



Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Asian Century: Cooperation in Economy, Energy and Environment

**APA/Rep/2013/01
10 December 2013**

Report of the 6th APA Plenary 8-10 December 2013, Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Rapporteur:
Honorable Rufus Clarence Bautista Rodriguez,
MP (The Philippines)

Monday, 9 December 2013

1. Honorable, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed of Pakistan, Chairman 2nd Executive Council of APA, opened the inaugural session of the 6th Plenary of APA at 9:45am. The inaugural session took place at Serena Hotel in Islamabad.

In his welcome address, Senator Mushahaid Hussain Sayed stated that we are witnessing the largest Asian Parliamentary Assembly representing almost all of Asia. He proposed and the Meeting observed one-minute silence in memory of Late Nelson Mandela. He termed the present APA plenary session historic and momentous for three reasons:

- i) Most representative Assembly of the Asian Parliament, which was on way to transforming itself into an umbrella organization representing whole of Asia, like the European Parliament.
- ii) The timing of the 6th plenary is very pertinent since we are currently facing common issues like energy deficit, economic & environmental problems at a key juncture when the balance of political, economic and cultural powers is shifting

from the West to the East. Issues should be resolved in Asia by Asians themselves through evolving common strategies. Moreover, it is also time to consolidate Afro-Asian Solidarity, using APA as a platform to provide a roadmap for future deepening of relations between the two continents to this end. He added that with the support of the APA members, together we will build a better future for Asia.

2. Honorable Dr. Haddad Adel, The First APA President and member of the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran, made a statement in his capacity as the First APA President: According to APA Charter, this body provides coordination in Parliamentary activities to promote freedom, equality, justice, social welfare, security, stability, friendship and peace in Asia. Decisions of the Assembly which are reached by consensus reflect the attitudes and orientations of the biggest parliamentary institution in Asia.

Parliamentary diplomacy plays an increasingly significant role in international relations. Members of parliaments, by using parliamentary diplomacy, have succeeded in preventing war and violence and saved their governments from being involved in military activities and distractive wars. Parliamentary diplomacy could create new opportunities for traditional diplomacy, and provide better means for exchanging experience in cultural and political cooperation, and in dialogue between religions and cultures.

In view of the effective role of parliaments, I suggest to this meeting to apply its great capacity to play a pioneer role in preventing sectarian and ethnic violence, and controlling foreign penetration and intervention to wage war and enmity in Asia. Occupation, war and intensifying sectarian violence will undermine the cultural and economic capacity of countries, and will only serve the devilish Swirl of dependency and poverty, violence and bloodshed. Tolerance and cooperation are the most important needs of modern human to establish a free and equitable society.

3. Honorable Georgina de Venecia, MP, spouse of Honorable Jose de Venecia, Former Philippine Speaker read out a statement on behalf of her husband who could not attend the APA meeting. I propose that we must now create the beginnings of an Asian Parliament. If somehow neglected, we must buckle down to the spadework of founding an Asian Parliament. I believe our long-ago dream of founding an Asian Parliament must now become an achievable dream. It is likely that regional economic groupings such as ASEAN in Southeast Asia; SAARC in south Asia; the “Shanghai Six” in Central Asia; and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in the Arab world will become the

building blocks of Asian integration. I suggest that this Islamabad Plenary draw up now a “Resolution establishing an APA Preparatory Committee for an Asian Parliament” that would undertake these consultations; draw up a road map of our of our end-goals and landmarks; and conceptualize all that needs to be done-to promote the unity and solidarity of all our countries, Honorable Georgina de Venecia read out. (Text of the speech is attached)

4. Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan, Honorable Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari made the inaugural speech. (Text of the statement is attached)

The Inaugural Session was concluded at 10:50 A.M.

5. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of 2nd Executive Council meeting presented the Report of Executive Council and opened the proceedings of the plenary session. Report of 2nd Executive Council and the list of participants are attached.

The agenda of the 6th Plenary Session of APA was unanimously adopted.
(The Agenda is attached)

6. Speaker of the Syrian Assembly, Honorable Mohammad Jihad Al-Lahham, handed over the APA Presidency to Honorable Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, the Chairman of Pakistan Senate. He was elected new President of APA by acclamation. The new APA President made a short statement on the occasion. (Text of the statement is attached)

7. H.E. Dr Nejad Hosseinian, APA Secretary General, made a statement and reviewed six years of APA work. He expressed hope that this plenary session will renew commitment to the goals and objectives of the APA; leaving a period of standstill in the work of our organization behind.

Despite its great potentials and unique capacities for inter-parliamentary diplomacy and international cooperation, APA’s activities over the past three years have been hindered by a number of obstacles beyond its control. Looking back, however, it is quite evident that in spite of its relatively short longevity, APA has made remarkable achievements. Having organized six Plenary Sessions; 12 Executive Council Meetings; 15 Standing Committee Meetings; 38 Sub-Committee Meetings; as well as one International Conference; would suffice to be recognized as more than an acceptable record. The extensive scope and critical importance of the issues addressed by about 100 APA Resolutions, all adopted on the basis of

consensus, and are indicative of substantive collaboration and substantial convergence in the views of its Member Parliaments. Relying on such internal stamina and trusting its capabilities as the largest Parliamentary organization in Asia, embracing more than 40 Asian Parliaments as its permanent members, the APA is in a position to assume a more vivid stance in influencing the course of events in the region in line with its goals and aspirations which include peace, prosperity and development for all people and further integration in Asia.

In light of the global integrative trends in the world, Parliaments are increasingly becoming more active players both in domestic and foreign affairs. Parliaments participate alongside the executive branch in exercising the national sovereignty of their respective state. While the principal function of parliaments in democratic systems of governance is legislative in nature, they also possess substantial weight in the political apparatus of their respective states. Parliaments not only exert their legislative power to determine the framework for domestic affairs, but also set the ground for foreign diplomacy. (Text of statement is attached)

8. Honorable Osama Abdul Aziz Al-Nujaifi, Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Iraq made a statement. (Text of statement is attached)
9. The plenary moved to elect the plenary bureau. Indonesia (Honourable Dr. Surahman Hidayat, MP), Bahrain (Honorable Ahmed Almulla, Head of Committee on Legislative and Legal Affairs), Turkey (Honorable Yuksel OZDEN, MP), and Cambodia (Honorable Nguon Nhel, first Vice President of the National Assembly) were elected as Vice Presidents. It is understood that each Vice President chairs a Standing Committee during the Plenary and would host the meeting of relevant committee in their own country in 2014 thereafter. Honorable Rufus Clarence Bautista Rodriguez, MP of the Philippines, was elected Rapporteur of the 6th Plenary session of APA.
 - Honourable Dr. Surahman Hidayat chaired the Standing Committee on Economics Affairs.
 - Honorable Ahmed Almulla chaired the Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.
 - Honorable Yuksel OZDEN chaired the Standing Committee on Political Affairs.
 - Honorable Nguon Nhel will chair the ad-Hoc Committee on Administration and Budgetary issues of APA.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50.

The meeting was called to order at 3:25, and general debate began.

GENERAL DEBATE

10. Honorable Mohammad Jihad Al-Lahham, Speaker of the Syrian Assembly, made a statement and referred to the present political situation in Syria and consequences of foreign interferences, supporting terrorists and immediate need for promoting peace and security in the country. (Text of the statement is attached).
11. Honorable Mirwais Yasini, First Deputy Secretary of the Wolsei Jirga (House of people-National Assembly of Afghanistan) made a statement: we have to change challenges into opportunities. Pakistan and Afghanistan suffered losses of lives, prosperity, culture and development. Asian countries are facing common challenges and have common goals and objectives. This Conference must be followed by a series of actions to fight the menace of poverty and corruption. All APA members should cooperate in the fields of energy, environment and economic issues.
12. Honorable Senator Raja Zafar-ul-Haq, leader of the house in the Senate of Pakistan: APA provides a unique platform for us to resolve our differences and work towards a higher calling. Issues of economy are interlinked; we have to work together to achieve our shared goals of prosperity, peace, harmony, development, sustained economy and renewable energy resources. Pakistan will be there to join and assist all other brotherly Asian countries for the fruition of this agenda. I am optimistic that by harnessing the immense potential of our talented Asian youth and joining hands in tiding over the extraordinary challenges posed by our times, we may seize upon the unparalleled opportunities that the bright future of Asian Century holds for us.
13. Honorable Ms. Zhao Shaohua, Vice Chairman of the FAs Committee of the NPC (China) made a statement: (text of the Statement is attached)
14. Honorable Dr. Yuksel OZDEN, MP (Turkey) made a statement: today APA has become an important platform for parliamentary cooperation and I sincerely believe that cooperation is key to achieve concrete results, for the good of our people. The recent tragic events in Syria and Egypt had a dramatic

impact not only on the Middle East and the Mediterranean region but on the world politics. Turkey has spared no effort to contribute constructively to the international efforts in achieving a political solution in Syrian conflict. The future of Syria must be democratic, pluralistic and respectful of human rights and the rule of law. The humanitarian response in Syria remains severely insufficient compared to growing needs. In the case of Egypt, Turkey has adopted a principle stance indicating the importance of commitment to democratic principles.

15. Honorable Zuhair Sanduqa, PNC member (Palestine) made a statement on the present political and human rights situation in the Palestine.
16. Honorable ACM Veerawit Kongsang, Member of the Senate (Thailand) made a statement. (Text of the statement is attached)
17. Honorable Mr. Mubarak Baniah Alkhurainej, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (State of Kuwait) made a statement. (Text of the statement is attached)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10.

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm.

18. Vice-President, Honorable Dr. Suhaman Hidayat (Indonesia) presided over the meeting.
19. Honorable, Hassan Fadlallah (Lebanon) made a statement. He made two points: international cooperation in the cause of peace. Addressing terrorism and extremism require international cooperation to protect human rights and freedom as a whole. This is not limited to our country but it is an international task. The same is true for Syria. We have 5000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Violence has moved from Syria into Lebanon. We support a political solution in Syria to restore peace, stop extremism and bloodshed there. We call on this forum to get engaged and begin a political dialogue in Syria to bring all Syrian people to talk to one another, reject foreign intervention and restore peace and stability in Syria. We support the cause of Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq to seek peace and stability.
20. Honorable Camsek Elias Chin, President of Senate (Palau) made a statement. He stressed the urgent need to protect the environment. “Environment is the economy” and “economy is the environment” is not just applicable to Palau, but to the entire world. He introduced several national projects concerning the incentives for employing renewable energy. Climate change could decimate

Palau's natural resources and its ability to develop its economy. Palau must plan for future through international partnership.

21. Honorable Ahmed Almula (Bahrain) made a statement. He called for greater investment in Asia to facilitate stability and peace in this continent. We need to plan and cooperate regionally and internationally to address the prevalent violence and internal crisis in some parts of Asia. We need to promote a political dialogue to address violence. We also need to address disparity in Asia to stem out violence and terrorism. APA has done a great deal to promote international cooperation in Asia for which we are very thankful.
22. Honorable, Dr. Nguon Nhel, First Vice President of the National Assembly (Cambodia) made a statement. He reviewed the progress Cambodia has made in domestic economic growth and other areas, like rule of law, parliamentary mechanism, administrative reform, legal reform and fighting corruption. He also presented facts and figures about national economic growth in Cambodia.
23. Honorable Dr. Kyriacos Kyriakou (Cyprus) made a statement. (Text of the statement is attached)
24. Honorable Dato Ismail Haji Mohamed Said, Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives (Malaysia) made a statement. He stressed the need in Asia to increase energy efficiency and energy security. He underlined the need to diversify energy resources in Asia and the world. He reported on advances Malaysia has made on these issues. He underlined the importance of debates within Asian Parliamentary Assembly on these important issues of energy and environment to enhance cooperation at Asia level.
25. Honorable Kim Wan Su, Vice-Speaker, Supreme people's Assembly (DPRK) made a statement: All of us should be proud of the fact that the people of Asian countries take upon themselves their destiny and demonstrate the enormous potential of the Asian continent before the world. The reality requires the Asian countries to unite and overcome all challenges by promoting justice and enhancing solidarity based on independence as well as cooperation. The Korean people today are engaged in an all-out campaign to build a thriving socialist nation, economic growth and improvement of people's living standard.
26. Delegation of Syria made a statement in his right of reply: Those killing Syrian people cannot but be called terrorists. Foreign secret forces are behind killing the Syrians. Some who spoke earlier distorted the facts and supported the killings in Syria. We represent the people of Syria. We all must represent our peoples. Those who claim friendship with Syrian people must stop

incitement and the killing of Syrian people. Some sections of what the delegate of Kuwait said earlier about Syria were misrepresentation and distortion of facts on the ground and I ask the chair to delete those sections from the report of the Plenary.

27. Delegation of Kuwait made a statement in his right of reply: We have nothing against the Syrian people or the Syrian system of government. What I said earlier corresponds to facts and not distortion. Please note the report of High Commissioner for Human rights, which indicate that more than 70000 people have been killed in Syria and that the government is responsible.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Tuesday, 10 December 2013

The meeting was called to order at 9:20.

28. Honorable Rufus Clarence Bautista Rodriguez (Philippines) made a statement: After reporting on the impact of Typhoon “Yolanda” striking Visayas in the Philippines, which claimed 5759 lives with 26233 injured, the speaker proposed creation of a Standing Committee on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCADRR) in the APA, which shall have jurisdiction over and discuss all matters directly and principally relating to policies and programs concerning Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). He also supported the proposal to establish a preparatory committee to put in place a mechanism towards the creation of an Asian Parliament. On the matter of peace and security in Asia, the Philippines is concerned that Ministry of National Defense of the People’s Republic of China announced on November 23, 2013 the establishment of the East China Sea Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ). This was immediately followed by the issuance by China of a number of rules to strictly enforce the ADIZ, which not only overlaps with other jurisdiction zones in the area, but also covers the disputed islands known as Diaoyu in China and Senkaku in Japan. The decision of China drew criticism from countries, including the Philippines.

29. Honorable Stella Demetriou-Mishiaouli, MP (Cyprus) made a statement: If we are to be honest in our joint efforts to alleviating poverty and inequalities in Asia, primarily in the sectors of economy, energy and the environment, we need to ensure the predominance of human rights and respect for international law. Fighting corruption is also hugely important. Moreover, the APA women parliamentarians can have a huge contribution in the direction of identifying good governance and disseminating equal rights practices, as widely as

possible in Asia. In implementing an action plan for cooperation in the “e” sector (economy, energy and the Environment), we need to be deeply conscious of the indivisibility of economic, social, political as well as civil and gender equality rights, if we are to produce results.

30. Honorable Nafie Ali Nafie (Sudan), Secretary-General of Conference of the African Political Parties (CAPP) made a statement: The invitation to CAPP is the gesture of a renewal of the deeply rooted Afro-Asian fraternities. The staggering world economy, with its glooming uncertainties, and the need to attend the basic needs in terms of food, health, shelter and clean water to increasing world population, are huge global challenges. Africa, Asia and Latin America are more qualified to meet these human needs more than other places that have already exploited their and other’s resources. The Conference of African Political Parties is currently engaged in consolidating its efforts to assist the African Union and the Pan African Parliament in formulation of pro-people policies that will help the national governments in implementing programs that accelerate the implementation of common agenda. CAPP will also assist in better forging of Afro-Asian cooperation in economy, energy and the environment.
31. Honorable Chandima Weerakkody, Deputy Speaker of Parliament (Sri Lanka) made a statement: Asian century is marked by economic growth, and greater economic integration in Asia. Despite consistent economic growth during the last three decades, economic disparity continues to plague Asia. Many people in Asia continue to suffer major constraints. Water, energy and food security continue to top the Asian agenda. More than half the population of south Asia is poor.
32. Honorable Mikhail Emelianov, Head of Russian delegation made a statement: Thirty percent of the continent of Asia is made up of the territory of Russia. Asia has great potentials and at the same times many challenges. 20Th century has been a difficult time for Russia. We have learned to seek actively peace and stability. We face the Syrian situation now. We need to exert maximum effort to ensure that Geneva 2 is successful. We must support a political dialogue to find a political solution in Syria. Some small groups of terrorists cover themselves up under the umbrella of national liberation movements. We must draw a distinction between them and true national liberation movements.
33. Honorable Asaf Hajiyev, MP (Azerbaijan-Observer Member) made a statement and reported on the recent history of his country. He pointed out that part of his country is under occupation. He also alluded to the gap between

real life of Muslims and the ideals enshrined in the Holy Quran, which calls on us all to try to fill the gap.

34. At 10:45, H.E. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister of Pakistan joined the Assembly. Honorable Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed welcomed the prime Minister and in briefing him on the agenda, bureau and proceeding of the APA Plenary, he asked, if Europeans can have one parliament, why Asia cannot have a parliament? This, he said, is a vision developed in this 6th APA Plenary. Honorable, Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, APA President and Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan made a statement, welcomed the Prime Minister and stressed the qualitative and quantitative improvements in APA during the 6th Plenary. He also made comparison between European parliament and the potential of APA to evolve as Asian parliament. He also underlined the importance of the themes and subjects on the agenda of the APA to economic and social development in Asia.

35. H.E. Mr. Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan made a statement: I welcome all the distinguished delegates to the 6th APA Plenary in Islamabad. The predecessor of APA was held here in Pakistan in 2004. There are many commonalities between the thematic work of the APA and Pakistan policy: development, regional economic cooperation, peace and stability. We need to promote cooperation in our joint efforts to fight terrorism. APA offers excellent opportunities to get to know each other, share experience and best practices and enable themselves to make changes. Pakistani people seek to promote peace in Pakistan and want the same for its neighbors. As representative of the Pakistani people, we also want what our people want.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

The meeting was resumed at 12:00.

Interactive Session on “How to revitalize APA”

36. Honorable Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan presided over an interactive meeting. He made a statement: I welcome distinguished parliamentarians to the 6th APA Plenary in Pakistan. He called for further efforts of APA to achieve a prosperous, democratic and pluralistic Asia. More than two third of the world poor live in Asia. APA represents 41 countries and a significant majority population of Asia. Dispute resolution requires understanding and narrowing the gap of understanding. We need to address extremism and terrorism in a concerted way. Hence, our proposal to adopt a resolution on Religious harmony. We also need to establish expert

groups to deal with water problem and disaster relief in Asia. (Text of the statement is attached)

37. H.E. Mohammad Hadi Nejad-Hosseinian, APA Secretary-General presented a report on “Revitalization of APA” which was the subject of Brain Storming Session in Tehran during the First Executive Council meeting on 6-7 May 2013. (Text of the Statement is attached)
38. China: APA can make significant contribution to world peace through concerted efforts. It is necessary for china’s defense to control the South China Sea and it is not against any other country. Chinese policy in this regard conforms to International law and the UN Charter. Some other countries including some of the Chinese neighbors have also established similar zones. China respects the right of over flight over the zone in the South China Sea.
39. Jordan: Jordan faces many challenges: inflation, and the challenges of economic development in the field of agriculture and industry. APA can contribute to resolving the energy problem in Jordan. We always approach these problems through diplomacy, and political dialogue. We also have a big problem with refugees in Jordan. We in the APA can contribute to promoting peace and stability in Asia and the world. Asia has its fair share of regional disputes, where APA can contribute to address them in a political process. We appreciate the statement made by Palestinian Delegate, and we reiterate our support for the Palestinian cause. We would like to host the next APA meeting on energy in Jordan.
40. Indonesia: I like to talk about the ways to revitalize APA on the basis of report of the meeting in Tehran. We support the statement of the President, and we support the report of the meeting in Tehran on revitalization of the APA. APA Charter and Rules of Procedure need to be amended. Executive Council should only deal with organizational matters and draft resolutions. APA should diversify its participation and encourage other members to take part in its meeting.
41. President: Thank you. Please submit your amendment to the Charter and the rules of Procedure to the Secretariat for circulation among the members.
42. Pakistan: I suggest increasing the number of official languages in the APA. Urdu is a very important language; a billion people can understand Urdu and must be included in the APA meeting.

43. Iran: Honorable Abutorabi: I suggest holding three sessions of Troika-Plus and Eminent Persons annually to review the situation of Asia and present ideas and reports to the Executive Council.
44. Pakistan: MP: We need to have a strong agenda for APA to give peace a chance to fight extremism and terrorism. I hope next year this would be on top of the agenda of APA. The session for women is only 15 minutes and I encourage all delegations to include woman in their delegation.
45. President: the meeting for women is 1 hour and 15 minutes. It would be good to have women included in each delegation.
46. Cyprus: We encourage greater participation by women and are ready to help participation of women in future meetings.
47. Pakistan: APA will be strong if individual parliaments are strong. We need to produce a handbook on the challenges each parliament faces and the approaches it has adopted to withstand the intervention of other state institutions. Exchange of experience and knowledge on protection of the authorities of Parliament is very important.
48. Pakistan: This is a historic meeting in Pakistan. Some have said that the goal of APA should be ultimately to establish Asian parliament. European Parliament is the result of 100 years of joint work, common approach to major international issues. We need to establish a working committee to work towards this goal and explore common legislations. Bandung meeting of 1956 should guide the way. Democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, and social economic legislation must be considered the cross-cutting issues for the future Asian Parliament.
49. Indonesia: I like to deliver my prepared statement. Natural disasters and humanitarian crisis are two subjects the APA should put on its agenda for Asia- wide cooperation. Asia has a prominent role at the international level. Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) and APA should forge some kind of partnership. Anti-spying resolution at the UN GA could not be timelier. We call upon all APA members to support this draft resolution to be adopted at the 68th session of UNGA. If more countries promote international trade using local currencies, the dependence on US dollars would be lessened. Energy security is an issue in Asia.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.

First Joint APA-ICAPP Meeting (3:30-5:30)

50. The First Joint meeting of APA and ICAPP was held. Many APA and ICAPP members attended the meeting. The H.E. Hadi Nejad Hosseinian, Secretary-General of APA welcomed the opportunity to have a joint meeting and highlighted the common ground between the two Asian organizations. He proposed to have an annual joint APA-ICAPP meeting at the side of the First APA Executive Council meeting. The proposal was supported by many participants and by Honorable Asaf Hajiye, MP (Azerbaijan) who co-chaired the meeting on behalf of ICAPP. The Meeting adopted the following Joint Statement:

Joint APA-ICAPP Statement 10 December 2013, Islamabad

Representatives of APA and ICAPP held their first joint meeting today in Islamabad.

Participants paid tribute to Honorable Jose de Venecia, Honorable Chung Eui-Young, Co-Chairman and Secretary-General of ICAPP and Honorable Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, who were among the leading founders of both organizations. Honorable Mrs. Georgina De Venecia, Member of the Parliament of the Philippines, represented her spouse who could not attend the meeting he had initiated.

Participants welcomed the fact that each organization has gained observer status at the other.

They exchanged views on ways and means of promoting cooperation in Asia in areas of development, peace, security and peaceful settlement of disputes, rule of law, democracy, good governance, poverty eradication, combating corruption, environment and energy and seeking a better tomorrow for all peoples of Asia.

All participants underlined that greater partnership and cooperation between APA and ICAPP is bound to synergize the output, and help each organization to pursue its objectives with strength and support derived from the other. They expressed support for peaceful settlement of all disputes, in the framework of international law, UN resolutions and respect for territorial integrity of states.

They proposed holding an annual joint meeting of APA and ICAPP at each first meeting of the APA Executive Council in order to exchange views and

best practices on how best to enhance cooperation in Asia in various economic, political, security and cultural fields. In the next meeting of APA and ICAPP, the creation of a special committee will be discussed to explore ways and means of implementing an effective mechanism for greater partnership between APA and ICAPP in order to achieve peace and security in Asia and promote inclusive development in the economy, energy and environment in Asia.

They likewise proposed to discuss the creation of another special committee to lay the groundwork for establishment of the Asian Parliament in order to encourage all Asian countries to meet the demands of the Asian Century. The Asian parliament will be a permanent institution to promote the economic, social and cultural connectivity of Asia, leading to a lasting peace and security in Asia.

Closing Session

The closing meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

51. Chairpersons of the three Standing Committees reported on deliberations of their respective committee and proposed adoption of 17 resolutions and two Decisions as follows:
 1. Resolution on Consolidation of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia. APA/Res./2013/01 dated 9 Dec 2013
 2. Resolution on Asian Parliaments & Governments- Together for Solidarity and Prosperity in Asia. APA/Res./2013/02 dated 9 Dec 2013
 3. Resolution on Supporting Palestinian State and Protecting Rights of Palestinian People. APA/Res/2013/03 dated 9 Dec 2013
 4. Resolution on Asian Parliaments against Terrorism and Foreign Occupation. APA/Res./2013/04 dated 9 Dec 2013
 5. Resolution on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia. APA/Res/2013/05 dated 9 Dec 2013
 6. Resolution on Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization in Asia. APA/Res/2013/06 dated 9 Dec 2013
 7. Resolution on Achieving Health Equity in Asia. APA/Res/2013/07 dated 9 Dec 2013
 8. Resolution Proposed by the Ad-hoc Working Group on Information and Communication Technology “ICT”. APA / Res/2013/08 dated 9 Dec 2013
 9. Resolution on Combating Corruption. APA/Res/2013/09 dated 9 Dec 2013
 10. Resolution On Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change and

- Planting Billions of Trees. APA/Res/2013/10 dated 10 Dec 2013
11. Resolution on Alleviating Poverty in Asia. APA/Res/2013/11 dated 10 Dec. 2013
 12. Resolution on Integrated Energy Market in Asia. APA/Res/2013/12 dated 10 Dec. 2013
 13. Resolution on Ramification of International Financial Crisis for the Economy of APA Member Parliaments. APA/Res/2013/13 dated 10 Dec. 2013
 14. Resolution on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia. APA/Res/2013/14 dated 9 Dec 2013
 15. Resolution on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking. APA/ Res/2013/15 dated 9 Dec 2013
 16. Resolution on Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians. APA/Res/2013/16 dated 10 Dec 2013
 17. Resolution on “Developing the Inter- Faith Harmony between the Different Religions of the World”. APA/Res/2013/17 dated 9 Dec 2013
 18. APA Decision on Modalities for Effective Organization of APA Meetings. APA/Decision/ 2013/01 dated 10 December 2013
 19. APA Decision on Troika-plus. APA/Decision/ 2013/02 dated 10 December 2013
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52. Islamabad declaration which had been negotiated earlier in a drafting committee was read out and adopted.
 53. Report of Asian women Parliamentarian meeting was read out.
 54. It was announced that the Parliament of Cambodia will assume APA Presidency after Pakistan, starting with holding 8th APA Plenary in Cambodia in November/December 2015.
 55. APA President and the Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan, Honorable Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, and Senator Mushahaid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of the Organizing Committee each made a closing statement. They pointed out the historic character of the 6th APA Plenary meeting and underlined the political support of the Senate and the people of Pakistan to the work of APA in order to promote greater economic and political integration in Asia. They thanked all the distinguished participants for their contribution. They also thanked APA Secretary-General and the Secretariat officials for serving the Plenary with quality professionalism. They thanked the staff of the Organizing Committee from the Senate of Pakistan who worked diligently and in

cooperation with APA Secretariat to make the 6th Plenary a successful meeting.

56. Many delegations expressed gratitude to APA President; Chairman of the Organizing Committee, the Senate and the People of Pakistan for the leadership exercised in the 6th Plenary and for the gracious hospitality accorded them.

ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



The Sixth APA Plenary Session
9 – 10 December 2013
Islamabad – Pakistan

Agenda

Inaugural Session

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Transfer of APA Presidency from People's Assembly of Syrian Arab Republic to the Senate of Islamic Republic of Pakistan
3. Statement by the APA President and Chairman of Senate of Pakistan
4. Election of the Bureau*
5. Statement by H.E. Dr. Nejad Hosseinian, the APA Secretary General, on the work of APA
6. Statement by the Chairperson of the Executive Council
7. General Debate
8. Meetings of the Standing Committees
9. Meeting of APA and ICAPP Representatives
10. Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians
11. Interactive Session "How to make APA more effective and active organization"
12. Meeting of the Drafting Committee on Islamabad Declaration
13. Reports by the Chairpersons of:
 - Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
 - Standing Committee on Political Affairs
 - Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development Affairs
14. Adoption of the APA Resolutions and Decisions
15. Announcement by the Cambodia of the Venue of the next APA Plenary
16. Adoption of the Report of the APA Plenary Session and the Islamabad Declaration
17. Any other matter
18. Closing Session.

