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Report of the APA Eighth Plenary

"Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia"

7-12 December 2015
Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia

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SECOND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

1. The Second Executive Council of Asian Parliamentary Assembly in 2015 held its meeting on 8 December 2015 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia. APA Delegations from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Korea DPR, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam participated in this meeting.

2. His Excellency Dr. M. Islami, Acting APA Secretary General opened the meeting and presented the Agenda for adoption. The meeting adopted its Agenda unanimously. Then the Bureau of the Second Executive Council of APA was elected, Honorable Mr. Mian Reza Rabbani, President of APA presided over the meeting, Honorable Madam Baige Zhao of China was elected as the Vice-Chair and Honorable Mr. Zuhair Sanduqa of Palestine served as the Rapporteur of the Executive Council Meeting. Honorable Dr. NGUON Nehl, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the APA 8th Plenary Session co-chaired the meeting.

3. Honorable Rabbani, delivered his opening statement at the beginning of the meeting pointing out that the present Executive Council meeting “picks up the thread in continuation of our joint endeavors to tap the enormous potentials of Asian continent for the betterment of our peoples, by forging strong and enduring inter and intra-regional partnerships.”

4. H. E. Dr. Nguon Nhel, presented his opening Statement and pointed out that the theme of the APA Plenary Session: *Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia* is a very important and relevant one in the context of current regional and global developments.

5. The following draft resolutions were considered and recommended to the Plenary for final approval:

- Advancing Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia
- Mobilizing Interactions between APA and Asian Governments
- Deploring Acts of Terrorism and Violent Extremism

- Significant Political Developments in Asia
- Asian Integrated Energy Market
- Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth
- The Role of APA Parliaments to Adopt Legislations in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia
- Poverty Eradication in Asia
- Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia
- Asian Integration through Information and Communication
- Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia
- Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrants Workers in Asia
- Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption
- Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions
- Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia
- Effective Cooperation in Combating Drug Trafficking in Asia

6. Delegations of Pakistan, Turkey, and Russia, proposed amendments to third and fourth draft resolutions of the Political Committee. While they were allowed to present their amendments, the Chair of the meeting emphasized the fact that the draft resolutions had been discussed in details in the respective Standing Committees during 2015 and then finalized in the first Executive Council in Tehran. Accordingly, the amendments should be limited to minor modifications or corrections so that they would not require changes in their context or major alteration in their text. Delegates were required to submit their proposed amendments to the APA Secretariat in written for possible incorporation in the draft resolutions.

7. The Draft Agenda of the 8th APA Plenary Session, as prepared by the Secretariat in coordination with the host parliament, was presented and adopted in the meeting.

8. H.E. Dr. Islami briefed the meeting about the combined session of three Special Working Groups on the side lines of the 8th Plenary as decided by the first Executive Council meeting on the following issues:

- Common legislation for combating the smuggling of cultural objects in Asia;
- Establishment of the Virtual Parliament;
- Parliamentarians Against Corruption

9. The Chairman of the Organizing Committee informed the meeting of the outcome of its informal consultations concerning the designation of four APA Vice-Presidents under the Cambodian Presidency in 2016 as follows:

- China as the Vice-President on Economic and Sustainable Development and Pakistan as the Rapporteur
- Jordan as the Vice-President on Political Affairs and Lao as the Rapporteur
- Iran as the Vice-President on Social and Cultural Affairs and Vietnam as the Rapporteur
- Afghanistan as the Vice-President on Staff and Financial Regulations.

10. Acting Secretary-General mentioned that a draft resolution on assessed contributions by APA Member Parliaments and the budget for 2016 will be presented in the meeting of the Standing Committee on Financial and Staff Regulations for consideration and recommendation to the Plenary.

11. With regard to the Special Committee on Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP), President Rabbani suggested reconsideration of the decision of the APA first Executive Council on structuring SCCAP under the Standing Committee of Political Affairs. The issue was referred to the meeting of the SCCAP on December 9, 2015 for further consideration.

12. With regard to the decision taken by the 1st Executive Council meeting concerning the reduction of the required quorum for the APA Plenary and Executive Council meetings, consensus was not reached on reducing the number of present Member Parliaments for the required quorum of the Plenary Sessions. Participants stressed the importance of presence of at least half plus one of the APA Members as the required quorum for the plenary sessions. It was decided that the subject requires further deliberation in the future.

INNAUGURAL SESSION

1. The Inaugural Session of the 8th APA Plenary began at the Sokha Hotel in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, on 9 December 2015. The session began with the National Anthem of Cambodia, followed by certain local cultural performances. Honorable Dr. Nguon Nhel, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chairman of Organizing Committee welcomed the APA delegations and emphasized that peace, political stability, national reconciliation and peaceful dialogue are key components of prosperity and harmony at national, regional and world levels. Text of Dr. Nguon's Inaugural address is attached to this Report as Annex I.

2. The second speaker was the APA Acting Secretary-General, H. E. Dr. Islami. He said that Parliamentary diplomacy is an increasingly important dimension of international relations in our age. Although, the principal function of parliaments in democratic systems of governance is mainly legislative, they also possess substantial weight in setting the agenda for the executive branch of their respective governments both in domestic and foreign affairs. The text of Dr. Islami's Inaugural address is attached to this Report as Annex II.

3. Honorable Mian Reza Rabbani, Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan and the APA President acknowledged the determination of Member Parliaments in steering APA initiatives towards realizing common objectives as per the APA Charter and reviewed standing committee meetings since the 6th Plenary Session held in Islamabad in 2013. The text of Honorable Mr. Rabbani's Inaugural address is attached to this Report as Annex III.

4. Honorable Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia was the next speaker at the inaugural session. He mentioned that the theme of "Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia" is indispensable as it does not only inspire us to collectively respond to evolving situations in regions where civil war has broken out and terrorism network has spread, but it also contributes to the comprehensive understanding of the meaning and the value of peace and the necessity of everyone's cooperation internationally in preventing, reducing, and

ending armed conflicts and wars everywhere around the world. The text of Mr. Hun's Inaugural address is attached to this Report as Annex IV.

5. The President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Honorable Say Ch hum was the next speaker. He mentioned peace is the most important factor for the survival of the people and for national development. At present, Cambodia is able to develop and build the country with an average economic growth of 7 percent annually. Due to the fact that Cambodia has attained full peace, security, national unity and political stability, Cambodian people are now living without fears and enjoying all rights including the right to engage in politics. The text of Mr. Say's Inaugural address is attached to this Report as Annex V.

6. Honorable Mr. Heng Samerin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia declared the APA 8th Plenary Session officially open. Then he said he was optimistic that this historical gathering of the representatives of the Asian people will have a positive impact on ending violence and disasters that are triggering in the region and the world. The text of Mr. Heng's Inaugural address is attached to this Report as Annex VI.

PLENARY SESSION

1. The Plenary started its first session at 11:15 a.m. by adopting its Agenda. The Agenda and the program of work are attached as Annexes VII and VIII.
2. Honorable Senator Mianreza Rabbani, provided a brief review of meetings of the APA Standing Committees in 2015 which were conducted in Ankara, Jakarta and Tehran. He then handed over the Presidency of the APA to Honorable Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin from the Kingdom of Cambodia. Honorable HENG Samrin addressed the Plenary Session and pointed out that “on behalf of the Cambodian people, I have great pleasure and honor to be the President of the 8th and 9th Plenary Sessions of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in 2015 and 2016”.
3. Election of the Bureau of the 8th APA Plenary was held and Honorable Mr. Heng Samrin as the Chairman announced the Vice-Presidents of the four Standing Committees in 2016 as follows:
 - ✓ Parliament of Jordan as Vice-President for the Political Affairs Standing Committee
 - ✓ Parliament of China as Vice-President for the Economic Standing Committee
 - ✓ Parliament of Iran as Vice-President for the Social & Cultural Standing Committee
 - ✓ Parliament of Afghanistan as Vice-President for Staff and Financial Regulations Standing Committee

REPORT OF THE ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

H. E. Dr. Masoud Islami, Acting APA Secretary-General presented a report on the work of the organization. He pointed out that the time has arrived for APA to avail itself of the opportunities created by its network of parliamentarians across Asia and to open a new chapter in parliamentary diplomacy by undertaking much more active role in decision-making processes at national and regional levels.

Dr. Islami stated that notwithstanding all its great potentials and accomplishments, the remarkable role of the APA, as the Parliamentary voice of Asia, in influencing the turn of events in Asia is yet to be fully realized. The Organization needs to strengthen its relevance to current developments throughout Asia and beyond so it could further contribute to the prosperity, development, peace, and improvement of living conditions in the region. He went on to say that the APA is in need of mechanisms to pursue the realization of its resolutions. It is crucial to reiterate once again the necessity of fulfillment of the operative parts of all APA resolutions. To achieve this fundamental goal, it is highly advisable that each Member Parliament should establish an internal working group specially mandated to pursue the implementation of operative parts of the APA resolutions.

In his report, the Acting Secretary-General highlighted outlined 18 draft resolutions which were recommended to the Plenary for adoption. The text of his report is attached as Annex IX.

GENERAL DEBATE

The Heads of Delegations from participating APA Member Parliaments and the Secretary-General of PUIC presented their speeches on the theme of the 8th Plenary. The texts of available speeches are attached to this Report as Annex X.

1. Afghanistan:
2. Bahrain
3. Bangladesh
4. Cambodia
5. China
6. Cyprus
7. Indonesia
8. Iran
9. Korea PDR
10. Kuwait
11. Lao PDR
12. Lebanon
13. Malaysia
14. Russian Federation
15. Saudi Arabia
16. Thailand
17. Turkey
18. Vietnam
19. PUIC

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS

1. The APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs held its meeting at 9:00 am, on December 9th, 2015 at the Sokha hotel in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia. Delegations from Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Russia, Thailand, Turkey and Viet Nam participated in this meeting.
2. Honorable Shehadah Abuhdaib from Jordan presided over the meeting in his capacity as the APA Vice-President for Political Affairs. Honorable, Nhem Thavi from National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia was elected as the Vice-Chairman and Honorable General Nipat THONGLEK from Thailand was elected as the Rapporteur.
3. The meeting adopted its agenda as prepared by the Secretariat.
4. The list of documents before the Meeting included:
 - a. Draft Resolution on Advancing Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia
 - b. Draft Resolution on Mobilizing Interactions between APA and Asian Governments
 - c. Draft Resolution on Deploring Acts of Terrorism and Violent Extremism
 - d. Draft Resolution on Significant Political Developments in Asia
5. H.E. Dr. Masoud Islami, the APA Acting Secretary-General provided an outline of the most important points pertaining to each draft resolution and informed the participants on the status of all items on the agenda of the Standing Committee on Political affairs setting the ground for further deliberation by the present members.
6. The participants engaged in a vibrant debate on all draft resolutions. Most of the discussions were directed to the draft resolution on Deploring Acts of Terrorism and Violent Extremism and the draft resolution on the Significant Political Developments in Asia. Certain amendments were presented by the delegations from Lao, North Korea, Pakistan, Palestine, Turkey and Viet Nam. The meeting considered the complete text of each draft resolution one by one and discussed the

proposed amendments. After extensive deliberations by participants, a number of amendments were accepted by the meeting and were reflected in the final version of the draft resolutions by the APA Secretariat. The Standing Committee then unanimously decided to recommend four draft resolutions to the Plenary for final consideration and adoption. The final version of four draft resolutions shall be attached to the report of 8th Plenary.

