



Asian Parliamentary Assembly  
Tenth Plenary Session  
21 November-24 November 2017  
Istanbul, TURKEY

## İSTANBUL DECLARATION

**We**, Members of Parliament from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, DPR Korea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Laos, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Uzbekistan and Vietnam gathered in Istanbul from 21 November to 24 November 2017, at the invitation of Ismail KAHRAMAN, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and current APA President;

**Welcoming** Bali Declaration on achieving the 2030 agenda through Inclusive Development, as the outcome document of World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Bali, Indonesia, on September 6-7, 2017.

**Promoting** women's representation in public life particularly in Parliament.

**Recognizing** that peoples in Asia have brilliant civilizations, philosophies, religions, diverse cultures, arts, ideologies, and have made great achievements in the fields of socio-economic development, science and technology, among others, to meet the demands of societies;

**Concerned** by the increasing tensions in parts of Asia, particularly the threat of terrorism, and the suffering of people affected by ongoing conflicts, especially displaced people, and further concerned by the dire situation of millions of women and young people in all war-torn areas. We, therefore, stress the importance of maintaining world peace, security, stability and development;

**Emphasizing** that violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, should not be associated with any culture, civilization, religion or ethnicity and should not be tolerated. The resolving of issues through radicalization, violent extremism, or terrorism causes great hardship and breeds even more violence, settlement of the issues should be by dialogue and negotiation;

**Welcoming** the recent great achievements in defeating Daesh in collaboration with Iraqi and Syrian people.

**Underlining** our commitment of building societies based on the rule of law with Asian Parliaments not only representing Asian people, but also enacting legislation and promoting dialogues, reconciliation and a culture of peace;

DO HEREBY EXPRESS OUR COMMITMENT TO:

**Emphasize** the urgent need to undertake transparent investigation into serious human rights abuses and violations, including sexual violence and abuse and violence against children concerning people of Rakhine State and in particular Rohingya and to hold to account all those responsible for such acts and Stresses the importance of granting immediate and unhindered access to the UN Fact Finding Mission established by the UN Human Rights Council in March 2017,

**Emphasize** the importance of safe and dignified return of refugees and displaced people to their place of origin for the long-term solution of the crises in line with the recommendations of Kofi Annan Commission Report and welcome the signed instrument between the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh to that end on 23 November 2017,

**Demand** the Government of Myanmar to grant immediate, safe and unhindered access to UN Agencies and their partners as well as other domestic and international non-governmental organizations to provide humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State as well as to ensure the safety and security of all communities particularly Rohingyas in Rakhine State and humanitarian personnel.

**Urge** unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid in Myanmar, Syria, Yemen and Iraq.

**Appreciate** the role and actions of the people and government of Bangladesh in giving shelter to more than a million Rohingya.

**Encourage** the establishment of a national, legal framework as well as a broad legal framework for the protection of migrant workers, noting the legal and illegal status of the different cases

**Emphasize** the need to promote peace, stability and development in Asia through peaceful resolution of ongoing conflicts and mutually beneficial economic cooperation;

**Underscore** the importance of Iraq's territorial unity and call on member states to show solidarity with the Iraqi Parliament, in the face of critical developments in their country;

**Express** grave concern at the alarming deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Yemen and strongly reject any attack on Holy Places of Islam located in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by any militant group.

**Reaffirm** its support for an independent sovereign and contiguous Palestine within 1967 borders with Al Quds as its capital, condemn the illegal settlement activities, demolitions, and other violations of the occupation forces, welcome the reconciliation process for the unity of Palestine and urge the international community to re-launch the peace process based on established parameters and the Arab Peace Plan.

**Welcome** the valuable efforts and achievements in the framework of Astana Process to deescalate violence, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the affected people in Syria and provide conditions to find a political solution for the Syrian crisis

**Congratulate** Pakistan on being elected as the next President of APA for the term 2020 – 2021 and also express the hope that Pakistan will continue with its efforts to embarking on the journey to realize the vision of the Asian Parliament ,

**Thank** Turkey for its warm, gracious and efficient hospitality in hosting the Tenth Plenary Session in İstanbul. Appreciate the continuous support provided by the President of Turkey in strengthening the cooperation and solidarity among the APA Member Countries.

The next plenary session will be held in 2018 in Turkey.