*Four Vice Presidents and one Rapporteur (Three Vice Presidents serve as the Chair of three Standing Committees and the Forth will oversee the elaboration of Financial and Budget Regulations)



**E C.2/Rep/2013/02
8 December 2013**

**Report of the 2nd Executive Council Meeting
8 December 2013**

Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The 2nd Executive Council of Asian Parliamentary Assembly in 2013 held its meeting on 8-12-2013 in Islamabad, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. APA delegations from 28 Member and two observer parliaments participated in this meeting. List of the participants is attached.

The meeting started at 4:15pm with recitation of the Holy Quran.

In his welcome note, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed welcomed the participants. He said with 30 parliaments participating in the event, the 6th APA Plenary was the largest gathering in APA's history. He said the meeting reflected the true diversity of the Asian continent. He said the Executive Council meeting will focus on the framework for the Plenary Session. He also made a special mention of a proposal towards constituting a Committee on Inter-Faith Harmony and holding a special session for women parliamentarians.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed presented three proposals for review of the Executive Council and further recommendation to the Plenary. These were a) To institutionalize the mechanism of relations, cooperation and coordination between APA and ICAAP; b) Modalities for Effective Organization of the APA meetings; and c) special focus on Troika-plus to make APA more Effective.

The Agenda of the meeting was then adopted with consensus.

On Senator Mushahid Hussain's nomination, the Meeting with consensus elected H.E. Mr. Camsek Elias Chin, the President of the Senate of Palau, and Mr. Rufus Clarence Bautista Rodriguez, MP from the Philippines, as the Vice Chairman and Rapporteur of the 2nd Executive Council Meeting.

In his key note speech, Dr Nejad Hosseinian, Secretary General of APA, stated that APA has great potential and that it is a remarkable asset for Asia that needs to be reckoned with on both

legislative and political policy making. He said APA is in a position to assume a more vivid stance in influencing the course of events in the region in line with its aspirations and goals.

Honorable Aboutorabi Fard, the First deputy Speaker of the Islamic Republic of Iran presented a report on the First Executive Council meeting held in Tehran on 6-7 May 2013. He expressed thanks to Pakistan and to Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed for organizing the 2nd Executive Council meeting. He also expressed thanks to the Syrian Parliament for presiding over the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in difficult circumstances.

He briefly introduced 16 Draft Resolutions from Standing Committees on Social and cultural, Economic and political affairs.

He also reported on the debate for the necessity of a greater efficiency of APA, and presented some proposals that were discussed in that regard. He said a special Session was devoted to strengthening the status of this Assembly, which made the following proposals:

Planning projects for a stronger participation of the Parliament Speakers in the Plenary Sessions, aiming to promote the status of APA and to facilitate more parliamentarian coordination and cooperation.

- Defining strategies for a closer relationship between governments and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and preparing the substructure for the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the Plenary.
- The introduction of programs and goals of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly at the state-level and to the civil society to enhance their participation.

He also reported that the meeting reviewed the following three draft resolutions:

Combating drug trafficking in Asia
Respecting Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia
Enhancing the status of Women in Asian Parliaments

Some delegations proposed to extend duration of APA Presidency for two years. The delegations of Turkey, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Iran emphasized on the importance of cooperation among APA Members. Cambodia proposed that all Asian countries should be Member of APA. Senator Mushahid Hussain then asked the meeting to endorse the draft resolutions for adoption by the APA plenary session. Responding, Indonesia stated that resolution should reflect collective aspirations of the APA member countries. Palestine mentioned that that the resolution on Palestine had been drafted in 2010 and it needs to be updated to reflect current situation.

The following draft resolutions were recommended to the Plenary for adoption:

1. Draft Resolution on Consolidation of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia
2. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments: Together for Solidarity and Prosperity in Asia.
3. Draft Resolution on Supporting Palestinian State and Protecting Rights of Palestinian People.

4. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments against Terrorism and Foreign Occupation.
5. Draft Resolution on Protecting Cultural Diversity of in Asia.
6. Draft Resolution on Challenges and opportunities of Globalization of in Asia.
7. Draft Resolution on Achieving Health Equity in Asia.
8. Draft Resolution proposed by the ad-hoc Working Group on information and Communication Technology ICT
9. Draft Resolution on Combating Corruption.
10. Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change and planting billions of trees throughout Asia.
11. Draft Resolution on Alleviating Poverty in Asia.
12. Draft Resolution on Integrated Energy Market in Asia.
13. Draft Resolution on Ramification of International Financial Crisis for the Economies of the Countries of APA Member Parliaments.
14. Draft Resolution on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.
15. Draft Resolution on Combating illicit drug trafficking
16. Draft resolution on the Establishment of the Coordinating Meeting of APA women parliamentarians.
17. Resolution on Inter-faith harmony.

The Meeting expressed gratitude to the people and Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, particularly Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed for their generous and courteous hospitality.



SC/Social/Rep/2013/01
9 December 2013

Report of the Meeting

APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

9 December 2013

Islamabad, Pakistan

The APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held its meeting on 9 December 2013 and adopted its agenda.

1. Honorable Abdul Bin Huwill of Baharian chaired the meeting. Honorable, Mr. Heydar pour of the Islamic Republic of Iran was elected as Rapporteur.
2. The documents before the Standing Committee were:
 - a. Report of the Executive Council of Asian Parliamentary Assembly, 06-07 May 2013, Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran
 - b. Report of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, Tehran, 10-11 July 2012.
3. The following member Parliaments participated in the meeting and exchanged their views on related matters: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cambodia, China Cyprus, DPR Korea, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand and Turkey.
4. The Chairman opened the meeting. The Assistant Secretary-General His Excellency Dr. Gholamali Khoshroo briefly described the draft resolutions before the Standing Committee.
5. The Standing Committee took note with appreciation of the Reports submitted by the APA Secretary-General on each subjects that constituted the basis of deliberations in the Committee leading to the development of the draft Resolutions.

6. The delegations of the Russian Federation, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bahrain, Turkey, Cambodia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, took the floor and commented and in some cases amended the drafts before the Committee.

7. The Standing Committee agreed on the text of the Draft Resolutions to be forwarded to the Plenary for final adoption. The Draft Resolutions as amended are now issued under following titles:

- Draft Resolution on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Achieving Health Equity in Asia
- Draft Resolution Proposed by the Ad-hoc Working Group on Information and Communication Technology "ICT"
- Draft Resolution on Combating Corruption
- Draft Resolution on Alleviating Poverty in Asia
- Draft Resolution on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking
- Draft Resolution on the Establishment of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women parliamentarians
- Draft Resolution on developing the Inter Faith Harmony Between the different Religions of the world.

8. The Honorable Member of Iranian parliament underlined the importance of cultural exchanges and underscored the role of libraries affiliated to Parliaments in Asia and expressed willingness of the library of Iranian Parliament to hold a conference of the Head of libraries in Asia.



SC/Political/Rep/2013/02
9 December 2013

Report of the Meeting **Standing Committee on Political Affairs**

9 December 2013
Islamabad, Pakistan

1. The Standing Committee on Political Affairs held its meeting at 5:00 pm on December, 9, 2013 in Serena Hotel in Islamabad, in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. APA Delegations from parliaments of Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand and Turkey participated in this meeting.

2. Honorable Yuksel Ozden, the Member of the Turkish Parliament and Chairman of the Turkish Delegation to the APA, who was elected as the Vice-President and the Chairman of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs in the Plenary, presided over the meeting. The agenda of the meeting was adopted. His Excellency, Dr. Masoud Islami, APA Assistant Secretary General for political and Legal Affairs assisted the Chair. Honorable Muhammad Ismaeel Al Ammadi, Member of Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain was elected as the vice – chairman, and honorable Chit Kin Yeat, Member of the Parliament and the Chairman of Commission of Foreign Affairs of Cambodian Senate was elected as the Rapporteur. In his opening remarks, Mr. Ozden highlighted the growing importance of Asia at the world level and underscored the significance of the parliamentary cooperation in Asia and the subjects under consideration in the meeting expressing his hopes for the productive results of the deliberations by all participants.

3. The following documents which were recommended by the Executive Council were before the meeting for consideration:

Draft Resolution on Consolidation of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia

Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments: Together for Solidarity and Prosperity in Asia

Draft Resolution on Supporting Palestinian State and Protecting Rights of Palestinian People

Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments against Terrorism and Foreign Occupation

4. Mr. Chairman then sought the opinions of the participants on the draft resolution on Consolidation of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia. Russia proposed to include a paragraph on the situation in Syria and peaceful nuclear program in Iran in this draft resolution. After a lengthy discussion on the context and the content of this draft resolution, it was decided that the proposal by Russian delegation is more suitable to be somehow reflected in the Islamabad declaration and Mr. Chairman promised to use its good offices with the host parliament to this effect.

5. Indonesian delegation proposed a paragraph to be included in the preamble of the draft resolution on Consolidation of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia on the negative impact of extraterritorial surveillance and interception of communications on friendly relations and mutual trust between countries. Indonesia also proposed a paragraph on supporting the United Nations General Assembly on the Right to privacy in Digital Age for inclusion in the draft resolution. Both proposals were accepted with consensus and reflected in the draft resolution.

6. Indonesia also proposed an amendment regarding the draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments: Together for Solidarity and Prosperity in Asia, for the inclusion of Asia Cooperation Dialogue in the list of international organizations considered for having cooperation with the APA.

7. On draft Resolution on Supporting Palestinian State and Protecting Rights of Palestinian People, there was a written amendment proposed by the Palestinian delegation which was agreed upon unanimously. The Secretariat was instructed to work with the Palestinian head of delegation on the wordings of the draft. The Russian delegation, proposed a new paragraph on the issue of terrorism and liberation movements. The proposed amendment was opposed by many comments from delegations of Palestine, Lebanon, Bahrain, and Iran. The head of Thailand delegation made a written statement indicating reservation with respect to paragraphs 3 and 5 of the draft resolution but stressed that Thailand delegation has no objection to the decision by the majority to adopt the draft as is.

8. The head of Russian delegation in consultation with the chair and other delegations, proposed a new paragraph on the importance of state sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as denouncing terrorist activities perpetrated by some separatist groups jeopardizing national unity and stability for the inclusion in the draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments against Terrorism and Foreign Occupation. The proposed amendment was later included in the draft resolution.

9. Honorable Yuksel Ozden, invited all the delegates from Member Parliaments to actively participate in the upcoming meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs in 2014 which will be hosted by the Parliament of Turkey sometime in April or May 2014. The relevant information and coordination of this meeting, including its exact time and venue, will be done through the APA Secretariat.

10. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.



SC/Economic/Rep/2013/03
10 December 2013

Report of the Meeting

Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

10 December 2013
Islamabad, Pakistan

1. The Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development held its meeting on 10 December 2013 in Islamabad in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. APA Delegations from parliaments of Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cambodia, Cyprus, China, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, participated in this meeting.

2. Honorable Nazarudin Kiemas, the Member of the Indonesian Parliament and Chairman of the Indonesian Delegation to the APA, who was elected as the Vice-President and the Chairman of the APA Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development in the Plenary, presided over the meeting. Honorable Engr. Raja was elected as the Rapporteur. The agenda of the meeting was adopted.

3. His Excellency Dr. Ali Khorram, Assistant Secretary-General opened the discussion on the following documents which were recommended by the Executive Council and were before the meeting for consideration:

- Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia
- Draft Resolution on Alleviating Poverty in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Integrated Energy Market in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Ramification of International Financial Crisis for the Economies of the Countries of APA Member Parliaments

4. The opinions of the participants on the draft resolutions were sought. The distinguished delegates from China, Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Cambodia, Palestine, Kuwait and Indonesia proposed some amendments to the resolutions which were discussed by the participants and the meeting adopted the final version of the resolutions.

5. Honorable Nazarudin Kiemas, invited all the delegates from Member Parliaments to actively participate in the upcoming meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development in 2014 which will be hosted by the Parliament of Indonesia sometime

in April or May 2014. The relevant information and coordination of this meeting, including its exact time and venue, will be done through the APA Secretariat.

6. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.



Report by His Excellency
Dr. Nejad Hosseinian
Secretary-General of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)
To APA Sixth Plenary Session

8-10 December 2013

Islamabad – Islamic Republic of Pakistan

**Mr. Chairman,
Honorable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am very much delighted to witness that the main body of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly is once again in session. This is an occasion for blessing and hope. My hope is that this plenary session will renew our commitment to the goals and objectives of the APA. Leaving a period of standstill in the work of our organization behind us, I also hope this session will open a new chapter in our concerted efforts to pursue prosperity and wellbeing for all Asian people.

At this point, allow me to express my gratitude to all honorable Speakers of parliaments; distinguished members of parliamentary delegations; and all immanent persons who are present in this august assembly. I should like to especially appreciate valuable efforts and warm hospitality extended to all delegations and to APA Secretariat by the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and its (head) Honorable Mr. Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari as well as Honorable Senator Mushahid Hussein Seyyed, Chairman of Organizing Committee.

**Mr. Chairman,
Honorable Delegates,**

In the 5th Plenary in 2010, Asian parliamentary leaders debated many subjects and adopted resolutions on issues of importance to all, including the situation in Palestine, combating corruption, promoting respect for cultural diversity, combating poverty, sustainable development and the environment, and promoting international peace and security.

Despite its great potentials and unique capacities for inter-parliamentary diplomacy and international cooperation, APA's activities over the past three years, have been hindered by a number of obstacles beyond its control. Under the grave circumstances in Syria, and in spite of the good will of Syrian Parliament, it became increasingly impossible to hold APA events in

2011 and 2012. The set back was compounded when the Russian Duma declined to assume APA presidency for 2012-2013, as approved previously in 2010.

Looking back, however, it is quite evident that in spite of its relatively short longevity, APA has made remarkable achievements. Having organized six Plenary Sessions; 12 Executive Council Meetings; 15 Standing Committee Meetings; 38 Sub-Committee Meetings; as well as one International Conference; would suffice to be recognized as more than an acceptable record. The extensive scope and critical importance of the issues addressed by about 100 APA Resolutions, all adopted on the basis of consensus, are indicative of substantive collaboration and substantial convergence in the views of its Member Parliaments. Relying on such internal stamina and trusting its capabilities as the largest Parliamentary organization in Asia, embracing more than 40 Asian Parliaments as its permanent members, the APA is in a position to assume a more vivid stance in influencing the course of events in the region in line with its goals and aspirations which include peace, prosperity and development for all people and further integration in Asia.

Looking ahead and taking APA's great potentials into account, we ought to renew our resolve at this juncture to revitalize the APA. Furthermore, we need to increase effectiveness and relevance of the APA activities to current developments and priorities of our region. All Member Parliaments are thus required to undertake their fair share of activity and further contribution to the work of the Organization. Such determination would, of course, need to be translated into action and function.

In this respect, the Secretary-General would like to draw the attention of all Member Parliaments to the following ideas and proposals aimed at revitalizing the APA and making it all the more an active international parliamentary organization.

APA's future vision, in my view, must depict itself as a Model Asian Parliament. The realization of such a vision, under the central theme of Asian integration, would require APA Standing Committees on economic, cultural and political affairs to direct their efforts towards developing short and long-term strategies for gradual and piecemeal transformation of APA into an effective parliamentary organization.

The realization of such an ideal vision would require realistic missions. We need to appreciate what we possess and what we do not. As an assembly of parliaments, the APA does not possess executive powers to directly implement its resolutions and decisions. This is a fact but not a failure. Without executive powers at hand, the APA still can accomplish a lot. We need not to overextend our ambitions or exaggerate our capabilities. What the APA does possess, however, would suffice to its realistic ambitions.

First of all, APA has provided a reliable framework for consultation and collaboration among its Member Parliaments on a range of important cultural, economic, political and environmental issues. Secondly, it has facilitated communication, interaction and cooperation among its members and helped them to harmonize their viewpoints and positions vis-à-vis regional as well as global developments. In fact, the APA has already taken important steps in this direction by adopting resolutions which identify priority areas for further convergence and capacity building among Asian nations. While the APA can certainly be proud of its accomplishments in covering a wide range of important issues in its resolutions, it would also need to take a fresh look at the subject matters on its agenda. Through its Resolutions, the APA does exert certain influence on

the process of policy-making in Asia. Perhaps a priority mission of the APA at this juncture is to adopt measures to upgrade and increase this influence.

**Mr. Chairman,
Honorable Delegates,**

In light of the global integrative trends in the world, Parliaments are increasingly becoming more active players both in domestic and foreign affairs. While Parliaments participate alongside the executive branch in exercising the national sovereignty of their respective state, they tend to assume a controlling function over certain government decisions. While the principal function of parliaments in democratic systems of governance is legislative in nature, they also possess substantial weight in the political apparatus of their respective states. Parliaments not only exert their legislative power to determine the framework for domestic affairs, but also set the ground for foreign diplomacy. The prudent role played by the Parliaments of Britain and France in preventing their respective governments from an unjustified military attack against Syria could be cited as a recent significant development in this context.

Nevertheless, one must admit that the principal function and effective power of Parliaments rest in their position as legislative powers. By exercising their main function as law-making institutions, Asian Parliaments can immensely contribute to the process of Asian integration through their common legislations. The common legislation may just embody certain principles required to deal with the issue at hand. It does not necessarily include all the details of a legislation which, based on each country's distinctiveness, may be different from one country to another. The initial common legislations by the APA may begin with subjects that are non-controversial and of particular concern to all Member Parliaments such as smuggling of cultural items in Asia; promoting health equity in Asia; and Asian strategy for climate change.

Besides common legislations, APA Member Parliaments must utilize various measures and mechanisms for growing efficacy of the Organization. In in a world characterized by communication revolution and global media, it is crucially important for the APA to make the old and young people in Asia informed and familiar with its goals and objectives. It is imperative for the APA to run a publicity campaign for disseminating further information about its aims and objectives throughout Asia and beyond. In this context, the promotion and commemoration of November 14th of each year as the APA Day by all Member Parliaments is of particular importance.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Over the past six years, the APA Secretariat has done its best to maintain the efficient functioning of the organization in a number of ways. The Secretariat has established a solid foundation for the documentation of all APA activities. A useful archive of APA Resolutions; Plenary Reports; Secretary-General's Reports; Executive Council Reports; Standing Committees' Reports; Sub-Committee Meetings' Reports; is already accessible on the APA website in an orderly and well-organized manner. On substantive parts of the APA activities, the Secretariat has rendered outstanding service to the organization and Member Parliaments by providing background

information on all topics on the APA Agenda; prepared draft resolutions for the sub-committees, Standing Committees; and Plenary Sessions; produced various reports and documents; provided professional assistance to the chairing of all meetings; maintained thorough and continuous communication with Member Parliaments; circulated documents and correspondence within the organization on various occasions; disseminated news and information on the APA activities; and actively participated in organizing all APA meetings and events.

Furthermore, in order to build an international profile for the APA, I have participated in the assemblies of a number of international and inter-parliamentary organizations and made statements as the APA Secretary-General. These include Inter-Parliamentary Union meetings, Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union meetings, International Conference of Asian Political Parties and Parliamentary Union of Islamic Cooperation meetings. In all these meetings I have attempted to reflect on APA principles and objectives and presented the great potential Asia has to offer to promote a parliamentary perspective on global issues.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Now let me briefly review what we have on the agenda for this Plenary Session. We have several Draft Resolutions recommended by the Executive Council and the Standing Committees for consideration and adoption.

- 1 - Draft Resolution on Consolidation of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia.
- 2 - Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments & Governments- Together for Solidarity and Prosperity in Asia.
- 3 - Draft Resolution on Supporting Palestinian State and Protecting Rights of Palestinian People.
- 4 - Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments against Terrorism and Foreign Occupation.
- 5 - Draft Resolution on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia.
- 6 - Draft Resolution on Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization in Asia.
- 7 - Draft Resolution on Achieving Health Equity in Asia.
- 8 - Draft Resolution on Information and Communication Technology “ICT”.
- 9 - Draft Resolution on Combating Corruption.
- 10 - Draft Resolution On Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change and Planting Billions of Trees.
- 11 - Draft Resolution on Alleviating Poverty in Asia.
- 12 - Draft Resolution on Integrated Energy Market in Asia.
- 13 - Draft Resolution on Ramification of International Financial Crisis for the Economy of APA Member Parliaments.
- 14 - Draft Resolution on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.
- 15 - Draft resolution- on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking.
- 16 - Draft Resolution- on the Establishment of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians.



Report of Brain Storming Session on Revitalization of APA Executive Council Tehran, 6-7 May 2013

Rapporteur: Honorable Senator Kazim Khan(Pakistan)

APA Secretariat briefly presented the ideas in the Non-Paper on Revitalization of APA. A number of ideas were presented under 4 categories:

- 1- Improving the Agenda Items,
- 2- Promoting participation and contribution by member parliaments
- 3- Public information
- 4- APA Presidency

A discussion took place on various aspects of revitalization of APA, where many delegates participated; supporting some of the ideas in the non-paper and expounding on them, and presenting some new ideas. The discussion was serious and not on the basis of prepared statements. The following represents the list of ideas presented by participants in the discussion and seem to enjoy the support of the meeting:

- 1- APA adopts too many resolutions with little capacity for follow up. The number of items on the agenda of each meeting should be limited.
- 2- APA may arrange for adoption of an Emergency item at the Plenary, similar to IPU practice.
- 3- Each APA Plenary ought to have a focused agenda and a theme. The following themes has been proposed:
 - peace and reconciliation; learning from Asia
 - Asian Century: Cooperation in economy, energy and environment
- 4- Participation of parliament Speakers in APA meetings involves a good deal of protocol considerations. APA should invite 1 to 3 Speakers to the Executive Council and the Plenary and accord them the considerations required, like arranging for Keynote speech and so on.
- 5- Council of Senior Asia Leaders. APA should make necessary arrangements to take advantage of a Council of Senior Asian Leaders; founders of APA and other current and former Parliamentary and government leaders.

- 6- APA should arrange for closer cooperation with ICCAP and the parliamentary organization of the ASEAN. APA may apply for observer status in those organizations and grant them observer status at APA.
- 7- APA may consider inviting relevant NGOs to contribute to APA deliberation of a substantive issue.
- 8- Media workshop at the side of Executive Council and the Plenary. Each APA delegation to Executive Council and the Plenary could include a media representative. A media workshop could be held at the side of the Executive Council and the Plenary to discuss ways and means of promoting the profile of APA in their respective countries. (Honorable Moshahed Hossein, Senator from Pakistan offered to draft a plan of Action on Media Workshop.)
- 9- Secretariat is encouraged to develop a good, up-to-date website, where Member parliaments could have easy access to one another and to the Secretariat.
- 10-APA Presidency could rotate within one of the five sub-regions of Asia.



**Statement by H. E. Dr. Nejad Hosseinian,
APA Secretary-General
At
The joint meeting of APA and ICAPP
10 December 2013, Islamabad**

**Mr. Chairman,
Honorable, Mrs. de Venecia
Honorable delegates,**

I am pleased to hold the first joint APA and ICAPP meeting. This meeting is being held at the initiative of Honorable Jose de Venecia, the former Speaker of the Philippines who was among the leading founders of both organizations. His vision and leadership are manifest both in APA and ICAPP. I regret that the meeting is being held in his absence. I am told he has had an accident, but is recovering fast. I wish him well, quick recovery and continued success in providing leadership in Asia and beyond.

I welcome the participation of ICAPP representatives, and Mrs. de Venecia to this meeting. I am equally thankful to Honorable Senator Mushahid Hussain and his colleagues for the leadership provided to convene this meeting. As like Senator Mushahid Hussein, many APA delegates are also political leaders at ICAPP, I am confident that the exchanges of views that will follow, would chart the path of cooperation between APA and ICAPP in the future. The common grounds between the two leading Asian organizations are so wide that makes cooperation between the two quite natural.

I also wish to express satisfaction at the fact that each organization has granted observer status to the other. As APA Secretary-General, I have attended some of the meetings of ICAPP.

Promoting cooperation in Asia in areas of development, peace and security, rule of law, democracy, good governance, combating corruption and seeking a better tomorrow are

areas that both organizations continue to focus on and attempt to build capacities among all stake holders to achieve better and measurable results.

Greater partnership and cooperation between APA and ICAPP is bound to synergize the output, and help each organization to pursue its objectives with strength and support derived from the other.

In conclusion, I wish to propose holding a working joint meeting of APA and ICAPP at each first meeting of the APA Executive Council each year in order to exchange views and best practices on how best increasing Asian cooperation in various economic, political, security and cultural issues could be advanced.

Thank you.



Report of the First Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians

Islamabad, the 10th December, 2013

The First Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians held its meeting on 10 December, 2013, in Islamabad and adopted its agenda.

1. Honorable member of Pakistan parliament Mrs. Fahmida Mirza chaired the meeting.
2. The documents before the Standing Committee were:
 - c. Report of the Executive Council of Asian Parliamentary Assembly, 06-07 May 2013, Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran
 - d. Report of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, Tehran, 10-11 July 2012
 - e. Report of the Secretary-General on the Establishment of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians
3. The following member Parliaments participated in the meeting and exchanged their views on related matters: Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Indonesia, Kirghizstan,
4. The Chairperson opened the meeting. The Chairperson underlined the importance of enhanced representation of women in political and public decision-making as a prerequisite for the legitimacy of democracies and human rights. The equal participation of women and men in public life is an imperative in international conventions and documents related to women. APA should adopt policies to facilitate the participation of women and remove the obstacles that vary according to the political situation, economic development and cultural patterns in each country.
5. The Assistant Secretary-General Dr. Gholamali Khoshroo provided a brief explanation of the issue under consideration. He stated that Women constitute half of the world's population and comprise 50 percent of the labor force, yet make up less than 10 percent representation in parliaments. No need to say,

decision making and priority setting continue to be largely in the hands of men. Despite efforts over the centuries by prominent scholars and activists the exercise of women's political, economic and social rights is not still equal between women and men. Such inequality is both in the extent of power at decision-making and in mechanisms to promote the advancement of women.

