

**THE PARLIAMENT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**

**REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY
DELEGATION
TO THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM**

**KUALA LUMPUR
MALAYSIA**

12-15 JANUARY 2003

© Commonwealth of Australia 2003

Printed by the Department of the House of Representatives

Contents

Membership of the Delegation	iii
Preface	v

Chapter 1 – Introduction to the APPF

Outline of the APPF	1
I. The APPF and Australia	1
II. History and objectives of the APPF	2
III. APPF Procedures.....	3
IV. Organisation of the Annual Meeting.....	8
The Eleventh Annual Meeting	10
V. Facts and figures	10
VI. Australian Delegation.....	10

Chapter 2 – Work of the 11th Annual Meeting

Content of Chapter	14
Subject matter of the annual report	15
I. Political and Security Issues.....	16
Denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.....	16
Terrorism	16
ARF Report by Cambodia	17
Sub-regional issues	18
II. Economy and Investment.....	18
Report by Mexico – APEC and the unofficial meeting....	18
The Economy	19
III. Cooperation in addressing the transnational Issues	
Piracy and armed robbery against ships	20
People smuggling and trafficking in persons	20
Narcotics.....	22
Environment	22
Infectious Diseases	23
Energy Security	23
Combating corruption	23
IV. Asia Pacific Cooperation	23
V. Adoption of the Joint Communiqué	24
Technological Working Group	24
I. Background	24
II. Kuala Lumpur meeting of the Technological W. G.	26
Bilateral Meetings	
Meeting with the Indonesian delegation	27
Meeting with the Malaysian delegation.....	28
Conclusion.....	31

Chapter 3 – Proposals for Organisational Change

The Working Group on strengthening the APPF	33
The Reports on strengthening the APPF.....	35

Appendices

Appendix A –	List of Countries	
	List of Participants.....	41
Appendix B –	Program and Agenda.....	47
Appendix C –	List and text of Resolutions.....	51
Appendix D –	Joint Communiqué and Annexes.....	67
Appendix E –	Procedural Documents.....	97
Appendix F –	Report of the Technological Working Group.....	111
Appendix G –	Text of address by Prime Minister Mahatir.....	115

Membership of the Australian Delegation

Leader of the Delegation

Senator Jeannie Ferris
Senator for South Australia
Liberal Party

Deputy Leader of the Delegation

Mr Bob Sercombe MP
Member for Maribynong
Australian Labor Party

Members of the Delegation

Hon Bruce Baird MP
Member for Cook
Liberal Party

Ms Jann McFarlane MP
Member for Stirling
Australian Labor Party

Delegation Secretary

Ms Judy Middlebrook
Department of the House of Representatives

Preface

In January 2003 a four member parliamentary delegation attended the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The delegation worked together as a very effective team and represented Australia's interests very well. Australia has always played an important role in APPF meetings since the Forum first met in Tokyo in 1993. This year was no exception with Australia having a significant influence in four of the fourteen resolutions adopted. Australia also played a leading role in the Technology Working Group.

The beginning of the second decade of the APPF has seen a maturing of the organisation. The organisation of each successive annual meeting reflects what has been successful in previous meetings and there are now quite a number of parliamentarians and delegation staff with a depth of experience of the Forum. This contributes to an atmosphere in which delegates expect to achieve more than exchanges of opinion and a greater awareness of what can be achieved.

As the first APPF meeting following the Bali tragedy which so greatly affected the region in which the meeting was held, the issue of terrorism was more than just an important agenda item. It permeated all aspects of the meeting directly and indirectly.

The Australian delegation enjoyed two significant and successful bilateral meetings with the Indonesian and Malaysian delegations respectively. At these meetings issues such as the welfare of students in Australia, the attitude towards Muslims and the role of the media, travel "advisories" and other sensitive issues were discussed in a positive way to the benefit of both delegations.

Again, organisational issues including an ongoing secretariat were raised and a detailed report by the Japanese delegation was circulated. Member countries were asked to respond to the proposals in this report by August. Hopefully Australia can contribute effectively to this debate.

The delegation wishes to thank the organisers of the meeting, especially the Presiding Officers of the Malaysian Parliament and their staff who did an excellent job of organising the conference.

We also thank Philip Allars from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the staff from the Parliamentary Library for their assistance with drafting resolutions and with briefing material before the meeting. While in Kuala Lumpur the delegation was assisted by Mr Nick Brown, the acting High Commissioner. Our special thanks go to Mr Damien Miller, from the High Commission who attended throughout the conference as adviser. His help was invaluable. We also thank Mr Peter Hill from the Australian Federal Police who advised on security issues. Ms Brenda Herd from the Parliamentary Relations Office was characteristically efficient and helpful and we thank her also.

Finally, I thank the members of the delegation and the delegation secretary for their well researched contributions.

Senator Jeannie Ferris
Leader of the delegation

Introduction to the APPF

Outline of the APPF

I. The APPF and Australia

- 1.1 In January 2003 a delegation from the Australian Parliament (Senator Jeannie Ferris – Leader; Mr Bob Sercombe – Deputy; Hon Bruce Baird and Ms Jann McFarlane) attended the eleventh annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF). The APPF is an assembly of members of national parliaments in the Asia Pacific region which, since 1993, has met annually to discuss a range of issues of mutual concern - strategic, economic, social and cultural - according to an agreed agenda. More information about the history and objectives of the Forum is provided below beginning at 1.4.
- 1.2 The Forum provides a significant opportunity for Australian Members of Parliament to meet with parliamentarians from the wider region (including parliaments from both sides of the Pacific Ocean) to debate issues. The APPF meetings are attended by delegates from all regional countries with which Australia has strong links. While the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the International Parliamentary Union provide other avenues for dialogue with other parliamentary delegates, only the APPF focuses on those countries of immediate concern to Australia's regional strategic and economic interests. In particular, the USA is a member of the APPF but not of the other major parliamentary groups in which Australia participates.

- 1.3 Australia has played a prominent part in the Forum since before its first formal meeting. One of the two preparatory meetings to establish the Forum was held in Canberra and the eighth annual meeting in 2000 was also held in Canberra. Australia was a member of the Executive Committee of the APPF from 1993 until April following the 2000 conference. At the past three meetings Australia has not sought membership of the Executive but has supported other countries in the Oceania group, for office. (see paragraphs 1.26-9)

II. History and objectives of the APPF

- 1.4 The APPF was formally established at its First Annual Meeting in Tokyo in January 1993 following preparatory meetings in 1991 held in Singapore and Canberra. The Tokyo Declaration, attached at Appendix E, outlined the objectives of the APPF and defined aspects such as membership, participation and organisation. It provided that the APPF would be open to all national parliamentarians in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group members and members of the South Pacific Forum who:
- have an active interest in promoting dialogue among parliamentarians in the region; and
 - accept the objectives and principles of the APPF.
- 1.5 More specifically, the objectives of the APPF, as outlined in the Tokyo Declaration, are to provide opportunities for national parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific region:
- to identify and discuss matters of common concern and interest and to highlight them in a global context;
 - to deepen their understanding of the policy concerns, interests and experiences of the countries of the region;
 - to examine the critical political, social and cultural developments resulting from economic growth and integration;
 - to encourage and promote regional cooperation at all levels on matters of common concern to the region; and
 - to foster the roles of national parliamentarians to further in their respective countries a sense of regional cohesion, understanding and cooperation.
- 1.6 The APPF operates under the following guiding principles:

- commitment to frank and constructive dialogue;
- equal respect for the views of all participants; and
- full recognition of the roles performed by the governments, business communities, labour organisations and research institutes.

1.7 At the conclusion of each annual meeting the leaders of all participating nations sign a Joint Communiqué which includes, amongst other things a list of all resolutions passed by the meeting. The Joint Communiqué for the 11th annual meeting is at Appendix D.

III. APPF Procedures

Introduction

1.8 An understanding of the APPF procedures is important if Australia's delegations are to maximise their participation in the Forum. Over the past eleven years the Forum has developed and interpreted its procedures and over the years several organisational issues have arisen which now require resolution. At the 10th annual meeting in Honolulu, a working group was established to address these structural and organisational issues. Japan prepared a report titled *Strengthening the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum* which was presented to the annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur. These issues will be addressed separately in Chapter III which includes a suggested Australian response to the report.

Defining Documents

1.9 The policies and administrative procedures of the APPF have gradually evolved by means of resolutions agreed at Annual Meetings. Australia has had a significant role in the evolution of the Forum as expressed in these documents. There are now four strategic documents:

- the Tokyo Resolution (1993);
- the Manila Rules of Procedure (1994);
- the Vancouver Declaration (1997); and
- the Valparaiso Declaration (2001).

1.10 Appendix E includes copies of these procedural documents. A short overview of the documents only is included here.

- 1.11 The Tokyo Declaration is the foundation document of the APPF. It includes high level objectives as well as structural details. The document describes the Forum's functions as follows:
- The APPF seeks to promote greater regional identification and cooperation with particular focus on:
- cooperation for the further advancement of peace, freedom, democracy and prosperity;
 - open and non-exclusive cooperation for the expansion of free trade and investment, and sustainable development and sound environmental practices; and
 - non-military cooperation, which gives due consideration to issues relating to regional peace and security.
- 1.12 The Tokyo Declaration also provides for all decisions of the APPF to be made by consensus at an annual meeting. Membership of the Forum is reviewed 'when necessary'. The most recent additions to the membership of the Forum were Costa Rica and Ecuador which were accorded membership in Valparaiso in 2001.
- 1.13 More detailed rules of procedure were adopted at the Second Annual Meeting in Manila in January 1994 and later amended in Lima in 1999 and (very slightly) in Hawaii in 2002. The Manila document adds detail to the vision for the Forum established in the Tokyo Declaration. It sets out detailed rules for conducting the annual meeting and for representation at the meetings. It also specifies the role and functions of the Executive Committee. The Manila document is the most useful guide for delegates attending the annual meeting.
- 1.14 There are two additional policy documents relevant to the operations of the APPF. These two, the Vancouver Declaration (1997) and the Valparaiso Declaration (2001) are more aspirational than procedural. The former document, produced at the 5th Annual Meeting in Vancouver, enunciated the common interests of countries in the region in the context of the end of the Cold War and the approach of the 21st century. It addressed the economy, the environment, law and order, human rights and education and cultural exchanges and set as a final goal, "the Asia-Pacific common house full of harmony and dynamism".
- 1.15 The Valparaiso Declaration focuses on the geographical significance of the Asia-Pacific region and identifies five basic principles of peaceful co-existence in the area. All of the foundation documents are reproduced in Appendix E.