7. After the closure of the APA Plenary meetings, the delegation of Thailand, while stressing its full support for collective and consolidated efforts by APA Member Parliaments for the promotion of peace and security and encountering terrorism in Asia, requested that its dissociation with paragraphs 10 and 11 of the resolution on Significant Political Developments in Asia be reflected in the final report of the meeting. After the conclusion of the meeting, the delegation of Turkey submitted a letter to the Secretariat expressing some concern on the wording of paragraph 11 of the resolution on Deploring Acts of Terrorism and Extreme Violence to the effect that it might provide pretext for separatist acts in Turkey, and requested the Secretariat to mention this in the final report of the meeting.

8. The Standing Committee expressed special appreciation to the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for excellent organization of the meeting and the hospitality extended to all participants. On behalf of all distinguished delegates, the Chair particularly thanked the APA Secretariat for outstanding service it has provided for smooth running of the meeting. Special thanks and appreciation were expressed also to the staff of the local organizing committee for their hard work and contributions to the meeting.

REPORT OF THE APA STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development held its meeting on 10 December 2015 and adopted its agenda.

1. Honorable, Mrs. Baige Zhao, Member of National People's Congress Standing Committee, People's Republic of China chaired the meeting. Honorable, Honorable Mr. Esmaeil Jalili from Islamic Republic of Iran was elected as the Vice-Chairperson and Honorable Mr. Mozammel Hossain from Bangladesh was elected as Rapporteur of the Standing Committee. His Excellency Dr. Ali Khorram, Deputy Secretary-General of APA opened the presentation over the five resolutions.

2. The documents before the Standing Committee were:

- Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth
- Draft Resolution on The Role of APA Parliaments to Adopt Legislation in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Draft Resolution on Asian Integrated Energy Market,
- Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia
- Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication in Asia

3. The Standing Committee first reviewed the background information on the aforementioned Draft Resolutions. Dr. Khorram pointed out that the Standing Committee met in Jakarta, on 20 August 2015, considered the report of the Secretary General (SG/Rep/2015/02/rev.1), and developed the Draft Resolutions before the First Executive Council. He mentioned these Draft Resolutions were discussed and adopted in the First and Second Executive Councils.

5. The Chairperson opened the discussion and deliberation on the draft resolutions one by one. Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth was adopted without any new comment.

6. Draft Resolution on "The Role of APA Parliaments to Adopt Legislation in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals" was discussed and the distinguished delegation from Kuwait proposed a new paragraph which was adopted by the Standing Committee.

7. Draft Resolution on Asian Integrated Energy Market was considered by the Standing Committee as the next resolution. The distinguished delegations from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iran made some comments and corrections which were adopted by the Standing Committee.

8. The Standing Committee discussed Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia as the next resolution. There were many comments, observations and amendments from the floor including delegations from Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Jordan, Kuwait, Palestine and China that contributed to further enriching the Draft Resolution. Those comments were able to get consensus, incorporated into the text of the resolution.

9. Deputy Secretary-General of APA mentioned that Heads of States who participated in COP 21 in Paris (30 November to 6 December 2015) agreed on a global, legally binding agreement to keep global warming below 2°C by the end of the 21th century. He also informed the Standing Committee that the Secretary-General of the United Nations had a lecture in COP 21 and stated "we need an agreement that will limit temperature rise to less than 2 degrees Celsius. For many, including low-lying and least developed countries, even a 1.5 degree rise will have grave consequences".

10. Delegation of Kuwait proposed to change the long name of the Resolution and use more concise title for it like "The Environmental Issues." The proposal was accepted by the Standing Committee.

11. The last draft resolution which was raised in the Standing Committee was the Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication in Asia. This draft was adopted by the Standing Committee with minor corrections.

12. The Standing Committee took note with appreciation of the Reports submitted by the APA Secretary-General for each item that constituted the basis of deliberations in the Standing-Committee leading to the development of the draft resolutions above.

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

- APA/Economic/Res/2015/01: Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth
- APA/Economic/Res/2015/02: Draft Resolution on The Role of APA Parliaments to Adopt Legislation in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
- APA/Economic/Res/2015/03: Draft Resolution on Integrated Energy Market in Asia,
- APA/Economic/Res/2015/04: Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues
- APA/Economic/Res/2015/05: Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication in Asia

14. The Honorable Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China expressed readiness to host the relevant meeting of the Standing-Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development in 2016 the exact date of which will be determined by coordination of the APA Secretariat.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

1. The Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held its meeting on 10 December 2015 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia. Delegations from Bahrain, Cambodia, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Pakistan, Palestine, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam participated in the meeting.

2. The meeting considered and adopted the draft agenda as prepared by the Secretariat (Annex II). Honorable Mr. Dr. Esmail Jalili from the Consultative Assembly of Iran was elected as the Chairman, Honorable Mrs. Em Ponna from National Assembly of Cambodia was elected as the Vic-Chairman, and Mr. Vu Hai Ha from National Assembly of Viet Nam was elected as the Rapporteur of the meeting.

3. The list of documents before the Meeting included:

- ✓ Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia;
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology;
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia;
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia;
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption;
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians;
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions;
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia;

✓ Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia.

4. In the opening session, Honorable Mr. Dr. Esmail Jalili from the Consultative Assembly of Iran expressed his view on social and cultural matters as the bases of cooperation in Asia and their positive effects to strengthen friendship and cooperation in this continent.

5. His Excellency Dr. Seyed Ali Mahmoudi Deputy Secretary General of APA pointed out the importance of different issues in the resolutions on social and cultural matters which almost covers all the subject matters on regional and international affairs.

6. The participants engaged in a general debate on ways and means required for promoting and implementing of the previous APA resolutions. Distinguished delegates from Bahrain, Cambodia, Cyprus, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Pakistan, Palestine, Russian Federation, and Saudi Arabia, expressed their viewpoints on subject matters of the draft resolutions. Finally all the draft resolutions were adopted by the delegations except the “draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia”. Based on a proposal by Russian delegation, consideration of the draft resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia, which contained reference to legal commitment under certain international conventions, was postponed to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs for full consideration in order to achieve a unanimous decision by APA Member Parliaments.

7. The Standing Committee expressed special appreciation to the Parliament of Cambodia for excellent organization of the meeting and the generous hospitality extended to all participants. On behalf of all distinguished delegates, the chair particularly thanked the APA Secretariat for outstanding service it has provided for the smooth running of the meeting. Appreciations were also made to the staff of the local secretariat for its effective support for the meeting.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON STAFF AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

1- The meeting of Staff and Financial Regulations was chaired by Honorable Monavar Shah Bahadori, Member of the Parliament of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, who called the meeting to order and introduced the draft resolution on the agenda. The Chair called on H.E. Bijan Moshirvaziri, Deputy Secretary-General of APA to provide background information on the status of the Draft Resolution.

2- Deputy Secretary-General briefed the meeting on background of the adoption of APA Staff and Financial Regulations by 7th APA plenary held in 3 December 2014 in Lahore - Pakistan. He also referred to the Annexes of Draft Resolution and provided the required information on each one. He mentioned that APA Secretariat has fulfilled its mandate to prepare these documents by benefiting from experience and knowledge of a number of financial and international experts and thorough studies of the Rules and Regulations of several similar international organizations. The main objective was to prepare regulations to fit APA administrative needs to better suit its activities.

It was realized that the most relevant international organization to the APA is Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) primarily because it is a parliamentary organization not a governmental one. All APA Member Parliaments are also Members of the IPU, so they are familiar with its functions and rules. In order to draft its annual budget on the basis of the scale of assessed contributions, IPU consider all possible economic and social facts and factors of each Member Parliament as well as the rules and regulations adopted by United Nations' Secretariat. Therefore, the IPU's system of scaling assessed contributions has been evaluated by our expert consultants to be a quite relevant and useful model.

According to the APA scale of assessment, as approved by the 7th Plenary, 1% of the annual budget has been set as a minimum contribution to be paid by the weakest APA Member Parliament and the 6% as the maximum share.

3- The Chair presented his views on necessary steps which have to be taken by all member parliaments to support the APA at the international level. He appreciated the generosity of Islamic Parliament of Iran for its continuous financial support and expressed hope that this support will continue. He emphasized that it is not fair for all financial burdens to be on one member parliament for too many years. He requested all APA members to provide assessed and voluntary contributions to the Secretariat to help its smooth running. A number of delegations, including Iran, Pakistan, Kuwait, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Viet Nam, Jordan, Russia, Cambodia, took part in the discussion.

4- The delegate of Pakistan said the APA Staff and Financial Regulations were discussed in the 7th Plenary but they were not approved and he thinks that these documents need further consideration. The APA Deputy Secretary-General informed the meeting that contrary to what was mentioned by some delegates, according to the operative para 2 of the Resolution No. APA / Res/ 2014/09 of 3 December 2014 which reads as “*Approve the Financial and Staff Regulations as amended and attached to this resolution,*” these documents were indeed adopted by the 7th Plenary.

5 – The Pakistani delegate expressed his views that APA cannot compare its activities with United Nations or Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and apply their system of assessed contributions by Member Parliaments. The Deputy Secretary-General clarified the issue by stating that the subject matter under discussion is not to compare the APA with the UN or the IPU on the amount of their budgets. Rather, the point is that the proposed scale of assessment for the APA has utilized the scale of measurement of the Inter-Parliamentary Union as a model and benefited from its principles and methodology. It is evident that all APA Member Parliaments are members to the IPU and do comply with its rules and regulations to pay their assessed contributions.

6- Following the debate and further clarification by the Secretariat and due to the support extended by many participants to the intervention of distinguished representative of Indonesia that the national budgets of many parliaments for 2016 has already been tabled or approved according to their respective local regulations, it was decided to present the Draft Resolution and its annexes to the Standing

Committee Meeting on Staff and Financial Regulation to be held in Afghanistan early 2016 for final consideration.

7- The Standing Committee expressed its appreciation to the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for hosting the meeting and the hospitality extended to all participants. On behalf of all distinguished delegates, the Chair particularly thanked the APA Secretariat for service it has provided for smooth running of the meeting. Special thanks and appreciation were expressed also to the staff of the local organizing committee for their hard work and contributions to the meeting.

REPORTS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

A. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CREATION OF ASIAN PARLIAMENT

Considering the fact that the open-ended Special Committee for the Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) has not been able to convene or hold any meeting since its establishment in 2014, a meeting was scheduled on the sidelines of the 8th Plenary in order to assess its achievements. Honorable Nhem Thavy, from the National Assembly of Cambodia chaired the meeting. The SCCAP had been mandated by the APA 7th Plenary to develop strategies, under the leadership of the Senate of Pakistan, to move forward the initiative of the Asian Parliament by submitting result-oriented and time-bound reports to APA Executive Council for consideration and recommendation to the Plenary for final approval in coordination with the APA Secretariat.

H. E. Dr. Masoud Islami, the APA Acting Secretary-General briefed meeting of the fact that the APA Secretariat has received no report whatsoever with respect to the implementation of the mandates given to SCCAP by the APA and, contrary to the decision of the 7th Plenary, no coordination of any kind has been done by the Senate of Pakistan with the APA Secretariat. Thus the Secretariat is not in a position to provide any information for the consideration of the meeting.