6. The Coordinating Meeting took note with appreciation of the Reports submitted by the APA Secretary-General that constituted the basis of deliberations in the in the Meeting leading to the development of the draft Resolutions.
7. Participants in the meeting took the floor and commented and in some cases amended the drafts before the Committee.
8. The First Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians agreed on the text of the Draft Resolution to be forwarded to the Plenary for final adoption. The Draft Resolution as amended are now issued under following titles:

Draft Resolution on the Establishment of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians (APA/Res/2013/16 dated 10 December 2013)

List of APA Resolutions and Decisions adopted by 6th Plenary session,

8-10 December 2013

Islamabad – Pakistan



**APA/Res./2013/01
9 December 2013**

**Resolution
on
Consolidation of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia**

We the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Recalling relevant APA Resolutions on Reinforcing the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2010/09, 30 November 2010); Resolution on Pursuing Implementation of the Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2008/09, 29 November 2008) and Resolution on the Friendship Pact in Asia; (APA/Res/2007/06, dated 19 November 2007); Text of the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2007/06/Annex, 19 November 2007);

Appreciating the organization of an international conference on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia by the Parliament of Indonesia which was held in September 2011;

Cognizant of the deep-rooted ties of history, geography, culture, and civilization which bind Asian peoples together and the common interests pointing to the need for further cooperation;

Convinced that the Declaration on the Principles of Friendly Relations in Asia provides a framework for promoting peace and security and prosperity in Asia

Recognizing the constructive role of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in paving the way for strengthening amity and the friendly relations among the Asian Nations and States in all areas;

Deeply Concerned with the negative impact of extraterritorial surveillance and interception of communications, as well as the collection of personal data, in particular when carried out on a mass scale, on the exercise of friendly relations and mutual trust between countries;

- 1. Call Upon** all Member Parliaments to expedite passing and endorsing the Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia, as contained in APA/Res/2007/06/Annex, 19 November 2007, in accordance with their own internal procedures and to report to the Secretary-General on the progress they have made in this respect prior to the first meeting of the Executive Council in 2014;
- 2. Determine** to utilize capacities and good offices available to the Member Parliaments, Asian Parliamentary Friendship Associations, and the APA Secretariat to promote, publicize, and disseminate information about the Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia;
- 3. Encourage** further expansion of friendly relations including cultural, diplomatic, scientific, and commercial relations among all Asian States and further communication and interaction among Asian Parliaments and Nations in pursuance of the purposes of the Declaration;
- 4. Call Upon** all Member Parliaments to support and collaborate in organizing the second international conference on Friendship and Cooperation in [Russia or Iran subject to later confirmation] in 2014 in order to consolidate the achievements of the first conference in Indonesia and requests the Secretary-General to provide necessary assistance in this respect;
- 5. Decide** to continue deliberations in order to make recommendations on ways and means of promoting and publicizing the APA Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia by Asian parliaments and Governments for its international recognition;
- 6. Request** the Secretary-General to make necessary consultations and coordination with the APA Member Parliaments as well as interested Asian organizations and academic institutions for promoting further activities and joint initiatives pertaining to Friendship and Cooperation in Asia;
- 7. Support** the adoption of draft resolution on The Right to Privacy in Digital Age submitted to United Nations General Assembly as a measure to strengthen mutual respect, mutual trust, and friendly relations at global scale.



APA/Res./2013/02
9 December 2013

**Resolution on
Asian Parliaments and Governments:
Together for Solidarity and Prosperity in Asia**

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA),

Recalling APA Resolution on Measures for Enhancing Cooperation Between APA and Asian Governments (APA/Res/2010/11, 30 November 2010) and Resolution on Enhancing Cooperation Between Asian Parliamentary Assembly Member Parliaments and Their Governments for Implementation of APA Decisions (APA/Res/2008/10, 29 November 2008)

Taking note of the deliberations of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs in its July 2011 Meeting in Seoul, on Enhancing Cooperation between APA and Asian Governments;

Encouraging Member Parliaments to consider endorsing and adopting common legislations on issues of particular interest to both APA and Asian Governments with viable monitoring methods;

Emphasizing the need to foster closer coordination and cooperation between APA and Governments of APA Member Parliaments;

Taking note of the initiative by the Secretary-General of Asian-Pacific Parliamentary Union (APPU) to take part in the meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs and introducing areas for mutual cooperation, and the initiative by the Secretary-General of Asian Mayors Forum (AMF) in requesting Observer status at APA;

- 1. Decide** to continue inviting representatives of Asian Governments of APA Members respective Governments to participate in the Executive Council and Plenary Sessions of the APA and to exchange views on the most significant and urgent issues in Asia and on the APA agenda;
- 2. Decide** to stimulate further contacts and coordination among APA Focal Points within Member Parliaments who are in charge of making regular coordination between APA parliaments and governments on the one hand, and between APA parliaments and APA Secretariat for the implementation of APA decisions and programs on the other. This requires immediate appointment and introduction of a specific delegate from each Member Parliament to keep in regular contact with the APA Secretariat and be responsible for communication and coordination between ;

3. **Decide** to establish working groups comprising delegates from Member Parliaments as may be desirable to consider and address particular issues of importance and to take parliamentary initiatives for promoting APA goals and objectives and contribute to the implementation of the APA Resolutions;
4. **Request** the Secretary-General to utilize the capacity of interested Member Parliaments in order to expand the scope of his contacts and communications with inter-parliamentary; inter-governmental as well as non-governmental organizations who work on issues relevant to the items on the APA agenda in order to facilitate further interaction and joint efforts with a view to enhancing cooperation between Asian Parliaments and Governments and report thereon to the next session of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs and the Executive Council;
5. **Request** the Secretary-General to report to the Executive Council on areas of common interest and feasible initiatives for cooperation between APA and Inter-Parliamentary Union of Islamic Countries (PUIC), Asian-Pacific Parliamentary Union (APPU); European Parliament; International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP); Asian Mayors Forum (AMF); and Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD).



APA/Res/2013/03
9 December 2013

Resolution on Supporting Palestinian State And Protecting Rights of Palestinian People

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions on Supporting the Rights of Palestinian People (APA/Res/2010/08, 30 November 2010); Violations of International Humanitarian Law in the Palestine and the War Crimes Committed By the Zionist Regime in Gaza (APA/Res/Political/2009/01, 8 December 2009); and Humanitarian Crisis in Palestine in Particular in the Gaza Strip (APA/Res/2008/08, 29 November 2008);

Guided by the principles and objectives of the Charter of the APA;

Committed to contribute to the promotion of peace and security at regional and global levels on the basis of justice and the rule of law;

Affirming the responsibility of the international community to support implementation of resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations Security Council; the UN General Assembly; the Human Rights Council; and the APA pertinent to the situation in Palestine, particularly Al-Quds Al-Sharif;

Recognizing that measures taken by Israeli regime in the occupied Palestinian territories continue to lead to disastrous humanitarian, economic, social and environmental consequences which undermine international efforts towards achieving a just and lasting peace in the region;

Supporting the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital;

1. **Encourage** all members of the international community to put pressure on the Zionist regime to immediately end the occupation of Palestinian territories according to the relevant Resolutions of the United Nations; release all the Palestinian prisoners including the Members of the Palestinian Parliament; dismantle all the settlements as well as the entire separating wall in the Palestinian lands;

2. **Call Upon** all members of the APA and the United Nations as well as all regional and international organizations concerned, particularly the United Nations Security Council and the International Criminal Court to address, under the UN Charter and the Rome Statute, the crimes against humanity by Israel against innocent civilians attempted to bring help to the besieged people in the Gaza Strip and to help ending the siege;
3. **Condemn** in the strongest terms the unprovoked attack by Israel naval forces against the freedom flotilla, “Mavi Marmara” with some parliamentarians onboard bound to Gaza on a humanitarian mission as a grave act of war crime and a gross violation of international humanitarian law and the Law of the Sea Convention.
4. **Urge** the international community and aid and humanitarian organizations to double efforts to bring humanitarian aid and publicity to the sufferings of all Palestinian people
5. **Request** the Secretary General to communicate with the United Nations Secretary-General requesting the reflection of this Resolution to all Members of the United Nations in order to further protect the rights of Palestinian people.
6. **Consider** all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, including expropriation of land and properties which tend to change the legal status of Jerusalem as invalid and bearing no legal effect on their original status.
7. **Call On** Israel to demolish the Separation Wall, halt building settlements, and stop bypassing roads and provide reparations to Palestinians for damages it has caused.
8. **Regard** Israel only as the occupying administrator and beneficiary of public buildings, landed property, forests and agricultural belonging to the Occupied Palestinian State and responsible for safeguarding such properties.
9. **Call On** Israel to desist from providing settlers in the occupied Arab territories with arms thus enabling them to perpetrate crimes against the civilian population and call for immediate apprehension and persecution of these crimes.
10. **Appreciate** greatly the decision taken by the European Union not to purchase any products produced in the settlements based on the occupied territories and calls on states of the APA Member Parliaments to act in a similar way.

11. **Encourage** all Members of the APA to support the State of Palestine in case it acquires affiliation to the United Nations Organization.
12. **Call On** all Members of the APA to consider year of 2014 as a year for solidarity with the Palestinian people.



APA/Res/2013/04
9 December 2013

Resolution
on
Asian Parliaments Against
Terrorism and Foreign Occupation

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution on comprehensive counter-terrorism and counter-occupation strategies (APA/Res/2010/07, 30 November, 2010)

Recalling United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/Res/64/297, 13 October 2010);

Inspired by the principles and objectives of the APA Charter

Expressing our commitment to oppose extremism and prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

Considering that acts of terrorism threaten peace and security of all nations and is a menace to social and economic development of international community

Denouncing stereotyping of any religious, national or ethnic group and condemn any linkage between terrorism and any religion, race, ethnic group and culture.

Emphasizing that the struggle of peoples under foreign occupation to gain national freedom and exercise their right to self-determination is not, in any way, an act of terrorism and against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

1. **Call upon** member parliaments to engage in a continuous dialogue and joint parliamentary activities to combat terrorism in Asia
2. **Stress** the fundamental importance of state sovereignty and territorial integrity of all Asian nations and denounce terrorist activities perpetrated by some separatist groups claiming innocent lives of civilians and jeopardizing national unity and stability.

3. **Urge** all Member Parliaments to harmonize their efforts in promulgating counter-terrorism laws and legislations in Asia with a view to facilitating more effective cooperation among Asian Governments in combating terrorism and terrorism propaganda through media
4. **Invite** Member Parliaments and their respective Governments to exchange their best practices in fighting terrorism
5. **Encourage** all Member Parliaments to intensify their efforts in utilizing parliamentary diplomacy for the development of international and regional frameworks for combating terrorism;
6. **Request** the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on measures taken to implement this resolution and to report thereon as well as on the activities of Member Parliaments against terrorism to the next meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs and the Executive Council.



APA/ Res/2013/05
9 December 2013

Resolution
on
Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions, APA/Res/2010/05, APA/Res/2009/05, APA/Res/2008/17 and APA/Res/2007/02 on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia;

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity, SG/Rep/2011/02 Dated 22 August 2011, submitted to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 13-14 September, 2011;

Bearing in mind the valuable contribution that dialogue among religions and cultures can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Recognizing the significant role of parliaments both in strengthening national cultural policies and in harmonizing Asian approach for respecting cultural diversity, and protecting Asian cultural heritage, including tangible, non-tangible cultural items;

Emphasizing the need to acknowledge and respect the richness of all religions and cultures and to seek common ground among civilizations in order to address comprehensively common challenges facing humanity,

Recognizing that culture is an integral part of development and that the integration of culture in the Post-2015 Development Agenda is of paramount importance as in line with the Bali Promise, the outcome of the 1st World Cultural Forum, held in Bali, Indonesia November 2013:

Recognizing that unsettled status of immigrants prevents the establishment of conditions for full scale and comprehensive protection of their rights by governments of designation countries;

Emphasizing that adaptation of labor immigrants to the local conditions and working activity in designation states as well as the integration into recipient society are important factors which contribute to more effective exercise of the rights of labor immigrants;

Expressing concern regarding the damage brought to other cultures and their religious and cultural heritage,

Emphasizing that a common humanity unites all cultures and civilizations and allows for the celebration of the highest attainments of cultural diversity which constitutes the collective heritage of Asian societies,

Noting that globalization brings greater interrelatedness among people and increased interaction among cultures and civilizations, but it also presents the challenge of preserving and celebrating the rich intellectual and cultural diversity of humankind and of civilization,

Welcoming all efforts made by Asian Parliaments, Governments, civil society organizations and countless individuals to enhance understanding through constructive dialogue among religions and cultures,

Relying on the cultural diversity as well as the common heritage of Asian civilizations in promoting the inter- religious and inter-cultural dialogue;

Expressing determination to facilitate integration in Asia through respecting cultural diversity and promoting dialogue and understanding;

Expressing Concern about smuggling of cultural items, particularly those that are in areas under foreign occupation;

Encouraging relevant government agencies to increase facilitation, consular services as appropriate for citizens of Asian countries to allow for greater people-to-people interaction;

1. Welcome the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/Rep/2010/02, dated 22 August 2011.

2. Affirm the role of parliaments to raise public awareness about the imperative of promoting respect for cultural diversity as a source of strength in Asia.

3. Recognize that tolerance is one of the fundamental values of humanity, which entails an active promotion of respect for cultural diversity, culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations;

4. Condemn Israeli attempt to alter the cultural heritage of Palestinian population under occupation, the dangerous excavations under Al-Aqsa Mosque and its surroundings, imposing changes in the Palestinian educational curriculum, changing the original Arab names of places into Jewish names, including what so-called “list of Jewish heritage” Islamic and Christian holy and historical sites, demolishing of houses and cultural centres, confiscation of land and building of settlements in Jerusalem and around, and in the whole occupied Palestinian territories of the West Bank, continuing building the separation wall, the racist laws passed by the Knesset such as : the law of Citizenship and the law describing Israel as the Jewish State; condemn also the Israeli occupation of Golan heights and its attempt to alter the cultural heritage and educational curriculum of the inhabitants of Golan heights, as well as Israeli continuous occupation of and attacks against southern Lebanon;

5. Express determination to prevent cultural homogenization in the context of globalization, through increased intercultural and inter-religious exchanges;

6. Urge Asian states, including parliaments and governments to develop an approach to sustainable development that takes into account not only politico-economic factors but also psycho-cultural ones;

7. Recognize the responsibility of parliaments to actively promote values against racism and intolerance; optimize the benefits of diversity in Asian nations, and encourage values such as justice, non-discrimination, democracy and respect within and among communities and nations, in particular through public information and educational programs to raise awareness and understanding of the benefits of cultural diversity;

8. Call upon all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and religious diversity and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and fundamental human rights, and to reject all manifestations of exclusion and arrogance that are based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

9. Provide effective parliamentary mechanism and support to enable the protection of the rights of indigenous and ethnic community so as to ensure the fulfillment of indigenous community rights and on their well-being in line to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

10. Condemn all forms of contemptuous actions against religions, Holy Books, religious places and personalities and religious rituals;

11. Underline the importance of strengthening coordination between APA and international and regional organizations such as UNESCO, ISESCO and relevant Asian NGOs active in promoting cultural diversity and civilizational dialogue;

12. Consider the smuggling of cultural objects from Asia to constitute a threat to the richness of Asian cultural heritage, and underline the important role of parliaments to both raise public awareness about this challenge and to strengthen, where necessary, legislative basis to fight smuggling of cultural objects and return the stolen items back to the original location, in Asia;

13. Urge Member Parliaments to ratify international conventions such as the International Convention for the Safeguarding of World Natural and Cultural Heritage and also the International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;

14. Endorse the principles to study for drafting common legislation (annexed to this resolution) to serve as guidelines to develop a model legislation that Member Parliaments may consider adopting, as common legislation, on the basis of their own internal procedure, to enhance Asian capacity to combat smuggling of cultural objects in Asia;

15. Welcome the decision by the APA Plenary to establish an open-ended ad-hoc working group to prepare a draft common legislation to enhance Asian capacity to combat smuggling of cultural objects in Asia and to present a progress report, in coordination with the Secretary-General, to the relevant meetings of the APA;

16. Request the Secretary-General to continue to sponsor an award to be presented annually to an Asian artist; author, poet, film maker, painter, etc, who best conveys the APA message of Asian cooperation and integration;
17. Encourage Parliaments and governments of Asian countries to promote dialogue and understanding among cultures and religions to foster Asian common values and enhance cooperation, harmony and integration, peace and friendship;
18. Express its appreciations to the Iranian Center for Inter-religious Dialogue (CID) for hosting the “International Conference on Dialogue among Religions and Culture in Asia” on 11-12 September 2011, and regards its final declaration a comprehensive document for promoting dialogue and friendship in Asia and encourage all Member Parliaments to take practical measure for its implementation;
19. Request the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on their efforts to implement this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Annexed

Principles to study for drafting common legislation

1. Lawful exchange of cultural and historical properties enriches cultural and social existence of nations; strengthens mutual respect and leads to amity and friendship among them,
2. Movable cultural heritage of every nation is considered as fundamental elements of culture and civilization of that nation, and an integral part of regional and human culture and civilization and thus necessitates regional cooperation to fight theft and smuggling of cultural properties,
3. Protection and safeguarding of historical cultural properties from the perils of unlawful excavations, theft and smuggling, is inter alia the duty of the governments,
4. Clandestine excavations in archeological sites, theft, illicit import and export of cultural properties constitutes as one of the main reasons for the cultural impoverishment of the countries of the origin of these objects.
5. Establishment and strengthening of a proper system of management to protect immovable cultural heritage and reinforce coordination and cooperation among concerned institutions for combating theft and smuggling of cultural properties,
6. Documentation, preparation and completion of an inventory of national cultural properties,
7. Proper supervision over archeological excavations, standardization of the means to protect cultural items at the site of discovery,

8. Taking educational steps to enhance public awareness on the necessity of protecting cultural objects,
9. Encouraging and developing the educational, scientific and technical institutions required for protecting cultural items; expanding museums; supporting cooperation and exchanging cultural objects among museums in Asian countries,
10. Issuing special permit for those cultural objects the export of which is authorized; and thwarting illicit import and export of cultural items with no permit, and restitution thereof to the country of origin,
11. Promoting international cooperation to combat smuggling of cultural items with the countries of origin on restitution of cultural properties as well as extradition of those charged with theft and smuggling of cultural items,
12. Stress on the inalienable right of every country concerning classification and declaring as non-transferable certain cultural properties and preventing entry into the national territory of those items.



APA/ Res/2013/06
9 December 2013

Resolution
on
Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization in Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution, APA/Res/2010/3, APA/Res/ 2009/04,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization in Asia, SG/Rep/2011/02 Dated 22 August 2011, submitted to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 13-14 September, 2011;

Stressing the view that global net-working provides opportunities for Member Parliaments to share experiences and engage in fruitful dialogue on globalization impact on Asia;

Recognizing the important role of Asian parliaments in developing a harmonized approach in dealing with globalization impact on Asia;

Emphasizing the need for free and further access for all to information, communication, and new technologies globally;

Underlining that information technology has become a strategic resource for world development that by no means is less important than natural and social resources and it takes on a new quality which ensures an effective development of all areas of human activities.

Underlining the importance of drafting a common legislation among Member Parliaments on Bridging the Digital Divide in Asia, and welcoming the establishment of an open-ended Ad-hoc Working Group on ICT;

Supporting the proposal for establishing the “Virtual Asian Parliament” to enhance deliberation and strengthen cooperation among Member Parliaments;

Expressing concern on cultural hegemony as well as social homogenization of Asian Societies;

Concerned about the possible negative impact of globalization on widening the gap between the rich and the poor, and the further marginalization of developing countries in Asia;

Recognizing the fact that today Asia has the biggest market in the world, the highest number of population and the largest amount of foreign exchange reserves and dynamic economic growth;

1- Welcome the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/Rep/2011/02 Dated 22 August 2011.

2- Call on Member Parliaments of APA to promote networking among major governmental and non-governmental institutions dealing with the impact of globalization on Asian countries.

3- Encourage Member Parliaments of APA to share best practices and exchange experiences regarding global process and challenges in Asia with a view to formulating a common Asian approach toward globalization through holding special workshops and forums among Asian Parliaments.

4- Welcome the Report made by the Secretary-General on technical requirements of “Asian Virtual Parliament” that aims at enhancing deliberations among APA Delegates and encourages the Working Group on ICT to expedite the process of establishing the “Asian Virtual Parliament”.

5- Underline the importance of drafting a common legislation among Member Parliaments on Bridging the Digital Divide in Asia, and call on the Ad-hoc Working Group on ICT to take appropriate steps for preparing a framework for such legislation.

6- Request Secretary General to collect data and information from APA Member Parliaments to share their best practices and implementation on ways and means to survive from social and cultural crisis and to benefit from globalization based on Asian norms and values.

7- Request the Secretary-General to seek possible technical and financial assistance from Member Parliaments and other institutions to facilitate the implementation of this resolution.

8- Call on the Member Parliaments of APA to initiate dialogues on the possible alternative to the current world foreign exchange reserves and the untying of the country’s currency to certain foreign currencies.

9- Request the Secretary-General to seek inputs from Member Parliaments on the progress to implement this resolution and submit a report thereon to the next Committee meeting.



APA/Res/2013/07
9 December 2013

Resolution
on
Achieving Health Equity in Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution, APA/Res/2010/02, APA/Res/2009 /06, dated 29 December 2009,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on Achieving Health Equity in Asia, SG/Rep/2011/02 Dated 22 August 2011, submitted to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 13-14 September, 2011;

Referring to the final report of WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH) submitted to the Director-General of WHO in 2008;

Stressing the view that global net-working provides opportunities for Member Parliaments to engage in fruitful dialogue and exchange of best practices on health equity;

Reaffirming the significant role of parliaments both in advocating and promoting national policies and legislative measures for achieving health equity;

Welcoming the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, adopted by the General Assembly on 19 September 2011, and reaffirming the political will to effectively implement the commitments contained therein,

Recalling United Nation General Assembly resolution 66/288 on “The future we want”, which recognized health as a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development,

Recalling the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health endorsed by the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly in resolution WHA65.8 in May 2012

Recognizing that health inequities arise from social determinants of health, that is, the societal conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and that these determinants include experiences in their early years, education, economic status, employment and decent work, housing and environment, and effective systems of preventing and treating ill health,

Stressing the need to ensure that health is central to the post-2015 UN development agenda and that consideration be given to including universal health coverage in the discussion on the post-2015 development agenda in the context of global health challenges.

Emphasizing the need to comprehensively deal with social and health related problems emanating from the drug abuse;

Welcoming the report of High Level panel of Eminent Person on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and initiative of Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, as health-related MDGs deadline draws near;

Expressing concern about the existing socio-economic inequalities and their impact on the poor and disadvantaged groups, as well as the remote geographical areas;

1- Welcome the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/Rep/ 2010/02, dated 22 August, 2011.

2- Underline the report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health for addressing the impact of socio-economic inequalities on health at global, regional and national levels;

3- Encourage the APA Member Parliaments to incorporate the issue of Social Determinants of Health (SDH) more intensively in other APA themes and activities;

4- Encourage the APA Member Parliaments to strengthen collaboration with a view to formulating a coherent approach with regard to social determinants of health in Asia, especially education, housing, and employment.

5- Invites the APA Member Parliaments to promote health equity in Asia through sharing experiences and best practices, and actively advocate for inclusion of social determinants of health in national policies and programs;

6- Encourage the APA Member Parliaments to adopt policies and measures to improve service provision, and health financing system as well as health insurance plans for a more equitable resource distribution;

7- Call on Member Parliaments of APA to promote networking among major governmental and non-governmental institutions dealing with health issues in Asia, and expand cooperation with academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups and the media in order to identify the main social determinants of health.

8- Call upon APA Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments to create and implement more updated tactical policies, activities, and programs to ensure a success in the MDGs achievements with regard to health policies.

9- Call on APA Member Parliaments to take necessary actions and to encourage their respective governments to ensure child nutrition needs in order to create better generation.

10- Determine to take active part on the discussion of post-2015 development agenda by delivering Asian views in the international arena to drive the global agenda;

11- Encourage the APA Member Parliaments to actively participate in the process of arriving at common objectives which could form the basis of national legislations promoting health equity in Asia, with due attention to social protection policies for health care, long term disability, and protection during unemployment and old age.

12- Request the Secretary-General to seek inputs from Member Parliaments on the progress made on the implementation of this resolution and shares them with all Member Parliaments.



APA / Res/2013/08
9 December 2013

Resolution
on
Information and Communication Technology “ICT”

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution, APA/Res/2009/04, 29 November, 2010

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General to the open-ended Ad-hoc Working Group on ICT, SG/Rep/2011/02 Dated 22 August 2011, submitted to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 13-14 September, 2011;

Stressing the view that global networking provides opportunities for APA Member Parliaments to share experiences and engage in fruitful dialogue on significant issues in Asia and facilitates further cooperation and coordination;

Underlining that the Asian Virtual Parliament will pave the way for sharing information, harmonizing legislation and raising people’s awareness about the activities of the legislative body and ensure a more profound feedback between society, power and individuals, and thus contribute to strengthening peace in Asia.

Supporting the proposal for establishing the “Virtual Asian Parliament” to enhance deliberation and strengthen cooperation among Member Parliaments in a more effective manner;

1- Welcome the Report of the Secretary-General on “Asian Virtual Parliament” that aims at enhancing deliberations among APA member parliaments.

2-Reiterate that Virtual Asian Parliament must hinge upon a set of regulations and principles ensuring:

Transparency and openness for the parliament as a whole and for its structural units and for each Member of Parliament;

Universal access to parliament information;

Creation of mechanisms allowing raising the responsibility of parliamentarians before their electorate;

Broader dialogue among Member Parliaments;

Participation in a global information society;

3- Request APA Member Parliaments to arrange in their own parliament the technical facilities for the establishment of the Virtual Asian Parliament.

4- Underline the necessity to work out the legal status of the materials and documents which will be circulated in Virtual Parliaments.

5- Emphasize the need to resolve the challenges of communication channels for organizing video conferences which can be used for holding meetings of Virtual Asian Parliament.

6- Underline the need to establish a powerful portal for office automation for documents, video conferencing to conduct virtual meetings, online translation, voting ability, text and voice communication.

7- Request the secretariat to conduct a pilot project of VAP and share the result with the APA member parliaments.

Welcome the invitation of Russian Federation to provide and share its experience on of Virtual Parliament with Member parliament and the Secretariat.

8-Request the Secretary-General to seek possible technical and financial assistance from Member Parliaments and other institutions to facilitate the establishment of VAP.

9- Decide to hold the next meeting of the ICT Working Group at the sideline of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs in 2012 to expedite the establishment of the Virtual Asian Parliament.

10- Request the Secretary-General to seek the views of the Member Parliaments on the progress made to implement this resolution and submit a report thereon to the next meeting.



APA/Res/2013/09
9 December 2013

Resolution on Combating Corruption

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05, APA/Res/2008/18, APA/Res/2009/03 and APA/Res/2010/01,

Recalling also APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05/Annex,

Expressing determination to strengthen parliamentary initiative to implement the APA Plan of Action and resolutions on Combating Corruption,

Bearing in mind the importance of the UN Convention Against Corruption adopted by the General Assembly on October 31, 2003

Supporting the establishment of Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (APAC) as an APA institutional framework to strengthen parliamentary capacity to implement APA Plan of Action and to explore other areas of cooperation in fighting corruption in Asia,

Recognizing the important role of parliaments to promote transparency, participation, accountability and integrity as the four key principles of anti-corruption strategy,

1. Welcome the Report of the Secretary-General on Combating Corruption contained in SG/Rep/2011/2 of 3 September 2011;
2. Express determination to strengthen our parliamentary capacities to develop a strong and comprehensive anti-corruption strategy, including by taking practical measures to implement APA Plan of Action and APA resolutions against corruption;
3. Take note of UN Convention against Corruption, and other anti-corruption conventions and relevant binding legal instruments;
4. Consider the APA decision to establish the Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (APAC) to have been a major step to enhance the synergy of Asian parliaments to effectively fight corruption;

5. Consider all APAC delegates attending the 6th Plenary to be the founding members of APAC¹;
6. Decide to hold the initiation and the first meeting of APAC in 2014 in... at a time to be coordinated by the Secretary-General, when at least 10 APAC founding members participate, and to report thereon to the 2014 meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Issues;
7. APAC will consider and adopt its constitution, other necessary documents and priorities of its work, including the study of the need for an Asia-specific convention against corruption at its initiation meeting in 2014;
8. Build synergy with other related GOPAC Chapter which has been established in Asia namely : ARPAC, SEAPAC, SAPAC to further study the establishment of APAC;
9. Request the Secretary-General to prepare in consultation with interested APA Delegations, particularly APA delegates with interest and experience in anti-corruption efforts, the required draft documents for the initiation meeting of APAC in 2014;
10. Request also the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural issues.

¹ Founding Members of APAC are requested to fill out the attached form and submit it to the APA Secretariat.