Annual Meetings and secretariat

- 1.16 Under the Rules, the APPF meets annually, with the host, date and venue of each Annual Meeting being determined at the preceding meeting (para. 10 of the Tokyo Declaration).
- 1.17 The Tokyo Declaration (paras. 11 to 14) provides for the host for the annual meeting to make the necessary arrangements for the meeting, in consultation with the Executive Committee. Further arrangements relating to the annual meeting are in para. 6 of the Manila Procedures. Para 6(d) of the Manila Procedure specifies the duties of the host of the annual meeting which include the provision of a secretariat for the annual meeting.
- 1.18 The Tokyo Declaration provides for the establishment of a secretariat when necessary. It was not envisaged that the secretariat would be responsible for the annual meetings which would continue to be arranged by a secretariat established by each host as required. No secretariat has yet been established though there is now a formal proposal to do so. Further information on this matter is provided in Chapter 3 of this report. The host parliament/country funds the Annual Meeting except for the travel and accommodation costs of the delegates.
- 1.19 In general the arrangements for a host to organise each annual meeting and provide a secretariat for the duration, have been satisfactory. Naturally the efficiency of the administrative arrangements has varied according to the administrative practices of the host country and the funds available to each host.

Executive Committee

- 1.20 The Annual Meeting elects a President of the APPF to serve a three year term and be eligible for re-election. The President represents the APPF and serves as Chair of the Executive Committee, presiding at each Annual Meeting until a Chair is elected by the Annual Meeting, from the host Parliament. (See paras. 6 to 8 of the Manila Procedures.)
- 1.21 The Honourable Yasuhiro Nakasone, a former Prime Minister of Japan has been the only President of the APPF, having been re-elected on each occasion on which his three year term was completed. Most recently he was re-elected in Hawaii in 2002 for a further three year term. The Annual Meeting “elects” an Executive Committee of nine members (originally, six).

- 1.22 From 1993 to 1995 the following countries were members of the Executive Committee: Japan; Korea; Thailand; The Philippines; Papua New Guinea and Australia plus the host of the annual meeting. At the 1995 meeting in Mexico it was proposed that membership be increased from six to eight plus the host country. These arrangements were confirmed at the 1996 meeting in Thailand.
- 1.23 At the 1998 meeting in Seoul, the arrangements for ensuring appropriate sub-regional representation on the Executive Committee and rotating membership were formalised. There are four sub-regions:
- 1) **Northeast Asia** (5 countries): People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Russian Federation;
 - 2) **Southeast Asia** (8 countries): Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia; Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand, Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Negara Brunei Darussalam not included as it has an observer status);
 - 3) **Oceania** (6 countries): Australia, Republic of Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands);
 - 4) **The Americas** (8 countries): Canada, Republic of Chile, Republic of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, United Mexican States, Republic of Peru, United States of America.
- 1.24 Japan (so long as the APPF President is from Japan) is a continuing member of the Executive Committee, so there is one new member from the Northeast Asian region elected every second year. There are two representatives from each of the remaining sub-regions, elected on a rotating basis every second year. The ninth member of the Executive Committee is the host country for the annual meeting.
- 1.25 The term of office of the Executive Committee is from May of the year of an Annual Meeting until April two years later. Half the members of the committee are re-elected each year to provide for continuity. Proposals to extend the length of office for Executive Committee members have been raised from time to time, most recently in Valparaiso when the plenary determined not to change the length of members' terms.
- Australia, Oceania and the Executive Committee***
- 1.26 Australia was a foundation member of the Executive Committee (as was Papua New Guinea). Australia (and Papua New Guinea) continued to be the only Oceania members of the Executive until 2000. At the 1999 meeting in Lima, Peru, Australia relinquished its

“elected” position on the Executive as it was to be an ex officio member (as host of the next annual meeting) in 2000. The Papua New Guinea Speaker (the delegation leader) announced that Papua New Guinea would also step aside from the Executive (“in the spirit of brotherhood”).

- 1.27 Representatives of each sub-region are determined by the other members of the sub-region, in the case of Oceania, by means of informal discussions. (The Southeast Asia group used the alphabetical order method when rotation was introduced). In 1999 New Zealand and Fiji were proposed to be the Oceania representatives on the Executive with effect from the 8th Annual Meeting in 2000 (together with Australia as host country). Because both countries were new representatives this was a departure from the policy of overlapping membership.
- 1.28 Fiji and New Zealand continued as Oceania’s representatives in 2000 and at the meeting in Valparaiso, Chile in 2001 (Although Fiji did not send a delegation to Chile). At that meeting it was agreed that the Federated States of Micronesia would replace Fiji. No decision was made regarding New Zealand. Although that country had been on the Executive for two years, members of the Executive can be re-elected. The Oceania delegates in Honolulu in 2002 were New Zealand and the Federated States of Micronesia. At the meeting in Kuala Lumpur it was agreed that New Zealand and Fiji should again represent the Oceania group.
- 1.29 Australia has not sought to have one of the Oceania places on the Executive since 2000 because of it had been a member of the Executive for eight years from 1993 (although there was no provision for rotating membership for the first five years and Australia was an ex officio member in 2000 when the annual meeting was held in Canberra. Instead, Australia has been active in facilitating other sub-regional countries to be members of the Executive.
- 1.30 While these arrangements admirably support the objectives of the Forum insofar as sub-regional involvement in the Executive Committee is concerned, there is a difficulty for Australia. Australia is the only country in the sub-region which consistently sends a substantial delegation and which provides continuity through ensuring that the delegation secretary serves for several years. Australia should be able to make a considerable contribution to the organisation of the Forum and it fulfilled this aim admirably in the first eight years of the Forum. However, now that it has been three years since Australia was a member of the Executive Committee, the

potential for achievement is not as great as in the past. Sub-regional representation on the Executive for Oceania has, for several years, been provided by countries whose delegates (usually delegate) has attended the Forum for the first time and who rarely has administrative support.

- 1.31 The need for experienced and substantial delegations to have a strong role in the organisation is particularly pressing because of the current interest in reforming the Forum. Organisational knowledge is needed in order to understand the likely impact of proposed changes. Accordingly, the delegation considers that Australia should negotiate to return to the Executive Committee at the next Annual Meeting.

IV. Organisation of the Annual Meeting

- 1.32 While the framework of the APPF is established by the procedural documents, the usual organisation of the Annual Meetings is a matter of precedence and mutual agreement rather than reliance on a set of rules. Procedural arrangements relating to the timing of preparations for annual meetings were agreed to at the 7th Annual Meeting in Peru, but they are not necessarily adhered to. [See *Report of the Parliamentary Delegation to the seventh annual meeting of the APPF*, January 1999, p. 7.]
- 1.33 The meetings take place in January of each year and are hosted by a national parliament, occasionally with help from an independent agency (for example, the East-West Centre in Hawaii hosted the 10th Annual Meeting in consultation with the US Congress).
- 1.34 The proposed agenda is usually determined by the Executive Committee in September preceding each January meeting. Traditionally there had been little change in the agenda items before the focus on dealing with terrorism which followed the attacks of 11 September 2001 and 12 October 2002.
- 1.35 Once the proposed agenda has been determined, member countries are asked to send draft resolutions on the agenda items by November. The Executive Committee has asked that countries send no more than five draft resolutions each.
- 1.36 These draft resolutions are posted on the APPF website where they may be accessed by all members (and by all those with access to the Internet). It is difficult for member countries to have their views taken into account unless their draft resolutions are clearly in response to one of the agenda items. From time to time countries (including Australia) have submitted draft resolutions which are either outside

the main agenda items or only vaguely related to them. These draft resolutions may come before the plenary in the “other business” category of the agenda, but they are rarely debated in any detail or paid much attention by other delegates. Similarly, countries occasionally submit two draft resolutions on different sub-topics of an agenda item. Depending on the way the agenda is interpreted by the Chair, these drafts may have to be combined. Countries may submit theme papers but these are merely available for collection for those who are interested. They are not debated during the plenary sessions of the meetings.

- 1.37 Where more than one country has submitted a draft resolution on a particular agenda item, the countries involved are asked by the Chair of the Annual Meeting to cooperate with each other in order to produce a single draft resolution on the item. This is where the real work of the meeting happens.
- 1.38 The methodology of converting similar (sometimes contrasting) draft resolutions into an agreed final draft for consideration by the plenary, varies from annual meeting to annual meeting. At some annual meetings all drafts are finalised by a formal drafting committee. At others drafting committees are informal and the membership varies according to whether a delegation has an interest in a particular draft resolution. At other meetings much of the work is done behind the scenes by delegation officials who convey messages to and from their delegations until agreement is reached.
- 1.39 At the 5th Annual Meeting in Vancouver in 1997 there was an attempt to formalise the process, which indeed, from time to time, has proved unsatisfactory. In 1997 the Executive Committee (in which Australia played an active role) agreed on the following terms of reference for the drafting committee:

Participation in the discussions of the Drafting Committee should be limited to Parliamentarians (official delegates). Technical advisors and secretariat personnel may be present to support the work of the Committee: however, they may not take part in substantive debate.