Honorable Nhem Thavi, the Chairman of the SCCAP meeting informed the participants that, to his total surprise, he has directly received a statement from the Pakistani delegation only a few minutes before the meeting with respect to some measures taken by the Senate of Pakistan like adopting a procedural internal resolution and visiting some European personalities. In the absence of any substantive report by the Senate of Pakistan, and since the delegation of Pakistan chose to leave the meeting, their statement was not considered any more.

It was emphasized by the Chair, and endorsed by the participants of the meeting, that the mandate given by the 7th Plenary to the SCCAP did not include setting up a separate or independent or permanent secretariat for the special committee. SCCAP was established as a subsidiary body of the APA and should thus function within

the APA structure in full coordination with other organs of the organization. The presidency over the SCCAP meetings, like all other APA special committees and working groups, shall be incumbent upon the APA President until the Second Executive Council of the last year of each APA Presidency convenes. SCCAP may have additional meetings where and when the APA Presidents deems necessary or appropriate, and shall submit its reports to the APA Standing Committee of Political Affairs. The idea of Asian Parliament belongs to all Asian Nations and all Member Parliament of the APA have a share of responsibility in promoting it and contributing to its realization. It is thus not to be “coined” by any particular parliament.

The meeting then considered a presentation by Honorable Mrs. Nin Saphon from National Assembly of Cambodia which provided certain guidelines for developing a road map for the creation of an Asian parliament. The meeting also reviewed and discussed highlights of the report prepared by the APA Secretariat on Foundations of An Asian Parliament. All participants were of the view that creation of an Asian parliament is a brilliant idea and a desirable project which requires long-term vision and continuous hard work based on collaboration and synergy by all Asian parliaments.

Given the particular importance attached to the notion of Asian parliament by the APA, and the great interest by all APA Member Parliaments in taking concrete actions towards its realization, it was decided by the meeting to keep the subject as a permanent item on its agenda and encourage further debate and consideration on developing a road map at national and trans-national levels. The meeting also endorsed the earlier decision made by the first APA Executive Council meeting in November 2015 to the effect that in line with the APA Streamlining Resolution SCCAP shall convene when and where the APA Standing Committee of Political Affairs holds its meetings and submits its reports to the Standing Committee.

B. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF APA WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

1. The Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians held its meeting on 9 December 2015 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia. Delegations from Afghanistan, Cambodia, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Kirgizstan, Korea PDR, Kuwait Lao PDR, Pakistan, Russian, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam participated in the meeting.
2. The meeting considered and adopted the draft agenda. Honorable Mrs. Khuon Sudary the member of the National Assembly of Cambodia was elected as the Chairperson; Honorable Mrs. Suwannee Sirivejchapum Member of the National Assembly of Thailand was elected as the Vice-Chairperson, and Mrs. Dr. Stella Mishiaouli Demetriou from the National Assembly of Cyprus was elected as the Rapporteur of the meeting.
3. The document before the Meeting was the draft Resolution on Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians (APA/ Res. 2015/16).
4. Honorable Mrs. Khuon Sudary the Chairperson of the Committee in her presentation emphasized on the equality of women and men and the importance of their role in promoting peace and cooperation in Asia. She made it clear that no positive action is possible without collaboration of men and women. She also mentioned that the implementation of ideas which come from the Secretariat of APA is crucial for Member Parliaments. She then opened a discussion on the notion of equality and ways and means of promoting the position of women in Asia.
5. His Excellency Dr. Seyed Ali Mahmoudi Deputy Secretary-General of the APA drew the attention of Asian Parliamentarians to the necessity of fulfillment of the paragraph of the resolution especially those parts that refer to the issues such as combating violence, and preventing of sexual harassment against women and girls including in arm conflicts. In this regard he mentioned the situation of women in war zones, especially regions that invaded and occupied by DAESH in which brutal crimes are executed against the women and girls.

He explained that based upon the Resolution on Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians adopted in Lahore in 2014, the Secretariat was requested to allocate a one part of the website of the Assembly to facilitate a network between Women Parliamentarians of Asia. He informed the meeting that this part which specified for women is included on the first page of APA's new website. He added that the construction of the new website for the APA Secretariat has been given priority and as soon as the project is completed, APA Women Parliamentarians will be able to get advantage of the capacities of the section entitled "Women Parliamentarians".

6. The participants engaged in a general debate on ways and means required for promoting and implementing of the resolution and expressed their views on the subject matters. Upon extensive deliberation by participants, certain proposals were accepted and referred to the APA Secretariat for incorporating them in the draft resolution.

7. Parliamentary delegations from Cambodia, Cyprus, Indonesia, Kuwait, Pakistan, Russian, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam participated in discussions. They drew the attention of the committee to the hardship of women in rural areas of Asia; difficulties that women face in the Middle East especially in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan regarding economic and political matters. They pointed out that women need to exchange views and learn from each other. It was emphasized that inclusion of at least one woman in all APA delegations from each parliament is needed to be re-emphasized. Another noticeable proposal was inclusion and effective participation of women in all peace building processes. This issue proposed by delegation of Pakistan and Cyprus to be reflected in the Draft Resolution on Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians.

8. The Special Committee expressed appreciation to the Parliament of Cambodia for excellent organization of the meeting and the generous hospitality extended to all participants. On behalf of all distinguished delegates, the chair particularly thanked the APA Secretariat for outstanding service it has provided for the smooth running of the meeting. Appreciations were also made to the staff of the local secretariat for its effective support for the meeting.

C. REPORT OF APA WORKING GROUPS

Under the APA resolutions on Information and Communication Technology; Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption; and Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia; three working groups should have been organized to address the initiatives of the APA in these fields. Since no meeting had been convened to materialize these decisions, the APA Executive Council decided in its first meeting this year that those three working groups should be organized on the sidelines of the 8th APA Plenary in Phnom Penh.

Based on this decision of APA Executive Council three Ad-hoc Working Group Meetings were set up to take place under the auspices of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs on 8 December 2015 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia. The purpose of the meeting was to consider three issues as follows:

- Developing a model legislation for combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items (APA/Res.2015/18);
- Establishment of the Virtual Asian Parliament (APA/Res.2015/11);
- Parliamentarians against Corruption (APA/Res.2015/14);

The meeting considered and adopted the draft agenda. Honorable Senator Chhit Kin Yeat from the Senate of Cambodia was elected as the Chairman, Honorable Mr. Mohammad Javad Nazarimehr from Islamic Parliament of Iran was elected as the Vic-Chairman, and Honorable Mr. Zuhair Sanduqa from Palestine was elected as the Rapporteur of the meeting.

Delegations from Bahrain, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam discussed different aspects of the issues. After full consideration, the meeting made decisions as follow:

1. Concerning developing a model legislation for combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items, a new operative paragraph was added in the resolution with a view to developing a model legislation on combating of smuggling cultural items based on principles annexed to the resolution, as well as national legislative procedures of respective Member Parliaments. The operative was

suggested to be considered in the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.

2. On the establishment of the Virtual Asian Parliament the member parliaments welcomed the project as a necessary and positive step for further facilitating APA communication and the exchange of information among member parliaments and its readiness to collaborate with APA Secretariat on the primary technical and financial study of the project. The issue was suggested to be considered in the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.

3. With regard to the issue of Parliamentarians against Corruption, it was decided that as a fundamental step, different aspects of the subject should be studied through collaboration of APA Member Parliament with the Secretariat.

Phnom Penh Declaration

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

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

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

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

DO HEREBY EXPRESS OUR COMMITMENT TO:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLOSING SESSION

The closing session was convened at 6 p.m. in Sokha hotel in Phnom Penh, and unanimously adopted 18 resolutions; APA Phnom Penh Declaration; and the Report of the 8th APA Plenary. The text of adopted Resolutions is attached as the Annex XI.

OTHER MATTERS

1. Promoting APA Day:

APA Acting Secretary- General reiterated that APA Member Parliaments must utilize various measures and mechanisms for growing efficacy of the Organization. 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.

2. Granting Observer Status to PABSEC

The Application of the Parliamentary Assembly of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) seeking the observer status at the APA was considered. The Secretary General of the said organization had submitted its application on 2/6/2015 to the President of the APA which was then forwarded to the APA Secretariat. The Secretariat included the issue under the title of “any other matter,” of the 8th APA Plenary Session for consideration and decision according to the rule No. 34(3) of the APA Rules of Procedures. The Plenary agreed to grant observer status to PABSEC on a reciprocally basis. The decision shall be communicated to the PABSEC Secretariat in writing.

3. *Relations with ICAPP*

Considering that APA and ICAPP are sharing many objectives, including promotion of mutual understanding and trust among Asian nations and strengthening cooperation in all fields throughout Asia, observer status was established between both organizations on 2010. In order to explore areas of common grounds and to add to the synergy between the two major Asian organizations to help for greater cooperation and integration in Asia, it was also decided to arrange a joint meeting of APA and the ICAPP Standing Committee at the side of the each First meeting of the APA Executive Council. The first and only joint meeting was held on December 2013 at the side of APA 6th Plenary in Islamabad, Pakistan.

4. *Communication with APA Secretariat Through Focal Points*

APA Acting Secretary- General referred to the lack of contact with some of Members , has requested all Member Parliaments in order to facilitate communication with the permanent Secretariat introduce their focal persons along with active email address, fax and phone numbers.

Annex I

Text of Honorable Dr. Nguon's Inaugural address

Welcome Remarks

**Honorable Dr. NGUON Nhel, Second Vice-President of the National
Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chairman of
the Organizing Committee of 8th APA Plenary Session
At the Inaugural Ceremony of the 8th APA Plenary Session**

Under the theme:

"Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia"

Date: 9th December 2015

Venue: Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel and Residence

My respects to:

- Honorable Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia,
- Honorable Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei SAY Chhum, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia;
- Honorable Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia;
- Honorable MIAN Raza Rabbani, President of the Pakistan Senate and Current APA President;
- Honorable Heads and Members of Delegations of the APA Member Parliaments, Honorable Delegations of Observer Countries and Partner Organizations of APA;
- Your Excellency Dr. MASOUD Islami, Acting Secretary-General of APA;
- Your Excellencies Ambassadors to the Kingdom of Cambodia
- Excellencies, National and International Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Page 1 of 5

1. First of all, on behalf of the Organizing Committee of 8th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), I wish to express my sincere and deep thanks to all Honorable Heads and Member Delegates of APA Member Parliaments, Delegates of Observer Parliaments and all national and international distinguished participants, in particular Honorable Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia and Honorable Samdech Vibol Sena Pharkdei Say Chhum, President of the Senate, for their valuable presence at the 8th Plenary Session of APA.

2. In addition, I wish to thank the APA Secretariat, especially His Excellency the Acting Secretary General of APA for his great efforts and commitment to support and prepare all necessary documents, including draft resolutions of the APA Standing Committees to be submitted to the 8th Plenary Session for consideration and adoption. At the same time, on behalf of the Cambodian National Assembly, I wish to deeply thank the Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its valuable supports both technical and financial supports for the work and functioning of APA, in particular the successful voluntary host of the First Executive Council meeting and the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs in early November.

3. The Cambodian Parliament, the Royal Government and the people of Cambodia have the great honor and pleasure with great pride to be given the trust and support to be the host of the 8th and 9th Plenary Session of APA in 2015 and 2016. This really shows that Cambodia has full capacity and favorable conditions of full peace, political stability and safety to hold a historical gathering of representatives of the people in our region.