**Asian Parliamentary Assembly
Membership Form
Founding Members, Asian parliamentarians Against Corruption (APAC)
Personal Information**

| | | |
|--|-------|---------|
| Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Name: | | |
| Address: | | |
| Work: | Home: | |
| Email: | | |
| Telephone: | | |
| Work: | Home: | Mobile: |
| Fax: | | |
| Work: | Home: | |
| Preferred Language: English <input type="checkbox"/> Arabic <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Professional Background

| |
|---|
| Professional Expertise: |
| |
| Specify which parliament are you a member? |
| |
| Terms/Years as member of parliament: |
| |
| parliamentary Committees Served in: |
| |
| Previous anti-corruption involvement and experience: |
| |



APA/Res/2013/10
10 December 2013

Resolution
on
Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change and
Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the Resolution on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia, APA/Res/2010/13, dated 30 November 2010;

Welcoming the Report of the Secretary-General on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia, contained in document SG/Rep/2011/03-2 dated 3 September 2011;

Welcoming the results 19th conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on climate Change) / 9th session of the conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to Kyoto Protocol (COP19/CMP9) which took place in Warsaw, Poland, 11-22 November 2013

Recognizing the need to pursue the components of sustainable development namely the economic growth, social development and environmental protection in a balanced and mutually supportive manner;

Emphasizing the importance of realization of sustainable development objectives and the decisions of the 1992 Rio Conference bearing in mind the existence of different capacities and conditions of Asian countries;

Underlining the necessity of a comprehensive and long-term strategy to combat desertification, thus improving the living conditions of the people living in arid and semi-arid areas;

Recognizing the significance of exchanging information on environmental issues among Asian countries and transfer of environmental technology, in particular scientific and technical assistance, from those countries with high capabilities in the area of sustainable development to less developed countries in Asia;

Acknowledging the importance of enhancing the role of civil society, NGOs, policy think tanks, business and academia in the protection of environment through their inputs to the environmental policy formulation as well as implementation at the local, national and regional levels;

Noting with interest the findings of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its last report on forests: land use, land use change, and forestry (LULUCF), delivering an important message with possible indications for the APA's goal of "Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia"

Recognizing the responsibility of developed countries and international institutions to meet the special needs of Asian countries, particularly Asian developing countries, in their efforts to deal with negative consequences of environmental degradation effectively and *reiterating* the importance of devising a proper mechanism for technology transfer and financing environmentally sound technology from developed to developing countries;

Emphasizing that substantive involvement of APA in the latest state of affairs as regards the ongoing negotiations within the context of UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol, exchange of views among Member Parliaments and striving for bringing as much coordination and collaboration as possible in relevant negotiating fora with a view to serving and improving the common regional interest of Asia is a compelling imperative;

Encouraging the inclusion of Asian parliamentarians in the national delegations participating in the climate change negotiations in Warsaw, Poland;

Noting with satisfaction and expressing interest in the Cancún agreements including the "newly agreed financial and technological mechanisms" and its relevance and importance for Asia;

Emphasizing the importance of cooperation among Member Parliaments with regard to efforts to combat desertification;

1. *Invite* the Member Parliaments to proceed with legislation and other legal actions deemed appropriate and facilitative to encouraging the governments to formulate and implement legislations, policies and measures with regard to the following:

- Facilitating and encouraging the operationalization of the idea of "plantation of billions of trees" envisaged in APA documents, as an effective means of increasing afforestation and reforestation as well as strengthening the total GHG mitigation potential and finally contributing to reducing emissions from deforestation;
- Modal shifting from road to rail and inland waterway shipping, urban planning and non-motorized transport which offer opportunities for GHG mitigation, depending on local conditions and policies;
- Integrating climate policies in broader development policies with a view to making implementation and overcoming barriers easier;
- Financing and encouraging R&D for low carbon or cleaner technologies with a view to stimulating technological advances, reduce costs, and enable progress toward stabilization;
- Legalizing the necessity of observing the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) as a step towards bringing a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development namely: economic growth, social development and environmental protection;

- Encouraging the maximum possible interaction, coordination, integrity and solidarity among Asian delegations involved in climate change negotiations with a view to providing for a collective wisdom by Asia as concerns their common interests which in turn shall strengthen Asian regionalism and contribute to the cause of an Asian integration;
 - Interacting with and make collective attempts with other Asian States Parties for pushing the environmental priorities and urgencies of the Asia within the agenda of financial and technological mechanisms of environment related instruments such as GEF, those operating within UNEP and the newly established technological and financial mechanisms in Durban in 2011;
2. *Recommend* the holding of APA coordination meetings of Member Parliaments in the sidelines of Durban event to enable the Members interact, assess the possibilities of better coordination and better understand the legislation challenges and opportunities as regards the draft agreements under negotiation and also as concerns the collective efforts with the APA;
 3. *Invite* Member Parliaments to exchange experiences and best practices on environmental issues and provide, on a voluntary basis, the data concerning issues related to sustainable development, climate change and other environment related major issues to the Secretariat to be compiled in a database for the reference and use by all Member Parliaments;
 4. *Invite also* Member Parliaments, in a position to do so, to provide material and technical support to APA members in their efforts to combat desertification;
 5. *Request* the Secretary General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on the implementation of the present resolution and report thereon to the next session of the Sub-Committee in 2014.



**APA/Res/2013/11
10 December 2013**

**Resolution
on
Alleviating Poverty in Asia**

We, the members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution on Alleviating Poverty in Asia, APA/Res/2010/14, dated 30 November 2010;

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on Alleviating Poverty in Asia, SG/Rep/2011/03-1 dated 31 August 2011;

Welcoming the report of high level panel of eminent person on the post-2015 Development Agenda and initiative of open working group on sustainable development goals, as poverty-related MDGs deadline draws near;

Taking note of the deliberations of the Sub-Committee on Alleviating Poverty in Asia;

Taking into consideration the actions APA member countries have taken in support of MDGs;

Underlining the significance of the role of Parliaments in achieving MDG 2015 goals through advocacy and oversight, especially Goal One on Poverty Eradication;

Recalling the High-level Plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the U.N. General-Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome;

Expressing great concern on the situation of the poor worldwide and, in particular, by the fact that Asia hosts the largest number of people living in poverty”

Recognizing the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development;

Emphasizing that the Global Development Agenda beyond 2015, should continue the momentum started out by the MDGs and should be holistic, inclusive, equitable and people-centered;

Welcoming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on June 2012, entitled «The future we want»;

Taking note of the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held in the framework of the 68th UN General Assembly Session on September 25, 2013;

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized in the poverty eradication;

Noting that poverty alleviation is important to combat international terrorism, occupation, human and drug trafficking, arms smuggling and transnational crimes;

Stressing the significance of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to alleviate poverty in developing countries;

Encouraging the adoption of pro-poor economic growth policy;

Reaffirming that poverty eradication is the greatest challenge we face today and is an indispensable prerequisite for sustainable development in its all three dimensions — economic, social and environmental

Supporting the adoption of legislation on poverty alleviation programs including in urban areas;

Encouraging regional cooperation on poverty alleviation schemes;

Supporting the informal sector which plays an important role in poverty reduction and offering increased security to it;

Supporting also a publicity campaign to raise awareness in the society about MDG 1 goal utilizing the potentials of mass media particularly the radio, television, mobile telecommunications and Internet”;

Determine to take active part on the discussion of post-2015 development agenda by delivering Asian views in the international arena to drive the global agenda with poverty as priority goal;

Recognizing that the informal sector continue to provide wide employment opportunities and in this regard attaching special importance to the social protection of people involved in such activities and establishing for them decent alternatives at the labour market

1. Call on APA Member Parliaments to participate actively in the achievement of MDGs and in elaboration of the Global Development Agenda beyond 2015 as its successor and urge Member Parliaments to encourage their governments to facilitate adoption of economic growth policy that is pro-poor and is aimed to effectively address all forms of inequalities;

2. Urge Member Parliaments to work closely with their governments in the formulation and

implementation of the measures outlined in the High level Plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General-Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals;

3. Invite Member Parliaments to adopt necessary legislation to a) improve labor market regulations, b) support the informal sector and offering increased security to it, c) help to establish savings and loan associations in order to reduce the reliance on moneylenders, d) promote urban agriculture which contributes essentially to reduction of poverty in urban areas, e) empower the urban poor to improve their living conditions and participate in decision-making which affects their lives, f) help to upgrade the infrastructure and services in areas where the urban poor live and work and to provide better education for urban poor particularly for girls and g) improve disaster preparedness, disaster relief as well as post-disaster economic recovery;

4. Encourage Member Parliaments from developed countries to work closely with governments to facilitate in fulfilling all official development assistance commitments, including commitments made by many developed countries to achieve the target 0.7% of Gross National Product for ODA to developing countries as required by the Millennium Declaration;

5. Encourage further Member Parliaments to exchange views with parliaments of the countries of the region particularly neighboring countries on their best practices in the fight against extreme poverty and hunger;

6. Encourage also Member Parliaments to invite the representatives of the executive branch to the parliament to exchange views on the steps the government is taking towards reaching MDG 1;

7. Call on Member Parliaments to submit a report on their best practices and those of their executive branches to the APA Secretariat to be placed on the APA website;

8. Encourage Member Parliaments to take joint action to organize aid campaigns, on a voluntary basis upon the request of a Member Parliament, for assistance in the context of alleviating poverty;

9. Request the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on their efforts to implement this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee in 2014.



APA/Res/2013/12
10 December 2013

Resolution
on
Integrated Energy Market in Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling Resolution on the Asian Integrated Energy Market, APA/Res/2010/05, dated 16 June 2010; Resolution on the Asian Integrated Energy Market, APA/Res/2009/05, dated 11 December 2009; Resolution on the Asian Integrated Energy Market, APA/Res/2008/01, dated 29 November 2008; Resolution on the Asian Integrated Energy Market, APA/Res/2007/08, dated 19 November 2007; the Plan of Action on the promotion of an Integrated Energy Market in Asia, APA/Res/2007/08/Annex, dated 19 November 2007; and Resolution on Energy, APA/Energy Com/2007/01, dated 20 November 2007;

Welcoming the Report of the Secretary-General on the Asian Integrated Energy Market (AIEM), SG/Rep/2011/05, dated September 2011, to the meeting of the Energy Sub-Committee held in Moscow, Russia, on 21 September 2011;

Welcoming the decreasing trend of energy intensity in the most regions of the world and in particular in Asia;

Welcoming the adoption of Asia cooperation dialogue (ACD) Energy Action Plan in the 12th Ministerial Meeting of ACD, held in Bahrain, Manama, November 2013 as an initial step in building energy security through collaborative work of Asian countries.

Taking note of high rates of growth in energy demand in East Asia and the abundance of energy resources in West Asia as an important advantage in Asia which could facilitate steps towards the development of “Integrated Energy Market in Asia”;

Confirming the realization of the “Integrated Asian Energy Market” when the Asian Parliamentary Assembly envisages a continental energy supply system in Asia;

Recognizing that “Integrated Asian Energy Market” can help the Asian countries to maximize the interests of both producers and consumers and minimize the risks and costs of energy in Asia;

Re-emphasizing the rights of any country to have any kind of energy including nuclear energy for peaceful use;

Reaffirming the importance of adoption and implementation of environmentally sound energy policies and projects throughout Asia;

Welcoming the decreasing trend of energy intensity in the most regions of the world and in particular in Asia;

Recognizing that any improvement in energy efficiency is expected to have significant effect on mitigating the environmental impact of the use of fossil fuels;

Welcoming the Asian governments' commitments to reduce carbon emissions affecting global warming;

Emphasizing again on the imperative of "Stability of Global Energy Market", including rationalization of demand and maximization of energy production;

Encouraging joint investments in energy-related industries among the energy-producing Member States;

Re-emphasizing the importance of dialogue and cooperation among producers, consumers and transit countries of energy in Asia for promoting Stability of Global Energy market. (APA/Res/2010/16)

Emphasizing on multilateral co-operation among APA countries in order to improve energy transportation infrastructures such as a gas network in Asia;

We, therefore;

- 1) **Urge** all nations including APA countries to arrange for plans to increase their energy efficiency and decrease their energy intensity accordingly;
- 2) **Urge** again Member Parliaments to report to the Secretary-General on their national experiences in the field of increasing energy efficiency as outlined in Paragraph 33 of the Secretary-General's Report contained in SG/Rep/2008/01/Rev.1 dated 10 May 2008;
- 3) **Urge** also Asian Parliaments to encourage and support research programs, through comprehensive energy legislation, for energy efficiency, including in the field of renewable and carbon and methane capture and sequestration technologies, preferably with provisions for specific targets and timelines;
- 4) **Confirm** the essential role of APA Member Parliaments to promote strategies for Asia-wide energy policy development bearing in mind their desire to hold the aforementioned International Conference;

- 5) **Request** the Secretary General to seek the views of APA members on a meeting with their energy ministers, prior to international conference.
- 6) **Request** also the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee;
- 7) **Provide** any parliamentary support and mechanism to help and endorse the implementation of the ACD Energy Action Plan with a view to build energy security of Asia.

- 8) **Decide** to extend the mandate of the Sub-Committee to promote the development of the Asian Integrated Energy Market.



**APA/Res/2013/13
10 December 2013**

**Resolution
on
Ramification of International Financial Crisis for the
Economies of the Countries of APA Member Parliaments**

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

- **Recalling** resolutions on the Ramification of International Financial Crisis for the Economies of the Countries of APA Member Parliaments, APA/ Res/2010/06 dated 10 December 2010, APA/Res/2009/05dated 11 December 2009; and APA/Res/2008/05dated 29 November 2008;
- **Gravely concerned** about the failure of the European Union and the United States to address the risks associated with their fiscal policies which could cause the global economy enter again into a double-dip recession; and the lack of re-orientation of policies needed for rebalancing on the agenda of the major economies at large.
- **Expressing** concern also about an early withdrawal of monetary and stimulus measures by the Western countries which may cause more serious challenges in the global economy in the coming years than they have seen during the 2007-2009 global downturn;
- **Reaffirming further concern** about the disconnection between the financial markets and the real economy which threatens creating new bubbles in the world economy;
- **Recognizing** the necessity to effectively reform the global financial architecture so as to achieve a more balanced world economic and financial order;
- **Expressing deep concern** about the continuous negative repercussions of the ongoing Western Financial Crisis on the economies of the APA countries;
- **Gravely concerned** about the new international economic recession which can have devastating consequences on APA economies;
- **Reaffirming** the important role that the APA family can play through new legislations in managing and preventing further expansion of the new financial crisis;

- **Expressing** concern about the decrease in the investments of multilateral financial institutions in the Asian countries, which, in turn, can leave negative impact on their productive capacity, employment, export, and foreign exchange potentials;
- **Supporting** the deliberations at the UN, IMF, WTO, WB, and other international fora and their recommendations towards ameliorating the Western financial crisis and redressing the situation;
- **Appreciating** the measures that have already been taken by Asian Parliaments and their governments to contain the negative impact of the 2007-2009 crisis on their economies, and expecting them to take further steps to stimulate their respective economies;

We, therefore;

- **Call upon** the Asian Parliaments to continue and extend the stimulus measures to prevent the probable financial sector fallout;
- **Urge** the Asian countries to take into serious account the risk which is coming from the widening global macroeconomic imbalances and may cause a new wave of financial instability in Asia;
- **Urge** Asian Parliaments to re-examine the efficiency of the framework of national regulatory bodies, with a view to preventing new instability in Asian markets;
- **Urge** Asian Parliaments to collectively address the incoming crisis including the establishment of a recent global financial architecture and its elements;
- **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to contribute to maintaining the stability of international economic and trade activities through preserving global peace and security;
- **Decide** to promote respect for the international agreed laws and standards by APA Parliaments on the transparency of financial markets to ensure the transparency in financial transactions;
- **Call upon** the Secretary-General to realize the Panel of Experts through holding the incoming International Conference to conduct a comprehensive study and offer independent advice to the Sub-Committee on issues that they shall deem relevant to the whole trend of new Global Financial Crisis and its impacts on the APA economies;
- **Call upon** the Asian Parliaments to closely examine the economies of several Developing and Emerging Economies (DEEs) in Asia that have structural external deficits and are hence dependent on capital inflows to sustain acceptable growth;

- **Call for** adjustment in the major economies of Asia with the aim of removing imbalances while ensuring adequate global demand without a return to financial bubbles and debt-driven spending;
-
- **Decide** to rename the Sub-Committee as "Sub-Committee on Improvement of the Global Financial System"
-
- **Welcome** the efforts of adjustment by the major economies of Asia with the aim of removing imbalances without a return to financial bubbles and debt-driven spending;
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- **Call for** close cooperation and coordination between Asian governments and Parliaments to control the persisting negative consequences of the incoming financial crisis on Asian economies; and
- **Decide** on the extension of the mandate of the Sub-Committee to review the development of the incoming financial crisis and to propose ways to control, manage and formulate exit strategy from the probable global crisis.



APA/Res/2013/14
9 December 2013

Resolution
on
Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia

We, members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

ACKNOWLEDGING that the development of migrant workers and the protection of their rights would contribute to the development and promotion of friendly relations among countries;

RECALLING the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international instruments;

RECOGNIZING that the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 97 on Migration for Employment, ILO Convention 143 on Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provision), and ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers established a broad legal framework for the protection of migrant workers;

CONFIRMING that the ratification of 8 ILO conventions namely: Convention No 29, Convention No 87, Convention No 98, Convention No 100, Convention No 105, Convention No 111, Convention No 138, and Convention No 182 shall promote the protection of human rights of Asian Migrant Workers in various aspects including the rights to work for migrants without distinction of any kind such as sex, race, color, language, religion or conviction, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, nationality, age, economic position, property, marital status, birth or other status;

WELCOMING the adoption of ILO Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers at the 100th International Labour Organization (ILO) Conference in Geneva, 2011 as a global recognition on the existence of domestic workers where many of them are migrants;

UNDERLINING the importance of establishing a broad legal framework for the protection of migrant workers and noting the legal and illegal status of different cases;

DEEPLY CONCERNED with the precarious conditions faced by migrant workers such as human rights abuses, harassment and violence, discrimination, low paying and low status jobs, unpaid jobs and ignored labor;

UNDERLINING the challenges that women migrant workers are facing such as forced confinement, low paying , physical and sexual harassment and abuse;

Recognizing that unsettled status of immigrants prevents the establishment of conditions for full scale and comprehensive protection of their right by governments of destination countries.

Emphasizing that adaptation of labor immigrants to the local conditions and working activity in destination states as well as integration into recipient society are important factors which contribute to more effective exercise of the rights of labor immigrants.

ACKNOWLEDGING the contribution of migrant workers to the society and economy of both receiving and sending states and their share to the development and prosperity of the region;

BEARING IN MIND the importance of friendly relationship and cooperation among governments, parliaments as well as the peoples of Asia in solving the problems relating to Asian migrant workers; and in particular, providing repatriation assistant services such as coordination with families, airport assistance, domestic transport, temporary shelter, medical and rehabilitation services;

RECOGNIZING the significant role of parliaments both in strengthening social and human rights policies and in harmonizing Asian approach for respecting fundamental human rights, and protecting the rights of migrant workers in Asia;

CONFIRMING that providing enough measures on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers in Asia is part of a shared responsibility among Asian Countries toward a common vision for security and prosperity which focused on the improvement of the quality of life of its people;

1. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to advise their respective governments, who have not yet done so, to consider accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to stress Asian commitment on the protection of the rights of migrant workers and humanitarian issues in Asia;
2. **Advise** APA Member Parliaments to engage in the ratification process of the ILO Convention Concerning Decent Work in order to promote equal treatment and equal opportunity, and to protect the rights of domestic workers where many of them are also migrants;

3. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to promote comprehensive legislative review and parliamentary role to enhance the protection of the rights of migrant workers as well as to harmonize actions to a better protection of migrant workers, especially the woman, made at the global and regional level into national legislations;
4. **Request** APA Sending Countries to provide migrant workers with adequate skills and knowledge in order to be able to fulfill their task and understand the culture, prevailing laws and regulation in the receiving countries;
5. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to ensure that their domestic laws shall be fair and just, equally applicable to both migrant workers and citizens who violate the laws;
6. **Also encourage** the promotion of bilateral and regional cooperation among countries in all areas and issues of migrant workers to maximize the potential benefits and minimize the negative impacts of migration;
7. **Encourage** APA Member Countries to conduct bilateral, or regional agreements including Mandatory Consular Notification agreement under the spirit of Vienna Convention on Consular Relations therefore the sending countries are well informed on the legal problems facing by their migrant workers;
8. **Emphasize** the importance of involving civil society/non-government organizations and increasing their opportunity for participation and interaction with stakeholders to develop better policies on migrant workers issues;
9. **Recommend** APA Member Parliaments to provide adequate information on regulation, legislation and policies related to migrant workers in their respective countries, and to share information and best practices as well as opportunities and challenges encountered by Asian Countries in relation to the protection and promotion of migrant workers' rights and welfare;
10. **Request** the Secretary-General to coordinate with APA Member Parliaments on the progress to implement this resolution and submit a report thereon to the meeting of the Standing committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



APA/ Res/2013/15
9 December 2013

Resolution on

Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the report of the Standing Committee meeting on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 13-14 September 2011,

Mindful of the fact that drug trafficking and its negative impact on economic development and social health constitutes a prime concern in Asia and deserves a comprehensive consideration by the APA,

Emphasizing that the danger of illicit drug trafficking is so pervasive that may undermine international peace and security.

Recognizing that production and illicit trafficking of narcotics drugs can be utilized for financing of other organized crimes, including terrorism;

Expressing the need to explore ways and means to intensify regional coordination among the legislators to combat drug trafficking,

Recognizing the interconnected challenges facing the region, including continued the illegal cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, that pose a serious threat to the stability of Afghanistan, its neighbors and other countries,

Supporting the regional and international efforts to improve law enforcement and combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and curtailing drug related financial activities,

Attaching great importance to the efforts made by international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN), and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) to combat the threats of international terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activity,

1. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to coordinate among member parliaments to review the relevant legislations to address different aspects of combating drug trafficking,

2. **Stress** the need to exchange information and best practices within APA Member Parliaments on combating drug trafficking,
3. **Reiterate** the need to coordinate and improve the law enforcement activities to combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and curtailing the flow of illicit drug more effectively,
4. **Underline** the importance of effectively using the international financial assistance for the creation of alternative economic opportunities in order to ensure a sustainable anti-drug policy,
5. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to enable the civil society as an effective partner of parliaments as well as to enhance the role of mass media in combating drug trafficking in Asia,
6. **Encourage** all APA member Parliaments to coordinate with international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN), to combat the threats of international terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activity,
7. **Express** the need to facilitate and promote the efforts of all states and organizations concerned aimed at creating the "anti-drug and financial security belts" in the region,
8. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to promote efficient involvement of regional players such as Afghanistan and neighboring countries,
9. **Believe** that a regular dialogue on joint action against abovementioned threats within APA could become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in the region.
10. **Express** our commitment to enhance cooperation with all relevant States and international and regional organizations, on matters of common interest in the spirit of this Resolution on rendering assistance to combat illicit drug trafficking.
11. **Request** the Secretary General to prepare a report on the contribution of Asian Parliaments on combating illicit drug trafficking including a review of relevant legislations in Member Parliaments in this regard.



APA/Res/2013/16
10 December 2013

Resolution
on
Coordinating Meeting
of APA Women Parliamentarians

We, members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the APA Plenary Resolution (APA/Res/2010/06, 30 November, 2010) on the establishment of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians;

Mindful of the fact that despite all efforts made for promotion of women's rights, injustice still persists between women and men both in the extent of power at decision-making and in mechanisms to promote the advancement of women;

Aware of the importance of promoting the enhanced participation of women in scientific political, cultural and economic affairs and peace dialogue;

Reaffirming that to include women in positions of power and elected bodies strengthen the development of democratic principles in public life and increase the economic development.

Recognizing that main obstacles women face in entering Parliaments in Asia include political, socio-economic, and cultural and extremism,

Mindful of the importance to put on the agenda of APA meetings matters of importance to women;

Stressing our resolve to participate and contribute actively in the deliberation of issues relating to women empowerment and women participation in APA meetings;

Underlining the need to facilitate networking between women parliamentarians of Asia;

1. **Welcome** the Report of APA Executive Council Meeting held in Jakarta 12-13 October 2010 contained in document EC.1/Rep/2010/01 which stated the proposal of the Indonesian delegation to establish the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians;

2. **Support** the decision to establish the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians to meet annually at the time of APA Plenary Session in order to enhance the

participation and representation of women within APA to concentrate on the matters of specific concern to women;

3. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to adopting legislative regulations to facilitate women's representations in Asian Parliaments;

4. **Stress** the need to include at least one woman parliamentarians in their APA delegations.

5. **Affirm** the need of APA Member Parliaments to provide inputs on ways to promote the implementation of the enhanced participation of women in politics;

6. **Decide** to take appropriate measures to facilitate networking between women parliamentarians of Asia in order to enable them to communicate their interests with their counterparts and different organizations;

7. **Express** concern at the situation of Palestinian and the Syrian women in the occupied Syrian Golan under Israeli occupation for suppression and injustice, and women in all war-torn areas such as Kashmir, Afghanistan, Iraq.

8. **Request** the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements to hold the second Coordinating Meeting of Women APA in 2014, seek the views of Member parliaments on this resolution and submit a report thereon to the meeting.



APA/Res/2013/17
9 December 2013

Resolution
on
“Developing the Inter- Faith Harmony
between the Different Religions of the World”

We the members of Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Mindful of the fact that, Inter- Faith Harmony between the different religions of the world in general and Asia in particular is of utmost importance for the survival of mankind and the promotion of the culture of peace and security,

Recalling with appreciation various global, regional and sub regional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony including the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/65/PV.34, the International Conference on Environment, Peace and the Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures, held in Tehran on 9 and 10 May 2005, the Asia-Europe Meeting Interfaith Dialogue on the theme "Building Interfaith Harmony within the International Community", held in Bali, Indonesia, on 21 and 22 July 2005, and United Nations General Assembly resolution 57/6 of 4 November 2002 concerning the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence,

Recognizing the need for dialogue among different faiths and religions in enhancing mutual collaboration, harmony and cooperation among nations of the world,

Admitting that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding,

- **Encourage** all parliaments to support and spread the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill, as such mutual understanding constitutes important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;
- **Expressing** the need to explore ways and means to intensify Inter- Faith Harmony and resultant cooperation to strengthen the international peace and security to make the world a better place to live;

- **Believe** that a regular dialogue between the parliaments of APA could become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international ongoing conflicts based on religious differences and discrepancies;
- **Denouncing** stereotyping of any religious, national or ethnic group and condemn any intentional and unintentional activity that leads towards the division between the followers of different faiths;
- **Urge** all Member Parliaments to harmonize their efforts in promulgating laws and legislations in Asia for improved standards of cooperation between the nations to enhance the patience for contradictory religious beliefs;
- **Believe** that terrorism, extremism and violence have no religion nor any borders, as these are common enemy of all humanity,
- **Encouraging** the international community to be cognizant of the grave humanitarian situation in Myanmar which involves violations of human rights against the Muslim community in Arakan region.
- **Condemns** Islamophobia in all its forms and considers it a manifestation of racism, bigotry and prejudice, which has no place in the comity of civilized nations.
- **Encourage** all Member Parliaments to intensify their efforts in utilizing parliamentary diplomacy for the development of international and regional frameworks to promote best practices which leads towards the inter faith harmony and collaboration.
- **Requests** the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on measures taken to implement this resolution and to report the efforts of Member Parliaments for their contribution in this regard.



**APA/ Decision/2013/01
10 December 2013**

**APA Decision
on
Modalities for Effective Organization of APA Meetings**

In line with customary international standards and the common practice by many international organizations, and in order to institutional the previous practice by Member Parliaments, the APA Plenary decides that the Secretariat officials serving the APA Meetings, including the services provided for the 6th APA Plenary, are entitled to Remuneration; Daily Subsistence Allowance and travel expenses on the basis of annual rates announced by the United Nations to be specified in the MOU between the Secretariat and the host Parliament.