The purpose of the Drafting Committee is to prepare APPF resolutions, documents and proposals that accurately reflect the decisions and consensus of the plenary meetings. The Committee should not take it upon itself to resolve outstanding issues that have not been decided in the plenary forum; nor should it introduce new items that have not been previously brought forward during the plenary. [*Report of the*

Parliamentary Delegation to the 5th Annual Meeting of the APPF, Vancouver, 1997, p. 8.]

- 1.40 Even where the administrative work is managed by delegation secretaries, the leaders of the delegations have the final say regarding the wording of the final draft. Some of the larger delegations have specialists on particular agenda items and this delegate will usually advise the delegation leader. The larger delegations also have professional advisers ranging from academics to diplomats to assist the process. Countries which did not submit a draft resolution on the item are welcome to have an input to the final draft during this negotiation stage and are encouraged to do so.
- 1.41 When the final draft comes before the plenary, those countries which provided the original draft resolutions normally speak on the item. Other delegates may also speak. The final draft may be amended during the debate in the plenary. The text is determined by consensus. The chair of the meeting determines when consensus has been reached. The secretariat then arranges for the printing of the resolution and it is circulated to all delegates.
- 1.42 Draft resolutions are assigned a number by the secretariat. APPF/11/Res/1 – means the first resolution adopted by the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the APPF. There are usually many more drafts than the number of resolutions adopted by the plenary. A diagram showing the format of a usual meeting is at the end of this chapter.

The eleventh Annual Meeting

V. Facts and figures

- 1.43 The meeting was attended by 101 delegates from 24 of the 27 member parliaments. Only Costa Rica, Ecuador and Columbia did not send delegates. As usual and in addition to the parliamentary delegations, a delegation from Brunei Darrussalam attended as an observer. The list of APPF member Parliaments and the participants who attended the eleventh annual meeting is at Appendix A.
- 1.44 In addition to the delegates there were a large number of staff members and advisers, diplomatic officers and accompanying persons attending various parts of the meeting.

VI. Australian delegation

- 1.45 The annual meeting held in Kuala Lumpur in January 2003 was the eleventh such annual meeting. Members of the Australian delegation

to the meeting were: Senator Jeannie Ferris (Leader); Mr Bob Sercombe (Deputy Leader); Hon Bruce Baird and Ms Jann McFarlane.

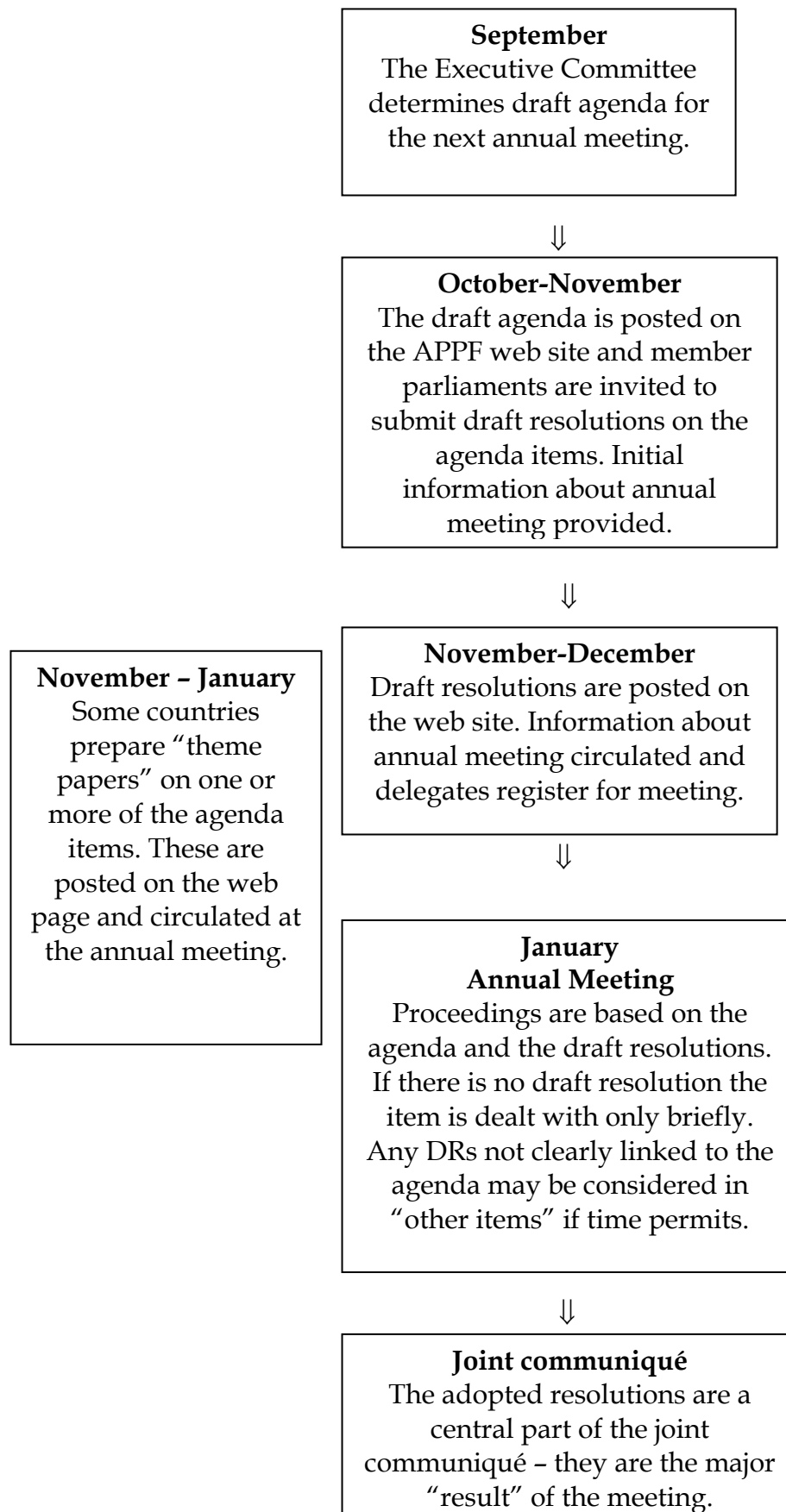
- 1.46 Following the tradition of Australian delegations to the APPF, all members of the delegation played an active role at the meeting. The Australian delegation had forwarded five draft resolutions to the host Parliament secretariat before the meeting (see chapter II) and agreed to nominate individual members to take responsibility for each of the drafts. In contrast with previous meetings, negotiations over the final version of the draft to be submitted to the plenary session were completed in a drafting committee, which met each evening during the conference (rather than relying on individual negotiations between interested delegations).
- 1.47 The Australian delegation ensured that it was represented each evening at the drafting committee and that Australia's interests were represented in the discussions. Australian delegates also assisted delegations where English language problems caused difficulties, in agreeing to a final draft for the plenary's consideration.
- 1.48 Despite the care taken by the drafting committee and by individual negotiators on draft resolutions, errors can occur. An example of the problems that can arise occurred at the 11th Annual Meeting. An Australian delegate, with the support of the delegation, had agreed to an amendment proposed by another delegation. The agreed amendment was communicated to the annual meeting secretariat. On reading the text of the final resolution as adopted by the plenary, it was noticed that the amendment was not included.
- 1.49 As usual, negotiations on an agreed final draft were not completed until the last day of the conference. The clerical error happened because the requirement for a final draft to be circulated to all members, before the vote in the plenary is not explicit in the relevant procedural rule (Manila Procedures 1994 as amended in 1999 and 2002. The document is reprinted in Appendix E). The text of the rule is "A proposed resolution must be made available for circulation to all participating delegates before it is moved".
- 1.50 The text implies but does not specify that any amendments should be incorporated into the resolution and recirculated before the vote. An amendment to the Manila Procedures should be made to require this step in relation to all amended resolutions. This could be effected by adding "in its final form" to the existing text so that 6(n) of the Manila Procedure reads

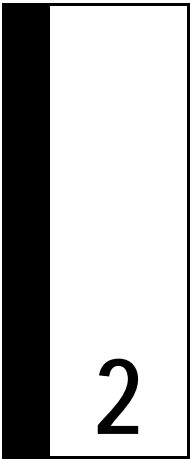
A proposed resolution must be made available for circulation in its final form to all participating delegates before it is moved. (words underlined to be added).

- 1.51 This may well cause practical difficulties in terms of time and pressure on the secretariat on the last day of the meeting. However, the main business of the annual meeting is to agree on the text of resolutions so procedures need to ensure the accuracy of this endeavour. If the requirement is known early in the meeting, the time taken to finalise negotiations and circulate the final draft can be taken into account. Consequently this matter should be raised at an early stage of the twelfth annual meeting.

The delegation recommends that the procedural rules of the APPF be amended to ensure that the final form of resolutions be circulated to all participating delegates before they are moved and that the Australian delegation to the twelfth annual meeting raise this issue early in the meeting.

Outline of usual Annual Meeting proceedings





Work of the 11th Annual Meeting

Content of Chapter

- 2.1 The chapter begins with an account of the opening ceremony. It then addresses the “work” of the annual meeting as laid out in the agenda. As usual, Australia contributed significantly to the meetings of the Technological Working Group and this will be covered in this chapter. The chapter concludes with reports on the two bilateral meetings which the Australian delegation attended.

