee on Political Affairs and the Special Committee on the Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) were hosted by the Senate of Pakistan in Gwadar from 28-30 October, 2018. In its journey towards becoming a model port city of the world, this gathering of countries from all over Asia witnessed first-hand and appreciated the potential that Gwadar offers to the region and beyond.



The high-level delegations comprising of parliamentary leaders, senior officials, and diplomats from 23 countries participated in the meeting, including China, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, Sri Lanka, Qatar, Indonesia, Bahrain, Oman, Thailand, Cambodia, Nepal, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Samoa, Lao Peoples Democratic Republic, Timor-Leste, and Bhutan, as well as Secretary General of IPU and President of Pak-France Friendship Group in French Parliament.

“It was my first visit to Gwadar port and city and third to Pakistan. I can see that Gwadar will be a very important city for the future of the region. Seeing Gwadar growing is interesting.”

**Senator Pascal Allizard
(France)**

The developing model port city on the southern shore of the Balochistan province had previously hosted only two, three or few national events, but no international diplomatic conference of this kind and level was ever hosted by Gwadar.

Gwadar being in its early stages of development posed a multitude of challenges for hosting an international event of this scale. In addition, it also suffered from negative

perceptions, security situation and ground realities in the form of dearth of facilities and infrastructure required.

However, it was a conscious decision of Pakistan Senate's political and administrative leadership, especially Honourable Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani, to choose

“The Parliament, federal government, provincial and city governments have done excellent jobs to guarantee successful APA meetings in Gwadar. We are glad to witness results of China Pakistan friendship here in Gwadar and we see a bright future for the city and for development of this area.”

Mr. Fuli Chen (China)

Gwadar as a venue, with an aim effort to promote the principles of regional inclusivity, shared prosperity and socio-economic mainstreaming of far-flung areas that the Upper House of Pakistan Parliament stands for.

The Senate of Pakistan was not just able to dispel the false impressions about the safety and security in the area, but also showcased the real investment and trade potential of this emerging regional economic hub, which may

in future connect South Asia, the Middle East, the Central Asia and the world beyond. It was also an unprecedented organizational achievement since immense logistical challenges were successfully overcome to arrange this large-scale event in the area which is full of economic potential but fighting the negative perceptions. However, in addition to immaculate planning, strategizing and execution, it was made possible mainly only due to horizontal and vertical synergy between Parliament, Federal, and Provincial and local governments, and Security and Defence Institutions.

Due to the APA, Gwadar also garnered huge public attention and media interest, trending number two on social media for five days, thus reaming at the center of national and world attention. For the first time, the outside world was able to witness Gwadar flourishing peacefully as part of a multi-billion dollar mega project for regional economic cooperation, which promises to bring a host of opportunities across Asia over the coming years. Thus, the venue carried a lot more value that resonated with the very notions of long-term development and cooperation under the flag of the APA.

“It was a fruitful meeting of APA. Before coming we did not know where Gwadar is but after we came we found it very beautiful. We would like to see Gwadar even more prosperous in future.”

**Ms. Sarwobudi Wiryanti
Sukamdani (Indonesia)**



2. Inaugural Ceremony

The inaugural ceremony held on 29 October was addressed by Honourable Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan was performing functions of the President of Pakistan, therefore he nominated His Excellency Mr. Syed Shibli Faraz, Leader of the House in the Senate to chair the meetings of Standing Committee on Political Affairs and SCCAPP.

Dr. M. R. Majidi, Secretary General of APA; Madam Asuman Erdogan on behalf of

APA President; His Excellency Mushahidullah Khan, Representative of Leader of Opposition; His Excellency Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary-General of IPU, Honourable Mr. Amanullah Khan Yasinzai, Governor of Balochistan, and Mr. Amjed Pervez, Secretary Senate of Pakistan were also addressed the event.

All the speakers highlighted the need for a swift development of an Asian Parliament to extract the true collective potential of regional connectivity of the Asian region.

In his keynote address, the Honourable Chairman Senate stressed upon the importance of peaceful settlement of disputes, and an inclusive growth strategy, whereby due attention is paid to the uplift of the underdeveloped areas.

I am happy that during this visit to the port city of Gwadar we have passed many resolutions significant for the Asian region. I hope the experience in Gwadar will be repeated when Pakistan becomes president of AAP in 2019.

Secretary General APA

Reza Majidi

Bringing Balochistan and Gwadar city into the national mainstream development is part of our agenda, he said, adding that the province was rich in mineral resources and their exploration and development could change the destiny of not only Pakistan but the entire region. He called for greater collaboration amongst the Asian countries to realize the dream of a socially, economically and culturally integrated Asia.