4. The theme of the 8th APA Plenary Session on "Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia" is a very important and relevant topic to the current regional and global context which is facing a lot of challenges and serious crises, such as terrorism and extreme violence that causes political instability and chaos to society, especially the attacks in Paris that killed more than hundreds of innocent people. These are the challenges we all need to resolve together to ensure our people in Asia live in peace, prosperity and without fear. Moreover, this theme is very connected to the contents of the various Standing Committees and the last year's 7th APA Plenary Session on "Quest for Asian Parliament in Asian Century" which was held in Lahore, Pakistan.

Samdech, Honorable Delegates,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. "Peace, Political Stability, Reconciliation" are key factors and pre-conditions for building and developing a society and country with prosperity, sustainable development and harmony. Cambodia experienced bitter civil war, internal division and political instability for more than three decades, in particular genocidal Pol Pot Regime that killed millions of its own citizens and brought Cambodian society to zero.
6. Peace, political stability, national reconciliation and peaceful dialogue are key and necessary for nations, regions and the whole world to build and develop to obtain prosperity and harmony. In this regard, we all need to continue to promote and strengthen peace and dialogue and respect the principles of democracy and the rule of laws in seeking appropriate resolutions. Peace and political stability in the region is an indispensable factor to sustainable development and social welfare.

*Samdech, Honorable Delegates,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

7. Apart from having general discussions on the theme, we also have a debate on a number of common issues of our region at various Standing and Ad-Hoc Committees over key roles of Parliaments in combating corruption, common legislation on Combating the smuggling of cultural objects in Asia, protecting and promoting the rights of migrants, promoting welfare, promoting inter-faiths dialogue and harmony between religions and the fight against illegal drug-smuggling.
8. I strongly believe that with your active participation in the discussions and exchanges of ideas and perspectives with your esteem responsibility and mutual understanding, in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation, you will offer great contributions to the success of this 8th Plenary Session.
9. As Host of the Plenary Session and Chairman of the Organizing Committee, we do our best to server all Honorable Delegates and all distinguished participants to enjoy comfort, safety and pleasure during your stay in the Kingdom of Cambodia. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any kind of request. We will do our best to accommodate your proposal and do as much as we can to ensure the progress and functioning of this Plenary Session to achieve success and fruitful result. At the same time, we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience you may encounter.
10. Before I conclude, on behalf of the Organizing Committee, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Samdech, Honorable Delegates, Excellencies,

and all distinguished participants for taking their valuable time to attend the 8th Plenary Session and I offer the best wishes and success to all of you.

11. To conclude my remarks, I appeal and encourage all APA member parliaments, observer parliaments and concerning partner organizations to continue and enhance their support and active participations to achieve our common vision in transforming the Asian Parliamentary Assembly into the Asian Parliament in the future, as an effective, accountable and equitable regional legislature that represents all the peoples of Asia to live in peace, stability and harmony and with sustainable development.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Annex II



Statement by the APA Acting Secretary-General, H. E. Dr. Masoud Islami At the Inaugural Session of the 8th APA Plenary

Honorable Speakers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Dignitaries,
Distinguished Representatives from Observer Organizations
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am grateful to witness once again an important APA gathering with so many distinguished participants from so many Asian parliaments. Allow me to begin with expressing my gratitude to the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for its generous hospitality and for the leadership of its Honorable President Samdee Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin and his distinguished Vice, Honorable Dr. NGUON Nhel in organizing the 8th APA Plenary Session. I should also recognize with honor, the presence of H. E. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, the outstanding Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia in this fascinating inaugural ceremony. Let me also extend my sincere appreciation to all members of the local organizing committee and the APA permanent secretariat for the excellent job they have done to bring us together here today.

Honorable Delegates,
Dignitaries,
Distinguished Guests,

Parliamentary diplomacy is an increasingly important dimension of international relations in our age. In light of the global integrative trends in the world, parliaments are becoming more active players both in domestic and foreign affairs. Although, the principal function of parliaments in democratic systems of governance is mainly legislative, they also possess substantial weight in setting the agenda for the executive branch of their respective governments both in domestic and foreign affairs.

In line with the increasing importance and growing relevance of parliamentary diplomacy at regional and international levels, APA does provide a reliable framework for consultation and collaboration among its Member Parliaments on a range of important cultural, economic, political and environmental issues. As the largest Asian inter-parliamentary organization, APA facilitates communication, interaction and cooperation among its members and helps them to harmonize their positions vis-à-vis regional as well as global issues. Indeed, the APA has already made significant accomplishments in this direction by adopting resolutions, on the basis of consensus, which identify priority areas for further integration among Asian nations.

The notion of Asian integration has been central to the APA parliamentary diplomacy. For this central notion to come close to reality, daunting conditions are to be met and formidable challenges have to be overcome. Regional and international integration is not a commodity to be ordered, purchased or imported. It is rather a multi-factor and multi-faceted process which requires prolonged and continuous cooperation. Chronic poverty and disparity in many countries of the continent, where nearly half of the continent's population earns less than two dollars per day, has created an unfavorable condition in Asia. Climate change and environmental degradation together with extreme violence, terror, and foreign occupation are ravaging through the fundamentals of security and stability in important parts of Asia. The cradle of civilizations is now suffering from savage killings and massive destruction. The violence and atrocities taking place in the Middle East, by Daesh, Israel, and other terrorist entities are not also bane to peace and security in Asia, they are counterproductive to our integration and integrity as well.

Honorable Delegates,
Dignitaries,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The splendid theme chosen for the APA 8th Plenary: *Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue* could not be any more timely and relevant to our common anxieties and hopes for Asia. Besides the speeches and remarks by dignitaries and parliamentary leaders of both the host and the guest countries during the general debate, it is expected that constructive discussions will take place on various topics addressed in our standing committees meetings. I am confident that by the end of this Plenary Session and as the result of thoughtful and vigorous debates and deliberations, we will have achieved yet another successful event and shall move forward in our right direction which is the direction of peace, prosperity, cooperation, and harmony among all Asian nations.

History has been made by men and women with foresight and determination. We should cherish Asian Parliamentary leaders who founded the APA with their foresight and determination aimed at greater cooperation and integration in Asia. Europe, Africa and Americas have established parliaments with various functions and mandates. It is the time for the APA and Asia to overcome all the hurdles on the path towards an Asian Parliament.

Thank You.

Annex III

The text of Honorable Mr. Rabbani's Inaugural address

8th Plenary Session of the APA, Inaugural Address

**By
Hon'ble Mian Raza Rabbani,
APA President and
Chairman Senate of Pakistan**

- *H.E. Honourable Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, Prime Minister of Kingdom of Cambodia,*
- **Honourable Speakers, Presiding Officers, Members and Representatives of APA Member Parliaments and Observer delegations.**
- **Excellencies, Dignitaries, Distinguished Guests.**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen!
Assalam-o-Alaikum!**

It is, indeed, a singular privilege to be amidst this grand trans-continental confluence of Speakers, Presiding Officers, Parliamentarians and friends from APA member states, Observer countries, partner organizations and elsewhere here in Phnom Penh.

I, in capacity of President APA, am honoured to extend sincerest greetings and a warm welcome to all of you at the 8th Plenary Session of the APA.

The present plenary session also carries a special significance for being an occasion when the torch of APA leadership changes hands from Pakistan to Cambodia.

As shall shortly be congratulating Cambodia on assuming APA's Presidency, I take pride in leaving behind a strong and inspiring legacy to build future APA endeavors upon.

It's a legacy of friendship, unity, cooperation, tolerance, understanding and an unwavering commitment to change and betterment for teeming millions.

As outgoing President of this esteemed forum, I am very pleased to note that the APA has made tremendous progress towards promoting and achieving the shared ideals of peace, security and socio-economic uplift of Asian peoples during last two years.

The 6th and 7th plenary sessions held in Islamabad and Lahore, respectively, and the Troika Plus, Executive Council and Standing Committee meetings, all rigorously pursued the agenda of greater regional integration through increased cooperation and networking.

Our successive engagements and interactions at various APA sub-forums remained focused and geared towards achieving a very noble, futuristic and mutually-rewarding end.

Let me recapture briefly what that end is.

It's an end to:

- To put up a joint front against terrorism and extremism that threaten to take wind out of our Asian Century sails through increased defence cooperation, and by promoting interfaith harmony.
- To find ways and means to curb violence and internecine armed conflicts impeding Asia's progress through dialogue and understanding.
- To build a just and equitable economic order in Asia by encouraging collaboration in all areas of human endeavour.
- To achieve health equity, gender equality, and respect for human rights.
- To conserve environment by adhering to a development agenda that is sensitive to environmental considerations.

- To protect cultural diversity, curb corruption and bridge digital divide.
- And last but not the least – create necessary political will, broader understanding and mutually-acceptable frameworks towards establishing a truly representative Asian Parliament in order to truly shape Asian destiny through Asian hands.

It comes as a great satisfaction to note that APA has made inspiring headway towards realizing all these shared aspirations and objectives.

It has also been instrumental in building mutual trust and removing misunderstandings in the region to resolve conflicts.

The Islamabad and Lahore declarations, as well as the communiqués issued at the conclusion of Executive Council and Troika Plus meetings amply vindicate our commitment and resolve to this end.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Significant socio-economic and geo-political transitions are taking place at both regional and global levels.

World's economic wealth and power is tilting from North America and Europe towards Asia which has won the unique distinction of having led the world out of the worst recession in over half a century.

Ranking third after North America and Europe in terms of Gross National Product and with 40 percent of the overall world trade at its disposal, Asia is set to become global economic power house.

However, while there is promise, there are roadblocks that we must negotiate together in order to realize the dream of Asian Century.

Likewise, the success of the development priorities and targets set under the Millennium Development Goals as well as the envisaged Sustainable Development Goals is interdependent on coordinating a prompt response from political, social and governmental fronts.

I am confident that by forming a grand Asian Parliament, which is representative of the whole region and stands as custodian of its interests, we can overcome all these challenges and build a future of Asia that we can all be proud of.

Moreover, it is evident from the political activity in the region that Asia is potent in all dimensions and spheres to lead the world.

What we need is a vision and determination that not only chalks out the path forward, but also backs it up with affirmative action.

The role of the envisaged Asian Parliament as a bastion of parliamentary democracy will be crucial in this regard.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I have a firm belief that only a fully representative and vibrant Asian Parliament can harness individual strengths and resilience for shared benefits and equal opportunities for development and progress.

An important milestone in this regard was achieved at the 7th Plenary sitting in Lahore, which resolved to constitute a **'Special Committee on Creation of the Asian Parliament'** to develop consensus within member parliaments to formulate a roadmap to achieve this significant objective.

I am confident that our endeavours will prove to be successful in this regard, leading to further deepening of cooperation among Asian nations on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

At another level, it will also help promote regional peace and human development.

As always, I look forward to international community to come forward and help APA achieve this noble objective through increased parliamentary linkages, and sharing of good practices and expertise.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Asian nations stand at a unique juncture in their history.

Our challenges and opportunities stand intertwined.

Isolated and fragmented efforts, or unilateral approaches will prove to be a non-starter and counter-productive.

I am optimistic that this Plenary sitting will help synthesize mutually-agreeable and acceptable solutions to all issues placed on its agenda.

Thank You!