Opening ceremony

- 2.2 The opening ceremony was held at 9.30 am on Monday 13 January. It consisted of two welcoming addresses and a keynote speech by the Prime Minister, the Hon Dato Seri Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad.
- 2.3 The first welcome was by H.E. Senator Tan Sri Dato’ Michael Chen Wing Sum, President of the Malaysian Senate and co-chair of the 11th Annual Meeting of the APPF. He was followed by the Hon Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, President of the APPF.
- 2.4 The Prime Minister, Dr Mahatir, gave a challenging and less than optimistic account of current affairs. His speech focussed on the economic disparities between rich and poor countries and the impact of terrorism on the contemporary world.

- 2.5 In relation to the first topic he said the political and economic barriers to real independence were brought about by globalisation which upheld the power of wealthy countries. He likened the behaviour of the giant corporations and banks of the rich western countries to the East India Company of the colonial past.
- 2.6 In relation to terrorism Dr Mahatir said that the causes of terrorism needed to be addressed before such acts could be reduced. A focus on the causes of terrorism was again raised during the consideration of draft resolutions later in the meeting. Dr Mahatir considered that the causes were territorial and not religious but noted that Muslims from countries other than Palestine were taking part in acts of terror to help in the “struggle for justice”. While not mentioning the United States by name, the speech was highly critical of US views and policies. The full text of Dr Mahatir’s address is in Appendix G.

Subject matter of the annual meeting

The agenda

- 2.7 The draft agenda for the 11th Annual Meeting was adopted with some slight changes made by the Executive Committee. The agenda consisted of three main topics: Political and Security Issues; Economy and Investment; and Cooperation in addressing Transnational Issues. In addition there was an “other issues” topic – Asia Pacific Cooperation. The final items on the agenda were the adoption of the Joint Communiqué and the announcement of the venue for the 12th Annual Meeting.
- 2.8 Each annual meeting works through the agenda by considering the draft resolutions submitted by delegations. Debate on the resolutions and negotiations to achieve a final agreed version are the real work of the annual meetings. Details on the organisation of the annual meeting are at 1.32ff above including information on how draft resolutions are processed.
- 2.9 This chapter considers each of the resolutions adopted by the annual meeting in the context of the agenda of the meeting. Where the Australian delegation did not contribute to the final resolution the outline is brief. More information is provided on the outcomes relating to each of the Australian draft resolutions.
- 2.10 The text of the original Australian draft is reproduced so it can be compared with the text of the final resolutions which are reproduced in Appendix C.

I Political and Security Issues

Denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula

- 2.11 This topic was added to the draft agenda by the Executive Committee and was not addressed as one of the sub-regional issues as originally intended. The material before the plenary included draft resolutions from Japan, Korea and the USA and a supplementary theme paper from the Republic of Korea. The final resolution (sponsored by Japan and Korea) cited various agreements breached by the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea and called upon the DPRK to retract from its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (amongst other things). The text of the resolution is APPF11/RES/01 in Appendix C.

Terrorism

- 2.12 One of Australia's five draft resolutions was:

The 11th Annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF):
 Reaffirming that terrorist attacks can never be justified in any circumstance;
 Recalling the Statement of the Plenary of the APPF on Terrorism, January 2002, and the Statements of the APEC Leaders on Recent Acts of Terrorism in APEC Member Economies and on Fighting Terrorism and Promoting Growth, October 2002;
 Recognising the progress made by APEC leaders in committing to fight terrorism and to promote growth in the Asia-Pacific region;
 Underlining sovereign nations' responsibility for protecting people and preventing terrorist attacks within their own territory;
 Mindful of the damage that terrorism or the threat of terrorism causes to the people and economies of member states;
 Committed to working together to suppress the flow of finances to terrorist networks; and
 Supportive of efforts to prevent terrorists acquiring or using weapons of mass destruction;
 Resolves to:
 Condemn terrorist attacks committed by any person at any place at any time;
 Express condolences for victims of terrorist attacks where ever they occur;
 Commend the actions of those working to overcome terrorism;
 Call upon Asia-Pacific parliaments to strengthen the ability of member states to fight terrorism;
 Reaffirm the need for cooperation among member states and multilateral organisations to halt terrorist financing; and
 Support efforts by member states and multilateral organisations to prevent the acquisition or use of weapons of mass destruction by terrorist groups.

- 2.13 Draft resolutions were also submitted by Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico and the Philippines. A comparison of the Australian draft with the final form of the resolution [APPF11/RES/02 – Appendix C] shows that very little of the text of the Australian draft was adopted in the final. This did not concern the Australian delegation, which, in fact, would have been happy to adopt the Indonesian draft in total. Australia also liked the Japanese draft which was quite similar to the Indonesian draft. The most difficult aspect of negotiation in relation to the topic

was the insistence by Malaysia that terrorism be defined before any action could be taken. The substantive paragraphs of the Malaysian draft were:

Resolves to:

Urge the United National to convene an immediate world conference of leaders to articulate the most comprehensive definition of terrorism as well as to identify and address the root causes of terrorism.

1. Call upon the United Nations to lead and co-ordinate the global war on terrorism in a more impartial, objective and effective manner.
2. Condemns any unilateral, unjustified and unprovoked military actions on any States on the pretext of war against terrorism.

2.14 In relation to defining “terrorism” the compromise reached was the last paragraph of the final resolution “Call upon the United Nations to expedite its work on the definition of terrorism”.

2.15 There were sixteen (from fifteen countries) contributions to the debate on terrorism. In addition to the delegation from the Canadian Parliament, a Member of Parliament attended in his own right (as allowed under the rules of procedure). Therefore on most topics there were two speakers from Canada. The Executive Committee’s decision to limit each speech to three minutes and to indicate that the time had elapsed by means of a red light proved to be a useful precaution.

ARF Report by Cambodia

2.16 The ASEAN Regional Forum was established in 1994. The Forum consists of 23 countries which have an interest in the security of the Asia Pacific region. These include the 10 ASEAN member states, the 10 ASEAN dialogue partners (which include Australia), PNG (as the ASEAN observer country, as well as the DPRK and Mongolia.

2.17 The ARF’s main function is to hold a ministerial level meeting annually. The ministerial meeting for 2003 is to be held on 18 June 2003 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. It is a regular agenda item at APPF meetings for a delegate from the country which is to chair the forthcoming ARF meeting to report to the APPF annual meeting on its preparations. The subject matter discussed at ARF meetings is similar to the APPF agenda.

2.18 The Australian delegation appreciated the opportunity to learn about this organisation which, at the ministerial and official level, has much in common with the aims of the APPF. The Cambodian report is Annex 2 of the Joint Communiqué.

Sub-regional issues

- 2.19 There were five sub-regional issues listed in the final agenda: East Timor; Myanmar; India-Pakistan relations; and Afghanistan. Because there were no draft resolutions submitted on four of the five topics, these items were not debated at all. There were three draft resolutions on the Middle East Peace Process. Japan and Indonesia submitted drafts on Palestine and Canada on Iraq.
- 2.20 Again, this indicates the central role of draft submissions if a delegation wishes to participate in debate on a particular agenda item. If some other country has submitted a draft resolution, the topic will be addressed in the plenary and all delegations, whether or not they submitted a draft resolution, will have the opportunity to speak. If no one has submitted a draft resolution, it is assumed there is no interest in the topic and it is not addressed.
- 2.21 By one of those quirks of the conduct of meetings, although all three draft resolutions were under the same agenda item, they were adopted as two resolutions, one on Iraq [APPF11/RES/03] and one on the Middle East Peace Process [APPF11/RES/04]. The text of both is in Appendix C.

II. Economy and Investment

Reports by Mexico – APEC and the unofficial meeting

- 2.22 APEC stands for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation. It is not described as a Forum, Council or any such formal nomenclature. Instead it is regarded as a “Leaders’ meeting” and has not been further defined to retain flexibility and also because of sensitivities about the membership of the meeting.
- 2.23 It has been the practice for the (APPF) country which hosted the previous APEC meeting, to report to the following APPF meeting. Mexico hosted the 2002 APEC meeting and duly reported (via a powerpoint presentation which may be viewed on the website at <http://www.appf.org.pe>). The Australian delegation considers this to be a useful aspect of APPF meetings.
- 2.24 On the other hand, there are views that the links between the APPF and APEC should be more formal. The Australian delegation does not see this as desirable. Australia has not supported those who see the APPF as a sort of “parliamentary wing” of APEC. One expression of this view was the example of the 1997 meeting of APEC held in Canada at which Canadian parliamentarians who had attended APPF meetings participated as observers in ministerial and other APEC meetings.

- 2.25 Australia saw it as a difficulty when Mexico proposed another mechanism for forging stronger links between APEC and the APPF. Mexico proposed that an informal meeting of the APPF be held in association with the APEC Leaders' meeting at Isla de Navidad, Mexico. This had been proposed as a draft resolution at the 10th Annual Meeting in Honolulu. Australia intervened to amend the resolution from a definite proposal to hold an additional APPF meeting to "Consider having an APPF meeting prior to the APEC Leaders Conference in Mexico 2002".
- 2.26 Nevertheless, an invitation arrived for Australia to send a delegation to the "unofficial APPF" meeting. Not wishing to support the concept of an additional meeting, the Australian Parliament compromised by arranging for the Australian parliamentary observers attached to the United Nations in New York to attend the APPF meeting in Mexico. The report of the "unofficial meeting" is in Annex 3B of the Joint Communiqué [see Appendix C].
- 2.27 The issue of a link between the APPF and APEC is addressed in the report by Japan on structural reform of the APPF. That report does not support the "additional meeting" approach used by Mexico and prefers the approach used by Canada referred to in 2.24 above. Further information is provided in Chapter 3.

