



**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF MEMBERS MEETING
1 And 2 October 2026**

1. The Board of Members Meeting ("the Meeting") of the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions ("the AACC") was held in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan, on 1 October 2026 (10:15-11:45) and 2 October 2026 (11:15-12:15, Samarkand time), within the framework of the Seventh Congress of the AACC. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Mirza Ulugbek Abdusalomov, Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan and President of the AACC, and was attended by 18 member institutions (List of Participants attached as Annex I). Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, and Jordan were not represented.

Opening

2. The Chair, H.E. Mr. Mirza Ulugbek Abdusalomov (Uzbekistan), welcomed the delegates and called for the proposals of the Meeting of Secretaries-General to be translated into practical action, guided by human dignity, the supremacy of the Constitution and the rule of law, judicial independence, and public confidence in justice.
3. The Chair stated that the Samarkand Declaration should be a practical framework, not merely a symbolic document, for constitutional justice in the digital age, safeguarding human rights, judicial independence, transparency, and legal responsibility in the face of digitalisation and artificial intelligence (AI).

Adoption of Agenda

4. With a quorum present, the Meeting adopted the provisional agenda without objection.

Report from the Secretariat for Planning and Coordination (Republic of Indonesia)

5. Mr. Heru Setiawan (Indonesia), Secretary-General of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Indonesia and Head of the SPC, presented the SPC report for July 2025 to September 2026. The main activities reported included:
 - a. a bilateral meeting with the Constitutional Court of Uzbekistan and attendance at the handover of the AACC Presidency in Tashkent in November 2025;
 - b. coordination with the Secretariat of the AACC Presidency, including the visit of an Uzbek delegation to Jakarta in April 2026 to discuss preparations for the Seventh AACC Congress;
 - c. the visit of the Supreme Court of the Philippines to the SPC in May 2026 to exchange experience in preparing for the incoming Philippine Presidency;



- d. the Liaison Officers' technical meeting in August 2026, attended by 13 member institutions, to coordinate technical preparations for the Seventh Congress;
 - e. publication and circulation of AACC Newsletter Volumes 7 and 8;
 - f. a flag ceremony in Jakarta welcoming the Federal Supreme Court of Iraq as an AACC member, and ongoing communication with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain concerning the AACC;
 - g. coordination meeting among the SPC, SRD, CTHRD, and the Host Secretariat of Uzbekistan; and
 - h. the AACC Member Satisfaction Survey, which recorded an overall satisfaction rate of 94.55 percent in the "Very Good" category.
6. The SPC also reported that the official AACC website was being renewed to improve digital information-sharing and to enable member institutions to post their activities and landmark decisions directly. The SPC invited contributions from AACC members to *Constitutional Review*, the international academic journal published by the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Indonesia and indexed in Scopus.
 7. With respect to the special assignment on possible financial contributions by AACC members by the BoMM in 2024, the SPC reported that it had surveyed members on their budgeting procedures and compared the financing arrangements of three sister associations: the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of Africa (CCJA), the Conference of European Constitutional Courts (CECC), and the Ibero-American Conference of Constitutional Justice (CIJC).
 8. Based on this study, the SPC proposed that, at the present stage, the AACC maintain its existing cooperative financing model, under which the AACC President bears the principal costs of the Congress, each Permanent Secretariat is financed by its host institution, and members bear the costs of their own participation. The proposal was based on the absence of detailed statutory rules on mandatory contributions, the budgetary dependence of many members on external authorities, differing fiscal capacities, and unresolved questions regarding enforcement and the body that would receive, manage, report on, and audit contributions. The SPC proposed that the study and dialogue continue so that the matter could be reconsidered when collective fiscal readiness and an acceptable mechanism are in place.

Report from the Secretariat for Research and Development (Republic of Korea)

9. Mr. In Hyuk Son (Korea), Secretary-General of the Constitutional Court of Korea and Head of the SRD, reported on:
 - a. the 2026 Book Project, "*Recent and Current Issues in Constitutional Law*," covering constitutional text, interpretation, and legislation, to be published as the ninth AACC SRD book;



- b. the 5th Research Conference, held at researcher level in May 2026 on the same theme; the 2027 conference will be held at Justice level;
 - c. the secondment programme, with an officer from Mongolia currently seconded and two academic officers from Thailand having recently completed their secondments; and
 - d. the online database.
10. The SRD encouraged continued participation by all AACC member institutions.

Report from the Center for Training and Human Resources Development (Republic of Türkiye)

11. Mr. Murat Azaklı (Türkiye), Secretary-General of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Türkiye and Head of the CTHRD, reported that the AACC Summer School, held annually since 2013, has involved 480 representatives from 44 countries as well as representatives of the European Court of Human Rights. The 14th Summer School (4-9 October 2026), on "*Basic Principles on the Restriction of Rights and Freedoms*," was expected to gather a record 74 participants from 39 countries.
12. The CTHRD renewed its webpage in 2026 and will use it for announcements, draft programmes, online registration, and coordination of the 15th Summer School in 2027. It also marked the tenth anniversary of the AACC Permanent Secretariats.