APA/Decision/ 2013/02
10 December 2013

APA Decision
Troika - plus

The Plenary requests the Secretary-General to call for and arrange, in coordination with the current APA President, the meeting of APA Troika-Plus, whenever necessary, but not fewer than three times a year, at the APA Headquarters or elsewhere, and urges APA Troika and all other member parliaments to actively participate in such meetings to review major issues of international concerns to Asia and generate credible, high-caliber and timely reports for consideration by APA Executive Council.

ISLAMABAD DECLARATION

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), elected representatives of the people of Asia in 41 Member and 17 Observer countries, gathered in Islamabad on 8-10 December, 2013, for the APA Sixth Plenary Conference:

Mindful of the fact that we are meeting at a moment in our history that is witnessing historic transformations, with a decisive shift in the balance of economic, cultural and political power away from the West to the East, as the 21st Century is now generally considered as the 'Asian Century';

Realizing that the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, as the institutional voice of the 'Asian Century', must preserve, protect and promote the interests, aspirations and dreams of the teeming millions of Asians who are now determined that Asian hands must decide Asia's destiny,

Hereby,

1. Resolve to work in unison to promote cooperation and solidarity among Asian nations so that a collective vision and will is demonstrated to combat in a concerted manner the complex challenges that Asia faces in the 'Asian Century';
2. Commit to promote the pivotal role of Parliaments, emerging from inclusive democratic processes that have popular sanction through the ballot box, in realizing the hopes and dreams of their people for resolution of their long-standing problems, foremost among these being poverty alleviation and quest for a better quality of life;
3. Express our faith in building a just and equitable economic order, which provides for sustainable development, with fruits of progress benefiting the marginalized, the deprived, the minorities, women and youth, and all sections of society;
4. Recognize regional economic cooperation as an important pillar of promoting peaceful development and sharing prosperity, underlining the need for trade, commerce, investment, special economic zones, economic corridors, roads, railways and promoting energy cooperation;
5. Encourage collaboration among countries in energy and environment, so that together these result in 'green, clean and civilized development' and climate change and environmental degradation are combated, contained and controlled, thereby mitigating the consequences of the havoc caused in parts of Asia through natural and man-made disasters;
6. Affirm the inalienable right of every country to acquire, develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under IAEA safeguards, including access to civil nuclear technology without discrimination;

7. Express their strong commitment to pursue corruption-free politics and promote accountability in a transparent manner upholding the rule of law, so that credibility of political processes is enhanced among the people, empowering them as stakeholders, by giving priority to providing opportunities for the common man to rise on the basis of merit and hard-work;
8. Reject any form of prejudice, bigotry, bias, racism, xenophobia or Islamophobia, or discrimination on the basis of caste, class, religion, gender or ethnic origin, since these are repugnant to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, also signed this day in 1948, and to all canons of international law and principles of humanity;
9. Express their strong desire to promote dialogue among civilizations as well as strengthen inter-faith harmony and cooperation;
10. Resist all attempts to threaten the use of force or the actual use of force to resolve disputes among nations, believing that all conflicts require resolution through peaceful means including dialogue, bilateral or multilateral negotiations or mediation according to the United Nations Charter;
11. Call upon all parties in the Syrian conflict to agree to a ceasefire and to promote political dialogue in Syria in order to stop bloodshed and restore peace to the country. Syrian people have the sole right to determine their own destiny without outside interference. There is no military solution to this conflict.
12. Recognize the legitimate right to self determination of all people under foreign occupation;
13. Condemn all kinds of foreign occupation, interference in internal affairs and violations of territorial integrity and state sovereignty, be it through drone attacks, spying or telephone tapping, invasion or covert operations, which are not in compliance with the civilized conduct of interstate relations based on the rule of law;
14. Consider foreign occupation, terrorism and extremism as evils. Terrorism and extremism have no religion nor any national boundaries, since these are enemies of humanity, which need to be condemned universally and combated collectively as these are common threats, and underline the need to remove their root causes;
15. Desire to build a better future for Asia, based on cooperation in economy, energy and environment, by providing equal opportunity in all areas particularly education and employment for all, so that progress and prosperity are shared, and wealth is not concentrated in few hands;
16. Appreciate the role of Asian countries and societies in hosting refugees, who are victims of war, foreign occupation, violence, climate change or other kinds of disaster, since this

demonstrates the Asian spirit of resilience, generosity and a large-heartedness to host suffering humanity upholding brotherhood and camaraderie;

17. Seek to promote the path of peace and reconciliation as the way forward for Asia in the 'Asian Century' by promoting supremacy of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, the United Nations Charter and International Law;
18. Consider establishing a group of eminent and skilled persons from member parliaments of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to develop and provide vision for a more peaceful and developed Asia, bearing in mind that their valuable experience can be beneficial for Asian prosperity;
19. Determine to activate and build the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to realise its potential as a unique organization that can emerge as a credible, representative, institutional voice of the Asian people in the 'Asian Century'; and in this context, resolve to create a special committee to lay the groundwork for establishment of the Asian Parliament in order to encourage all Asian countries to meet the demands of the 'Asian Century.'
20. Express our gratitude to the Parliament and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for graciously hosting the 6th Plenary Conference of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly;

Signed in Islamabad on the Tenth Day of December in the Year Two Thousand and Thirteen.

**CONFIRMED LIST OF PARTICIPANTS BY NAME RECEIVED FROM APA MEMBER
PARLIAMENTS**

| S. No. | County Name | Number/Names of Delegates attending | Head/Leader of Delegation |
|---------------|--------------------|---|---|
| 1. | Afghanistan | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hon. Mr. Mirwais Yasini, First Deputy Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People) – National Assembly of Afghanistan 2. Hon. Mr. Keramudin Rezazada, Member of the Wolesi Jirga 3. Hon. Mr. Gul Badshah Majeedi, MP 4. Hon. Mr. Abdul Wadud Popal, Member of the Wolesi Jirga 5. Hon. Mr. Amir Mohammad Yar, Member of the Wolesi Jirga 6. Hon. Mr. Qurban Ali Urfani, Member of the Wolesi Jirga 7. Hon. Mrs. Najia Babakerkhil, Member of the Wolesi Jirga 8. Hon. Mrs. Zahra Tokhi Zabuli, Member of the Wolesi Jirga 9. Hon. Mrs. Golali Akbari, Senator 10. Hon. Mr. Khan Mohammad Khagai, Senator 11. Hon. Mr. Hafiz A. Qauom Nooristani, Senator 12. Mr. Toryalay Ibrahimkhil, Chief of Staff of the First Deputy Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People) National Assembly of Afghanistan 13. Mr. Samiullah Hussaini, Director of Relations with IPU 14. Mr. Syed Qudratullah Raz, Protocol Officer | Hon. Mr. Mirwais Yasini, First Deputy Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People)/National Assembly |
| 2. | Bahrain | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Ahmed Almulla – Head of Committee on Legislative and Legal Affairs (Head of Delegation) 2. Mr. Abbas Almadhi – Member of Council of Representatives – Head of Committee on Services 3. Mr. Abdulaziz Abul (Dr.) – Member of Shura Council 4. Mr. Naser Almubarak (Dr.) – Member of Shura Council 5. Mr. Abdulla Huwail - Member of Council of Representatives 6. Mr. Mohamed Alammadi – Member of Council of Representatives 7. Mr. Yusuf Marhoon – Media Specialist 8. Mr. Basem Almalki – Administrative Assistant | Mr. Ahmed Almulla – Head of Committee on Legislative and Legal Affairs (Head of Delegation) |
| 3. | Cambodia | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Dr. Nguon Nhel, First Vice President of the National Assembly 2. H.E. Dr. Nhem Thavy, MP and Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights Reception of Complains Investigation 3. H.E. Mr. Chit Kim Yeat, MP, Vice-Chairman of Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media of Senate | H.E. Dr. Nguon Nhel, First Vice President of the National Assembly |

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| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. H.E. Mr. Suos Yara, MP and Vice-Chairman of Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media of Senate 5. H.E. Mr. Nguon Rasmey, Advisor to the First Vice President of National Assembly 6. H.E. Mr. Uy Visal, Assistant 7. Mr. Pen Prakath, Interpreter 8. Mr. Hok Bunly, Assistant 9. Mrs. Vann Vimol, Assistant 10. H.E. Mr. Yin Chumnith, Assistant | |
| 4. | China | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hon. Ms. Zhao Shaohua, Vice Chairman of the FAs Committee of the NPC of China 2. Hon. Mr. Gu Yidong, Member of the Environmental Protection and Resource Conservation Committee of the NPC 3. Ms. Wang Aihua, Director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the General Office of the SC of the NPC 4. Ms. Wang Yixing, Staff Member of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the General Office of the SC of the NPC 5. Ms. Zhao Yue, Staff Member of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the General Office of the SC of the NPC 6. Mr. Meng Ran, Staff Member of the Department of Int. Organization and Conferences of M/o Foreign Affairs | Hon. Ms. Zhao Shaohua, Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress of China (NPC) |
| 5. | Cyprus | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Kyriacos Kyriakou, Member of Parliament, House of Representatives 2. Ms. Stella Mishiaouli Demetriou, Member of Parliament, House of Representatives 3. Ms. Avgousta Christou, International Relations Officer A', House of Representatives | Visa on arrival request |
| 6. | DPR Korea | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hon. Kim Wan Su, Vice Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly 2. Hon. Kim Kyong Ho, Member 3. Hon. Hyon Jong Ung, Member 4. Hon. Kim Hak Song, Member 5. Jon chang Su, Researcher, M/o Foreign Affairs | H.E. Vice Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea |
| 7. | Indonesia | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Surahman Hidayat, MA, Head of Delegation 2. Andi Anzhar Cakra Wijaya, SH, Member 3. Bokiratu Nitabudhi Susanti, SE, MM, Member 4. Emil Abeng, Member 5. Nazarudin Kiemas, Member 6. Saiful Islam, Secretary 7. Bowo Hoetomo, Secretary 8. Heriyono Adi Anggoro, Expert 9. Yuliana Tansil, Translator | Dr. Surahman Hidayat, MA – Head of Delegation |

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| 8. | Iran | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Mr. Abuturabi Fard, Honourable Deputy Speaker 2. H.E. Mr. Gholamali Haddad Adel, Member of Islamic Parliament of Iran 3. H.E. Mr. Hossein Amiri Khamkani, Member of Islamic Parliament of Iran 4. H.E. Mehrdad Bazarpush, Member of Islamic Parliament of Iran 5. H.E. Avaz Hyderpour, Member of Islamic Parliament of Iran 6. Mohammad Javad Nazari Mehr, Member of Islamic Parliament of Iran 7. H.E. Mr. Hossein Nejabat, Member of Islamic Parliament of Iran 8. H.E. Mr. Hossein Sheikh ul Islam, Advisor to Speaker and Director General International Affairs 9. H.E. Mr. Hassan Ghafoori Fard, Ex-member Parliament 10. Mr. Mostafa Hadeyaiti Manash, Head of Parliamentary delegations department 11. Mr. Syyed Murteza Razaviyani, Hon. Head of International Forums of the Parliament 12. Mr. Reza Jamsheedi, Guard 13. Mr. Hassan Hashim Panah, Guard 14. Mr. Mehdi Taghi Begi, Guard | H.E. Mr. Abuturabi Fard, Hon. Deputy Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament) |
| 9. | Iraq | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Osama Abdul Aziz Al-Nujaifi, Speaker of Council of Representatives of Iraq 2. H.E. Humam Baqir Hamoudi, MP 3. H.E. Adila Hammoud, MP 4. H.E. Shayaan Muhammad Tahir Saeed, MP 5. H.E. Arkaan Zibari, MP 6. H.E. Rafi Abd al-Jabbar, MP 7. H.E. Salman Al-Jumaili, MP 8. H.E. Mahma Khalil, MP 9. H.E. Jamal Al-Gilani, MP 10. H.E. Ruqiyah Al-Tamimi, MP 11. H.E. Yasin Majeed, MP 12. H.E. Najib Abdullah Mohi, MP 13. H.E. Wihdah Al-Jumaili, MP 14. H.E. Hassan Auzmn, MP 15. H.E. Wisaal Saleem, MP 16. H.E. Luis Caro Bender, MP 17. Mr. Iyad Namiq Majeed, Secretary General 18. Mr. Iden Helmi Ahmed, Counsel 19. Mr. Haidar Jassim Muthanna, DG 20. Mr. Sabah Latif Al-Karboli, Advisor 21. Mr. Khalid Hussain Taufiq, Senior Companion 22. Mr. Namir Ghanim Mahmmod, Special Companion 23. Mr. Sinan Osama Abdul Aziz Najafi, Personal Secretary | H.E. Osama Abdul Aziz Al-Nujaifi, Speaker of Council of Representatives of Iraq – Head of delegation |

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| | | <p>24. Mr. Usaam Rashid Ismail , Protocol 25. Mr. Maha Muhammad Hassan, Advisory 26. Mr. Nibras Abdul Hussain Nahi, Media Bureau 27. Mr. Ali Jasim Muhammad, Personal Photographer 28. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Aziz Siwadi, Personal Photographer 29. Mr. Mushtaq Salim Katah, Hospitality 30. Mr. Yahya Shiet, Special Guards of the President 31. Mr. Haytham Younis, Special Guards of the President 32. Mr. Murtatha Myser, Special Guards of the President 33. Mr. Muhammad Sulaiman, , Special Guards of the President 34. Mr. Ali Ahmed, , Special Guards of the President 35. Mr. Ahmed Mahfooz, , Special Guards of the President 36. Mr. Raed Jamil Abd, Baghdad Satellite Channel 37. Mr. Majid Ubaid Awad, Baghdad Satellite Channel 38. Mr. Haider Hamid Kata, Al-Sharqiya Satellite Channel 39. Mr. Hassan Ibrahim Mathloom, , Al-Sharqiya Satellite Channel</p> | |
| 10. | Jordan | <p>1. H.E. Mr. Mazen Hamad Issa (Al Dala'en Jwazneh), Second Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives 2. H.E. Dr. Moh'd. Ibrahim Sultan Obeidat, Member of the Senate 3. H.E. Mr. Mohammad Fuad Mohammad Al-Khassawneh, Assistant of the Speaker 4. Mr. Majd A'sem Ahmad Khasawneh, Public Relations Officer 5. Mrs. Khadijah Saleh A. (Alaubeen Maaitah) W/o H.E. Mr. Mazen Hamad Issa (Al Dala'en Jwazneh) 6. Mrs. Wafa Ahmad Saleh Al Khasoneh W/o H.E. Mr. Mohammad Fuad Mohammad Al-Khassawneh</p> | H.E. Mr. Mazen Hamad Issa (Al Dala'en Jwazneh), Second Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives |
| 11. | Kuwait | <p>1. H.E. Mr. Mubarak Baniah Alkhurainej, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the State of Kuwait 2. Mr. Jamal Hussain Alumer, Secretarial of the Division of Parliament – Member 3. Mr. Faisal Fahad AlShale, Secretary of Parliament Department-Member of National Assembly 4. Dr. Abdullah Mohammad Altaraji – Member 5. Mr. Mazi Mohammad Alhajri – Member 6. Mr. Saleh Ahmed Ashoor – Member 7. Mr. Bani Mutab Alkurainej, Director Manager of Dy. Speaker 8. Mr. Shahab Jihad Alenezi, Director International Affairs 9. Mr. Dhiab Mohammad Aldehani, Director Parliamentary Relation Development 10. Mr. Mashal Mohammad Alenezi, Director Arab Affairs 11. Mr. Faleh Sheeifan Alotaibi, Director Protocol 12. Mr. Jamal Naser Alenezi, Photographer</p> | H.E. Mr. Mubarak Baniah Alkhurainej, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the State of Kuwait |

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| | | 13. Mr. Mahmood Saeed Alkhaledi, Photographer 14. Mr. Rashed KH R F Alfandi, Editor at Kuwait News Agency | |
| 12. | Kyrgyz Republic | Mr. Tamanov Toktogul, Member of the Parliament and Member of the Committee of International Relations | |
| 13. | Lebanon | i) Mr. Hassan Fadlallah, Deputy, Chairman of I&T Committee ii) Mr. Antoine Saad, Deputy | Mr. Hassan Fadlallah, Deputy, Chairman of I&T Committee – Head of Delegation |
| 14. | Malaysia | 1. Hon. Dato' Ismail Haji Mohamed Said, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Malaysia 2. Hon. Dato' Irmohizam Ibrahim, Member 3. Hon. Dato' Hj Mohd Zaim bin Hj Aby Hasan, MP 4. Mr. Mahathir Latib, Secretary to the delegation 5. Ms. Datin Rose Norashikin Abdullah, w/o Hon. Dy. Speaker | Hon. Dato' Ismail Haji Mohamed Said, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Malaysia will lead the delegation |
| 15. | Maldives | Hon. Shifaq Mufeed, MP Hon. Mohamed Nasheed, MP | |
| 16. | Pakistan | <u>Senate of Pakistan (8)</u> 1. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq 2. Senator Mian Raza Rabbani 3. Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri 4. Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo 5. Senator Syeda Sughra Imam 6. Senator Mrs. Kalsoom Parveen 7. Senator Mr. Abbas Khan 8. Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel 9. Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi <u>National Assembly (11)</u> i) Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker ii) Sardar Awais Ahmed Leghari, Member iii) Mr. Muhammad Aijaz Chaudhry, Member iv) Barrister Shahnawaz Ranjha, Member v) Ms. Marvi Memon, Member vi) Mr. Isphendyar Bhindara, Member vii) Mr. Mehmood Khan Achakzai, Member | Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq, Leader of the House in the Senate – Head of delegation |

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| | | <p>viii) Ms. Asia Nasir, Member ix) Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari, Member x) Ms. Shazia Marri, Member xi) Dr. Azhar Khan Jadoon, Member xii) Mr. Asad Umar, Member <u>(Punjab Provincial Assembly)</u></p> <p>1. Engineer Qamar-ul-Islam Raja, MPA 2. Mr. Ehsan Riaz Fatyana, MPA <u>(Sindh Provincial Assembly)</u></p> <p>1. Agha Siraj Khan Durani, Speaker 2. Syeda Shehla Raza, Deputy Speaker <u>(Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly)</u></p> <p>1. Mr. Imtiaz Shahid Qureshi Advocate, Deputy Speaker 2. Mr. Zia Ullah Bangash, MPA <u>(Balochistan Provincial Assembly)</u></p> <p>1. Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali, Speaker 2. Mir Abdul Qadus Bizenjo, Deputy Speaker <u>(AJ&K Legislative Assembly)</u></p> <p>1. Sardar Ghulam Sadiq Khan, Speaker 2. Mrs. Shaheen Kausar Dar, Deputy Speaker 3. Ch. Basharat Hussain, Secretary Legislative Assembly 4. Mr. Mustafa Ali Asghar, Assistant Staff Officer to Speaker <u>(Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly)</u></p> <p>1. Mr. Wazir Baig, Speaker 2. Mr. Jamil Ahmed, Deputy Speaker</p> | |
| 17. | Palau | <p>1. H.E. Mr. Camsek Elias Chin, Senate President 2. Ms. Adora Nobuo, Assistant to the President</p> | H.E. Mr. Camsek Elias Chin, Senate President will lead the delegation |
| 18. | Palestine | <p>i) H.E. Rev. Constantine Karmash, PNC Deputy Speaker ii) Mr. Zuhair Sanduqa, PNC Member (Member) iii) Mr. Omar Hamed, Adviser</p> | PNC Deputy Speaker will lead the Delegation |

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| 19. | Philippines | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Congressman, Rufus Rodriguez, MP 2. Congresswoman Ma. Georgina de Venecia, MP 3. Mrs. Felina Rodriguez (Spouse) 4. Ms. Ligaya Cristobal, Official 5. Mr. Aldwin Requejo, Assistant to Ms Jose de Venecia | |
| 20. | Russia | <p>Composition Russian Parliamentarian Delegation</p> <p>State Duma of the Federal Assembly, Russian Federation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Mr. Mikhail Emelianov, Member of Parliament ii) Ms. Zugura Rakhmatullina, Member of Parliament iii) Hon. Rafail Zinurov, Senator (Member of the Upper House) iv) Mr. Vitaly Zolochevskiy, Member of Parliament v) Mr. Anvar Makhmutov, Member of Parliament vi) Mrs. Olga Folomeeva, Chief Advisor of the International Department of the Council of Federation vii) Ms. Yulia Guskova, Advisor, International Relations Department viii) Mrs. Veronika Belousova, Interpreter, of the Council of Federation ix) Ms. Natalia Voronina, Interpreter x) Mr. Vladimir Dashko, Interpreter | Mr. Mikhail Emelianov, Member of Parliament, Head of the combined Russian delegation |
| 21. | Saudi Arabia | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al Alsheikh, Chairman/Speaker of the Shura Council (Majlis Al-Shura) 2. Mr. Saeed Abdullah Alsheikh, MP 3. H.E. Dr. Elham Mahjoub Hassanein, MP 4. Mr. Ibrahim Abdulaziz Alzahim, DG Relationship 5. Mr. Mohammed Hamad Albrahim, Director Protocol 6. Mr. Khaled Mohammed Al-Mansour, Director, Dept. of Unions and Parliamentary Forums 7. Mr. Ali Abdullah Alkhodair, Parliamentary Division 8. Mr. Akram Ibrahim Hobrom, Director Translation 9. Mr. Anas Abd Al-Aziz Al-Saeed, Parliamentary Division 10. Mr. Fahad Abdulrahman Bin Shalhoub, Official Ceremony 11. Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Sharidi, Informative 12. Mr. Fahad Abdulaziz Alomer, Secretary 13. Mr. Sultan Abdulrazaq Alfahad, Videographer 14. Mr. Bassam Abdulaziz Albahar, Photographer | H.E. Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al Alsheikh, Chairman of the Shura Council (Majlis Ash-Shura), Head of delegation |
| 22. | Sri Lanka | Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Deputy Speaker, | Deputy Speaker of Parliament will lead the delegation |

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| | | Parliament of Sri Lanka | |
| 23. | Syria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) H.E. Mr. MHD. Jihad Al-Lahham, Speaker Syrian People’s Assembly ii) Mr. Saeed Ella, MP iii) Mrs. Ibtisam Al Dibs, MP iv) Mr. Nabil Darwish, MP v) Ms. Ghada Ibrahim, MP vi) Mr. Abdul Rahman Azkahe, MP vii) Mr. MHD. Nasser Al-Wawi, Director Public Relations viii) Mr. Abdul Athim Diyab, Protocol | H.E. Mr. MHD. Jihad Al-Lahham, Speaker Syrian People’s Assembly will lead the delegation |
| 24. | Tajikistan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Ghaforova Nazira Abdulloevna, Deputy Chairman, House of Representatives 2. H. E. Safarov Amirkhon, Deputy Chairman of Committee on International Relations, Social Unions and Information, House of Representatives | H.E. Ghaforova Nazira Abdulloevna, Deputy Chairman, House of Representatives |
| 25. | Thailand | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Hon. ACM Veerawit Kongsag, Member of the Senate ii) Hon. Mr. Phairoj Tanbanjong, Member of the House of the Representatives (delegate) iii) Hon. Mr. Worawit Baru, Member of the Senate (delegate) iv) Mr. Kitti Saereeprayoon, Foreign Relation Officer, Secretariat of the House of Representatives (Secretary to the delegation) v) Mr. Pattala Sirinirund, Foreign Relation Officer, Secretariat of the House of Representatives (Secretary to the delegation) | Hon. ACM Veerawit Kongsag, Member of the Senate – Head of the delegation |
| 26. | Tonga | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Mr. Lord Fakafanua, Speaker, Legislative Assembly 2. Mrs. Sepiuta Fusimalohi, Personal Assistant of the Speaker | H.E. Mr. Lord Fakafanua, Speaker, Legislative Assembly |
| 27. | Turkey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Prof. Dr. Mr. Yuksel OZDEN, MP ii) Mr. Mustafa Kemal SERBETCIOGLU, MP iii) Prof. Dr. Mr. Ercan CANDAN, MP iv) Prof. Dr. Mr. Alim ISIK, MP v) Mr. Murat Hasturk, Secretary of the delegation vi) Mr. Mustafa Fatih Bayoar, Secretary | Prof. Dr. Mr. Yuksel Ozden, MP will lead the delegation |
| 28. | UAE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Ahmad Mohammad Aljarawan, Speaker of Arab Parliament and Member of the Federal National Council of UAE 2. H.E. Musabeh Saeed Alkitbi, Member of the Arab Parliament and Member of the Federal National Council of UAE 3. Mr. Faras | H.E. Ahmad Mohammad Aljarawan, Speaker of Arab Parliament and Member of the Federal National Council of UAE |

**CONFIRMED LIST OF PARTICIPANTS BY NAME RECEIVED FROM APA OBSERVER
PARLIAMENTS**

| S. No. | County Name | Number/Names of Delegates attending | Head/Leader of Delegation |
|---------------|--------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Azerbaijan | Mr. Asaf Hajiyev, MP Mr. Mubzariz Gurbanli, MP | |
| 2. | Oman | H. E. Said bin Jumaa Al Ghuzaili, Majles A'shura H.E. Sultan bin Rashid Al Buraiki, Majles A'shura Mr. Musallam bin Said bin Musallam Massan, Majles A'shura | |

CONFIRMED LIST OF PARTICIPANTS BY NAME RECEIVED FROM APA ORGANIZATION

| | | | |
|----|-------------|---|---|
| 1. | AIPU | Mr. Nour Eddine Bouchkouj | Secretary General |
| 2. | IPA EURASEC | 1. Mr. Petr Zverev, Executive Secretary of the IPA EurAsEC 2. Mr. Anatolii Maryshev, First Deputy of the Executive Secretary of the IPA EurAsEC 3. Mr. Viaeheslav Sluehevskiy, Deputy of the Executive Secretary of the IPA EurAsEC | Executive Secretary of the IPA EurAsEC |
| 3. | PUIC | Dr. Mahmut Erol Kilic, Secretary General Mr. Aliasghar Mohammadi Sijani, Assistant Secretary General | Dr. Mahmut Erol Kilic, Secretary General |
| 4. | Sudan/ICAPP | 1. H.E. Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie – Vice President of the Ruling National Congress for the Party's affairs/Secretary General, CAPP 2. Dr. Easa Bishri Mohammed (Secretary for Asian Relations in the National Congress Party) 3. Dr. Mohammed Sayed Jabir (Head of West Asia Department in the Party) 4. <i>H.E. Elhadi Mustafa, Vice President of the Sudan</i> 5. <i>H.E. Ahmed Yaist, Protocol</i> 6. <i>H.E. El nimie Abdel Kareem, Protocol</i> | <i>H.E. Elhadi Mustafa, Vice President of the Sudan</i> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. <i>H.E. Kanal Eldin Omer, Protocol</i> 8. Mr. Hassan Ghafourifard 9. Mr. Mahdi Soli | |
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CONFIRMED JOURNALISTS FOR APA

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| 1. | Italy (Rome) | Savio Roberto (Journalist) | |
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APA SECRETARIAT

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| 1. | APA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Dr. Seyed Mohammad Hadi Nejad Hossienian, Secretary General 2. Dr. Gholam Ali Khoshroo, Assistant Secretary- General 3. Mr. Amir Hossein Zamaninia, Assistant Secretary- General 4. Dr. Ali Khorram, Assistant Secretary- General 5. Dr. Masoud Eslami, Assistant Secretary- General 6. Mr. Bijan Moshirvaziri, Assistant Secretary- General 7. Mr. Ali Akbar Farazi, Assistant Secretary- General 8. Mr. Asghar Azarikhah, Advisor 9. Mr. Saeed Sohrabinia, Head of IT Division 10. Mr. Seyed Saber Abdollahi, Administration Officer | <p>H.E. Dr. Seyed Mohammad Hadi Nejad Hossienian, Secretary General</p> |
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SIXTH PLENARY SESSION
ASIAN PARLIAMENATRY ASSEMBY
8- 10 DECEMBER, 2013
ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

BY

CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE

HIS EXCELLENCY SYED NAYYER HUSSAIN BOKHARI



- *Honourable Speakers, Presiding Officers, Members and Representatives of APA Member Parliaments and Observer delegations.*
- *Honourable Speakers of Provincial Assemblies.*
- *Honourable Dr Haddad Adel,*
First APA President.
- *Excellency Dr. Nejad Hosseinian,*
Secretary-General, Asian Parliamentary Assembly.
- *My Dear Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed,*
Chairman of the Organizing Committee of APA.
- *Excellencies, Dignitaries, Distinguished Guests.*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen!*

Assalam-o-Alaikum and a very Good Morning!