3. SCCAP and Political Affairs Committee Meetings

The meetings of both SCCAP and Political Affairs Committee proved highly objective and productive in making a tangible and promising headway on all items put on their agenda, especially that of Asian Parliament. An important outcome in this regard pertained to a proposal made in the report of SCCAP meeting to form a working group to discuss and fine-tune a model of Asian Parliament.

Based on this proposal, the APA Secretary General has issued a special correspondence to Member Parliaments requesting to nominate one member each for the proposed working group. This is an encouraging development that takes APA a step closer to the commonly cherished objective of one unified Parliament for the entire continent.

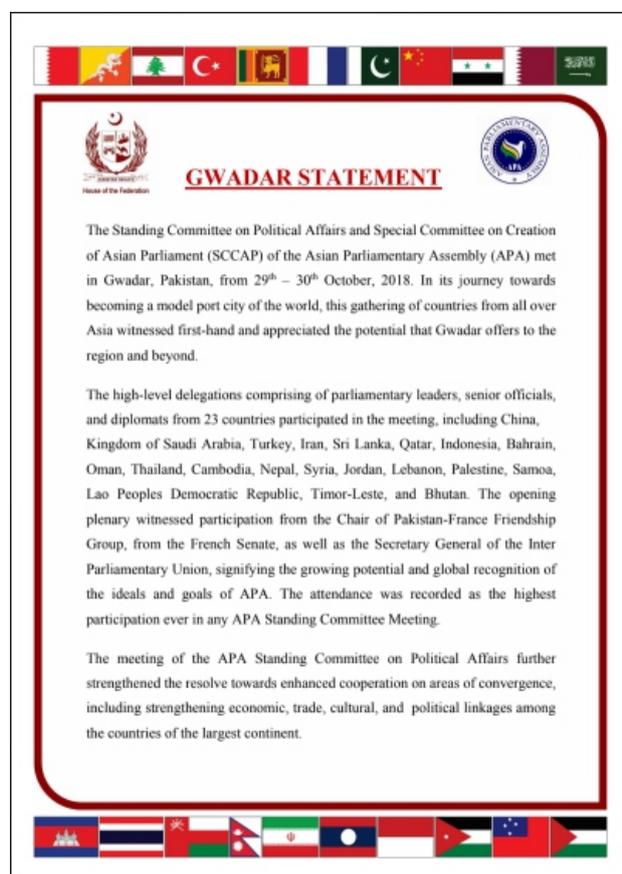
Official Report of the Meetings is annexed.

4. The Gwadar Statement

The Gwadar Statement issued after the Political Affairs Committee meeting set the tone and direction for future endeavours.

It stated that the members of the Assembly should take their cooperation forward. And that while our Asian vision is focused on trade, economic and energy markets, it also carries a much-needed heed to help adapt to climate change and preserve the environment.

The statement recognized that through bilateral as well as multilateral synergized efforts, we can check the challenges of climate change and give a better future to our coming generations.



5. Special Tree Plantation Event

On the sidelines, a special tree-plantation event was also held whereby the heads of delegations planted trees in their name. China, in particular, committed to contributing one million trees for the port city's greener future.

Cognizant that modern socio-economic discourse, and also the 2030 developmental agenda, stress development in harmony with nature, Pakistan Senate organized the plantation drive in the port city so as to leave a positive ecological footprint.



Right from the airport I could see the hospitality of Gwadar and Pakistan. And during the tour of the city we were able to see how sustainable development is being implemented in Gwadar. I saw how growth can be ensured and climate can be preserved at the same time by seeing the development work as well as planting a tree.

Secretary-General IPU Martin

This event highlighted the importance of the fight against global warming amidst the hard political and economic issues at hand.

6. Positive Outcomes

Local Infrastructural Development:

On the sidelines of the APA activities, Pakistan Senate, true to its conviction as an enabler, partner and facilitator in uplift of underdeveloped areas, proactively endeavoured to commission much needed infrastructure and ICTs development initiatives in Gwadar.

This conviction brought forth palpable improvements on ground in the form of construction of a new road, improvement and enhancement in internet bandwidth availability

"We express happiness on the hospitality extended to all delegations here in Gwadar. There is big potential of business in Gwadar as a deep sea port and we are thankful to the government, to the Senate and to the people for bringing us here."

Mr. Chhit Kim Yeat, (Cambodia)

and speed, and a new fiber optics line which was inaugurated by the Honourable Chairman Senate.