The Economy

- 2.28 Australia submitted two draft resolutions on Agenda item II (C), because the item was itemised to show sub-items on globalisation, the WTO and the reinforcement of the bilateral and regional economic partnerships.
- 2.29 Australia submitted the following draft resolution on the WTO:
- The 11th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF):
Recognising the importance of an open, rules-based multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the forum for global rule-making and liberalisation of trade, and of the successful conclusion of the negotiations on the WTO Doha Development Agenda,
Resolves to:
Affirm the significant contribution the successful and timely conclusion of negotiations on the WTO Doha Development Agenda (DDA) will make to economic development in the Asia Pacific region, particularly market access outcomes;
Urge all Asia-Pacific economies to participate actively in the negotiations, including by putting forward negotiating proposals, and to cooperate to promote the benefits of the WTO and the Doha Development Agenda;
Affirm the commitment of Asia-Pacific economies to work together to meet the timeframes set out in the Doha Development Agenda,

particularly the successful conclusion of the negotiations by 1 January 2005.

- 2.30 On reinforcement of the bilateral and regional economic partnerships, Australia submitted the following draft resolution:

11th Annual Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum

In recognition of the benefits of open trade and noting the growth in regional trading arrangements and free trade agreements across the Asia-Pacific region,

Resolves to:

- Call upon AAPF members to actively and constructively exchange views on regional and bilateral trade agreements being considered or negotiated in the region; and
- Ensure that regional and bilateral trading arrangements negotiated and concluded by APPF members are comprehensive, consistent with WTO rules and disciplines and APEC goals and principles and promote an open, transparent and liberalised multilateral trading system.

- 2.31 Because our draft resolutions were relatively short, Australia agreed with Indonesia, Japan and Thailand on the text of a combined final resolution on Trade Agreements and the WTO. The text was adopted by the plenary as [APPF11/RES/05]. The resolution supports the Doha Development Agenda and WTO principles and rules. The final paragraph of the resolution includes the promotion of “an open, transparent and liberalised multilateral trading system”. The full text is in Appendix C].

- 2.32 The Mexican delegation submitted a draft resolution entitled “The Doha Agenda for the Development of the WTO and the Agriculture Subsidies”. It proved too difficult to incorporate the values and actions involved in this resolution into the above resolution [APPF11/RES/05], so the Mexican resolution was adopted separately [APPF11/RES/06]. The text is in Appendix C.

III. Cooperation in addressing the Transnational Issues

Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships

- 2.33 There was no draft resolution submitted on this agenda item so there was no debate in the plenary and no final resolution.

People smuggling and trafficking in persons

- 2.34 Australia submitted the following long and detailed draft resolution on this agenda item:

11th Annual Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF)

Observing the consideration in the Tokyo Declaration that interdependence and regional cohesion is growing within the Asia Pacific, providing a sound basis for increased regional cooperation and that the APPF could contribute to the region’s peace, stability and prosperity;

Recalling the determination expressed in the Vancouver Declaration, to make the Asia-Pacific community a common house where people can lead peaceful and prosperous lives; to which goal the APPF could help by promoting cooperation in regional politics, security, the economy, and culture with a view to resolving and preventing problems facing the region; Reiterating the determination expressed in the Vancouver Declaration to support a cooperative approach to handling tensions and potential problems, as exemplified by the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and to conduct political and security dialogue at a variety of levels and through different channels using existing bilateral and multilateral relationships; Preserving relations among the countries in Asia-Pacific, and particularly mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and national identity of all nations;

Acknowledging the recognition in the Vancouver Declaration that terrorism, trade in illicit narcotics, money laundering, internationally organised crime syndicates and such like activities must be outlawed either through existing laws or through the enactment of appropriate legislation, the implementation of effective enforcement and fostering of closer international cooperation, to better guarantee the social welfare of our communities, the economies of our nations and the political and national security of the region;

Acknowledging that illegal immigration, people smuggling and people trafficking are such like activities of global scope that threaten the capacity of states to control their borders, which is the sovereign right and legitimate interest of each country;

Recognising that, as with other aspects of international crime, people smugglers and traffickers may undermine judicial and policing processes and may compromise the rights of those victims of people smugglers who have protection needs;

Recognising that no country alone can deal successfully with people smuggling and trafficking, recalls Resolution 17 of the 9th Annual Meeting of the APPF, which stressed the need for all States, and other international bodies to share the responsibility in seeking durable and timely solutions to the problem of refugees in joint efforts to prevent conditions that might give rise to the flight of refugees, and to address the root causes of refugee outflows, particularly in the countries of origin;

Noting the Bangkok Declaration on Irregular Migration of 23 April 1999, as the basis for regional cooperation in combating people smuggling and trafficking in the Asia Pacific region;

Recognising the outcomes of the Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime held at Bali, Indonesia, from 26 to 28 February 2002,

Resolves to:

1. Call upon all States to recognise the need for coordinated approaches to the issues of people smuggling and people trafficking, especially through information sharing, cooperation between agencies, capacity building and strengthening legal and administrative frameworks;
2. Urge all states to examine their border controls to ensure that all possible measures are being taken to prevent people smuggling and other transnational crimes;
3. Urge all states to ensure that mechanisms to deter and disrupt people smugglers and traffickers and to intercept their clients include measures to identify and safeguard the needs of those people requiring the protection of the international community;

4. Call upon all states to intensify their efforts to introduce and enforce penalties for people smuggling and people trafficking;
5. Urge all states to assist in the timely return of undocumented illegal immigrants, so as to reduce the incentive for people smuggling; and
6. Urge all concerned to participate in the activities taking place under the two Ad Hoc Experts' Groups established at the Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime held in Bali in February 2002.
7. Urge all concerned states to participate at the Ministerial-level in the follow-up Conference to be held in Bali in April 2003, during which representatives will determine the future direction of regional cooperation designed to combat people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime.
8. Recommend the full participation in regional consultative mechanisms, such as the inter-governmental Asia Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants, to ensure a strategic regional approach to dealing with irregular migration and humanitarian issues.

2.35 Australia, Mexico, Malaysia and New Zealand contributed to the debate on this topic in the plenary. The Australian delegation was pleased that most of its draft was adopted by the plenary. The final resolution was sponsored by Australia and Malaysia. The text is in Appendix C.

Narcotics

2.36 Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines submitted draft resolutions on this topic and sponsored the final resolution adopted by the plenary. The text is in Appendix C.

Environment

2.37 Australia's final draft resolution addressed this agenda item. The text of the draft resolution was:

The 11th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF)

Expressing satisfaction with the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development which was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 26 August to 4 September; and

Noting that WSSD reaffirmed sustainable development as a central element of the international agenda and gave new impetus to global action to fight poverty and protect the environment.

Resolves to:

1. Welcome the adoption by the WSSD of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, intergovernmental organisations and major groups;
2. Reaffirm that poverty alleviation, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for Sustainable Development;
3. Acknowledge that trade is an important engine of economic growth and sustainable development; and

4. Calls on States to take action, as appropriate, to ensure the effective follow-up and implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the voluntary partnerships.

- 2.38 Japan and the Philippines also submitted draft resolutions on this topic. The most difficult negotiating item was the issue of the Kyoto Protocol, on which Australia and Japan have different views and on which there is no single view within the Australian Parliament. After considerable discussion it was agreed that the final resolution should “respect... the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol” as well as the Johannesburg Declaration for Sustainable Development and the WSSD Plan of Implementation. The text of the final resolution is in Appendix C.

Infectious Diseases

- 2.39 A draft resolution on this topic was submitted by the Philippines and adopted by the plenary. The text is in Appendix C.

Energy Security

- 2.40 No draft resolution was submitted so the item was not addressed in the plenary.

Combating Corruption

- 2.41 This item was added to the draft agenda at the Executive Committee meeting and adopted by the plenary. Thailand submitted a draft resolution which was adopted by the plenary. The text is in Appendix C.

IV. Asia Pacific Cooperation

- 2.42 This broad agenda item was included to allow some flexibility in the program for delegates to make contributions outside the agreed agenda items. The item was addressed during the final debating plenary of the meeting. Four items were raised.
- 2.43 The first was a report presented by the APPF President the Hon Yasuhiro Nakasone, on strengthening the APPF. This report was in response to the resolution passed at the 10th Annual Meeting in Honolulu which set up a working group to consider and report on the topic. No report has appeared from the working group, but the report from Japan and a resolution proposed by Mexico both address the topic. Chapter 3 considers the main recommendations in the report by Japan and suggests Australian responses to them. It also comments on the Mexican proposals.
- 2.44 Three draft resolutions which did not fit under the other agenda items were then considered by the plenary and adopted. These were on “New and Restored Democracies” [Mongolia], “Information Technologies and

Communications" [Mexico] and the "Promotion of Education" [Japan]. The text of these resolutions (numbers 12, 13 and 14) is in Appendix C.

- 2.45 This last plenary before the adoption of the Joint Communiqué also reported on the results of the discussions in the subregional groups on representatives on the Executive Committee. The Oceania group proposed New Zealand to replace the Federated States of Micronesia to serve on the Executive for 2004 and 2005. [See Chapter 1 paragraph 1.30.]

V. Adoption of the Joint Communiqué and venue of the 12th Annual Meeting

- 2.46 The Joint Communiqué, consisting of a summary of the meeting, the list of resolutions passed and various annexes was adopted unanimously at the final meeting of the plenary. It is in Appendix D. Hon Mr Xu Dunxin, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee and leader of the delegation from the People's Republic of China invited the Forum to hold its 12th Annual Meeting in China.