Annex IV

The text of Honorable Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia's Inaugural address

Speech

By

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia

At the

Opening of 8th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
Under the theme of "Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia"

Phnom Penh, December 9, 2015

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- Excellency **MIAN Raza Rabbani**, Chairperson of the Asia Parliamentary Assembly,
- Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei **SAY Chhum**, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei **HENG Samrin**, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- Excellency **NEJAD Hosseinian**, Secretary General of the Asia Parliamentary Assembly
- Excellencies, Members of delegations from Asia Parliamentary Assembly, non-member observer states and observer non-governmental organizations
- Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen and Distinguished local and International Guests!

Today, I am very pleased and honored to attend the opening ceremony of the 8th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) to be hosted by the Kingdom of Cambodia. On behalf of the Royal government and people of Cambodia, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to APA member parliaments of the delegates from Asia region, delegations from APA observer parliaments and other APA observer non-governmental organizations who have gathered for this historical event. Indeed, the Kingdom of Cambodia is proud to host this plenary session of the Asia Parliamentary Assembly.

The 8th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly under the theme of "**Promoting peace, reconciliation and dialogue in ASIA**" is indispensable as it does not only inspire us to be aware and collectively response to the current evolving situation in the region and the globe where civil war has been broken out in some area and terrorism network has been spread that is extremely dangerous for the nations as a whole, but it also contributes to the comprehensive understanding of the meaning and the value

of peace and the necessity of everyone's cooperation internationally in preventing, reducing, and put an end in armed conflicts and wars everywhere around the world.

Based on this theme, may I share realistic experience that Cambodia has faced in undergoing wars that has caused indescribable suffer to all Cambodian citizens, which left scars that are not completely healed until now. As you all may already recognize that, at the beginning of this past millennium, Cambodia had reached the highest level of noticeable success. We used to consume modern technology in that era in several fields such as architecture, agriculture, urban planning, construction and other renovations. Nevertheless, civil and world wars, that caused by the internal fragmentation since the 14th century and came with the ideology conflict with the external powers in this last decades of the 20th century, have drawn Cambodia into the pit of darkness. In the early 1970s, Cambodia had suffered a severe fragmentation via coup on the 18th March, 1970 that led by marshal **Lon Nol** to overthrow **King Norodom Sihanouk's** regime. This had drawn Cambodia into severe war during the time. Tons of bombs had been dropped within the land of Cambodia, millions of people had lost their lives, become disables, perished from families and lost all wealth. Reaching the mid-1970s, Cambodia had suffered further destructions under the Killing Fields regime of Khmer Rouge. This regime had taken the freedom of the citizens and had killed around three million lives of the innocents.

On the 7th January 1979, the whole nation and Cambodian citizen had been rescued from the genocidal regime of **Pol Pot** by the armed forces of the Khmer United Front for National Salvation. Since then, Cambodia has made great efforts to build and develop its economy and society under the circumstance of "**war's existence and peace's existence**". Having realized the demand and wishes of the people for peace, we started the negotiation to seek political solution until we achieved "**Paris Agreement**" in 1992. According to this agreement, international community had prepared for the universal election for Cambodia in 1993. This election had created coalition which left with one partner staying outside of the society and continued the war against the government. Until 1998, through the implementation of the national "**win-win**" policy, Cambodia had achieved physical and political unification and reconciliation of the nation by itself without external injunctive or persuasive. Based on this principle, Cambodia put an end of the decade of chronic war and then brought full peace, independent, and territorial integrity, with the effort of unification and reconciliation of the nations via **mutual compromise and concession**.

This is the historic truth of the development process that Cambodia has made, so that we clearly understand the value of peace that we never wish to lose again. The fruit of peace has also greatly contributed to strengthening democracy, respect for human rights and dignity. These experiences make Cambodian people to strongly commit to promote the principle of national reconciliation, protect peace, stability and social order, obedience to the constitution and rule of law in order to serve as a common benefit for the people, society and the whole country.

Obviously, the peaceful way to completely put an end of the civil war can be achieved with tremendously great effort. But, maintaining full peace and strengthening the culture of dialogue are even more difficult task. In this spirit, we have to work smart and make double efforts to take full care of key factors that are requisite foundation for peace, including enhancing the culture of non-violence, respect for rights and integrity of human being, promoting democracy and good governance and strictly adhering to the principle of "**Rule of law**", particularly eradicating poverty in the country and improving the standards of living. It is true that if there was no great effort and no realistic result in the implementation of such tasks, we cannot maintain full peace as we have been so far enjoyed it.

- *Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen and all participants*

Currently, peaceful situation in the number of regions in the world has been threatened by domestic conflict, war and terrorism that cause the great loss of human lives and wealth. Recent incident occurring in the central Paris of France, Russian plane crash in Egypt caused by bomb planted by terrorist and California shooting in the United State reassure that terrorist and extremist movement remain serious threat to security and stability in the world. In addition, we have noticed clearly that extremist movement and extremism have spread from one region to another region, including Asia.

Therefore, the world has now faced many great challenges such as uncertainty of economic recovery of the developed countries, prolonged debt crisis in Europe and slower economic growth of the emerging counties such as China, political deadlock and social issue that are occurring in middle east and north Africa, food security and energy issue, climate change, national disaster, cross-border crime have inflicted instability and security of all nations in both regional and global level.

In this regard, the deepening of international cooperation and partnership at all level is indispensable in tackling great challenges, aimed to ensure sustainable development, stability, security and peace as well as social harmonization. It is true that the concerted efforts that we have exerted are

unable to produce expected satisfactory result if there are no active participation and support from every level of our people, particularly youth and private sector. Therefore, our high priorities are given to promote participation of our people in all activities in longer term.

Within this, I am of the view that in the great efforts to strengthen international cooperation among the countries and people and promote the participation, legislative branch of respective country, in particular "**parliamentary institution**" indeed plays essential role in the process. As the legislative branch of respective country, Assembly plays important role in developing regulatory framework and rectifying regulations that help support and shape policy direction for executive branch, "government" of respective country to promote the implementation of national development policy program and its foreign policy. In addition, we have to understand that parliament plays the important role as a bridge to connect legislative branch with people. Therefore, close cooperation between government and legislative branch provide auspicious opportunity for executive branch to understand clearly about the wish and the need of our people and then take rational action to fulfil their wish in order to respond to their need. Moreover, in addition to providing necessary supports to key tasks of the government, Parliament also has to pay role in conveying all achievement made by government to their people with an objective to germinate and strengthen the "**participation spirit**" which is very important tool for enhancing solidary, territorial integrity and social harmonization as well as for strengthening and expanding international cooperation that are prerequisite for ensuring full peace and sustaining development.

In this spirit, the organization of the 8th Plenary Session of Asia Parliamentary Assembly under the theme of "**Promoting peace, reconciliation, dialogue in Asia**" has provided auspicious opportunity to remind necessity for strengthening solidary, territorial integrity and close cooperation among the member countries to ensure full peace at national, regional and global level through promoting culture of non-violence and dialogue, strong patient and mutual respect, balancing and peaceful dispute settlement based on the principle of respective country's rule of law and international law.

In this regard, we should announce commitment of all respectable international documents includes United Nations' Charter, United Nations' Pacts, other conventions that go against the wars and promote peace, and all conflict resolution is resolved with peace and stood by the essential international laws framework. Moreover, we all should promote relationship, friendship, and cooperation among nations in all fields. Within this, we should extensively

advertise on the understanding of foundation that supports peace such as promoting non-violence culture and culture of dialogue, tolerant with and forgiving each other in our societies.

In this spirit, I believe that APA member parliaments of the delegates from Asia region will actively participate in discussion about the topic of this 8th plenary session by sharing knowledge and experience in making peace and security to serve as a benefit for the people living in Asia and in the world. In addition, I would like to encourage participants to discuss this topic in broader context by not only center on strengthening peace and security, but also learn the process of dispute settlement and prevention of dispute from happening in countries and in the region.

Once again, I would like to express my warmest welcome and highly appreciate the presence of Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, and may I wish you all a pleasant and memorable stay in Cambodia.

Thank you!

Annex V

The text of Honorable Say Ch hum, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia's Inaugural address

Translation

SPEECH

By

Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei SAY CHHUM
President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia
at the opening of the 8th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
(APA) under the theme
"Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia"
Phnom Penh, 09 December 2015

- Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG SAMRIN, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- Honorable Mian Raza Rabbani, President of the APA
- H.E Dr. Masoud Islami, Acting Secretary General of APA
- Honorable Colleagues
- Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to all distinguished guests on the opening of the 8th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA).

Under the theme "Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia", this meeting will emphasize our participation and global responsibility in promoting peace and conflict resolution through peaceful means in Asia and across the world. Conflicts and violence often have negative effects on mankind, loss of lives, suffering, separation, destruction and migration impeding progress and developments in all sectors.

Internal conflicts in one country often have negative impacts on neighboring countries and whole regions. At the same time, multi-sector cooperation between countries is often interrupted. Peace, stability and regional security also come under threat.

Cambodia is a country in Asia that went through civil wars and internal conflicts for decades. The genocidal regime of the Khmer Rouge totally destroyed this country. After the fall of the Khmer Rouge regime in 1979, civil war in Cambodia did not end yet. Intervention by the United Nations and international communities to bring full peace and unity to Cambodia had only partial success. Internal factors, especially national reconciliation was indispensable factor for bringing peace to the country.

This was what prompted Cambodia to try to overcome obstacles and challenges by itself through continued dialogue under the format of negotiations for the sake of national reconciliation. For instance, in 1998, the Head of the Royal Government introduced “Win-Win” policy to end the internal armed conflicts that had dragged on in Cambodia for decades. Integration of the Khmer Rouge military into society was done without bloodshed. This proved to be one of the biggest efforts in protecting sovereignty and national integrity, ending conflict through national reconciliation and bringing full peace to the country and the Cambodian people.

These factors opened a new chapter for Cambodian history filled with new images of rapid development and regained national prestige under regional and global frameworks.

Samdech, Honorable Members of Parliaments, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Peace is the most important factor for the survival of the people and national development. At present, Cambodia is able to develop and build the country with an average economic growth of 7 percent annually. Due to the fact that Cambodia has attained full peace, security, national unity and political stability, Cambodian people are now living without fears and enjoying all rights including the right to engage in politics according to their wishes.

Being a peace-loving country and a member of the United Nations, Cambodia has been actively engaging in international security and peace-keeping activities by sending peace keeping forces and demining squads to several countries under the UN umbrella. Therefore, to preserve this hard-earned peace and stability, Cambodia is committed to upholding its multiparty liberal democracy and culture of dialogue which are the basic foundation of promoting peace and national reconciliation.

Dialogue and national reconciliation are the only way to end conflicts peacefully. In this regard, the Parliament has an important role to play in the process.

Under the constitution, Parliament is an institution that approves and rejects a country from going to war. Besides the role of representation and overseeing the implementation of government’s national and international policies, Parliament also has another role, the legislative role. The manner in which this role is played will determine the future and destiny of a country. Effective legislation that can prevent conflicts is so crucial that parliamentarians and political parties should be inspired to work together to seek consensus and common goals for greater national interests.

On top of that, Parliamentary Diplomacy is one of the latest trends in this era effectively contributing to promoting peace and reconciliation in the region and across the world. This mechanism promotes both technical and political cooperation in either bilateral or multilateral frameworks. Parliamentary interaction can be done through exchanges of visits and dialogues in area such as security and mutual interest with the aim of strengthening friendship, stability, peace, security and cooperation.