In addition, efforts were also made to explore alternate sources of power generation and supply for the port city, while an integrated boarding and lodging grid was laboriously put together by merging available government and private facilities to house as many as 14 Pakistani delegates participating in the event.

“This is the first ever international conference in Gwadar and the presence of these dignitaries in this city will contribute in transforming this port city into a world class top city in Pakistan.”

Mr. Aslam Bhootani, (Pakistan)

Positive Change in the world perspective on Gwadar:

The positive outlook and perspective on Gwadar's rich trade and economic potential as evinced by APA Members during their keynotes and deliberations is a litmus test of the conference's success, especially towards projecting Gwadar as a safe, secure and dependable trade and investment hub of the region.

“The APA was a very successful one. The distinguished delegates contributed a lot which can further contribute for creation of an Asian Parliament. It was a good starting point from the platform of Gwadar.

In Asia we need more collaboration, so we need an Asian Parliament.”

**Asuman Erdogan,
Representative of APA President**

Most notably, in his statement, Mr. Martin Chungong, the Secretary-General of IPU, the largest inter-parliamentary organization in the world, acknowledged successful holding of this event in Gwadar. He observed that the event had galvanized attention of countries as far out as Europe and even the US to this mainland maritime port city of Pakistan. He even went on to say that with a few additional logistical facilities, even the IPU may consider hosting its General Assembly in Gwadar.

Meetings' outcomes bodes well for Pakistan's forthcoming APA Presidency:

Based on the positive outcomes of these meetings, the Senate of Pakistan, which is now set to assume APA Presidency from 2019 – 2021, will continue playing a vibrant and active role at APA's platform towards ensuring, both domestically and regionally, peace, inclusive development, democratic ideals and shared prosperity.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE APA SECRETARIAT



Asian Parliamentary Assembly Report of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs

30 October 2018
Gwadar - Pakistan

APA/Political/Rep/2018/03
30 October 2018

1. The Meeting of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs convened in Pearl-Continental Hotel in Gwadar at 11:00 hours on Monday, 30 October 2017.



2. Delegations from Bahrain, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Oman, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Turkey attended this Meeting.

3. In Inaugural Ceremony, there were eight speakers as follows:
- Welcome remarks by Mr. Amjed Pervez, Secretary Senate of Pakistan
 - Remarks by Dr. M. R. Majidi, Secretary General of APA
 - Remarks by Madam Asmun Erdogan on behalf of APA President
 - Remarks by H. E. Mushahidullah Khan, Representative of Leader of Opposition
 - Remarks by H.E. Mr. Syed Shibli Faraz, Leader of the House, Senate
 - Remarks by H.E. Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary-General of IPU
 - Remarks by Amanullah Khan Yasinzai, Governor of Balochistan
 - Opening Address by Honorable Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Acting President of Pakistan and Chairman Senate of Pakistan

4. The next meeting was Special Committee for Creation of Asian Parliament. Honorable Shibli Faraz who was nominated by Acting President of Pakistan and the Chairman of Senate as the Chairman of the Political Standing Committee opened the meeting and asked Dr. Khorram to deliver the report of Secretary-General. Deputy Secretary-General pointed out that the APA Secretariat substantive report on the idea of the Asian Parliament entitled: The Foundations of an Asian Parliament has been the basis for further consideration of all APA Member Parliaments. He mentioned that the (SCCAP) has held its meetings on different occasions. All Member delegates expressed their general support for the promotion of the notion of Asian parliament in the light of the great potentials which exist in Asia and particularly in Asian Parliaments.

5. The Chairman opened the Meeting for discussion on Asian Parliament. Member Parliaments deliberated the topic at hand. They discussed range of models from Council of Europe to Arab Union, EU and etc. Few Members stressed the necessity of establishing a sub-Committee under the umbrella of APA Secretariat and also to nominate a person to attend such open ended working group.

6. The SCCAP Meeting opened the Resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament” and Delegation of Pakistan presented new amendments. Due to the fact that those amendments were not presented in time it was agreed to defer the consideration of new amendments during the next Political Standing Committee.

7. On Tuesday 30 October 2018, the Political Standing Committee was opened and Dr Khorram presented the Agenda for its adoption. After the adoption of the Agenda, the following members of Bureau were elected:

Senator Shibli Faraz was elected as Chairman on the basis of APA customary

procedure. General Nipot of Thailand as Vice Chair and Senator Chhit Kim Yeat of Cambodia as Rapporteur.

