

Phnom Penh Declaration

WE, Members of Parliament from twenty-two Asian countries gathered in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, from 9 to 11 December, 2015, for the Eighth Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, at the invitation of Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

RECOGNIZING that peoples in Asia have created brilliant civilizations, philosophies, religions, cultures, arts, ideologies, and made great achievements in science and technology in response to the demands of societies, but are also aware of the existence of means of mass destruction;

EMPHASIZING that violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, should not be associated with any culture, civilization, religion or ethnicity and should be neither tolerated nor condoned. The settlement of issues through radicalization, violent extremism, terrorism or war causes great hardship, and breeds even more violence;

UNDERLINING our commitment to societies based on the rule of law with Asian parliaments not only representing Asian people and overseeing Asian governments, but also enacting legislation and promoting dialogue, reconciliation and a culture of peace.

DO HEREBY EXPRESS OUR COMMITMENT TO:

DENOUNCE the use of violence, force and war in the settlement of differences and disputes in international relations;

UPHOLD the principles of peaceful coexistence and negotiations in solving international disputes;

COMBAT all forms of terrorism and occupation through international cooperation and law;

STRESS the importance of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (SDGs);

ENHANCE moderation agenda and deradicalization initiatives, involving every level of society including youth and the private sector, while addressing and combating the root causes of radicalism, violent extremism and terrorism;

ADHERE firmly to the relevant principles of international law enshrined in the United Nations Charter, instruments and other Conventions pertaining to the solution of international conflicts;

EMPHASIZE the need to promote peace, reconciliation and dialogue in Asia, hereby promoting democracy, the rule of law and the role of Parliaments; and

SET UP a regional protocol which can serve as a legal tool for implementation and protection in the event of any sub-regional, regional and international crises.

Done in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, this Eleventh Day of December in the Year of Two Thousand and Fifteen.