It is a great privilege and pleasure to warmly welcome all our distinguished participants, who have travelled here from far and wide across

the vast expanse of the Asian continent, to the inaugural session of the 6th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA).

Capturing the spirit of this momentous occasion, I am, therefore, honoured to extend, on behalf of Pakistan's Parliament, six Provincial and Regional Assemblies, heartiest greetings to all of you, especially the honourable delegates from APA Member and Observer countries.

Moreover, being Acting President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, it is my pleasure to extend, on behalf of the whole Pakistani nation, sincerest sentiments of goodwill, brotherhood and friendship to our distinguished guests.

It comes as a great pride to share that this APA Plenary Session being hosted by the Senate of Pakistan is one of the largest inter-parliamentary gathering ever arranged in the history of Pakistan's Parliament.

With 28 Member and two Observer countries participating in this important event that brings together the best of robust Asian minds, visionaries, and experienced lawmakers under one roof, I look forward to mutually-beneficial discussions bringing forth joint strategies and solutions to the common challenges.

I am pleased to note that since its inception, APA has come a long way as an important regional forum widely acknowledged as the institutional voice of Asian parliaments.

I cannot help recalling that it was right here in our beautiful Capital city Islamabad that the idea of establishing APA was first conceived at the 5th General Assembly of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) back in 2004.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Early this year, Pakistan witnessed a historic transition from one democratically-elected government to another for the first time in our parliamentary and electoral history. Partners in this process of change, our proactive Parliament, the Executive, independent Judiciary, free Media and robust Civil Society are all contributing to strengthening and sustaining democracy in the country.

Pakistan is also proactively pursuing a socio-economic uplift, sustainable development and regional cooperation and peace agenda. It is a vision that envisages progress and wellbeing of not only the people of Pakistan, but also of the teeming millions throughout Asia. It is also a vision whose realization will remain impossible without joining hands and building synergies across the region.

As such, your presence here at the platform of APA is not only a source of encouragement for the Pakistani nation, but also a commendable gesture of support for the continuity of the democratic process in Pakistan. It is also a testament of APA Members' firm commitment to achieving the commonly cherished ideals of Asian Century.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Throughout ages, Asia has been a cradle of wisdom and knowledge, with its diverse history, culture, literature, art, architecture and way of living having enriched humanity. For thousands of years, its history has been shaped by larger-than-life personalities. From the fierce conquerors and brilliant philosophers of ancient times, to the visionary political leaders, thinkers and humanitarians of today, Asia continues to inspire the whole world.

The 21st Century is again witnessing the rise of the Asian continent in international affairs. Rich in immense potential and resources, with Asian engineers, scientists, programmers, and entrepreneurs now pushing the boundaries of their professions, Asia now stands unchallenged in an exclusive league of its own on the world stage.

Having led the world out of the worst recession in over half a century, Asia is set to become global economic power house with current trends envisaging that by 2030, Asia's economy will be larger than that of the United States and European Union combined with the region's share of world GDP swelling from a little under 30 percent closer to more than 40 percent.

All these attributes emphatically depict that the 21st Century is truly the Asian Century. Achieving Global well-being will remain a distant reality without acknowledging importance of Asia's definitive role in world affairs.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The present times are marked by significant transitions taking place at both regional and global levels. While the gravitational centre of global economic power is shifting from the West to the East, another transition pertains to states' tackling of cross-cutting challenges by taking a departure from the previous stand-alone approach to fostering cooperation and linkages in an increasingly inter-dependent world.

However, the most important transition of our times is being witnessed at the parliamentary and political level. The role of modern day democratic parliaments is undergoing a major transformation with legislatures evolving as hubs of collective wisdom and rational and visionary thinking of a nation, personified by proactive public representatives.

As such, legislatures are now driving and shaping public policy, which was previously considered the exclusive domain of the Executive. Going a step further, the legislatures are also defining contours of foreign policy and bilateral relations, utilizing parliamentary diplomacy channels.

The timing of 6th APA Plenary session could not have been more relevant and pertinent keeping in view these important transitions taking place around us.

The Asian countries are faced with numerous cross-cutting and common challenges as they journey together towards a common destination that promises prosperity, growth and progress based on the principles of sustainable development, equitable distribution of wealth and resources and basic amenities for all.

Be it the specter of transnational terrorism threatening our peace and security; socio-economic ramifications of climate change; Energy deficit dampening our developmental aspirations; or eradication of poverty, the issues are more contagious than endemic and isolated. Fostering regional synergy and cultivating strong partnerships is, therefore, direly needed to translate challenges into opportunities – and APA holds the key in this regard.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The conference theme “**Asian Century; Cooperation in Economy, Energy and Environment**” is motivated by the idea that faster growth in Asia, that is both inclusive and sustainable, depends not only on efforts made by individual Asian countries, but equally, on collective regional action.

We have the potential and resources to make this century “An Asian Century” in true sense. However, in order to achieve this common vision and tide over all challenges in our way, we must pay special attention towards resolving the most pressing and crosscutting issues.

- We must enhance trade and investment integration as well as macroeconomic and financial cooperation to secure regional economic stability.
- We must find prompt and durable solutions to the growing energy deficit that threatens to derail our economies with a domino effect on all socio-economic sectors.

- APA nations must take lead towards creating an integrated Asian Energy market and exploring renewable Energy sources in order to make cheap and clean energy available to both our people and industries.
- Judicious development of Asia's renewable energy resources is crucial as the end goal of Asia's energy strategy.
- We must protect Environment for our present and future generations by adopting sustainable means of development.

Most importantly, it is time to move from the realm of ideas to plans of action. Statements and pledges have to be translated into programs of implementation.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

This APA Plenary session is bringing together a cross-section of stakeholders from the region to review and reflect on the issues that Asian Century is facing. Cooperation is a key to success in the modern globalized world, as sustainable development is not possible in isolation.

APA has, over the years, provided regional parliamentarians an invaluable platform to work for promotion of peace, security and socio-economic uplift of their peoples. Now, it is our joint obligation to build synergies and pool resources for collective development and prosperity of the people of Asia, and make this century truly an Asian Century.

In particular, APA's role in amicably resolving ongoing regional conflicts like Palestine, Syria and Kashmir will be important for peace and stability of not only the Asian continent, but the entire world.

It is about time that the APA played a more proactive role in evolving mutually-acceptable frameworks and legal interventions towards safeguarding political liberties, human freedoms and the rule of law in the region.

Joining hands through increased inter-parliamentary and people-to-people contacts will enable APA Members parliaments play a more active role in promoting common ideals of peace, progress and respect of cultural diversity.

With these words, I hope that deliberations during this Conference will pave the way for more targeted efforts to strengthen APA and make it an effective regional forum truly representative of aspirations of the people of Asia.

Let me once again welcome you all. I wish you a comfortable stay, hoping that this conference, building on the collective wisdom, experience and expertise of seasoned parliamentarians and experts from across APA spectrum, will be a truly motivating, stimulating and mutually-beneficial experience for all.

I conclude on the words of late Dr. Allama Mohammad Iqbal, celebrated Poet of the East and National Poet of Pakistan, who had visualized “The Rise of East” back in 1933 when he prophetically wrote these lines:

**OPEN THE EYES,
SEE THE LAND,
SEE THE SKY,
LOOK AT THE HORIZEN,
SEE THE SUN,
RISING FROM THE EAST!**

Thank you!

Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Speech of H.E. Dr. Haddad Adel

Member of the Iranian parliament

The former President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly

at

The Sixth Plenary session

8-11 December 2013

Islamabad Pakistan

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**Mr. President,
Respectful Heads and Members of Asian Parliaments
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me to express my pleasure for successfully holding the Sixth Plenary session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in the friendly and brotherly country of Pakistan. By this valuable decision of presiding this summit, Pakistan Parliament took a proper well – timed step towards strengthening APA's status. I should sincerely thank the Syrian Parliament for its efforts to have the Presidency of the Fifth Assembly, despite the internal problems.

I am sure that the Sixth Meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly with adopting important and constructive decisions will facilitate the integration and cooperation in Asia, and will bring valuable achievements in the areas of economic, political, cultural and parliamentary diplomacy.

**Excellencies
Respectful Members of Parliaments**

According to the objectives which are specified in the Charter of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly this body provides coordination in Parliamentary activities to promote freedom, equality, justice , social welfare, security , stability , friendship and peace in Asia. Decisions of the Assembly which are reached by Members consensus reflect the attitudes and orientations of the biggest parliamentary institution in Asia. Members of legislative councils are the direct representatives of the people who are elected according to variability of regions, ethnicities, languages and cultures.

On this basis, Members of Parliaments have an extensive and continuous communication with their community, and are representing the thoughts, aspirations and needs of each nation. Due to their important role, Parliaments have high potential to improve international relations and contribute to economic and social development in the world.

According to diversity and variety of communication methods and the more serious role of the people in important decision making, Parliamentary diplomacy plays a significant role in international relations. Members of parliaments, by using parliamentary diplomacy, have succeeded in preventing war and violence and saved their governments from being involved in military activities and distractive wars.

Although Parliamentarians have an important role in rational and equitable international relations, yet they are not restricted by considerations made by governments when discussing and presenting plans and proposals, this fact provides more freedom of action for MPs. Parliamentary diplomacy could create new opportunities for traditional diplomacy, and could provide better means for exchanging experience in cultural and political cooperation, and in dialogue between religions and cultures.

Strengthening the relationship between MPs in Asia creates an appropriate condition for members to have a better understanding of each other and paves the way for introducing new initiatives to face global and regional challenges.

In view of the effective role of parliaments, I suggest to this meeting to apply its great capacity to play a pioneer role in preventing sectarian and ethnic violence, and controlling foreign penetration and intervention to wage war and enmity in Asia. Occupation, war and intensifying sectarian violence will undermine the cultural and economic capacity of countries, and will only serve the devilish Swirl of dependency and poverty, violence and bloodshed.

Honorable Members of Parliaments

It is the especial talent of human beings to deal properly with differences. Educated persons do not deny the differences and also do not use them as excuse for hostility and violence. Essence of human being will flourish in hard situations, and to the extent that wisdom and generosity are employed opportunities for civilized manner and constructive dialogues will bloom.

In our present world nobody can survive solely. We are sharing prosperity and happiness and our differences are illustrated in economical, political, social and cultural issues. We should refrain ourselves to aggrandize these differences in our personal affairs or in the national or international levels.

Tolerance and cooperation are the most important needs of modern human to establish a free and justly society. Those who based on their power or wealth, are imposing themselves, will only spread hostility and abhorrence. Mutual confidence, ethical behavior, respecting the views and votes of people and commitment to wisdom, friendship and peace open the doors for constructive dialogues and glorious life. Religious patience and refraining of denouncing Muslims and respecting each other views, will stop hatred and extremist activities. In order to reach the pure fact, the Holy Quran invites all Muslims to solve their disputes patiently and through logical discussion. Therefore, Muslims are recommended to follow the Quran's instructed method of dialogue.

Asia has been the birthplace of divine religious and great human civilizations. Unfortunately, violence –oriented groups and brutal forces in west with their historic resentment against Islam, have employed all of their cultural and media capabilities to provide negative image of Islam and are trying to suggest the inefficiency of religious democratic Islamic governments as well as Islam phobia.

Asia has a unique and excellent cultural position in the world. It is the greatest continent with the most sensitive geo- strategic points in the whole world. Almost two third of world population are inhabitant of this continent. This population is providing valuable manpower and encouraging the rapid economical growth. Asia besides of manpower has also the richest natural, mineral and energy resources in the world.

Mr. President

In conclusion I would like to appreciate efforts of His Excellency Dr. Nejad Hossienian, respectful Secretary General of APA and his colleagues in the Secretariat. I also congratulate the APA Presidency to distinguished brother Honorable Mr. Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, chairman of Senate of Pakistan and I wish him a successful period of presidency. I hope in current session we observe excellent and tangible progress in our programs.

Thank you

***We must now move towards our Asian
Parliament:
From vision to reality?***

***Message from
FORMER PHILIPPINE SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA
FOUNDING CHAIRMAN AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ASIAN
POLITICAL PARTIES (ICAPP)***

***SIXTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE
ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)
ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN; 8-10 DECEMBER 2013***

Friends and colleagues—

A fractured shoulder injury from an accident in San Francisco prevents me from being with you today.

—Yet I feel I *must declare* my appreciation for all the participants in this Sixth Plenary of our Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

—I also feel I should say a few words in tribute to our colleague, Senator *Mushahid Hussain Sayed*, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Defense and Defense Production and of the Organizing Committee of this 6th APA Plenary, whose great efforts together with the Chairman of the Senate, Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, Speaker of National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, and Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif made possible this Islamabad Plenary.

—I also wish to congratulate former Speaker Haddad Adel, Co-founder and First APA President, who, aided by Secretary General Nejad Hossenian, and Under Secretary-General for Legal and Political Affairs

Masoud Islami, have been working hard to achieve our collective dream of an Asian Parliament.

—May I also greet my dear old friend, a distinguished parliamentary leader of Iran, former Deputy Speaker Muhammad Hasan Abu Turabi.

This Islamabad Plenary will also mark a historic first meeting between the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) and the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) led by my able Co-Chairman and Secretary General Chung Eui-yong of the Republic of Korea. Incidentally, Sen. Mushahid is also the outstanding Special Rapporteur of ICAPP.

The ICAPP-APA Meeting here in Islamabad, which we in ICAPP and APA have long sought to bring about, could be a first step in bringing together political parties and parliaments to work together for common causes.

—And *finally*, I feel I must urge you—*fellow pilgrims in search of Asian unity*—to greater effort—since I believe we're in sight of our end-goal.

So—as Filipinos do whenever they face a difficulty—I turned to my wife, *Gina*, to speak to you on my behalf.

(And I'm confident she'd do a better job of it, too. As Congresswoman, she heads the 79-member Women's Caucus in our Philippine House of Representatives, where she unanimously won a second term.)

SENATOR MUSHAHID'S LEADERSHIP IN THE APA

—Welcome, then, friends and colleagues, to this *potentially* epochal Sixth Plenary.

—Senator Mushahid's achievements I need not *embroider* with praise. During a long and

distinguished public career, Senator Mushahid has served the Government of Pakistan in various high offices, at critical junctures in this country's history.

And it is Senator Mushahid's leadership that has brought us *this far* in our shared vision of Asian political integration.

With regard to our Asian Parliamentary Assembly, I have only one simple message for this our Sixth Plenary:

I propose that we must now create the beginnings of an Asian Parliament. If somehow neglected, we must now *buckle down* to the *spadework* of founding an Asian Parliament.

I believe our *long-ago* dream of an Asian Parliament must now become an achievable dream.

I believe we must *now* turn our vision of an Asian Parliament to reality.

BUCKLING DOWN TO THE SPADEWORK OF FOUNDING THE ASIAN PARLIAMENT

Our Assembly is **14** years old—counting from its emergence as the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace—or AAPP—in Dacca in 1999.

As you will recall, we made the decision to transform the AAPP into the APA in 2006, right here in Islamabad, and then actually realizing it two years later at AAPP's *Tehran* Plenary. I believe the present leadership in Pakistan, the new groupings that have emerged in Asia, and the election of Iran's new leader President Hassan Rouhani, with his renowned political skills, moderation and wisdom, aided by Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani would contribute to the possibilities of a new push to the creation of an eventual Asian Parliament.

For as early as 2007, we already counted **41** member parliaments out of the **49** then independent Asian states.

**CRADLE OF THE GREAT CIVILIZATIONS, RELIGIONS,
CULTURES AND PHILOSOPHIES**

We Asians take pride in our home-continent's being the cradle of the great civilizations, religions, cultures and philosophies—and rightly so:

Hinduism—Confucianism—Buddhism—Christianity—Islam were all born in Asia, and nurtured by Asian peoples.

Before, the pre-industrial revolution in Europe, Asia was also the leading continent in inventiveness, productivity and levels of living, perhaps with the highest GDP.

And yet, today, in our time, Asia has lagged behind Europe, Africa, and the Americas in the task of continental integration.

**THE MODELS FOR EUROPE, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA:
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

The 'Parliament of the European Community' is the pioneer in the task we must accomplish.

It was launched in 1952—with representatives nominated by member parliaments. But, since 1979, its 766 Members of Parliament (MP) have been elected *directly* by the European Union's 375 million eligible voters.

The European MPs represent *not* constituencies in their individual states *but* the people of Europe.

Since 1987—through the Single European Act—the European Parliament has exercised a degree of sovereignty over national parliaments in its 28 member-states.

The executive body of the European Union—the *European Commission*—is responsible to the European Parliament, which can dismiss the Commission by a *no-confidence* vote.

THE LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the impulse to unity has been *strong* historically. The former colonies of the Iberian powers, Spain and Portugal, share ties of blood, economy, politics, and culture.

The Latin-American parliament—PARLATINO—began working in 1964. It has **23** member-parliaments; each one represented by **12** plenipotentiaries. Its *unicameral* Plenary Assembly meets yearly.”

THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

In North America—Canada, the United States, and Mexico signed a Free Trade Association (NAFTA) in **1994** that would dismantle all trade barriers between them in 10 years. Now that commerce flows unimpeded across their borders, their academics are exploring the possibility of a Security and Prosperity Partnership as the framework of a still-theoretical *North American Union* patterned loosely on the EU.

THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) of the African Union held its inaugural session in **2004**—40 years later than Latin-America’s PARLATINO. But because of its need for integration—in the aftermath of colonialism—has been more urgent, PAP has evolved much faster than its Latin-American counterpart.

The African Union itself was established in May 2001, replacing the Organization of African Unity (OAS) founded in 1963; with all 54 African states as members, except for Morocco.

The African Union has gone farther than any new-country grouping in integrating state functions. The PAP has standing committees for every basic concern—security, finance, trade, education, immigration, customs.

The African Union also has a *peacekeeping force* that the continent's leadership has already deployed in Burundi, Sudan, and Somalia—to damp down ethnic conflicts and brushfire wars.

WHY ASIA HAS BEEN SLOW TO INTEGRATE: IT LACKS AN OVERARCHING CIVILIZATION

Christianity became Western Europe's comprehensive—all-embracing—unifying principle. But Asia's lack of a similar overarching civilization has impeded its peaceful integration.

Only the Malay peoples of Indonesia, the Philippines, and Malaysia nurtured an impulse to unify.

“Pan-Malaysia” has been a Southeast Asian dream since the anti-colonial movements of the *late* nineteenth and *early* twentieth century—nationalist movements led by our national hero *Jose Rizal*, the Indonesian leaders, *Sukarno* and *Mohammed Hatta*, and the Vietnamese *Ho Chi Minh*.

The three Malay states, together with Singapore and Thailand, grouped themselves in an Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 1967. ASEAN has since then become the hub of economic, political

and diplomatic activity in East Asia and the West Pacific.

It is likely that regional economic groupings such as ASEAN in Southeast Asia; SAARC in South Asia; the "Shanghai Six" in Central Asia; and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in the Arab world will become the building blocks of Asian integration.

SETTING UP THE MECHANISMS OF CONTINENTAL INTEGRATION

To help the process of integration, we, the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), now composed of more than 330 ruling and opposition parties in Asia and which helped push the creation of APA, has now completed a close-working relationship with the political parties of Latin America and the Caribbean under the regional organization, Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL), ICAPP and its civil society affiliate organization, Centrist Asia-Pacific Democrats International (CAPDI), following conferences in Mexico, Azerbaijan, Hanoi and Makassar, Indonesia, also inspired the recent creation of the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP), launched in the Sudan, led by its President, Honorable Wynter Kabimba.

Following CAPP's inauguration in Khartoum a few months ago, it is our expectation that ICAPP, COPPPAL and CAPP with the assistance from APA will help promote the eventual establishment of the Tri-Continental Alliance of Political Parties (TCAPP) between ICAPP, COPPPAL and CAPP – Asia, Latin America, and Africa in the latter part of 2014 or early

2015 and choose a historic city in Asia for its launching.

On a similar note, as approved in Hanoi, Mexico City, and in Makassar, ICAPP, COPPPAL, CAPDI and the International Ecological Safety Collaborative Organization (IESCO), led by its President-Director General Dr. Jiang Ming-jun, already scheduled the formation of the Global Parties Climate and Ecological Safety Alliance (GPCESA) to signal a “united front” among the political parties and civil societies in Asia, Latin America and Africa in the crucial battle against climate change, mitigation of terrible ecological disasters and the promotion of global peace and sustainable development.

We must therefore set up the *mechanisms* of integration with all deliberate speed—starting with the long-delayed establishment of our own Asian Parliament. And our first task must be to *consult* with the established continental parliaments.

From the *experience* of the European, Latin American and African parliaments, we must draw all the lessons we can use to solidify and to hasten the process of Asian integration.

A PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR AN ASIAN PARLIAMENT

I suggest that this *Islamabad Plenary* draw up now a “*Resolution* establishing an APA Preparatory Committee for an Asian Parliament” that would undertake these consultations; draw up a road map of our end-goals and landmarks; and conceptualize all that needs to be done—to promote the *unity* and *solidarity* of all our countries.

When I first proposed the creation of an Asian Parliamentary Assembly in Manila and here in

Islamabad, I noted then that we have come together to write our own chapter in Asia's history and that it is our wish to build peace, freedom and prosperity among our peoples that has called us together.

We saw our end-object then as that of helping set the stage for Asia's economic and political integration.

That goal seemed utopian. But we agreed, then, it shouldn't matter that our generation would never see the fruit of its labours.

We would be like old men planting trees – for our grandchildren to sit under.

We would be acting on behalf of the Asian future.

ASIAN INTEGRATION HAS BECOME AN ACHIEVABLE DREAM

Now, Asian integration has become an achievable dream – and that, to me, is reason enough for our rejoicing.

As we said in Cambodia, as we continue to promote political and economic integration in Asia, the cry is slowly but clearly emerging. Yes, the cry is slowly but clearly emerging: For the Asian peoples, "Someday an Asian Parliament. Someday an Asian Community. Someday an Asian Union."

Thank you and good day.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

REPUBLIC OF IRAQ
IRAQI COUNCIL OF
REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE



جمهورية العراق
مجلس النواب العراقي
مكتبه

Chairman Senate
Respected colleagues, ladies
Colleagues and gentlemen

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته Peace, mercy and blessing of God

In the beginning I congratulate the work of Asian parliamentary assembly session and pray to the Almighty Allah to take us all together to success and rightness for the benefit of Asian countries and I present greeting on behalf of the people of Iraq to the leadership, people and parliament of Pakistan for hospitality which we found since the moment we arrived, wishing that this conference will gain its noble goals.

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IRAQI COUNCIL OF
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SPEAKER'S OFFICE



جمهورية العراق
مجلس النواب العراقي
مكتب الرئيس

Dear brothers and friends

This conference convenes in critical political and economical conditions involving the regional and international dimensions, which requires from us to rethink in it, to use our all assets to remedy the evils. The most prominent critical aspects in our world is economic crisis which is still scattering in more than one country. This crisis would not be so deepen if it was not monoculture economies, as it was an optimal sole choice.

Perhaps founding Asian Economical Organization, which will undertakes developing common economic framework. The most important duty of this organization is to face economic repercussions in the world. Invest the resources of Asia, the strongest resources of the world in investment. It will save the stability and security of Asian nations.

It certainly does not intersect with any international cooperation but it refuses to mortgage the resources or favoring any party.

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The critical aspect in our political world is still under duality of ruling powerful states and weak governed states. This duality resulted crisis witnessed and still witnessing in our world.

Delinquency of powerful states to use the force to disseminate its own political model, neglecting that the power of right tightens the humanity to each other the power of the right not the right of power which will disappear from the world even it prolonged and variable in time and place.

Out of this we call to stop to act with force in relations between the states and use of dialogues and international law to resolve any disputes. We also want to get rid of mass destruction weapons from the world. Especially in hot zones, including our Arab regions save our nations from the evils of genocide weapons to prepare ideal opportunities for lasting peace.

The comprehensive and permanent peace which we look forward to achieve can't be achieved in Arab region if Palestinian issue can't be solved fairly, ensures the establishment of Palestinian state with full sovereignty on its

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مكتبه الرئيسي

soil having membership in UN and return of Palestinian refugees from countries of the Diaspora and exile to homeland forced to emigrate with force not force of right.

Dear brothers and friends

We stand firmly with any real democracy of any nation with our belief that peace cannot be achieved except through enabling people to establish democratic systems, exercising their power over national, political, economic and social choices, apart from persecution, discrimination, abuse and elimination. We are afraid that revolutions which experienced in Arab region will be stolen by the foreign forces for their benefits that will push the region to abyss of chaos and disputes will start from deadliest endless disasters. There are forces want to take advantages of public anger for their goals.

In the same area, our world can't overlook the abuses witnessed yesterday. We call for the activation of civilizations dialogue so that we achieve major transfer in our relations for common humanitarian dialogue.

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We call for concerted efforts to put end to the phenomenon of terrorism and need to crippling sources of funding which is threatening world peace. Sectarianism create tendency toward evil affect adversely on the society in complex of political, cultural conditions which requires from all of us to stand against extremist slavish minds.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Country Iraq has witnessed the emerge of first human rights laws. Accordingly the first constitutional governments came in to being. Today Iraq is facing challenges aiming the construction of new democracy. These are internal and external challenges. Will of the people of Iraq proceeding to achieve the full implementation of first legal institutions.

It cannot be achieved if the international and the regional community not help us to rebuild the homeland by providing aids to us on the other hand stop interfering in our internal affairs.

The government of my country and Iraqi council of representatives looking forward for extensive relationships

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with all the peoples and countries of the Asia based on partnership and mutual respect, humanity and common interests for peace and prosperity of our people.

Dear brothers let me greet you again and I hope our conference gain its full aims.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
THE SPEAKER**



الجمهورية العربية السورية
مجلس الشعب
رئيس المجلس

Mr. Syed Nayyar Hussain Bukhari, President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,
Chairman of Senate of Pakistan,

Mr. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq , Speaker of National Assembly
Speaker of parliaments and Heads of delegations

Good morning, all the best ,at the beginning I congratulate Mr. Bukhari " on taking the presidency of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly , which passed nearly a decade since its inception, including a real will, sincere expression and commitment of its member parliaments to promote parliamentary cooperation in Asia in order to deal with the challenges that we face at political, economic and development fields. Moreover, gaining benefit from opportunities and taking great available potentials to face these challenges and enable our peoples and countries to achieve economic development through cooperation and economic integration and enactment of joint laws and legislations that would contribute to achieve the goals that APA was founded for.

In spite of the hard work done by the member parliaments and the concentrated efforts made by the Secretariat of the Assembly over the last years, and the progress our organization in developing channels of cooperation between Asian countries that laid the foundations of good prospects for future cooperation , our countries and our peoples have faced new challenges , harsh crises blew some countries - probably were not expected. The preceding reasons have reduced the chances of cooperation and entered some countries in the midst of war that demolished most peoples' gains and threatened to move and spread to the neighboring countries and then to the region. So that requires more efforts and works to overcome the tragic circumstances faced by some of our countries and our peoples .

