



Statement

By

H.E. M. H. Nejad-Hosseinian

The Secretary-General of the APA

At the Inaugural Ceremony of

The Fifth APA Plenary Session

Damascus, Syria

29 November 2010

**Mr. President,
Excellencies, Speakers of Parliament, Member of Parliaments
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my honor to address this noble and distinguished gathering today. I would like to register my appreciation to Honorable, Mr. Mahmoud Al-Abrach, the Speaker of People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic for leading this session and congratulate him as the incoming APA President.

I wish also to express my sincere thanks to Honorable, Dr. Marzuki Alie, the outgoing APA President for his support without which the accomplishments of the APA over the past two years would have not been realized.

APA has given a new meaning to parliamentary diplomacy. The Fifth APA Plenary is yet another opportunity for renewing our resolve to meet challenges Asia faces today.

Flying together towards further integration in Asia has been the main theme of the APA resolutions and activities ever since the inception of the Assembly in 2006. Indeed, integration in Asia has been seen by the APA as a prelude to further peace, prosperity, democracy and justice in Asia. Each Asian Member Parliament has a role to play in the promotion of this ideal goal and a fair share of responsibility in facilitating and materializing its requirements.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

Parliaments possess fundamental powers to set the ground for development plans and priority agenda of their own countries. Cooperation within the framework of the APA has provided Member Parliaments with a solid standing point for combining their strengths and harmonizing their efforts to perform the same functions at a regional level. The essence of Asian Parliamentary diplomacy as inspired and promoted by the APA is to utilize the powers and functions of Parliaments in a harmonized and effective manner towards further integration in Asia.

The principal function and effective power of Parliaments rest in their position as legislative power. By exercising their main function as law-making institutions, Asian Parliaments can immensely contribute to the process of Asian integration through their common legislations.

Indeed, the APA has already made remarkable contributions to the initiation of Asian integration by addressing fundamental issue areas relevant to the development and prosperity in Asia and by adopting resolutions which identify priority agenda items for further convergence among nations of this region.

What is needed at this stage is to exchange views and explore how APA can devise effective mechanisms to better implement its decisions and resolutions. The wider interest of Asia is served when APA Member Parliaments accord greater focus on how to follow up on implementation of APA decisions.

APA has great potentials. It is a remarkable political asset for Asia that needs to be reckoned with on both legislative and political policy making. APA has pronounced itself on a number of major issues of international peace and security. Certainly, Asia has more than its fair share of situations of conflict, not only in the Middle East but also in other parts of greater Asia. APA Troika Plus offers a voice to Asian People. Asian parliamentary leaders forming APA Troika Plus can bear the weight of Asia as a whole on any situation of conflict with a view to managing regional crisis.

A track record of Troika Plus over the past two years on the grave situation in Gaza following Israeli aggression is indicative of the great political potentials which lie in Asian parliamentary diplomacy.

Mr. President,

APA has grown as an organization with an impressive pace. It has achieved many structural and substantive successes. APA owes its achievements to the active and constructive participation of all its Member Parliaments and the leadership exercised by APA President, Honorable Dr. Marzuki Alie and his capable colleagues. I am confident that under the able leadership of Honorable Mr. Mahmoud Al-Abrach, APA will continue to gain strength and command respect throughout Asia even further.

Thank you.