Report from the Host Secretariat (Republic of Uzbekistan)

13. Ms. Nilufarkhon Said Gazieva (Uzbekistan), Secretary-General of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Head of the Host Secretariat, reported on its work since Uzbekistan assumed the Presidency on 11 November 2025 in four areas: cooperation mechanisms within the Association; international and bilateral cooperation; digital transformation and AI as a priority; and constitutional complaint and human-rights protection mechanisms. Activities included the April 2026 visit to Jakarta, preparations for the Seventh Congress, the online Meeting of Secretaries-General (25 June 2026), an MoU with the Constitutional Court of Türkiye, participation in the 5th International Research Conference in Seoul, and dialogue with the Venice Commission and other partners.
14. For future work, the Presidency proposed secure digital information exchange among members; coordinated annual plans of the permanent bodies; wider joint research, expert dialogue, and educational cooperation with international and regional partners; a specialised mechanism for dialogue, research, and training on AI, data protection, and cybersecurity; and online consultations of Secretaries-General every six months.



15. H.E. Dato' Nordin bin Hassan (Malaysia) appreciated the reports of the three Permanent Secretariats and supported continuing their initiatives in research, judicial education, institutional development, and capacity-building.

Expansion of AACC Membership and External Cooperation

16. The Chair informed the Meeting that the Presidency had sent introductory letters to judicial institutions in China and Bahrain to introduce the AACC and explore cooperation. The Meeting noted the importance of continuing to broaden membership and external cooperation.

AACC Presidency for 2027-2029 and Subsequent Presidency

17. H.E. Mr. Ramon Paul Layugan Hernando (Philippines) conveyed the acceptance by the Supreme Court of the Philippines of the AACC Presidency for 2027-2029. He reported that, following its working meeting with the SPC in Jakarta in May 2026, the Supreme Court had formed a Technical Working Group, including the Philippine Judicial Academy, and was coordinating with national institutions. Senior Associate Justice Marvic M.V.F. Leonen would represent the Court during the term under the direction of the Court En Banc, and Vice Chancellor Sedfrey Candelaria of the Philippine Judicial Academy would be appointed AACC Secretary-General.
18. He stated that the Philippines committed to continuity through close coordination with the Permanent Secretariats, to strengthening judicial education, research, capacity-building, and institutional cooperation, and to transparency and accountability. Initial themes for the Eighth Congress include judicial independence in different constitutional and cultural contexts, contemporary threats to judicial independence (including from technology and information environments), and the practical meaning of social justice and the rule of law.
19. H.E. Mr. Kadir Özkaya (Türkiye) and H.E. Mr. Bakyt Nurmukhanov (Kazakhstan) supported the Philippine Presidency. H.E. Mr. Kadir Özkaya (Türkiye) also supported Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan as candidates for the subsequent AACC Presidency.
20. H.E. Mr. Bakyt Nurmukhanov (Kazakhstan) then explained that Kazakhstan had already held the AACC Presidency in 2019-2021.

Consideration of the Draft Samarkand Declaration

21. The Meeting received the following comments on the draft Samarkand Declaration:
 - a. H.E. Mr. Farhad Abdullayev (Azerbaijan) and H.E. Mr. Emil Oskonbaev (Kyrgyz Republic) proposed deleting the last sentence of paragraph 4;
 - b. H.E. Dato' Nordin bin Hassan (Malaysia) and H.E. Mr. Ali Muhanna (Palestine) supported retaining paragraph 4, with H.E. Dato' Nordin bin Hassan stressing that Al



should preserve human discretion and decision-making, referring to relevant UNESCO principles;

- c. H.E. Mr. Surya Kant (India) requested clarification on the earlier draft of the Declaration; and
 - d. H.E. Mr. Noppadhon Theppithak (Thailand) proposed adding "We," before "Recognizing" in paragraph 2.
22. Given the differing positions on paragraph 4, the Chair established a working group of the three Permanent Secretariats (Indonesia, Korea, and Türkiye) to refine the draft for the following day. The Meeting adjourned until 11:15 on 2 October 2026.

Resumption of the Meeting on 2 October 2026

23. The Chair called for the Congress proposals to become practical priorities and implementation mechanisms: shared resources on digitalisation and AI, methodological guidance and practical documents for constitutional courts, joint training, regular expert dialogue and online consultations, stronger coordination among the Permanent Secretariats and the Host Secretariat, wider international cooperation, and an open approach to membership.
24. The Chair stressed that technology must remain consistent with constitutional supremacy, the rule of law, judicial independence, human rights, equality, and fair justice. AI may assist judges but must not replace them; final decisions must rest on independent judicial assessment, and digital systems must be transparent, verifiable, subject to human oversight, and protective of personal data and judicial information.

Adoption of the Samarkand Declaration

25. Following the work to reconcile the previous day's proposals, the Meeting unanimously adopted the Samarkand Declaration, reflecting members' shared commitment to constitutional supremacy, the rule of law, judicial independence, human rights, and the responsible use of digital technologies and AI, with human oversight and judicial responsibility central to decision-making.
26. The Meeting emphasised that the Declaration should guide the next stage of the Association's work through work plans, joint programmes, scholarly and comparative research, education and professional development, digital cooperation, and sustained professional dialogue.

Closing

27. H.E. Mr. Suhartoyo (Indonesia) congratulated the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Congress and the adoption of the Declaration, and the Supreme Court of the Philippines on its forthcoming presidency. He encouraged Azerbaijan, the Kyrgyz



Republic, and other members to consider assuming future presidencies, and expressed the readiness of the SPC to provide support.

28. H.E. Mr. Emil Oskonbaev (Kyrgyz Republic) expressed the readiness of the Constitutional Court of the Kyrgyz Republic to assume the Presidency after the Philippines, which the Chair welcomed and noted.
29. The Chair thanked the member institutions, the Permanent Secretariats, international partners, and all those involved in organising the Seventh Congress, and officially concluded the Meeting.