Colleagues,

We meet today to discuss the important issues on the agenda , related to the promotion of cooperation between Asian parliaments and the role of parliaments in combating terrorism, corruption , poverty and drug trafficking and their roles in protection of cultural diversity. These issues require practical measures either at the level of legislations or at the level of coordination with governments to take actual concrete steps that could have an impact on the ground , especially the Vicarious wars in our region aimed to create chaos, destruction and fighting between its peoples .

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
THE SPEAKER**



الجمهورية العربية السورية
بمجالس الشعب
رئيس المجلس

Ladies and Gentlemen,

What Syria is exposed to since two years and a half, is the core of what we are meeting for today , either what is related to cross-border terrorism or systematic attacks by terrorists and Takfiri mercenaries against cultural diversity and religious in Syria and meant vandalism of development paths, infrastructure, the economic blockade against Syrian people and its effect in increasing poverty and humanitarian consequences. Thus, the credibility of our Assembly is at stake today in front of our people , as much as we move to counter terrorism and to preserve the cultural and religious diversity and promote dialogue among religions and promote development paths for Asian peoples , as far as we strengthen our credibility in front of the peoples we represent.

Let me assure you that while we are looking for ways to expand the solidarity and cooperation among Asian nations and peoples in order to promote development. There are countries are working day and night to assemble terrorists all over the world, to facilitate their cross and entry to Syrian territory and to provide material and military support to those Takfiri mercenaries to kill the sons of Syrian people of different religious affiliations and political spectrum. They try to demolish Syrian State through bombing and sabotage, service ,medical and educational organizations by car bombs and improvised explosive devices; these countries do so openly and falsely claim that they support the Syrian people and their right to freedom and democracy.

In spite of all these deeds, they violate flagrantly of UN Security Council Resolution No. / 1373 / , which obligates all member States of the United Nations to prevent the financing of terrorist operations or providing any form of support to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts and deprived of doing so , also, it violates the Charter and the resolutions of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and the United Nations strategy to combat terrorism, but these countries do not find who deters or stands against it to stop this foolish behaviors that will lead ultimately to demolish peace and security, regional and international levels.

Colleagues,

My country- the cradle of Christianity and the capital of Islam presented to the world for centuries a model of co-existence, tolerance and communication among religions- is now exposing to a destructive war by terrorist and Takfiri groups that

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
THE SPEAKER**



الجمهورية العربية السورية
مجلس الشعب
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contain mercenaries from more than (83) countries all over the world. They claim to be a Syrian opposition, where these groups are deliberately targeting social components and other religious doctrines of the Christians and other Islamic sects, supported by known regional and western countries in order to get rid of the cultural and civilized diversity, which is considered the source of richness in Syria and our region in general, uprooting and displacing eastern Christian out of their homeland. What was done by these groups by destructing the religious symbols, houses of worship and churches in the Historic town Maloula, which is the symbol of the Eastern Christian in Syria, where the language of Jesus is still spoken among its people. These groups are targeting the Christian-majority districts in Damascus, Aleppo and Homs by explosives and mortars that are daily launched in a frequent way to affect the homes and properties of citizens, schools, churches and houses of worship in those districts, as well as stealing and assaulting their homes in Saded and Deir Attieh in order to terrify them and force them to leave their homeland. This is a big evidence of terrorism and extremism of those groups and their devilish plan.

This vicious work requires from all of us not only to legislate and issue statements, but we should move on the ground to stop this rejected action in order to maintain harmony between different religions and civilizations because this kind of work may excite waves of negative reactions that may extend to multiple areas in the world.

My colleagues,

What is happening in Syria is just an outcome of a well planned political and military scheme led by countries known as enemies to Syria, all this of killing according to the regional identity by these terrorist groups would not reach this level without media supporting these Takfiri terrorist groups, through broadcasting sedition, aggression and hostility among religions and races, and incite bloodshed through killing Fatwas launched by Shaikhes of sedition.

So, it is supposed that the member countries which some channels broadcast from its lands reconsider these channels in order to make media as a mean of communication and forgiveness among peoples, nations and religions at the bases of mutual respect before the circle of fire gets wider, which, if it has not been quenched today, no country will be safe from its flames and its destructive effects, because what is going on in Syria, of killing, terrorism, destructing infrastructure, services, human rights violations and terrorist crimes against Syrians would not stop inside the Syrian borders, and their fire will burn those who support these terroristic groups today soon.

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What we see in Iraq of bloody terrorist aggression and the terroristic explosions in Beirut and Tripoli lately, and what is happening in Libya, Egypt, Tunisia and Yemen confirms that this trans-border killing terrorist ideology must be faced and fought by all countries through unified efforts and strategic treatments.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Here, we have to mention that the Syrian government made many procedures aiming to reach a political solution to the crisis, either by an issue of a package of changes in rules and legislations, and presenting an initial for the political solutions through the comprehensive national dialogue, or through its acceptance to the political initiatives starting from the Arabic monitoring mission and the international monitoring mission in addition to its welcoming the first Geneva and its confirmed participation in the second Geneva without preconditions. This reflects Syrian faithful and firm will to solve the crisis politically. Nevertheless, Syria has agreed on the Russian initiative putting the Chemical Weapons under the international supervision, also, joined the Chemical Weapons ban Treaty, these stress with no room for doubt that Syrian government did not and will not use any Chemical Weapons in the war against the armed groups and the militants, on the contrary, they are the terrorist groups backed by the west and some regional countries calling for a western military intervention against the Syrian State.

In return, we see the opposition parts refuse the national dialogue betting on foreign military intervention and the continuation of violence and bloodshed of Syrian people, which demolishing the diplomatic efforts by putting preconditions for any political solution.

We emphasize that the future of Syrian should be made by Syrians themselves through dialogue and ballot box, neither through weapons, terrorism and guns of Takfiri mercenaries, nor through Western or Arabic mandate. Let us work together honestly in order to contribute in solving the Syrian crisis through dialogue and political solution serving the people's and the States of the region, and to avoid much more crisis that could devastate the countries in the region and the world.

We look forward the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in order to use the diplomatic efforts supporting the political solution in Syria and stopping war, violence, terrorist and killing propagandist, and to form a diplomatic front facing the terroristic one which led by some regional and western States, especially that

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diplomacy corroborates the ability to solve the complicated crisis, and achieves satisfying result to all. The deal between Islamic Republic of Iran and permanent States in Security Council about the Nuclear Program presents living example we should learn from.

As well as, we look forward to member parliaments to engage in a continuous dialogue and joint parliamentary activities to combat terrorism in Asia, through cooperation among Asian governments to harmonize laws and legislations combating terrorism and terroristic propaganda by combating it through media. Moreover, we look forward to develop an international and regional framework for combating terrorism that is considered the first enemy to all humanitarian and religions principles threatening the international peace and security, as it pose a great threat on cultural diversity, economic integration, development, prosperity and integration among the peoples of Asia and the world.

Finally , we would like to express our deep thanks to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan specially the Senate of Pakistan for the hospitality and the efforts made to host our conference, also to the Secretariat of APA, and special thanks to the organizing committee represented by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed for the good organizing, we wish success in reaching to decisions and recommendations could contribute to strengthening cooperation, solidarity and economic integration among Asian States, as we wish success in approaches among Asian governments to address issues that are important to the continent and its peoples.

Speaker of People's Assembly

MHD. Jihad AL-LAHAM

**AN ASIAN PARLIAMENT:
Events and Trends Move Us to Act**

**FIRST JOINT SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES
OF ICAPP AND THE ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

Message from

FORMER PHILIPPINE SPEAKER JOSE DE VENEZIA
FOUNDING CHAIRMAN AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ASIAN
POLITICAL PARTIES (ICAPP)
CO-FOUNDER, ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)

Friends and colleagues--

I *regret* I am unable to attend this first formal meeting of political party leaders and parliamentarians from the various Asian states.

The loss is *mine* and *not* yours: my *proxy* is—at the very least—prettier and more charming than I could ever hope to be.

My absence I regret *more acutely* than the constant, and almost unbearable, pain in my shoulder bones—because this Islamabad session, which we in ICAPP and APA have long sought to bring about, is *potentially* historic, depending on the directions you lead us to, and the practical goals you set.

Once again, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate former Speaker Haddad Adel, Co-founder and First APA President, who, aided by Secretary General Nejad Hossenian, and Under Secretary-General for Legal and Political Affairs Masoud Islami, have been working hard to achieve our collective dream of an Asian Parliament.

—May I also greet my dear old friend, a distinguished parliamentary leader of Iran, former Deputy Speaker Muhammad Hasan Abu Turabi.

EVENTS AND TRENDS ARE MOVING US TO ACT

Is the Asian Parliament we long for moving from vision to *reality* at last?

Events and trends are moving us to *dare—to risk—to act.*

Over these next decade or so, we may expect *integration and synergy* on a much larger scale than we have seen so far to become the global norm.

Given the raging *technological revolutions*, the driving force of *globalization*, and the World Trade Organization's abject *failure* to open up global trade *equitably*, great continental blocs to create *preferential markets* and *economic scale* will likely become the main diplomatic activity.

The *alternative* to *continental* unity *then* could be to become *marginalized* in *global* economic competition.

Not just the European Union but also Latin America, Africa, and even North America are farther along the road to cross-border unification than we ourselves have come.

The unification of Asia—where civilization began—has become *not just* an *ideal*. It has become an *imperative*. Because there really is *no way* of learning the habits of cooperation—*except by living them* with friends and fellow pilgrims from other places and other cultures.

ASIA WILL NOT BE BUILT IN A DAY

Of course, *one Asia* “will not be built in a day, nor as part of an overall design.” (*Robert Schuman*)

We must pursue our political objectives through practical steps in economic and cultural cooperation of self-evident usefulness.

And our first task must be to build a sense of common purpose.

As elsewhere, integration for Asia will always be an interplay of cooperation and competition between individual states and separate regions.

The strategic challenge for all our countries and for all organizations devoted to regional cooperation *will be* to ensure that the *spirit of cooperation is always stronger than the competitive impulse.*

Parliaments and political parties must work together in promoting peace and reconciliation in our region and in fighting poverty, corruption, terrorism and extremism, and climate change.

ORDINARY ASIANS MUST OWN THE IDEA OF 'ONE ASIA'

Not only our governments but the force of public opinion must also have a role in every phase of our work program.

There is *no way* the *continent-wide* community we envision can be built *without* its architects *engaging* the *enthusiasm* of ordinary Asians.

The present-day difficulties being encountered by the European Union teach us that *technocratic* arrangements—made *over the heads* of *everyday people*—have very limited popular appeal.

Everyday Asians will embrace the idea of Asian solidarity only if they see it as a beneficial influence on their daily lives.

They will take the vision of Asian solidarity to their hearts only if they feel the vision *is their own.*

A PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE ASIAN PARLIAMENT

What should be the specific task of this Islamabad Conference?

In my view, we should begin to focus on the *modalities* of Asian unification—by creating a Preparatory Committee for an Asian Parliament.

And this Committee's first task should be to study the continental legislatures already established, consult with their leaderships—and with your own national executives—to determine what form our own Parliament should take; what functions it should have, and what purposes it should serve.

ICAPP and APA could also meet every one and a half years or every two years so we could work closely and act swiftly towards our common dream of an Asian Parliament.

We must also use the time to constantly review the common efforts of ICAPP and APA in our “united front” battle against poverty, against corruption, against extremism and terrorism, and against global warming and climate change.

For the bottom line is that only political union will generate the security, stability, and prosperity necessary to secure the freedom, well-being and dignity of the peoples we serve.

State of Kuwait
National Assembly

Kuwait Inter-Parliamentary Group



دولة الكويت
مجلس الأمة

الجمعية البرلمانية الكويتية

ADDRESS BY HEAD OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

H.E.

Vice Chairman of National Assembly

Mr. Chairman,

Respected/ Honorable Friends- Ladies & gentlemen,

"O my Lord open my heart and ease my task. Remove the obstruction of my tongue so that they can understand my speech".

I on behalf of my brother Chairman of National Assembly, my friend and all my delegates of Kuwait, present express my congratulation to Senate of Pakistan on the assumption of presidency of APA and for the warm reception and cordial hospitality on the eve of 6th Plenary Conference of APA which deals with number of/variety of issues of great concern.

Among these are, strengthening of friendship and co-operation in Asia, combating terrorism, support & respect of cultural diversity, combating ailments of poverty, protection and promotion of overseas laborers.

Mr. Chairman, ladies, gentlemen and friends no doubt that the dialogue among the Asian countries means promotion of basic strategy for peace in the region full participation of all countries has been stressed in his closing address, emphasized, establishment of continuous support.

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beloved Syria was a routine matter of killing and destruction and it brings sadness and pain and became a routine case and with all these adversities which shows that the children are becoming orphans and their parents, and houses no more exist and gives pains to relatives for their losses and the identities of cities, have become symbols of destruction.

Mr. Chairman, ladies & gentlemen & friends, significantly we are pointing towards human rights reports which were released last week and in which for the first time it is mentioned that there are the provision which indicate the responsibility of Syrian President Bashar-ul-Assad in war crimes and crimes against the humanity, and from this platform we consider consciously to feel the adversities which have reached the political and human security in Syria. And we demand that we must reach to a political solution which may be accepted according to the demands and desires of our dear Syrian people. We emphasize upon what all has come in the decisions in Para-I and we should informed about a political solution in the upcoming session and the regional development in Asia and we welcome at very out set of the agreement regarding Iranian Nuclear Program which signed on Sunday 24th November 2013 between Islamic Republic of Iran and group of 60 nations.

According to that Iran has accepted to stop developing/enrichment of Uranium which will not exceed 5% and the Iran's determination to cap it storage

and enrichment of uranium. We demand from Iran to further co-operate with the regional countries for having peace and stability. We, the State of Kuwait exert on what ever has come from the positive clarification and satisfactions from the Iranian foreign Minister during his last visit to Kuwait and we hope that we can translate the ground realities into the poples's interest and for the sustainable peace in the region.

Mr. Chairman, friends, ladies & gentlemen! Search of peace and security and its sustainability, development and plenty commonly in the world and especially in Asia in a must. It demands from us that we, the members of APA's should defend the real friendship and co-operation in Asia. And our stress is on the statement of conference about the friendship and co-operation in Asia's which held during the session from 27-29 September, 2011 in Java central city of Indonesia out brotherly country.

And in this context there was an APA foundation of a comprehensive friendship of Parliaments with other brotherly countries since 1996. Therefore, it reached the number 100 of the Parliamentary Members. And that was growth and strength of all the brotherly countries and co-ordination with all the countries for the solution of issues of mutual interests in the session of international Parliaments.

Mr. Chairman! friends, ladies & gentlemen, as we said that all the draft resolutions, which will confirm/adopted in our 6th Parliamentary Conference in Asia. It has the same importance which will connect us with each other for that friendship and co-operation in Asia does not make it possible during combating terrorism and foreign occupation and in the light of UNO General Assembly resolution about UNO international strategy to counter the terrorism issue date 13th October, 2010.

And we appreciate the draft resolutions about the Asian Parliamentary Assemblies to counter the terrorism and foreign occupation (issued date 6th July, 2011).

Mr. Chairman,

In the ending statement I would repeat once again our thanks, best wishes to Government of Pakistan and APA's and the Senate of Pakistan for their kind hospitality and warm reception.

Assalam-o-Alaikum

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION
ASIAN PARLIAMENATRY ASSEMBY
8- 10 DECEMBER, 2013
ISLAMABAD

DRAFT SPEECH

Of

HONOURABLE
RAJA MUHAMMAD ZAFAR UL HAQ

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

IN THE SENATE OF PAKISTAN



- *Honourable Speakers, Members and Representatives of
APA Member Parliaments and Observer delegations.*
- *Honourable Speakers of Provincial Assemblies.*
- *Excellency Dr. Nejad Hosseinian,
Secretary-General, Asian Parliamentary Assembly.*
- *Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed,*
- *Chairman of the Organizing Committee.*
- *Excellencies,*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen!*

Assalam-o-Alaikum

It is an honor for me to be among my eminent colleagues and friends from Asia, the largest and most diverse continent of the world, at this important 6th plenary session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

I take this opportunity to convey my gratitude and acknowledgment to the distinguished parliamentarians and guests from APA Member and Observer countries for taking time out of their busy schedules and gracing this event with their presence. Without your presence and remarkable contributions, it would not be possible to have such a successful 6th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

I extend my deepest felicitations to Honourable Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, Chairman, Senate of Pakistan, for assuming Presidency of APA.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Pakistan is making a fresh beginning based on the principles of participatory democracy, supremacy of Parliament, trichotomy of power, independence of judiciary, free media and active civil society.

The recent smooth transition of power from one democratically-elected government to another, has depicted that we believe in principles of democracy. We are committed to promoting the role of Parliaments, emerging through the inclusive democratic process of ballot box.

The problems people of Asia are facing nodought are complex and need perseverance to solve them. We are determined to cooperate to build a bright future for Asia, firmly rooted in the fields of economy, energy and environment, as well as equitable distribution of resources without discrimination. A vision of a world where basic amenities like health, education and everyday utilities are within the reach of every one where dividends of progress and prosperity are shared and monopolies and cartels are discouraged, should be our ultimate aim.

We should seek imaginative ways to rack new avenues and sources of growth and investment in Asia, and this is indeed an imperative necessity. The complete normalization of trade relations within APA spectrum will create huge opportunities for mutually beneficial trade, within Asia.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

APA provides a unique platform for us to resolve our differences and work towards a higher calling. Although, the path is long and filled with diverse challenges, we are confident that we can realize our true potential through joint and more importantly sustained efforts.

Issues of economy and security are interlinked. No country is secure if the others are facing challenges in the region. No one can prosper alone. We have to work together to achieve our shared goals of prosperity, peace, harmony, development, sustained economy and renewable energy resources. Pakistan will be there to join and assist all other brotherly Asian countries for the fruition of this agenda.

The unity of Asian continent lies in its respecting religious, cultural and ethnic diversity. Asia is also revered globally for its rich moral, ethical and social values which are rooted in the strong concept of a family. It is the institution of Asian family that shapes morals, inculcates respect of values, and builds character of an individual, thus resulting in healthy societies. It is also a prerequisite for global cohesion and harmony between diverse cultures, nationalities, ethnicities and lingual and religious identities.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The potential of the Asian Youth is evident from the fact that the students of Asian nations have claimed top position worldwide as per the recent Programme for International Student Assessment Report by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The Report, based on surveys of more than half a million 15-year-olds in 65 countries representing more than 80 percent of the global economy, has depicted that Asian students continue outshining their western counterparts in key disciplines of maths and science. I am, therefore, optimistic that by harnessing the immense potential of our talented Asian youth and joining hands in tiding over the extraordinary challenges posed by our times, we may seize upon the unparalleled opportunities that the bright future of Asian Century hold for us.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

We earnestly hope that your cooperative discourse will improve the lives of Billions of people and usher in a period of peace and prosperity which would not only determine the course of future wellbeing of the people of Asia, but would contribute to a secure world.



Speech

His Excellency Dr. NGUON NHEL

First Vice-President of National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Head of Parliamentary National Group Cambodia-APA

At the 6th Plenary Session of APA

8-11 December 2013, Islamabad, Pakistan

Theme: Asian Century: Cooperation in Economy, Energy and Environment

- *His Excellency Mr. Syed Nayyer Hussian Bokhari, President of Senate of Pakistan and APA President,*
- *His Excellency, Dr. Mahammad Hussain Nejad Hosseinian, APA Secretary General,*
- *Hon. Speakers and deputy speakers of the Parliaments across Asian Region,*
- *Hon. Parliamentarians from the Asian region and distinguished observer countries*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of Cambodian Delegation, I wish to take this great opportunity to express my profound gratitude to *Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)* and Parliament of Pakistan for hosting the 6th APA Plenary Session in this beautiful city of Islamabad, Pakistan. I wish to highly appreciate Honorable **Mr. Syed Nayyer Hussian Bokhari, President of Pakistan Senate and APA President, Dr. Mahammad Hussain Nejad Hosseinian, Secretary General** and his team for their enormous contribution and great efforts to make such big gathering of parliamentarians representing the voice of the Asian people together happen.

In this regard, I would like to share thought on the theme of the session "Asian Century: Cooperation in Economy, Energy and Environment", which is very relevant, contemporary and crucial topics for our region.

Honorable Parliamentarian Delegates,

Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Cambodia has made remarkable achievement and substantial progress in political stability, security and social order, in particular socio-economic development, which are regarded as precondition for developing Cambodia's society and economy, though experiencing challenges including global financial crisis and economic slowdown, the threats to national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and repeated natural disasters. Cambodia has been made favorable and necessary conditions to move the nation resolutely and confidently towards right path of development, with a strong belief of moving the country from a low-income country to a lower- middle income status in the near future and would further become an upper-middle income country by 2030.

Obviously, in the Fourth Legislature, Cambodia's major achievements include:

1. Continue to strengthen peace, political stability, security, social order, the functioning of multiparty liberal democracy, and "Rule of Law", particularly the development of the legal framework, enhancement of effective law

rights. Also, further implement active and in-depth administrative reforms in key areas, such as fighting against corruption, and reform of legal and judicial system and armed forces, public administration, and public financial management, which are mean to promoting good governance.

2. To ensured macro-economic stability, including well-management of inflation, stable exchange rate, and strengthened competitiveness of national economy through improving agricultural productivity, structural development of the rural economy, and acceleration of economic diversification by strengthening the favorable environment to attract domestic and foreign private investments for vibrant industrial expansion in garment and other industrial sectors.
3. To maintain economic growth at an average annual growth rate of 6.7% so far, excluding the sharp decline in 2009 due to the severe impact of the global financial crisis and economic downturn. However, in 2009 Cambodia could still manage to keep the growth rate positive at 0.1%; GDP growth, and then it rebounded quickly to 6%, 7.1% and 7.3% in 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively, while the world economy remained struggling with financial crisis which persisted due to the sovereign debt problem. The GDP per capita increased from USD760 in 2008 to nearly USD1,000 in 2012. Poverty Incidence dropped drastically from 47.8% in 2007 to 19.8% in 2011, or by 7 percentage points per annum, which secured for Cambodia the 4th rank in the world in terms of best performance in poverty reduction.
4. Although the management of energy, environment and natural resources has been improved with the strengthening of mineral resource management and the implementation of in-depth reforms in the forestry and fishery sectors such as fishery conservation, land and water resource management as well as the management of ecological system of Tonle Sap Lake and Mekong River, there remain challenges requiring further efforts and initiatives to ensure sustainable development. In addition, climate change has been adversely impacting on Cambodia's ecological system and socio-economic development. Cambodia is strongly committed and continues to give high priority to the expansion of low-cost energy production and supply and distribution network, aimed at ensuring energy security, reliability and affordability to meet development needs.

Regional and global integration, including the establishment of ASEAN Economic Community by 2015 and membership of World Trade Organization, requires better coordination and stronger human and institutional capacity as well as effective and timely internal reforms, to ensure that Cambodia will benefit from such integration.

**Honorable Parliamentarian Delegates,
Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen,**

Along with the contemporary context of evolving global and domestic environment, Cambodia is also presented with the following major opportunities:

1. The current geo-political and geo-economic situations in the world

role in driving global economic growth while initiatives for promoting domestic demand for rebalancing economic growth are taking shape world-wide. Cambodia is situated at the center of this dynamic and growing region, and has the potential to be part of the production networks in East Asia.

2. Visibly growing competition between two competing trading blocs in the Asia-Pacific Region, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), is creating momentum in the liberalization of trade in goods and services that will attract huge investment into the region. This is occurring while ASEAN is deepening its integration, establishing the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015, and making efforts to play a centrality role in regional architecture. Thus Asian will become a region that is attractive to investment.

Therefore, in the Fifth Legislature, Cambodia continues to focus on attracting investments, from both domestic and foreign sources, diversifying the production base, expanding export markets, promoting transport connectivity and logistics systems, improving the regulatory framework, strengthening institutional mechanisms including conflict resolution mechanisms, and enhancing capacity building to ensure favorable environment for Cambodia's development.

Cambodia will give priority to:

1. Committing to effectively fulfill its role in regional and international affairs.
2. Introducing required policies, in particular, the Industrial Development Policy to move the country to a higher value chain in the regional and global economy, especially within the rapidly growing Asian market, while paying attention to upgrading skills and vocational training for Cambodian workers at all levels.
3. Further improving regulatory framework aimed at improving business, trade and investment environment.
4. Taking measures to increase and expand Cambodia's export market, particularly through negotiations to open up new markets with other countries within and outside the region, improvements in transport infrastructure and logistics systems including the provision of information and communication technologies (ICT) to facilitate movement of goods and services, including financial services; and lower non-tariff barriers such as standards, and sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards (SPS).
5. Taking necessary policy measures to join the ASEAN Community by 2015, particularly through effective implementation of ASEAN-related agreements.
6. Establishing necessary frameworks to manage changes resulting from its participation in ASEAN Economic Community expected to be in place by 2015, and ensuring that Cambodia's best interests are served specially in managing the labor market and movement of workers.

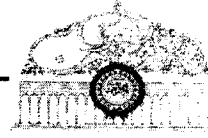
Honorable Parliamentarian Delegates,

Distinguished Guests,

Last but not least, the Cambodian delegation would like to call on all

growth through the development of democracy, sustainable development and peace. These are our obligations that must be fulfilled. Parliaments and lawmakers must forge closer cooperation and we must also further strengthen bilateral and multilateral relations at all levels. By working hand in hand and mobilizing efforts for the sake of humanity, we can bring durable peace, democratic, developments and as well as well-being to our peoples in particular and to world as whole.

Thank you.

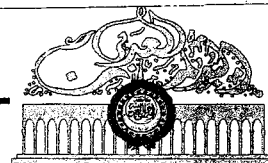


البرلمان العربي
مكتب الرئيس

Arab Parliament and Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

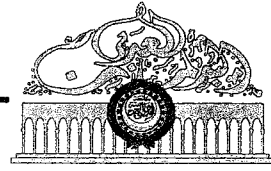
It is a pleasure to participate you in the sixth ordinary session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly , as President of the Arab Parliament , which represents the Arab nation as a whole. The Arab Parliament was created to be a tool for dialogue and resolution, to be voice of the arab nations and an active partner to deepen democracy in the Arab countries for closer ties between their peoples.



البرلمان العربي
مكتب الرئيس

Our participation as The Arab Parliament on the invitation you addressed us stems from our interest of supporting and strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation with the esteemed Parliamentary Assembly of the Asian to fulfill the hopes of our people with aspirations of development and prosperity.

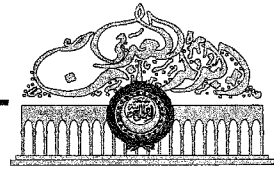
It is the basis of our policy to emphasize the importance of the development and activation of the regional dimension in the inter-parliamentary relations . And I would like to point out that the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain have stressed the need to strengthen and activate the relations with the Arab Gulf and ASEAN . And it is a great pleasure that Manama, is the first Asian tourism Capital in 2014 , which deepens linkages and cooperation between the peoples the Arab and Asians.



البرلمان العربي
مكتب الرئيس

I would Also like to assure that your esteemed organization is a highly valued International organization and chime in its objectives and mechanisms with the objectives of the Arab Parliament , which seeks to promote and respect the sovereignty of the countries and non-interference in its internal affairs and maintain good neighborliness in line with the United Nations Charter and the Charter of the ASEAN and the Statute of the Arab League and the Arab Parliament and the principles of international law .

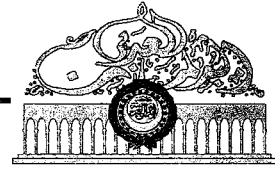
Therefor, and as your esteemed forum did, The Arab Parliament has also condemned all acts of violence and terrorism and piracy that threatens the safety of navigation and international trade.



البرلمان العربي
مكتب الرئيس

The Arab Parliament , which one of its primary functions is to unify Arab legislation , sees in your forum , an integrated picture of pictures of regional forums that strengthen the economic partnership , cultural and scientific relations between countries and the development of relations and establish it.