In the Cambodian context, the transformation from a unicameral to bicameral parliament through the establishment of the Cambodian Senate in 1999 was a system of checks-and-balances which significantly and effectively contributed to national reconciliation and strengthening of rule of law. Additionally, the bicameral system in Cambodia also helps to promote representative role, quality of legislation and good governance, particularly in strengthening of democracy at the sub national level. On the other hand, our decentralization and de-concentration policy is a key factor behind national harmonization and a link that ensures movement of power from the central to the local government and vice versa.

Lastly, I deeply hope that this 8th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly achieves great success and fruitful results so our parliaments are more aware of their roles in contributing to peace building as well as national and international reconciliation for the sake of development and prosperity.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our international delegates and guests a safe and pleasant stay in the Kingdom of Angkor.

I would also like to wish Samdech, Honorable Colleagues, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen the best of health, happiness and success.

Thank you

Annex VI

The text of Honorable Heng Samerin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia's Inaugural address

OPENING ADDRESS

HONORABLE SAMDECH AKKA MONHA PONHEA CHAKREI HENG SAMRIN, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE 8TH PLENARY SESSION OF THE ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)

**“Promoting Peace, Reconciliation, and Dialogue in Asia”
Sokha Hotel and Residence, 09 December 2015**

- Honorable Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei SAY Chhum, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia;
- Honorable Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia;
- Honorable MIAN Raza Rabbani, President of the Pakistan Senate and APA President;
- Honorable Dr. NGUON Nhel, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chairman of the 8th APA Organizing Committee;
- His Excellency Dr. MASOUD Islami, Acting Secretary-General of APA;
- Honorable Heads and Members of Delegations of the APA Member Parliaments and Honorable Delegations of Observer Parliaments and partner organizations of APA;
- Excellencies, National and International Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

1. Today, the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia is deeply honored by the presence of Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei SAY Chhum, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, Honorable Chairpersons of Member Parliaments, the observer parliaments and partner organizations, on the auspicious

occasion of the 8th Plenary Session of APA held in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

2. On behalf of the Cambodian National Assembly, I would like to warmly welcome and express my gratitude to Samdech Techo HUN Sen, who has been supporting the activities of APA since its inception.
3. I am very pleased to witness the progress of APA. Along these lines, I deeply appreciate the ongoing achievement and considerable advancement of APA which has been stepping forward for almost 20 years with the strong support of Asian nations.
4. I welcome and value the meaningful and insightful speeches which have been delivered by Samdech Prime Minister, Samdech Senate President, Honorable Chairman of the 8th APA Organizing Committee, Honorable President of Pakistan Senate, and His Excellency Acting Secretary-General of APA.
5. The concepts conveyed in the speeches highlight the collective spirit of politicians in the legislative and executive bodies of Asian nations with an indomitable will in quest of peace for the region and the world. These recommendations are indispensable inputs for the Plenary to use as a springboard for draft resolutions of the three APA standing committees which focus on the principles of friendship and cooperation with a view to upholding deep-rooted ties in terms of history, geography, culture, civilization, politics, and economy. These elements connect Asian people.
6. It is with great pride for the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Cambodian people that during the five-mandate legislature, we have actively joined with other regional and global legislative bodies in developing common legislation with a view to ensure the ideal and conscience of the legislative bodies truly benefit, protect and offer harmony for Asian people.
7. I am optimistic that this historical gathering of the representatives of the Asian people will have a positive impact on ending violence and disasters that are triggering the region and the world to turn around as normal as the collective spirit of the Asian Representatives covers almost all positive aspects of Asian nations and curb any hostile attempts.
8. This is a great opportunity for all of us to establish a rational long-term vision to pave the way for fostering closer cooperation.
9. Our presence at this moment shows the world that it is our collective will to build a harmonious Asian region by seeking peaceful solutions to conflicts based on principles of co-existence and mutual respect. These principles are an instrument to solving challenges and a primary approach for APA to advocate building a legal framework to avoid competition in military strength.

Samdech, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

10. For the realization of the APA vision, we need to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation and fully implement agreements, Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) and other existing legal instruments. And these includes the resolutions of the 8th Plenary Session will become the essential regulations to be implemented.

11. In the context of globalization, countries shall never escape from the impact of the unintended risks, especially those that share geo-politic and economy in the region.

12. The only solution to those challenges entails legal and legislative cooperation. It is an effective instrument to prevent and end suffering and violence.

13. From my point of view, APA should aim to set up a regional protocol which can serve as a legal tool for implementation and protection in case of any possible regional crisis.

14. Asia is not only a multiracial and multi-religious region of cultural diversity and glorious civilizations, but it is also a productive region of global economy and potential tourism which is an important source of income for sustainable development.

15. We also have to pay attention to climate change, transfer of technology, and financing from developed to developing countries to address environmental degradation. There is a need to introduce feasible internal regulations in the region. The purposes of doing so are to encourage respect for cultural and traditional differences; to cement cultural, economic, political, and educational relations among Asian countries; and to encourage interactions between APA and Asian Governments.

16. I do hope our plenary session today will proceed with friendliness and good cooperation. And we will address a multitude of issues by discussions and debates based on the collective will of Asian nations.

17. Finally, I would like to encourage the representatives of APA Member Parliaments who are present here to comment and share your best practices as a basis for the realization of the common vision of Asian nations.

At this point, I would like to declare the 8th APA Plenary Session open!
Thank you

Annex VII

The Agenda of 8th Plenary



Asian Parliamentary Assembly The 8th Plenary Session



Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia

7-12 December 2015 Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Inaugural Ceremony

1. **National Anthem**
2. **Cultural Performance**
3. **Welcome Address by Hon. Dr. NGUON Nhel**, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chairman of Organizing Committee
4. **Address by H.E Dr. Masoud ISLAMI**, Acting Secretary General of APA
5. **Address by Honorable Mr. Mianraza RABBANI**, Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan and APA President
6. **Address by Hon. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
7. **Address by Hon. Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei SAY Chhum**, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia
8. **Opening Address by Hon. Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin**, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia



Asian Parliamentary Assembly The 8th Plenary Session



Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia

7-12 December 2015 Phnom Penh, Cambodia

AGENDA OF THE 8TH PLENARY SESSION

(Continued)

7. General Debate: *"Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia"*
8. Remarks by **Hon. Dr. NGUON Nhel**, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of Cambodia and Chairman of the Organizing Committee
9. Presentation of Reports by Chairpersons and Adoption of Draft Resolutions of the Standing Committees and Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians
 - Standing Committee on Political Affairs
 - Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development Affairs
 - Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
 - Special Committee Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians
10. Adoptions of the Draft Report of 8th Plenary Session
11. Presentation of Phnom Penh Declaration by **Hon. Mr. HUN Many**, Member of Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media of the National Assembly
12. **Closing Statement** by **Hon. Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin**, President of the National Assembly and President of APA.

Annex VIII

The Program of Work of 8th Plenary



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY THE 8TH PLENARY SESSION



PROMOTING PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND DIALOGUE IN ASIA

PROGRAM OF WORKS

7 - 12 DECEMBER 2015

SOKHA PHNOM PENH HOTEL AND RESIDENCE,
PHNOM PENH, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

DAY ONE

MONDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2015

- Delegates arrive at Phnom Penh International Airport
- Delegates Check-in at the Lobby Level of the HOTEL
- Registration of Delegates at the HOTEL

11:30 - 14:00

- Lunch

Venue: *The Lotus Restaurant (Lobby level)*

19:00 - 21:00

- Dinner

Venue: *The Lotus Restaurant (Lobby level)*

DAY TWO

TUESDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2015

06:30 - 08:30

- **Breakfast at the Hotel**
Venue: *The Lotus Restaurant, Lobby Level*

09:00 - 11:30

- **The 2nd APA Executive Council Meeting**
Venue: *Ballroom II, Lobby Level*
- Adoption of Agenda of Executive Council Meeting
- Election of the Bureau
- Welcome Remarks by **Hon. Dr. NGUON Nhel**, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chairman of Organizing Committee
- Opening Remarks by **Honorable Mr. Mianraza RABBANI**, Chairman of the Executive Council Meeting and President of APA
- Statement by **H.E. Dr. Masoud ISLAMI**, Acting Secretary General of APA
- Consideration and Recommendations of Draft Resolutions to Plenary Session for Adoption
- Consideration of Agenda Items of Ad-Hoc Committee on Financial and Staff Regulations
- Consideration of Agenda Items of the Special Committee on Creation of Asian Parliament
- Consideration of Draft Agenda of the 8th APA Plenary Session
- Consideration of Agenda items of the Ad-hoc Working Groups:
 - Common legislation for combating the smuggling of cultural objects in Asia
 - Establishment of the Virtual Asian Parliament,
 - Parliamentarians Against Corruption

- Other matters (If any)
- Close of the 2nd APA Executive Council Meeting
- 12:00 - 13:00**
 - **Lunch**
Venue: *The Lotus Restaurant, Lobby Level*
- 14:30 - 16:00**
 - Ad-hoc Working Groups Meeting:
 - Common legislation for combating the smuggling of cultural objects in Asia
 - Establishment of the Virtual Asian Parliament,
 - Parliamentarians Against Corruption**Venue:** *Ballroom II, Lobby Level*
- 16:00 - 16:30**
 - Coffee Break
- 16:30 - 18:00**
 - Ad-hoc Working Groups Meeting (Continued)
- 18:30 - 21:00**
 - **Welcome Dinner Hosted by Hon. Dr. NGUON Nhel**, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chairman of Organizing Committee
Venue: *Thansur Restaurant, 20th Floor*
Dress Code: *Smart Casual*



DAY THREE

WEDNESDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2015

- 06:30 - 08:00 - **Breakfast at the Hotel**
Venue: The Lotus Restaurant, Lobby Level
- 08:15 - 08:45 - **Courtesy Call on Hon. Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin**, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia by Heads of APA Delegation
Venue: Champei Room, Ground Floor
Dress Code: Lounge Suit
- 09:00 - 10:30 - **INAUGURAL CEREMONY**
Venue: Ballroom I, Lobby Level
Dress Code: Lounge Suit
- o **National Anthem**
 - o **Cultural Performance**
 - o **Welcome Address by Hon. Dr. NGUON Nhel**, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chairman of Organizing Committee
 - o **Address by H.E Dr. Masoud ISLAMI**, Acting Secretary General of APA
 - o **Address by Honorable Mr. Mianraza RABBANI**, Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan and APA President
 - o **Address by Hon. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
 - o **Address by Hon. Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei SAY Chhum**, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia
 - o **Opening Address by Hon. Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin**,



President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia

- Photo Session
- **Coffee Break**
- **PLENARY SESSION**
Venue: Ballroom III, Lobby Level
 - o Adoption of Agenda of the 8th APA Plenary Session
 - o Election of the Bureau of the 8th Plenary:
Vice- Presidents to chair Standing Committees, Chairpersons of Special Committees and Rapporteur
 - o **Statement by Honorable Mr. Mianraza RABBANI**, Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan and APA President to hand over the APA Presidency to **Hon. Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin**, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of APA
 - o **Statement by Hon. Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin**, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of APA
 - o Report of the Executive Council Meetings by **Honorable Mr. Mianraza RABBANI**, Chairman of the Executive Council Meeting
 - o Report by **H.E Dr. Masoud ISLAMI**, Acting Secretary General of APA on the work of the Organization
- **Lunch**
Venue: The Lotus Restaurant, Lobby Level
- **PLENARY SESSION**
General Debate: **(Continued)**
“Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia”