Technological Working Group

I. Background

- 2.47 The Technological Working Group (TWG), sometimes known as the Technological Working Committee, is one of two working groups established under paragraph 9 of the Manila rules of procedure. Until a second working group was established in Honolulu in 2002 to examine the structure of the organisation, the TWG was the only ongoing working group.
- 2.48 Because Australia (together with Peru, Japan and Thailand) has taken a leading role in the group, it is useful (for the guidance of future Australian APPF delegations) to provide a short history of this group. In 1996 at the 4th Annual Meeting in Thailand, Peru offered to establish an APPF website. Thailand proposed a working committee/group to study the establishment of an effective inter-parliamentary mechanism to facilitate legislative exchanges.
- 2.49 In 1997 at the 5th Annual Meeting in Vancouver, the Technology Working Group was formally established to develop the Asia-Pacific Open Information Network to promote information exchanges. The Vancouver Declaration (January 1997) formalised the main objective of the group in the following terms:

We propose that the "Asia-Pacific Open Information Network" be established as an information infrastructure where diversity and

openness – the characteristics of our region – will be respected.

This network will include a legislative information exchange so that the legislative experience and knowledge gained by each individual country of the region can be shared by all APPF member countries.

- 2.50 The group met at each annual meeting and the legislative interchange was discussed. [See *Report of the Parliamentary Delegation to the Sixth Annual Meeting of the APPF*, Seoul, 1998, p. 124.] In 1999 at the 7th Annual Meeting in Lima, Peru, the working group published a *Apoint 2001: Operative Plan*. The acronym APOINT stood for the Asia-Pacific Open Information Network. The Joint Communiqué of the 7th Annual Meeting expressed appreciation for progress made on the APOINT 2001 project as demonstrated by Peru and Japan. The meeting accepted the Korean delegation's offer to develop and provide a web-hosting service for its sub-regional countries. At the 8th Annual Meeting in Canberra, delegates were treated to the first electronic report of the achievements of the group by means of a powerpoint and video presentation by Mr Oswaldo Sandoval, the delegation leader from Peru.
- 2.51 Australia was an enthusiastic supporter of the working group. Indeed, the Australian Parliament sent a technical officer from the Department of the Parliamentary Reporting Service to the meeting in Peru to provide expert support. Peru, under the leadership of Mr Sandoval made a very significant contribution to the working group in its early days and established and supported the APPF web site. Japan has also been a consistently strong supporter of the working group. Professor Yasuhide Yamanouchi attends each APPF meeting as an advisor in order to provide technical support to the working group. Because of his familiarity with the objectives and history of the working group, Professor Yamanouchi also has an invaluable leadership role in the group.
- 2.52 In recent years the participation of Peru has faltered, partly because the institutional knowledge of Peru's role was lost when Mr Sandoval retired. The website was not updated and the working group as a whole lost some of its direction. Australia also gave less enthusiastic support to the group because while the original objectives were no longer urgent from the Australian perspective, the group had not refocussed on future directions. Also, for some years the group has been informal and has not had a Chair.

2.53 The early high level objective to establish a legislative clearing house – that is, members of APPF would have access to a legislative data base which would allow comparisons of legislation on similar matters across the region, has been overtaken by alternative approaches. Technological advances, including the growth of the Internet, have undermined the value of the objective. From Australia’s perspective, our legislative database (SCALE Plus) is established and maintained by the Attorney-General’s Department. It is accessible via the Internet to the region and beyond. There is no longer any need to establish a super-database of legislation throughout the region. Incorporating our legislative database into a regional one would require resources which could not, from Australia’s perspective, be justified.

II. Kuala Lumpur meeting of the Technological Working Group

2.54 The working group met in at Malacca Room at the Shangri-La Hotel, the venue of the 11th Annual Meeting, at 1.30 pm on Tuesday 14 January 2003. Ms Jann McFarlane from the Australian delegation was elected Chair.

2.55 Ms McFarlane introduced Professor Yamanouchi who provided an outline of the history of the website. Professor Yamanouchi noted that the ongoing website (as distinct from the website established by the host Parliament for each annual meeting) was at APPF.org.pe. In the past it had been maintained by Peru and the server space provided by Peru. It had been updated to the end of the Valparaiso, 9th Annual Meeting but the outcomes of the 10th Annual Meeting held in Honolulu had not been added. [Peru had not sent a delegation to the meeting in Honolulu.] Professor Yamanouchi thanked the delegate from Peru for many years of support for the website and proposed that the group consider how best to ensure ongoing maintenance of the site.

2.56 The working group agreed that arrangements for maintaining the ongoing website for the next twelve months should be made at each annual meeting and confirmed by the plenary. It was agreed that the responsibility should not rest on one member country only.

2.57 A delegate from Peru proposed that Peru resume responsibility for the website for 2003, including loading the information for the Honolulu meeting, the informal meeting in Mexico and the Kuala Lumpur information. He apologised for the break in services from Peru and explained that there had been political difficulties including two elections in one year.

- 2.58 The delegation notes that the ongoing website now includes information from the annual meetings held in Honolulu and Kuala Lumpur.
- 2.59 The meeting considered paragraph 4 of Mexico's draft resolution (adopted as APPF11/Res/13 [see Appendix C]) supporting APOINT 2001. Malaysia, agreeing with Australia's view of the issue, noted that the APPF website already provided links to other parliamentary websites which acted as an information exchange. Professor Yamanouchi proposed that Parliaments should exploit links with outside telecommunications organisations to maximise their potential for using technology effectively to access information. Professor Yamanouchi provided a list of members and links to the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT) – a network of Asian and Pacific agencies which support technological information exchange. The list was incorporated into the report of the Technology Working Group. The report is in Appendix F.
- 2.60 Each country provided a country report. The Australian report covered the contents of the parliamentary website including the links provided to various other parliamentary and government sites, accessing the Australian legislative database, the role of various parliamentary departments in maintaining the site, and the access provided through the site to the live webcast of parliamentary proceedings.

Bilateral meetings

2.1 Meeting with the Indonesian delegation

- 2.61 At the request of the Indonesian delegation, an informal meeting was held at 1.45 pm on Monday 13 January. All members of the Australian delegation attended the meeting together with the Mr Damien Millar, Third Secretary from the Australian Embassy who had assisted the delegation, and the delegation secretary.
- 2.62 The Indonesian delegates were Dr Buran Djabir Magenda MP from the Golkar Party, Mr Bahrum Rasir MP, Chief of the AIPO desk, Military Police faction, Suherman Obon and Palupi Mustajab. Not all members of the Indonesian delegation were present because they were attending other bilateral meetings. The meeting had been discussed with the Australian Embassy in Jakarta and on 2 January 2003, the Secretary General of the Indonesian House of Representatives wrote formally to the Speaker on behalf of the Indonesian Speaker to request the meeting.

- 2.63 Dr Magenda introduced members of his delegation and Senator Ferris introduced the Australian delegation. Dr Magenda proposed discussing three issues during the meeting: Terrorism and responses to fears of terrorism including actions taken against certain Indonesian citizens suspected of terrorist activities in Australia; Transnational crimes including people smuggling and trafficking, and growing problems in the Indonesian Province of Papua and the resulting impact on Indonesian/Australian relations.
- 2.64 In relation to terrorism, the Indonesia delegates expressed their regrets for the deaths of Australians in the Bali bombings. Senator Ferris thanked the delegates for their support. In relation to the raids on Indonesian citizens the previous November, Senator Ferris agreed to pass on to the Foreign Minister, Mr Downer, concerns about the non-return of confiscated material. Mr Baird raised the economic aspects of terrorism.
- 2.65 Ms McFarlane expressed her sympathy for the suffering caused to Indonesians because of the Bali bombing. She encouraged people to travel to Bali on holiday to help the people economically.
- 2.66 The Indonesians expressed their concern that the Free Papua movement would develop into a problem similar to that in East Timor with the potential to damage the relationship between Australia and Indonesia. Mr Sercombe told the delegates that Australia respected Indonesian territorial integrity. There were those who expressed a different view in Australia and they had a right to express their views. Mr Sercombe asked the delegates to urge the responsible authorities in Indonesia to handle the cultural and human rights issues in West Papua with sympathy.
- 2.67 The discussion on people smuggling focused on Australia's appreciation of Indonesia's support and the necessity for the two countries to work together to address the problems.
- 2.68 The Australian delegates were very pleased with the warmth and depth of communication at the meeting. We thank the Indonesian delegates for their time and courtesy.

2.2 Meeting with the Malaysian delegation

- 2.69 The Australian delegation met with the Malaysian delegation at short notice at 10.30 am on Wednesday 15 January. All Australian delegates participated in the meeting which was also attended by Mr Damien Miller (Third Secretary, Australian Embassy) and the delegation secretary.