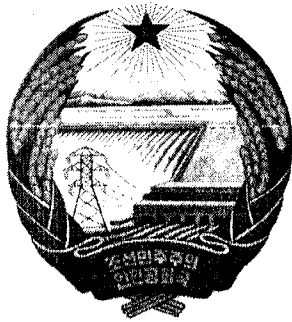
I would also like to extend my sincere condolences, on behalf of the Arab Parliament and in my name to the Government and people of the Philippines to the loss of life left behind by Hurricane (Haaln), and I hope that they can surpass this tragedy quickly.



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مكتب الرئيس

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the keenness of the Arab Parliament to extend all the permanent bridges of cooperation and coordination with your distinguished Organization.

**Thank you all for your Kind listening
And Please accept my highest appreciation.**



Speech by Mr. Kim Wan Su

Vice-Speaker

Supreme People's Assembly

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Esteemed Mr. Chairman,

Dear delegates,

Allow me, first of all, to express my thanks, on behalf of the delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to Your Excellency Chairman Seyed Nayer Hussein Bokhari and the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for your sincere efforts to make this Plenary Conference a success as well as for your warm hospitality extended to all of us.

Countries in Asia, boasting of a long history and diversified cultural tradition, are making a remarkable progress in all fields. It adds more significance to the current conference that it brings together parliamentarians from those countries of the Asian continent.

All of us should be well proud of the fact that the people of Asian countries take upon themselves their destiny and demonstrate the enormous potential of the Asian continent before the world.

(Translation)

However, regional conflicts and the aftermath of economic crisis are continuing in Asia today due to arbitrariness of superpowers and conflict of their strategic interests. It prevents many countries in Asia from displaying their potential of growth to the full through effective utilization of their rich human and material resources.

The reality requires that the people of Asian countries unite more firmly and overcome all challenges by dint of justice and solidarity based on independence as well as cooperation of mutual benefits.

Asian Parliamentary Assembly represents unanimous will of the people of each country. Parliaments of all member states should strive to fulfill their mission they are assuming to build Asia into a region that is independent and peaceful and that sees uninterrupted development.

Dear delegates,

The Korean people today are engaged in an all-out campaign to build a thriving socialist nation under the wise leadership of the dear respected Marshal Kim Jong Un.

(Translation)

The supreme leader of our people Marshal Kim Jong Un sets forth innovative directions and ways and is leading our people in their efforts for economic growth to improve the people's living standard and to provide them with most civilized life.

We have celebrated with great significance the 65th founding anniversary of the DPRK and the 60th year of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War this year thanks to the personal initiative and energetic leadership of respected Marshal Kim Jong Un. At the same time, we have completed the construction of world-class Munsu Water Park, Mirim Horse-riding Club, Okryu Children's Hospital and Ryugyong Dental Hospital and are nearing completion of a modern ski resort and large-scale fruit production and stockbreeding centers.

A stable and peaceful environment is most valuable and pressing for the DPRK government and people who have set as their goal the building of an economic power and improvement of people's living standard.

A mechanism that will guarantee peace is not yet in place and thus an unstable situation, which is neither war nor peace, still continues on the Korean peninsula.

Aiming at military domination over north-east Asia with the Korean peninsula as its springboard, the United States are waging nuclear war exercises against the DPRK which involve huge troops and latest military equipment every year. It leads to a more serious confrontation and mounting tension.

Vicious cycle of escalated tension on the Korean peninsula has its roots in the US hostile policy towards the DPRK. The only approach to permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula is to put an end to the hostile policy of the US towards the DPRK.

We remain consistent in our stand to defuse tension on the Korean peninsula in a peaceful manner through dialogue and negotiation and contribute to peace and stability in the north-east Asian region.

(Translation)

Reunifying the country is the supreme national desire and the most pressing task for the Korean nation.

Grave challenges yet stand in our way for reunification and peaceful development of the country. However, our people will surely bring earlier the day of final victory, united in single mind behind the dear respected Marshal Kim Jong Un and full of confidence and optimism in their future.

We will continue our efforts to promote friendly ties on the principles of independence, peace and friendship with all countries that maintain friendly relations with the DPRK, giving priority to Asian countries, in particular, in expanding and strengthening friendly ties and collaboration.

I take this opportunity to thank member states of the APA for showing support to and solidarity with the DPRK in her efforts to end the vicious cycle of aggravated tension, secure durable peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and achieve independent and peaceful national reunification.

Thank you.

ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
8 - 11 DECEMBER 2013, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

**Honourable Parliamentarians,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is a great privilege for me to address such a distinguished audience. Allow me to begin my intervention by thanking our Pakistani hosts for their warm hospitality.

As being the Chairperson of the Turkish delegation for the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), I personally attach a particular importance to parliamentary diplomacy which has a crucial role in developing international relations and maintaining world peace.

Today, APA has become an important platform for parliamentary cooperation and I sincerely believe that cooperation is the key to achieve concrete results, for the good of our people.

As the economic, political and demographic centre of gravity gradually shifts to the East, it is our responsibility to ensure the transformation of APA into the envisaged Asian Parliament which will constitute a milestone in the upcoming Asian Century.

To ensure such objective, we are in an obvious need for an effective capacity building strategy. We suggest that the main pillar of this strategy is to create people to people links through connection of NGO's and think-tanks of all member countries as well as student exchange programs at both undergraduate and post-doctoral level. We believe that integrating Asian communities by such means will promote cooperation further between Asian Nations.

**Honourable Parliamentarians,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Today, we are living in an essentially different world from the environment we left behind in the 20th century. The last decade of the twentieth century was characterized by a sense of optimism fueled by the spread of democracy and market economy, together with strengthened emphasis on human rights and freedoms.

However, this atmosphere of optimism swiftly faded away. The world has recently witnessed some of the greatest social and political transformations in the Middle East and North Africa. Beginning with the protests in Tunisia, the momentum then spread throughout the region, encompassing Egypt, Yemen, Libya and Syria.

The recent tragic events in Syria and Egypt had a dramatic impact not only on the Middle East and the Mediterranean region but on the world politics by creating a climate of fear and unrest. In such an environment, maintaining peace and establishing dialogue and partnership becomes all the more difficult, but not impossible.

As being the representatives of our nations, we are carrying a special responsibility for the preservation, continuation and enhancement of constructive, peaceful and forward looking relationship among our nations and cultures. In this vein, I believe that our deliberations today will constitute a crucial step in the efforts to build a peaceful world.

**Honourable Parliamentarians,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Allow me to highlight briefly the Turkish position vis-à-vis the conflict in Syria.

Turkey has spared no effort to contribute constructively to the international efforts in achieving a political solution to the conflict. We welcomed the Geneva Communiqué of June 2012. Now, we fully support the Geneva II. The Geneva II conference must lead to a Syrian-led political transition that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people, while preserving the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian State. The future of Syria must be democratic, pluralistic, and respectful of human rights and the rule of law. Every citizen must enjoy full equality before the law regardless of religious or ethnic background.

We also need to continue our endeavors to respond proportionately to the deepening humanitarian crisis. The humanitarian response in Syria remains severely insufficient compared to growing needs. The continuing refugee influx and the increasing burden on the neighboring countries cannot be sustained forever. Currently, the funding rate for UN plans SHARP (Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan) and RRP (Regional Response Plan) hangs around 50 percent, a level certainly not deserving praise.

International community must also come forward to raise their bilateral contributions to the neighboring countries to alleviate the tremendous burden they bear. As for Turkey, our spending from the national budget is well over 2 billion Dollars, whereas the combined value of bilateral as well as multilateral contributions is around 150 million Dollars, which is far less than 10 percent of what we spent. We have developed alternative projects through which support may be extended to Syrians in need. We are ready to sit and talk with those who may be interested in providing financial backing to realize those projects.

**Honourable Parliamentarians,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Coming to the situation in Egypt, I would like to stress that Turkey, since the outset, has adopted a principled stance indicating the importance of commitment to democratic principles.

Long term stability could be attained only through a government which is based on the free will of people. In light of Egypt's unique role in the Arab and Muslim worlds, a democratic Egypt would certainly contribute to peace and stability in the Middle East to a larger extent.

**Honourable Parliamentarians,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

In order to ensure coherence and coordination in decision processes, it is necessary that parliamentarians fully participate in today's regional debates thereby contributing to the elaboration of policies that bear both an immediate impact and a long-term impact for future generations.

I strongly believe that our combined efforts can constitute an operational bridge between our nations to overcome the challenges that we are facing today.

As being the representatives of our nations, our priority should be to foster the welfare and well being of our people that will pay the way for a more peaceful world.

For this purpose, we should also be more focused on topics such as employment, investments, social justice, education and youth, energy, pollution which are some of the important challenges that have to be addressed to ensure peace and stability.

Thank you very much for your attention.

(Translation)

Statement by Mme. Zhao Shaohua
Head of the Chinese delegation
At the 6th APA Plenary Session

Islamabad, December 2013

Mr. President,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to come to Islamabad for the 6th APA Plenary Session. Let me begin by extending appreciation, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to Pakistan, the host country, for its thoughtful arrangements and warm hospitality. I am confident that with the joint efforts of Mr. President and all participants, the event will be a full success.

Mr. President,

2013 is a significant year. Together we have witnessed the profound and complex changes of international situation. World multi-polarization and economic globalization keep moving deeper. Countries have become increasingly inter-connected and inter-dependent. International cooperation is developing towards a multi-level and all-round pattern. At present, while the world economy has shown some signs of recovery, there are still problems of fragile foundation and inadequate momentum. Risks and challenges can not be underestimated. The governments, parliaments, industrial and business sectors of all countries should make concerted efforts to push the world economy onto the track of healthy development, oppose all forms of protectionism, and promote global financial and economic governance reform.

Mr. President,

Affected by world economic readjustment, the growth speed of Asian economy has slowed down. But Asia is still one of the most dynamic and most promising regions in the world, as well as an important engine driving world economic recovery and growth. The theme of this Plenary Session, "Asian Century: Cooperation in Economy, Energy and Environment" is of great practical significance. It shows the intense

aspiration of Asian countries to enhance cooperation, and rise to the challenges, with a view to achieving common development. As a founding member of the APA, China has always taken an active part in APA affairs. We support the APA to play a positive role in promoting cooperation in economy, energy and environment among Asian countries. To this end, I wish to make the following proposals:

First, deepen regional cooperation and promote regional integration. In order to maintain strong economic growth momentum, Asian countries need to quicken the step of transforming growth models and adjusting economic structures, steadily advance the reform of international financial and economic system, and improve global governance mechanism. Countries should focus on connectivity cooperation in Asia, and support the establishment of a financing platform for infrastructure development in Asia and an infrastructure network across Asia. During his visit to South-East Asia, Chinese President Xi Jinping made a proposal of strengthening marine cooperation and jointly building a "Marine Silk Road" for the 21st century. During his visit to Central Asia, President Xi suggested building an "economic belt along the Silk Road" featuring good policy communication, unimpeded trade, improved road connectivity, enhanced monetary circulation and increased understanding between the people. We can combine setting up the Marine Silk Road and the economic belt with existing regional and trans-regional cooperation, so as to form a community with shared interests and destiny through good interaction and joint efforts.

Second, set up a long-term cooperation mechanism to ensure energy security. Development and economic prosperity in Asia depend on energy security. Energy producing, consuming and transporting countries in the region should uphold the spirit of mutually beneficial cooperation, diversified development and coordinated supply, to meet the reasonable demands of all countries, particularly the developing countries. We should stabilize energy price through enhanced cooperation, so as to maintain order in the energy market. We should optimize energy mix, vigorously develop clean and renewable energies, build an energy-saving production and consumption system, and form a green, low-carbon, circular and sustainable national economic system.

Third, strengthen cooperation in environmental protection to build a beautiful Asia together. Asian countries, mostly developing countries and emerging markets, are linked by common mountains and rivers. We are faced with many common challenges in environment and development. Countries should step up exchange and communication of environmental

policy, share advanced concepts and experience. We should conduct practical program on environmental cooperation, enhance regional environmental capacity building. We should raise public awareness of the environment through communication at various levels, such as parliaments, governments, business and society. We should increase dialogue and cooperation on global environment issues, strengthen communication and cooperation in climate change, biodiversity protection, persistent organic pollutants, illegal transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, and water environment management.

Asian countries are at different stages of development with diverse historical and cultural features. We should take this into consideration while pushing forward regional cooperation. We should fully respect the national conditions and cultures of different countries, and stay committed to the spirit of seeking common ground while reserving differences as well as the spirit of openness and inclusiveness, in order to enhance the vitality and effectiveness of various cooperation mechanisms in a gradual and cautious manner. We can learn from each other through cooperation.

Mr. President,

After decades of endeavor, China has found a development path based on its own national conditions. After over 3 decades of fast economic growth, we have realized the necessity of changing the existing mode of economic growth. We have made up our minds to push forward green, circular and sustainable development. It serves the interests of the Chinese people, and will become China's new contribution to the world. The just finished Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee made deployment to comprehensively deepen China's reform. Reform and opening up is not a mission accomplished. Rather, they are an ongoing process. China will never cease the process of reform and opening up.

It is the common aspiration of people from all Asian countries to safeguard Asia and world peace, development and prosperity. The National People's Congress of China stands ready to join hands with the parliaments of other Asian countries and make unremitting efforts to achieve durable peace, stability and prosperity in Asia.

Thank you.

Speech of
Congressman Rufus B. Rodriguez
House of Representatives
Republic of the Philippines

at the
6th Plenary Session, Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)
Islamabad, Pakistan
December 8-10, 2013

His Excellency Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, Chairman of Pakistan Senate and President of the APA; H.E. Sen. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of the Organizing Committee; Hon. Dr. Nejad Hossenian, APA Secretary General; distinguished delegates; ladies and gentlemen:

Let me first, on behalf of the Philippine delegation, extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the warm welcome and excellent preparations and hospitality extended to all of us since our arrival in this green and beautiful city of Islamabad.

Last month, Typhoon "Yolanda" (Haiyan) struck parts of Visayas in the Philippines and claimed at least 5,759 lives with 26,233 persons injured and at least 1,779 still missing. It affected 2,379,399 families or 11,240,227 people in 12,095 villages in 44 provinces, displacing 873,061 families or 4,008,503 people. Yolanda destroyed 599,121 houses and damaged 612,979 others with total damages amounting to at least Php 36 billion (US\$821 million). These number caused by "Yolanda" are still expected to increase considering that rescue and relief operations have yet to finish.

On behalf of the people of the Philippines, may I thank all member-countries of the APA for your financial assistance, relief goods, and prayers for the victims of the typhoon.

I am quite sure that we are not the only one experiencing these types of disasters. I am sure that our neighbors in Asia also get hit by these typhoons, earthquakes, and natural disasters. I am sure that they also experience the same hardships that we do and they also sustain the same damage that we encounter.

Former US Vice President Al Gore said that, "As human beings, we are vulnerable to confusing the unprecedented with the improbable. In our everyday experience, if something has not happened before, we are generally safe in assuming it is not going to happen in the future, but the exceptions can kill you and climate change is one those exceptions."

This only means that we can expect these natural disasters to happen again.

In view of this, there is need for all our governments to cooperate and coordinate efforts to implement a strategy on comprehensive rehabilitation and recovery program in Asia. The effects of these calamities and natural disasters are multiplied by the fact that, unfortunately, numerous countries are still lacking in disaster preparedness and post-disaster recovery plans and facilities are also not very efficient which make it harder for victims to recover and bring normalcy back to their lives. And while some countries are more prepared compared to others, there is no reason to be complacent.

Many countries, including the Philippines, are also quite unprepared when it comes to climate change adaptation which also aggravates the effects of natural calamities. There should be cooperation for our countries to help each other in adapting to climate change.

According to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), adaptation refers to adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects or impacts. It refers to changes in processes, practices, and structures to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change. We in Asia should prepare a region-wide climate change adaptation plan.

I therefore propose that we create a Standing Committee on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) which shall have jurisdiction over and discuss all matters directly and principally relating to policies and programs concerning CCA and DRR.

I truly believe that in today's time, CCA and DRR should be a very specialized matter. According to the UNFCCC, adaptation activities have five general components: observation; assessment of climate change impacts and vulnerability; planning; implementation and monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions. Yet another reason why we need to have a Standing Committee to solely focus on CCA and DRR issues.

I also support former Speaker Jose de Venecia of the Philippine House of Representatives and the leaders of APA for the establishment of the Asian Parliament, where we will have a permanent institution to address climate change, energy, economy, and peace and security.

I support the call of Speaker De Venecia that APA establish a Preparatory Committee to put in place a mechanism towards the creation of an Asian Parliament.

Let me also announce a new breakthrough in the peace talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) where, yesterday, the power-sharing agreement, the 3rd Annex to the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro was signed by both Panels.

Lasting peace in Mindanao, in southern Philippines, is now within reach under the able leadership of our President, Benigno Aquino III.

On the matter of peace and security in Asia, the Philippines is concerned that the Ministry of National Defense of the People's Republic of China announced on November 23, 2013 the establishment of the East China Sea Defense Identification Zone, better known as "ADIZ," purportedly in accordance with its domestic laws on national defense and civil aviation to protect against potential air threats.

This was immediately followed by the issuance by China of a number of rules to strictly enforce the ADIZ, which not only overlaps with other jurisdiction zones in the area, but also covers the disputed islands known as Diaoyu in China and Senkaku in Japan. Among these rules include compelling an aircraft flying into the ADIZ to report its flight plans and to maintain two-way radio communications with concerned Chinese authorities, and to clearly identify the aircraft's nationality and logo of registration. The failure to follow such rules would compel China's armed forces to take "defensive emergency measure" against the aircraft.

The unfortunate decision of China to establish the ADIZ was rejected outright and drew criticisms from countries, including the Philippines. On November 28, the Philippine Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), conveyed its concern that the ADIZ would transform the entire air zone into China's domestic airspace, infringe on the freedom of flight in international airspace, and compromise the safety of civil aviation and national security of affected areas.

What is increasingly worrisome is that China appears impervious to international calls not to further raise regional tensions. Just recently, China's Ambassador to the Philippines stated that it was China's right to decide "where and when to set up" air identification zones, when asked whether or not China might set up a similar zone over the West Philippine Sea.

Such moves, apparently to assert sovereignty and territorial claims, carry the potential of creating dangerous flashpoints that ultimately raise the stakes for all the countries involved or affected. I take this opportunity, in this assembly of honorable men and women, to urge China to ensure the freedom of

flight and to take responsible steps in preserving regional security and stability in Asia.

Finally, I invite all of you to visit the Philippines, with its powdery white sand beaches, pristine waters and a lot of sunshine and smiling and friendly people. As we say it now: After Pakistan, it is more fun in the Philippines!

Thank you very much.

-Draft Contribution-

by

Honorable ACM. Veeravit GONGSAKDI

The Leader of the Thai Delegation

At

The 6th Plenary Session of

The Asian Parliamentary Assembly

"Asian Century: Cooperation in Economy, Energy and Environment"

9th -10th December, 2013

Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan

His Excellency Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, President of the APA

Honorable Dr. Nejad Hosseinian, Secretary General of the APA

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor and pleasure to be here with all of honorables and to represent the Thai delegation at the 6th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

First of all, I would like to thank His Excellency Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari for your remarkable role as the Chairperson of this Plenary Session. It is my appreciation to Honorable Mohammad Nejad-Hosseinian, Secretary General of the APA, for his devotion to and his great work to the organization, and also extend my sincere gratitude appreciation to the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the warm welcome and , hospitality and generous gesture extended to all of us since our arrival in Islamabad.

Since 2006, the APA has risen to be one of the most prominent inter-parliamentary organizations in Asia. And with harmonious attempt from its

member countries, I strongly believe that the APA will be able to achieve its goals, which are to deepen understanding and strengthen great cooperation among each and every one of us, as well as enhancing the organization networks and alliances in the region and beyond.

For many years, we have assembled to share our views and experiences on the issues that cause the impact in Asia in many areas, and consequently produced significant outcomes that play an important part in addressing and tackling those particular issues and difficulties accordingly.

This year, we are focusing on the cooperation in economy, energy, and environment among Asian countries. These are the challenges that we, as a collective member of the organization, should learn to cope in the face of the rapidly rising globalization.

The modern world, characterized by its fast-paced technological development, had summoned the need for a formation of global community together, where people exchange thoughts and experiences on various aspects of life in order to cope with challenges. I strongly believe that, by being perceptive of the demand of the people, amidst the highly diverse community, we could serve our region more effectively while remaining our stance as a dynamic inter-parliamentary organization that aims to connect parliaments and peoples of the region. To increase our parliamentary capabilities is to maintain the continuity of the organization for the better future of the region and effectively respond to each and every matter of our interests and common concerns as well as to establish peace among the people

As we are very well aware, there were many political transformations among the Arab and Muslim countries. Such incidents have inevitably attribute to not only political impasse and economic stagnant but to the social crisis in

particular the humanitarian crisis. This could not be achieved without cooperation from every level within the organization; sub-regional, regional, and international organization under international rule and norms.

Today, the Standing Committees are here to discuss significant issues which do not only affect people within the region, but also those in the global scale, such as the integration energy market, drug trafficking, environmental issues, democratization, and human rights. Thailand, as a member of the organization, is more than willing to be a part of the force to promote cultural diversity, call for humanity and peace among people, and help finding ways to prolong and protect the environment and natural resources. Moreover, we wish that the outcomes of this meeting will leave the member countries with constructive stimuli that will hopefully result in local implementation, especially in the legislative process. The aim is not only to reach a momentum among the beneficiaries of the continent, but also to continue the collaboration and harmony among the people of Asia. We are encouraging constructive and positive interaction in societies on both individual and institutional levels in order to drive our organization towards the goal.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Thai Delegation, I do believe that this is the time for all of the APA Members to carefully and seriously think about how to open up more channels for collaborative communications. I, therefore, encourage all APA members to adhere to the aims and objectives of the APA and also to support the efforts of the relevant parties in order to achieve the APA objectives and heighten the effectiveness of the organization.

Thank you for your kind attention.

CLOSING STATEMENT

OF

HON'BLE CHAIRMAN SENATE

TO BE DELIVERED AT SIXTH

PLENARY SESSION

ASIAN PARLIAMENATRY

ASSEMBY

8- 10 DECEMBER, 2013

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN.

- ***Honourable Speakers, Presiding Officers, Members and Representatives of APA Member Parliaments and Observer delegations.***
- ***Excellencies, Dignitaries.***
- ***Distinguished Guests and Participants.***
- ***Ladies and Gentlemen!***
Assalam-o-Alaikum and a very Good Evening!

As the 6th Plenary Conference of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly draws to a close, I would like to take a moment to convey my deepest

appreciation and acknowledgment to all our participants for their keen interest, steadfast support and laudable contributions in making this event a huge success.

The wisdom and foresightedness reflected by honourable delegates in their respective keynotes during this Conference enabled the discussions to remain focused and mutually beneficial.

Having seen the level of commitment and insightful deliberations on part of the

participants over the last three days, I am confident that together we can prevail over all our common challenges -- no matter how harrowing or daunting they may appear -- only if we stand united and focused.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

We all got together here in Islamabad on APA's platform with common aspirations to strengthen ties and partnerships, and share experiences, while pursuing the common vision of Asian Century.

Now as this plenary is coming to an end, I am pleased to share that a new beginning has been initiated as we are departing with fresh perspectives on old as well as emerging issues together with a deeper understanding of the challenges we face on our way.

I can already see the silver lining because we are leaving with a new vision and knowledge to tailor best possible solutions and strategies that can be adapted and implemented, both individually and collectively.

We saw in this occasion an unparalleled opportunity to strengthen the ties between Parliamentarians and decision makers. We have learnt much from the valuable experiences that our honourable guests have so kindly shared. The problems and policies discussed will no doubt be beneficial to all.

Most importantly, this plenary session, by dint of peoples representatives, gave a chance to the teeming millions to have their issues,

voices, needs and aspirations heard and heeded.

And this is one of the most prized hallmarks and cherished objectives of this conference. Through this conference, we have endeavoured to achieve all this and more.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The people of Asia must play an active role in a process that concerns them so deeply and be able to promote and integrate their hopes and

ideals of a better life and a safe future for posterity.

I am pleased to say that the **Islamabad Declaration** epitomizes our consensus that Asian people are more than ready to lead on the world stage in all areas of human endeavour.

In the 21st Century, the balance of economic, cultural, and political power is shifting from West towards East. At the heart of this important transition, the APA, representing the institutional voice of Asian Century,

stands determined more than ever before to preserve, protect and realize the dreams of Asians, who make up about 60% of world population.

Islamabad Declaration also describes member Parliaments' faith in building a just and equitable economic order, while encouraging collaboration among countries in energy and environment. As representatives of peaceful nations, we also reject bigotry, terrorism extremism or any kind of discrimination.

The Resolutions which have been passed are also of great importance, as challenges we are facing are diverse and peculiar in their nature.

I am confident that the commitments we have made here will usher in a new era of prosperity, peace, and sustainable development for our people.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

We will continue to build upon the discussions we have initiated, the

partnership we have cemented and the synergies we have formed.

I am certain that the knowledge we have gained and the contacts we have made here in Islamabad will help make an impact not only in our respective countries, but will also reflect throughout the region.

As APA President, I look forward to continuing this journey with you as a facilitator and enabler to help Member countries carry on the process of accelerated progress in all areas, especially through increased

cooperation in core spheres of
Economy, Energy and Environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

With these words, I am pleased
to declare the 6th Plenary Session and
2nd Executive Council meeting of the
Asian Parliamentary Assembly
closed.

THANK YOU!
Pakistan Paindabad!

Asian Parliamentary Assembly



Explanatory Note

Modalities for Effective Organization of APA Meetings

Ever since the APA Permanent Secretariat was established in Tehran in 2006, the parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran has generously undertaken to provide financial support covering the purchase of a suitable premises and expenses associated with the maintenance and utilities of the building; office equipment and remunerations to Secretary-General and Secretariat administrative staff. However, pending APA financial and administrative arrangements, the Secretariat has benefited from professional services of senior experts and academicians on a part-time and non-tenure basis as Deputy or Assistants to the Secretary General. As a matter of customary practice, other APA member parliaments have also undertaken to generously provide local accommodation as well as APA senior experts' remuneration when they have hosted an APA meeting.

According to APA Resolution APA/Res/2009/01 dated 9 December 2009 on Streamlining of the APA Work, each year the APA is to hold a Plenary Session which includes a meeting of Executive Council; an Executive Council Meeting; and three Standing Committee Meetings. The effective organization and professional conduct of these meetings require detailed coordination and division of work and responsibility between the APA Secretariat and the host Parliament. The APA Secretariat is basically responsible for providing accurate background information; technical expertise; legal advises; drafting documents and supervising APA documents, as well as assistance to the Chair for the smooth conduct of all APA Meetings. The host Parliament is responsible for providing all required logistics; accommodations; equipment; interpretation; printing and circulation of documents; as well as protocol arrangements. The details of such coordination along with associated remunerations and allowances due to Secretariat officials have been hitherto fore outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by an authorized staff of the host Parliament and of the APA Secretariat.

Taking into account this explanatory note, the Executive Council recommends to the APA Plenary the adoption of the following decision:



**APA/ Decision/2013/01
10 December 2013**

**APA Decision
on
Modalities for Effective Organization of APA Meetings**

In line with customary international standards and the common practice by all international organizations, and in order to institutionalize the previous practice by Member Parliaments, the APA Plenary decides that the Secretariat officials (senior experts)* serving the APA Meetings, including the services provided for the 6th APA Plenary, are entitled to Remuneration; Daily Subsistence Allowance and travel expenses on the basis of annual rates announced by the United Nations to be specified in the MOU between the Secretariat and the host Parliament.

* APA Secretary-General is not entitled because he is a political appointee and not a technical expert.