- Venue: Ballroom III, Lobby Level*
- 14:00 - 16:00** - **MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON APA WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS**
Venue: Ballroom II, Lobby Level
- 16:00 - 16:30** - **Coffee Break**
- 16:30 - 18:30** - **General Debate (Continued)**
Venue: Ballroom III, Lobby Level
- 16:00 - 18:00** - **MEETING OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CREATION OF ASIAN PARLIAMENT**
Venue: Ballroom II, Lobby Level
- 18:30 - 21:00** - **Dinner**
Venue: The Lotus Restaurant, Lobby Level



Annex IX

The text of His Excellency Dr. Islami's report to the 8th Plenary



Report by H.E. Dr. Masoud Islami
Acting Secretary-General
of Asian Parliamentary Assembly
Before the 8th APA Plenary Session

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

9 December 2015

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the honor to express my gratitude and congratulations to Honorable Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, the President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for assuming the APA Presidency for the next two years. Cambodian parliament has been among the most active APA members and there is every reason to be hopeful that APA activities and successes will increase under its new president. I would like also to register my appreciation for the support and leadership provided by Honorable Chairpersons of the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan over the past two years, namely Honorable Mr. Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari and Honorable Mian Reza Rabbani. I should also extend my sincere appreciation to the hardworking members of the organizing committee in Phnom Penh, particularly Honorable NGUON Nhel, the Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, as well as all colleagues in the APA Permanent Secretariat in Tehran for the excellent job they have done to bring us together here today. I am also thankful to all and every delegation of APA Member Parliaments participating in this important event. I would like also to welcome all distinguished representatives from important observer organizations namely the PUIC; Arab IPU; AIPA; and PABSEC.

Mr. President,
Honorable Delegates

The time has arrived for APA to avail itself of the opportunities created by its network of parliamentarians across Asia and to open a new chapter in parliamentary diplomacy by undertaking much more active role in decision-making processes at national and regional levels. The ultimate objective of this great inter-parliamentary organization is to pave the way for an Asian Parliament reflecting our common aspiration at the regional level, and serving our collective interests at the world level. In line with such inspiring ideals, all efforts made and every initiative taken by the APA ought to be defined and pursued to the interest of all people living in this great continent.

The APA agenda of work in social-cultural, economic and political areas are relevant and potent. It addresses the most pressing challenges before Asia. From promotion of friendship and cooperation in Asia, to synergizing parliamentary and governmental decision-makings, from combating corruption to working

together to promote inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue, from collective efforts to address climate change and eradicate poverty to measures required for health equity; and from fighting terrorism and calling for a world without violence and extremism to curbing organized crimes.

The APA is now expected to address not only the pressing issues and challenges facing Asia alone, but also the most important issues and challenges at the global level. The fact of the matter is that there is no meaningful separating line between regional issues and global challenges when the world community comes to address environmental degradation, sustainable development, terrorism, democracy and human rights, to mention just a few. As the largest inter-parliamentary organization in Asia representing more than 60% of the world population, APA should play much vivid and active role in promoting and pursuing Sustainable Development Goals. The APA network of Parliaments and Parliamentarians can and should utilize its enormous capacities, hand-in-hand with Asian governments, to mobilize cross-Asian initiatives for more effective coordination in regional as well as global issues.

But at the same time, we have to be realistic and pragmatic. There are plenty of issues and challenges which we have addressed over the years in our unanimous resolutions that still await our collective action. It is of course good to have global ideas and ideals. But it is better to turn ideas and ideals into reality at local and regional levels first. APA has to avoid accumulation of its resolutions which face the challenge of insufficient implementation.

It should be recognized, of course, that the purpose of many APA resolutions is policy coordination among its members and declaration of united stance vis-à-vis certain regional and global issues. This is, in itself, a major indispensable achievement. However, there are important matters which require sufficient and sustained implementation. There is no need to go into details of this kind of resolutions since they will be discussed in the APA Standing Committees meetings. It suffices here to only re-emphasize that the credibility and efficacy of our organization totally depend on the practical commitment of the members to what they resolve on.

APA has been extremely successful in reaching unanimity on many important issues. What it badly needs, is to act upon them. No organization, inter-parliamentary or otherwise, would succeed unless its members vigorously get involved and even compete to pursue the implementation of its collective mandates. Last year, the APA Secretariat suggested a brain-storming session at sidelines of the 7th Plenary on how to make APA a more effective organization. Perhaps we need to make this a continuous practice.

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,

Before us today, there are 19 important draft resolutions on political; economic; environmental; social-cultural, as well as financial and administrative issues which have been tabled and discussed in full details in the respective APA Standing Committees and have been subsequently considered by the Executive Council meetings in Tehran, in early November this year, and in Phnom Penh just yesterday. The draft resolutions include some old and some new subject matters and are to be considered for final adoption by this Plenary Session. I have outlined the topics of draft resolutions according to their respective Standing Committee in the following manner:

1. The APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs held its meeting on 20th and 21st of March 2015 in Ankara. The Committee considered and deliberated a range of important issues and recommended the following four draft resolutions:

- ✓ Draft Resolution on Advancing Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Mobilizing Interactions Between APA and Asian Governments
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Deploring Acts of Terrorism and Violent Extremism
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Significant Political Developments in Asia

2. The APA Standing Committee on Economic and Environmental Affairs held its meeting on 19-20 August 2015 in Jakarta. The Committee considered and deliberated a range of important issues and recommended the following five draft resolutions:

- ✓ Draft Resolution on Asian Integrated Energy Market
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication
- ✓ Draft Resolution on The Role of APA Parliaments to Adopt Legislation in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

3. Based on the APA 7th Plenary decision in Lahore, the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs were supposed to be held in Kuwait. However, the Parliament of Kuwait was not in a position to organize the meeting in fulfilment of its commitment. Based on a proposal made by the Secretariat in consultation with the APA President, all Member Parliaments were asked to provide assistance to hold and host the required meetings. The Islamic Parliament of Iran was the first to indicate its willingness to organize the APA Standing Committee meeting in Tehran on 2 November 2015.

The Committee considered and deliberated a range of important issues incorporated in the following 9 recommended draft resolutions:

- ✓ Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Asian Integration Through Information and Communication Technology
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter- Faith Dialogue and Harmony Among World Religions
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia

4. The APA Standing Committee on Financial and Staff Regulations was supposed to hold its meeting in August 2015 in Moscow. Unfortunately, the Russian Duma was not in a position to fulfil its commitment which had undertaken in the 7th APA Plenary in Lahore. The Committee was expected to consider and deliberate on a single draft resolution on Assessed Contributions by Member Parliaments to APA Budget and Approval of the APA Secretariat Budget in 2016, in accordance with the criteria adopted by the APA Resolution on APA Financial and Staff Regulations (APA/Res/2014/09-3 December 2014). Under the circumstances, the APA Executive Council decided to refer the subject matter to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Financial and Staff Regulations which is planned to be held during the APA 8th Plenary Session.

Mr. President,
Honorable Delegates,

My report on the work of the organization cannot be completed without following briefings on some other important decisions made by the APA respective bodies:

First, the APA 7th Plenary decided to continue, under the auspices of the APA President, organizing APA Troika Plus meetings throughout 2015. Despite crucial political, economic, and environmental developments in Asia, demanding robust and extraordinary attention, unfortunately no Troika Plus meeting was held by the APA so far in 2015.

Second, in early 2014, the APA Secretariat prepared a special and substantive report on the idea of the Asian Parliament entitled: *The Foundations of an Asian Parliament*. The report was most welcomed by the Plenary and many aspects of the idea were deliberated upon. It was decided by the 7th Plenary that the report should be given further consideration by all APA Member Parliaments and certain measures should be taken for taking the initiative steps further.

The APA 7th Plenary thus decided to set up a Special Committee on the Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) to further consider the notion of Asian Parliament and develop ways and means for its promotion and creation. The SCAPP, which was supposed to convene in Islamabad under the auspices of the APA President, was mandated to develop strategies to move the initiative forward by submitting result-oriented and time-bound reports and report its achievements to the APA Executive Council for consideration.

Unfortunately, the Senate of Pakistan was not in a position to fulfill its commitment to organize the SCCAP meeting and no activity has been reported to the APA Secretariat in this regard. Perhaps an explanation by the distinguished delegation of the Senate of Pakistan would shed some light on the grounds leading to this situation. Under the circumstances, the APA Executive Council decided to refer the issue to the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs for further consideration and future decision.

Third, under APA resolutions EC1/Draft Res/2015/11 &14 &17, three working groups should have been organized to address the initiatives on APA Parliamentarians Against Corruption; Asian Virtual Parliament; and Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items. Since no meeting had been convened to materialize these decisions, the APA Executive Council decided in its first meeting this year that those three working groups should be organized on the

sidelines of the 8th APA Plenary in Phnom Penh.

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates

Notwithstanding all its great potentials and accomplishments, the remarkable role of the APA, as the Parliamentary voice of Asia, in influencing the turn of events in Asia is yet to be fully realized. The Organization needs to strengthen its relevance to current developments throughout Asia and beyond so it could further contribute to the prosperity, development, peace, and improvement of living conditions in the region. The APA is in need of mechanisms to pursue the realization of its resolutions. It is crucial to reiterate once again the necessity of fulfillment of the operative parts of all APA resolutions. To achieve this fundamental goal, it is highly advisable that each Member Parliament should establish an internal working group specially mandated to pursue the implementation of operative parts of the APA resolutions. APA secretariat welcomes all initiatives in this regard, and declares its readiness for all sorts of assistance and consultation. Such a crucial and practical approach would enable us to take positive steps towards realization of the objectives of our great Parliamentary Assembly.

The APA 8th Plenary, inspired by its inspiring theme: *Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia*, has a great deal of important subject matters on its agenda. Besides the speeches and remarks by dignitaries and parliamentary leaders of both the host and the guest countries during the general debate, we expect to have constructive discussions on various topics in our standing committees meetings. I am confident that by the end of this Plenary Session and as the result of thoughtful and vigorous debates and deliberations, we will have achieved yet another successful event and shall move forward in our right direction which is the direction of peace, prosperity, cooperation, and harmony among all Asian nations.

Thank you Mr. President.

Annex X

Text of Speeches by Heads of participating delegations

1. Afghanistan:



Address by H. E. Abdul Raouf Ibrahim
President of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People)
National Assembly of Afghanistan

General debate on "Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in ASIA"

Asian Parliamentary Assembly
The 8th Plenary Session
7-12 December 2015

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God,
Hon. President of the 8th APA Plenary Session,
Distinguished delegates,

Good Afternoon,

At the outset, allow me please to convey the warm greetings and best wishes of the members of the National Assembly of Afghanistan to you all distinguished participants.

It's a matter of great pleasure and honor to be part of this crucial 8th APA Session with you all respected colleagues and focus on an issue which is so important to every individual human being and desires to have a peaceful life, indeed, in reality, Peace is the most valued phenomenon in the human communities.

Without peace, a prosperous life is inevitable, being together and living together, political development, economic and social welfare cannot be considered the only option to peace and stability in our human societies, it's a peaceful and a stabilized environment that can help in socio-economic development and in having a happy and prosperous life in our societies.