- 2.70 The meeting is reported in some detail partly because discussion touched on some sensitivities. The Malaysian media reported the meeting in the daily press next day in a less than accurate way. Discussions encompassed APPF organisational issues as well as matters of practical interest and connection between the two countries.
- 2.71 The Malaysian delegates who attended the meeting were:
- Hon. Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi MP (Leader of Delegation)
 - Hon. Sen. Datuk Mansor Haji Md. MP Jaafar
 - Hon. Sen. Datuk Hj Karim Ghani MP
 - Hon. Sen. Tan Sri Abdullah Ayub MP
 - Hon. Mr Ng Lip Yong MP
 - Hon. Sen. Datuk William Lau Kung Hui MP
 - Hon. Mr Madius S. Tangau MP
 - Hon. Sen. Datuk Dr. Haji Harris Salleh MP
- 2.72 Datuk Ahmad Zahid opened the meeting by introducing his delegation. He conveyed the appreciation of the Malaysian Parliament for the support Australia gave to the APPF meeting. Datuk Zahid noted that the relationship between Australia and Malaysia was good except for the “latest incident” [the raids by Australian security on terrorist suspects in Sydney in November 2002]. In particular, parliamentary and business relations are good. He mentioned a twinning program with an Australian university and investments that Members of Parliament had in Australian cattle farms.
- 2.73 Datuk Zahid raised the issue of a permanent secretariat for the APPF and suggested that if the secretariat eventuated there could be a proportionate contribution from countries according to their resources. While noting that the APPF was a useful forum at present, Datuk Zahid proposed changing the focus from a meeting of parliamentarians to emphasise more the APEC connection.
- 2.74 Senator Ferris introduced the Australian delegation. Senator Ferris noted Australia would be responding to the proposals on the structure of the APPF in August. In response to a Malaysian observation that there have been problems with the website, Senator Ferris said that Peru had now undertaken to resume responsibility for maintaining the site.
- 2.75 Mr Sercombe noted that strengthening of structures is important and Australian delegates should ensure our colleagues understand the importance of the APPF.
- 2.76 Mr Baird noted the strong links with Malaysia in the fields of education, investment and tourism in both directions. He said the APPF

meeting had been very worthwhile and that dialogue between parliamentarians is important and could be strengthened.

- 2.77 A Malaysian delegate, noting that there had been difficulties in the relationship at the Prime Ministerial level, said parliamentarians would be failing in their duty if they did not meet and build the relationship. He said there were strengths in the relationship, particularly through students. As a destination for students Australia was seen as having friendly people, a good climate and it was comparatively inexpensive.
- 2.78 Senator Ferris said there is general agreement that relations between parliamentarians is good. She noted that it went back a long way and that the delegation hoped it would continue to strengthen.
- 2.79 Several of the Malaysian delegates expressed warm feelings towards Australia. A delegate from Sabah spoke of a strong relationship with Australia going back to the liberation of the area by the Australian military. He had interests in a Sabah company which developed houses in Perth. One delegate noted that the person who exported the bomb which exploded in Bali had apologised on the grounds that he thought it would be used against Americans.
- 2.80 The issue of an official parliamentary delegation to Australia was raised. The Malaysian delegates hoped an invitation would be forthcoming. Senator Ferris agreed to pass on the request for an official invitation to visit Australia. [Senator Ferris later discovered that an official invitation had been issued by the Presiding Officers on 19 July 2002].
- 2.81 The discussion addressed the topic of visas for students which were causing some problems. A Malaysian delegate said that easing the visa restrictions for students would lead to a better bilateral relationship with Australia. He raised the issue of colleges and letters of acceptance and said that the High Commission needed to treat these issues with greater urgency. He said that the legislation relating to students under 18 required them to have a certified guardian in Australia who must be parents (and not uncles or aunts). Senator Ferris offered to pass on the comments to the relevant Minister and ask for a response on the issue of under-18 students.
- 2.82 Also in the discussion on education issues, Mr Sercombe said universities, particularly Victoria University, were looking at addressing the needs of Islamic students in relation to accommodation and other issues.
- 2.83 A Malaysian delegate raised the issue of the safety of Malaysia as portrayed in the western media. Another Malaysian delegate noted that

the Muslim region was very peaceful and some people had personal agendas to upset this. Later in the meeting a Malaysian delegate noted that Malaysians were intercultural by upbringing and they worried about the ultra extremists who leaned towards terrorism.

- 2.84 Several Malaysian delegates raised the issue of adverse travel advisories relating to Malaysia and asked if anything could be done about the current travel advisory portraying Malaysia as possibly unsafe. He said Malaysians were not happy about this and it was hoped that the Australian delegates would tell the government that Malaysia was safe. The Australian delegates did not respond directly to this as they had already said they felt personally safe on this visit but that the world had changed since September 11 and October 12.
- 2.85 Senator Ferris mentioned Australian parliamentarians including the Prime Minister had visited mosques in Australia and that the delegation accepted that the Muslim religion is peaceful. She noted that it is difficult for Moslems in Australia because of the way things are portrayed in the media. Mr Sercombe noted that there are more than 300,000 Moslems in Australia including many in his constituency. They are a very important group in the community and increasing in importance. He also noted that there is dialogue between Christians and Moslems at the non-government organisation level. Despite the media there is a lot of goodwill towards the Moslem population.
- 2.86 Members of the Australian delegation expressed concern regarding the economic loss to the people of Bali following the terrorist attack there. In relation to the role of the media, Mr Baird said that our press is free to report as it thinks fit and the media tended to focus on sensational news. He noted the impact on tourism of the Bali bombing.
- 2.87 Mr Baird referred to Australia's bid for the Olympic Games when he was the responsible Minister. He thanked Malaysia for its support at that time and noted it was crucial to Australia's success in gaining the games.
- 2.88 Datuk Ahmad Zahid thanked the delegation and expressed condolences for the loss of Australian lives in Bali. He wished delegates a safe trip home. Senator Ferris responded by thanking the Malaysian delegation. The delegation considered the meeting productive.

Conclusion

Value to Australia of the 11th Annual Meeting

- 2.89 All delegates agreed they had benefited significantly and learned a lot during the meeting. Highlights included opportunities for close

communication and negotiation with parliamentarians from the region. These included negotiating in the drafting committees on resolutions where Australia had submitted a draft. Members of the delegation appreciated the opportunity to explain Australian views to their fellow parliamentarians and hear the perspectives of others. In particular the opportunity to express Australia's views to fellow parliamentarians on sensitive issues was highly regarded by all delegates.

- 2.90 Each returning Australian APPF delegation prepares a report of the meeting and tables it in the Parliament. Although it has not been the practice for the Australian Parliament to ensure continuity of Members of APPF delegations, the information provided in each report is used by new delegations in their preparation. There has also been continuity in the secretariat support for the delegation. These two factors have led to a command of the subject matter and Forum procedures which, in turn, have allowed successive Australian delegations to make a substantial contribution to APPF meetings. The Australian contribution to the 11th Annual Meeting was considerable in the drafting committees and the plenary.
- 2.91 The bilateral meetings with the Indonesian and Malaysian delegations were particularly valuable. The delegation agreed that it would be desirable to meet again with the Malaysian members should any of them participate in the proposed delegation to Australia.

Proposals for Organisational Change

The Working Group on strengthening the APPF

- 3.1 This Working Group was established by resolution at the 10th Annual Meeting in Honolulu [APPF10/RES/31]. The substantive paragraphs of the resolution were:
1. Establish a technical working group of APPF under the authority of the Executive Committee to study and report at the eleventh APPF meeting on ways and means of strengthening the APPF;
 2. Ensure that the working group will consult all members of the APPF ...
 3. Require that such study shall include but not be limited to the relationship between the APPF and other regional organizations, the relationship between the APPF and other interparliamentary bodies; the institutional support base for APPF within national parliaments, the question of a permanent secretariat; the APPF website; improved coordination of cooperative parliamentary activities between APPF meetings; the financial support base for APPF; ... and questions of institutional continuity including multiple co-chairing of APPF meetings.
 4. Require that such report shall be completed and circulated to all member parliaments at least two months prior to the eleventh APPF meeting in Malaysia and that it will be the subject of deliberation at that meeting.
- 3.2 The resolution was sponsored by Chile, China, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines, Singapore and the United States of America.
- 3.3 No information has been provided on whether a working group was established or if it met. However, two documents (from Japan and Mexico) relating to changes to the structure of the APPF were circulated at the 11th

Annual Meeting in Kuala Lumpur. Both the report from Japan and the Mexican resolution refer to the resolution passed in Honolulu. The report from Japan is a comprehensive response to the terms of reference in the Honolulu resolution. The resolution sponsored by Mexico urges the working group proposed at the 10th Annual Meeting to prepare a report for the next annual meeting (i.e. the 12th Annual Meeting). The report from Japan and the Mexican resolution were made into annexes to the Joint Communiqué and are reproduced in Appendix D.

- 3.4 Delegates were requested to respond to the report prepared by Japan by August 2003. The mechanism for response was not clarified. Nevertheless, if the Australian Parliament wants to maintain an influence on the direction of the APPF, it is desirable that an Australian position be developed and that it be made known to the office of the President of the APPF by the end of August 2003.
- 3.5 Accordingly, this chapter will analyse the main recommendations of the Japanese report and propose an Australian position on them. Where the Mexican resolution is relevant it will be addressed. The Australian delegation's views are in bold type.
- 3.6 The delegation recognises that the Presiding Officers may have a different perspective on some of the recommendations from that of the delegation and that an Australian response to the recommendations will need to be endorsed by the Presiding Officers. The Speaker, in particular, has a long experience of the Forum and his views will inform the Australian Parliament's response on the future of the APPF.
- 3.7 It is for this reason that the delegation's responses to the recommendations are not presented as the proposed Australian response. They are intended instead to be one of the contributions to the Australian response. In addition to the Presiding Officers, the Clerks of both Houses, the Parliamentary Relations Office and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade should be consulted in developing an Australian position on the recommendations from Japan.

The delegation recommends that the Presiding Officers take note of its views on organisational change of the APPF and respond to the President of the APPF regarding the proposals by the end of August 2003.

I. The Reports on Strengthening the APPF

- 3.8 The report from Japan and the resolution from Mexico will be considered in relation to the tasks identified in the resolution adopted at the 10th Annual Meeting. The Australian delegation's views follow each item.