8. Deputy Secretary-General announced that on the basis of proposals raised in SCCAP Meeting, APA Secretariat will communicate to all Member Parliaments to get their views on the establishment of a working group on Asian Parliament. He added that such measure will be conducted in close consultation and coordination with the Chairman of Political Standing Committee.

9. H.E. Dr. Khorram, mentioned that the Standing Committee had 8 Resolutions for consideration and adoption as the draft.

- Draft Resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament”
- Draft Resolution on “Good Governance”
- Draft Resolution on “Good Parliamentary Practices”
- Draft Resolution on Rule of Law and Judicial Empowerment
- Draft Resolution on Advancing Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support For The Palestinian People

10. The first seven draft resolutions were presented one by one and after some discussions and applying some modifications, they were finalized to be forwarded to the Executive Council.

11. Concluding Session:

- a) The Report of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs was presented to the Meeting by H.E. Mr. Chhit Kim Yeat, Rapporteur
- b) The Gwadar Statement was presented to the Meeting and adopted with acclamation.
- c) Most of delegations thanked the Host for very enjoyable hospitalities.

Side Events, Meetings and Cultural Show









Feedback by Delegates

R E P U B L I Q U E F R A N Ç A I S E



M. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani
Président du Sénat du Pakistan
Parliament House
ISLAMABAD
PAKISTAN

“ On my return in France, I would like to thank you personally for your invitation to attend the meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, which took place in Gwadar from 28 to 31 October.

I particularly appreciated attending the debates, in presence of many delegations, and being invited to speak on this occasion. ”

(Signature)

Pascal ALIZARD

President

France-Pakistan Friendship Group at the French Senate

Letter to Chairman Senate from President France-Pakistan Friendship Group at the French Senate

R E P U B L I Q U E F R A N Ç A I S E



M. Amjed Pervez Malik
Secrétaire général du Sénat du Pakistan
Parliament House
ISLAMABAD - PAKISTAN

“ On my return in France, I would like to thank you personally for the welcome reserved to me during me travel to Pakistan on the occasion of the meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, which took place in Gwadar from 28 to 31 October.

You and the staff of the Senate of Pakistan helped me to take part in the meetings of APA in the best conditions.

Finally, I will study the means of a long-term technical cooperation between the French Senate and the Senate of Pakistan, which we all desire. ”

(Signature)

Pascal ALIZARD

President

France-Pakistan Friendship Group at the French Senate

Letter to Secretary General Senate Mr. Amjed Pervez from President France-Pakistan Friendship Group at the French Senate

Feedback by Delegates

During our stay here in Gwadar we felt we were in our own hometown and in our own country, between our beloved people and friends and family members. We have enjoyed the best arrangements and kind care by the government, security agencies, and Pakistan Army, which will enable us to come back to attend any upcoming conference which Pakistan has decided to host. These arrangements reflect the commitment of Senate of Pakistan and its Chairman towards the goals of APA and its further development.

Mr. Hassan Fadlallah, Lebanon

We observed that all Pakistani officials on all levels were very keen to make this event successful by their hard work to achieve the goals of the meeting.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to the government of Pakistan which enabled us to witness its development plans at the Gwadar port. We are hopeful that this project will play a leading role in development of the region and help other countries of the region to come forward.

Mr. Naif Al-Hadid, Jordan

We have enjoyed the Pakistani hospitality many times before this event. Since we arrived in Pakistan, we felt that we are in our second home. I also value and appreciate efforts of our Pakistani brother in organizing this meeting. Also, I think the results of this meeting will enhance respect of Pakistan. The great hospitality and warm welcome by Mr. Chairman gives a special flavor to this event which was unique and never happened before.

Dr. Mohamed Ali Mohamed Alkhozai, Bahrain

I would like to appreciate the efforts of Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Mr. Sadiq Sanjrani, and Chair of the session who concluded the business of session successfully. I would also like to thank all the officials who participated in the success of this session. It is known that the success of such events starts from airport, which we have already witnessed in form of the warm welcome.

Mr. Afef Alzebak, Syria

On behalf of Saudi Delegation I would like to extend our warm gratitude to the people and the Government of Pakistan, and Senate of Pakistan, on such a warm welcome and great hospitality.

Dr. Hani Khashoggi, Saudi Arabia

We are thankful to our brother, the Acting President of Pakistan and Chairman Senate. We witnessed his kindness, love, and care towards all the delegates, and his special care for the Palestinian cause.

Mr. Fawzi Ali Mahmood Samhouwn, Palestine



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