Relationship between the APPF and other regional organisations

- 3.9 The report from Japan cites Guiding Principle 6 of the Tokyo Declaration:
- The APPF will maintain the closest relations with regional institutions, particularly APEC, ASEAN and ... to ensure a free flow of information between the APPF and these institutions. While the Forum may mutually cooperate with these institutions, it will maintain an independent agenda.
- 3.10 Since the earliest days of the Forum the flow of information has been addressed by means of reports given at APPF annual meetings by delegates from the countries where the relevant regional institution has just met or is about to meet. Successive Australian delegations have been satisfied with this approach which not only implements the guidelines regarding information flow, but also avoids sensitivities which might arise with more formal links.
- 3.11 From time to time various APPF members have proposed additional methods of strengthening links with other regional organisations. The report from Japan mentions two such approaches. First, when the APEC ministerial meeting was held in Canada in 1997, Canadian parliamentarians who were regular participants in APPF meetings, attended the APEC meeting as observers. The report from Japan calls this the "Canada format" and proposes it as a standard.
- 3.12 The Mexican resolution on strengthening the APPF resolves:
3. To pressure the APPF to evaluate and establish relations with other mechanisms of regional economic cooperation so the parliaments of our nations will be able to contribute to advancing in an effective way in the objectives of the process of economic cooperation and liberalization and trade and financial facilitation in the Asia Pacific region. [Annex 5B to the Joint Communiqué.]
- 3.13 While this resolution is more aspirational than practical, the practical application of the Mexican approach was to host an additional APPF meeting to coincide with the APEC meeting held in September 2002 in Los Cabos (the subject of APPF10/RES/18).
- 3.14 The attitude of the Australian delegation to the additional/informal APPF meeting in Mexico is described 2.24 to 2.27 above. The Australian delegation is opposed to more frequent meetings of the APPF and does not support developing the APPF as a type of "parliamentary wing" of APEC. The reasons may be summarised as follows:

- It is a well-established practice that the APPF meets only once per year and this is provided for in the procedural documents [paragraph 10 of the Tokyo Declaration and paragraph 6 of the Manila Procedures]. These annual meetings have been satisfactory in terms of meeting the objectives of the organisation.
- There is already provision for the APPF to be closely linked to each APEC leaders' meeting by means of an agenda item which allows the country which hosted the APEC meeting to report on the meeting at the following APPF meeting.
- While APPF members will always have a keen interest in the outcome of each APEC meeting, there is a fundamental distinction between the two organisations. The first is the forum for members of parliament and the latter is a meeting of economic leaders. The former has a wide-ranging area of concern covering economic, political, security and social issues. APEC is an economic forum.

3.15 **The Australian delegation considers that current arrangements for maintaining relations with regional institutions which rely on the exchange of information are adequate. While not specifically objecting to the "Canada format" this approach will not be practical for countries which do not have continuity of membership of APPF delegations (including Australia). Australia is opposed to the Mexican example of holding an informal APPF meeting to coincide with the APEC meeting for the reasons given above.**

Relationship with other inter-parliamentary bodies

3.16 The report from Japan notes the importance of links with other inter-parliamentary institutions for the purposes of mutual cooperation. The report proposes strengthening relations including increased exchanges of information through the Internet. The Mexican resolution mentions the ideal but offers no proposal for action.

3.17 **The Australian delegation supports increasing the exchange of information through the Internet. The quality of the APPF website is relevant to this proposal.**

The institutional support base for APPF within national parliaments

3.18 The report from Japan notes the importance of support from each national parliament for the APPF, especially in relation to hosting the annual meetings. In commenting on the fact that private funds had been used to support various annual meeting activities the report notes that different countries have different ways of providing institutional support. The

report proposes that each country's parliament officially disclose the names of those parliamentarians at the centre of APPF activities and details of the office responsible for inter-parliamentary activities.

- 3.19 The report does not clarify to whom this information would be provided. Presumably it should be forwarded to the hosts of the APPF website (currently Peru). It would be regrettable if the information were sent to the APPF President's office in Tokyo since this would reinforce the idea that the President's office acts as an unofficial APPF secretariat.
- 3.20 **The Australian delegation considers information on each country's APPF contacts should be added to the APPF website depending on the willingness of the Peru Parliament to coordinate this task. This will make the website more useful for delegates and members of secretariats in Parliaments where there is continuity of participation in the APPF.**

The question of a permanent secretariat

- 3.21 Unlike the International Parliamentary Union and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the APPF has never had a permanent secretariat. The Forum's founding document, the Tokyo Declaration, ends with the simple statement "The Secretariat may be established when necessary." The report from Japan asserts that the time has now come. It identifies the tasks for a secretariat as including:
- providing an ongoing official point of contact;
 - providing secretariat services to the Executive Committee [p. 6 of the report]
 - following up on APPF resolutions;
 - promoting exchanges with other regional institutions and inter-parliamentary institutions;
 - administering the web-site;
 - keeping members in touch with each other and with topics of interest to the APPF between meetings;
 - reinforcing APPF's international standing; and
 - providing the organisation with a degree of continuity.
- 3.22 Further details of what a permanent secretariat might do are provided on p. 7 of the report from Japan [see Appendix D – Annex 5A of the Joint Communiqué]. It is not proposed that a permanent secretariat would organise each annual meeting though it would have a role in assisting the secretariat appointed by each host parliament. It seems likely that the role of a permanent secretariat in relation to the organisation of the annual meeting would, over time, include some of the tasks now done by the annual meeting secretariat.
- 3.23 The report from Japan notes the growth of APPF member countries and the fact that the a considerable amount of support has been provided to

the secretariat for each general (annual) meeting by the private office of Mr Nakasone, the APPF President. The report states that his “personal office can no longer reasonably be expected to perform these tasks alone.” [p. 5 of the report from Japan.]

- 3.24 The APPF has managed these functions in other ways with varying degrees of success. The annual meetings have been the responsibility of each host parliament [paragraph 6(d) of the Manila procedures] with support from the host parliament of the previous annual meeting. The Executive Committee gives guidance to the host parliament, particularly in the matter of framing a proposed agenda, usually via a September Executive Committee meeting held electronically.
- 3.25 This approach has been successful insofar as each annual meeting has occurred to the general satisfaction of APPF members. There have been various degrees of efficiency in the administrative support for each meeting, reflecting in part the sophistication of the support services available to individual parliaments. The main difficulty with this approach is that each newly established secretariat has to begin assembling staff and expertise from scratch, at least in relation to APPF procedures and practices. With twenty-seven members (the report from Japan says there are twenty-nine members so these must include Brunei and the Cook Islands which both have observer status), there has not been a need for any one country to host the annual meeting more than once.
- 3.26 Nevertheless the hosting of an annual meeting creates a heavy burden for the host. In addition to the administrative support the host usually funds the cost of the meeting (other than the costs of travel and accommodation incurred by each delegate). It would be very difficult for some of the smaller and less affluent parliaments to host an annual meeting.
- 3.27 In relation to hosting and maintaining the web-site, there have been difficulties in support which would be solved by the establishment of a permanent secretariat. However, the problem has now been addressed by the proposal for each annual meeting to confirm which country will host the web-site for the next year and the agreement by Peru to continue the service for at least 2003.
- 3.28 The issue of continuity, while relevant to the existence of a permanent secretariat, may also be addressed by continuity of membership. This is what has happened with the APPF. The President of the APPF, the Hon Yasuhiro Nakasone has held office continuously for the whole history of the organisation, having been re-elected each three years when as his term expired. Mr Nakasone is supported by an administrative team and a number of advisers, who contribute to the “corporate memory” of the APPF. It is not unreasonable for the President of such an organisation to

provide additional administrative and policy support. The problem with the APPF is that the same person has been president for eleven years. This is a problem which time will cure as the current President cannot go on for ever.

- 3.29 While the lack of a permanent secretariat creates some difficulties, it also has advantages in that it encourages ownership of the Forum by the parliamentarians who are its members.
- 3.30 The report from Japan suggests that a permanent secretariat could be established within an existing organisation – a think tank or a research institute. It would consist of only one or two persons throughout the year with more as the general (annual) meeting approached. The report from Japan notes that should a permanent secretariat be established “a new approach to financing ... will need to be considered. The report attaches the IPU Financial Regulations for reference.
- 3.31 While conceding that it would have some advantages, the Australian delegation is opposed to the establishment of a permanent secretariat. The APPF is meant to be an opportunity for parliamentarians to hold discussions and it is not necessary to have a secretariat to achieve this. The establishment of a permanent secretariat would be a financial burden for parliaments and may influence some to leave the Forum.**

The APPF website

- 3.32 The recommendations relating to the website refer to the establishment of a permanent secretariat. [see p. 8 of the report from Japan.] The delegation is satisfied with the current arrangements for the website – that Peru is maintaining it for 2003 and this will be reviewed at the 2004 annual meeting.**
- 3.33 If other recommendations of the report from Japan are adopted and contact details are provided for the web-site, they should be sent to Peru (subject to the Peruvian Congress' agreement).

Improved coordination of cooperative parliamentary activities between APPF meetings

- 3.34 This again refers to the establishment of a permanent secretariat which the Australian delegation opposes.

The financial support base for APPF

- 3.35 No change to current arrangements are necessary unless a permanent secretariat is established.

The proposal of Chile for practical means of implementing the Declaration of Valparaiso

- 3.36 The report notes that the aspirations in this declaration are largely the responsibility of individual countries. Nevertheless the APPF should continue to evince its position in the form of declarations. In relation to the Valparaiso declaration, the Chilean delegation which drafted it should take the lead in prioritising the declarations objectives. [Japan report p. 9] **The Australian delegation supports this approach.**

Questions of institutional continuity including multiple co-chairing of APPF meetings

- 3.37 The report does not support any changes relating to chairing annual meetings. **The Australian delegation supports this view.**

Senator Jeannie Ferris

Delegation Leader