Distinguished delegates,

I'm representing a country and its people who have been a victim of the instability, insecurity for the last three decades because of external aggression and foreign

interventions in the domestic affairs of our country. In the mentioned period, you won't find a single case of a family that should have not lost their loved ones, their families and close friends. The people who spend their days and nights in hope of having peace, if you ask a person, whether young or old, even a small kid, they will express their strong desire for a sustainable and long lasting peace in their respective country.

Peace is what, where we can spend our time and our life without any serious concern, to be with our families and our loved ones, enjoy life, without facing any threats or risks go to schools, spend time with our friends without any concern and our mothers should not get concerned if we are late for home or go somewhere alone.

You are all well aware, that there are some countries and organizations, whose interests are directly or deliberately co-related to an insecure country or a neighborhood in the region, despite all the efforts and demands of the victim states, no one listens to their voices and don't care about what is happening.

The political leadership under H.E. Hamid Karzai, the former Afghan President and the current political leadership of the National Unity Government of Afghanistan, put their efforts all together to hold peace talks and negotiations with the opponent elements of the Afghan government, but unfortunately because of the lack of confidence from the other side, it hasn't been so productive and fruitful and had not have any tangible achievements, while only collaboration and flexibility from both sides, could help reach a concrete consensus and ensure peace and stability in Afghanistan, indeed it will further assist ensure peace and stability in the region and across the world.

Distinguished delegates,

The members of the parliaments are the true representative of their people, who know everything about their people's problems, pains, the challenges and obstacles they face on their way more than anyone else know, we have found all these problems and the challenges our people face and would like to have your kind attention to it.

If a house is on fire it directly affects the other house besides it, likewise instability, war and insecurity, could directly affect and could transfer from one country to the other, and could cause instability in the region, therefore, today's session titled "Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in ASIA" is an urgent need of our South Asia region.

Among the country's present in today's session, the leadership and the people of Afghanistan, has been a victim of war, insecurity, instability and sufferings from any other country, and needs to "Promote Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue" further in the current circumstances.

Distinguished parliamentarians,

I believe that if our friends, the respected participants of this session, whom are the representative of their people in their parliaments, could help us further promote peace, reconciliation and dialogue in our country by asking their respective senior governmental officials to honestly cooperate in Afghanistan's case.

We think a better approach would be to devise a comprehensive and concrete mechanism for the Dialogue, which shall be followed step by step and confirm who wants and promotes peace and are honest, and who wants peace in just talks but not in practice, this is where we can identify those elements who doesn't want peace and they are not honestly acting, and search their interests in the insecurity of other countries, so we can put pressure on those elements and make them sit for peace talks, otherwise, our hopes and wishes which is reaching a sustainable and long lasting peace will go in vain and the scope of the war and instability will further get wider and spread to the many other countries.

You are all well aware of the atrocities of the Daesh, particularly in Afghanistan and other countries of the world, a force that is as hostile as they are with human and humanity, committing war crimes and crimes against humanity, they are just a disgrace to the humanity, therefore, all the member states shall harmonize all their efforts in countering the Daesh atrocities, and eradicate their safe havens and condemn their terrorist acts against humanity, as it's the responsibility of all the nations as human beings.

If this fire transfers to other countries, it will further boost the terrorist groups and their supporters which will not only threat Afghanistan and our neighbors but also will set fire to the whole region and more nations will be facing serious insecurity challenges.

Therefore, peace, reconciliation and dialogue is an urgent need of our people and our region, and we have to jointly and socially act and focus together to defeat this new rising menace.

Thanking you all very much for the kind attention.

2. Bahrain

مذكرة تسليم	
صاحب الطلب	مدير إدارة شؤون الشعب البرلمانية الموقر
الموضوع	كلمه سعادة النائب عباس عيسى الماضي رئيس وفد الشعبة البرلمانية لمملكة البحرين أمام الجلسة العامة الثنائية للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية، والتي ستعقد في الفترة (7-12 ديسمبر 2015) في فنوم بنه بمملكة كمبوديا.
تاريخ تسليم الطلب	1 ديسمبر 2015م
اعداد	ميعاد محمود العوضي-الباحث الاجتماعي
اشراف	حسام الدين جاير سالم- رئيس قسم البحوث السياسية والاجتماعية
اعتماد	فؤاد أحمد الأنصاري مدير إدارة البحوث والمعلومات

كلمة

النائب / عباس عيسى الماضي
رئيس وفد الشعبة
البرلمانية لمملكة البحرين

أمام
الجلسة العامة الثامنة
للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية
في الفترة (7-12 ديسمبر 2015)
قنوم بنه - مملكة كمبوديا

1 ديسمبر 2015

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

أصحاب السعادة،،،

السيدات والسادة،،،

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته،،،

يسعدني في البداية أن أتقدم بجزيل الشكر والتقدير إلى مملكة كمبوديا ملكاً وحكومة وشعباً على حسن الاستقبال وكرم الضيافة التي حظينا بها منذ لحظة وصولنا إلى هذا البلد الصديق، كما يشرفني أن انقل إليكم جميعاً تحيات قيادة مملكة البحرين وتحيات صاحب الفعالي أحمد بن إبراهيم راشد الملا رئيس مجلس النواب رئيس اللجنة التنفيذية للشعبة البرلمانية، داعياً لهذا الجمع التوفيق وأن تكلل جهودكم الكريمة بالنجاح لخدمة القارة الآسيوية.

أصحاب السعادة،،،

السيدات والسادة،،،

لقد احتفل العالم باليوم العالمي للسلام هذا العام في 21 سبتمبر تحت شعار "حق الشعوب في السلم" في ظل ما يشهده هذا العالم من تحديات تؤثر على مسيرة الاستقرار والأمن ليس فقط في مناطق النزاع والأزمات والكوارث الإنسانية وإنما تخطى هذا الأمر حاجز حدود الدول المستقرة والأمنة وأصبح تهديد الأمن الدولي رسالة واضحة من الجماعات الإرهابية والمتطرفة تسعى من خلالها إلى تحقيق غايتها المشبوهة، ولعل تنامي هذه الظاهرة بات يمثل تهديداً مباشراً وصريحاً لتطلعات الشعوب في الإنماء والأزدهار والاستقرار، وينبغي أن تتشارك الجهود الدولية لتعزيز فاعلية وقوة المنظومة الأممية لمواجهة هذه الظاهرة والأخطار المتنامية.

وإننا كبرلمانيين مدعوين اليوم أكثر من أي يوم مضى إلى تكاتف الجهود والعمل الحثيث لتجنيب مجتمعاتنا ويلات الفوضى وعدم

الاستقرار، وذلك من خلال التنسيق والعمل المشترك على كافة المستويات لوضع التشريعات اللازمة للحفاظ على أمن واستقرار دولنا والعالم دون الاخلال بالتزاماتنا الدولية في مجال احترام وتعزيز قيم حقوق الانسان.

كما يؤكد هنا على أن مملكة البحرين حريصة دائما على التعاون الدولي في مجال مواجهة الارهاب والتطرف، ودعم الجهود الدولية في مجال الاغاثة الانسانية، حيث شاركت مملكة البحرين في التحالف الدولي لمكافحة الإرهاب، كما أنها قامت بالعديد من من المبادرات ذات الطبيعة الإنسانية من خلال المؤسسة الخيرية الملكية التي لها مساهمات كثيرة في الاغاثة على مستوى العالم.

أصحاب السعادة،،،

السيدات والسادة،،،

إن مفهومي الحوار والمصالحة يعدان من المفاهيم السياسية الهامة التي تسهم في بناء العلاقات وتطورها على اساس من الثقة والاحترام المتبادل، وقد اكتسبا هذان المفهومان اهمية خاصة في هذه المرحلة التي يشهد فيها العالم بروز ظواهر سلبية من تراجع الاستقرار والامن وتنامي اعداد اللاحثين والنازحين بسبب الاوضاع اللا انساني التي يتعرضون لها، اضافة الى التدخلات الخارجية في شؤون الدول بما يقوض الحوار والمصالحة في الدول التي تشهد بعض الازمات السياسية ويهدد السلم الاهلي فيها، وكما أن له انعكاسات خطيرة على استقلالية الدول واحترام سيادتها وفق ما نص عليه ميثاق الامم المتحدة، الامر الذي يتطلب ان يكون الحوار والمصالحة هما السمتان الاساسيتان للمرحلة الراهنة التي نمر بها على كافة المستويات سواء داخل الدول أو على الصعيد الاقليمي والدولي على اعتبار ان مواجهة الازمات وفق الاساليب التقليدية والتضعيدية يؤدي الي نتائج كارثية وان عملية احتواء هذه الازمات عبر الحوار والمصالحة تعد من انجح الاساليب في

حل المشكلات والازمات وتقليل حجم الخسائر والاضرار.

وعلى صعيد مملكة البحرين، فإن مملكة البحرين كانت وما تزال تنتهج خطوات ثابتة في مجال تعزيز الحوار والمصالحة الوطنية وترسيخ الممارسة في هذا المجال وذلك من خلال انشاء الآليات الكفيلة بتطبيق ذلك والعمل على دعمها بالشكل الذي يتيح لها العمل باستقلالية ووفق التزامات مملكة البحرين الدولية في هذا المجال، وذلك على الرغم من التدخلات السافرة المستمرة في شؤون مملكة البحرين من عدد من الدول والتصريحات غير المسئولة التي تصدر من جانب مسئولين تدعوا الى التوتر وخلق اجواء غير مناسبة للحوار والمصالحة، الا ان الوعي الذي يتمتع به أبناء البحرين وانتمائهم الوطني وشعورهم بالولاء هو ما يسهم بشكل كبير وملحوظ في دعم كافة مراحل الحوار والمصالحة الوطنية.

فمنذ عام 2011 وحتى الان عقدت مملكة البحرين العديد من الحوارات الوطنية على مختلف المستويات عل ابرزها الحوار الوطني الاول والذي عقد تحت رعاية رئيس مجلس النواب وتمخض عنها العديد من المرئيات التي اسهمت في دعم مسيرة الديمقراطية سواء عبر اجراء تعديلات دستورية او من خلال تبني قوانين وتشريعات تسهم في تعزيز حقوق الانسان وتحقيق العدالة والمساواة، اضافة الى استمرار الحوارات الوطنية حتى يومنا هذا والحفاظ على المصالحة الوطنية والمكتسبات الوطنية في مجال تعزيز قيم احترام حقوق الانسان.

أصحاب السعادة،،،

السيدات والسادة،،،

إننا حريصون فيمملكة البحرين وخاصة مجلس النواب على تعزيز وتنمية العلاقات البرلمانية البحرينية - الآسيوية على كافة الأصعدة السياسية والاقتصادية والثقافية والاجتماعية وفق مفهوم يتفق

ومتطلبات المرحلة الراهنة في تحقيق السلم والأمن إقليمياً وعالمياً، ووفق المتغيرات السياسية والاقتصادية، فالمرحلة التي تعيشها القارة الآسيوية تعد لحظة مهمة في تاريخ العلاقات الدولية التي تشهد قيام التكتلات والتحالفات في المجالات المختلفة، مما يفرض على بلدان القارة الآسيوية بذل المزيد من الجهود والتعاون من أجل مواجهة التحديات الراهنة والمستقبلية وفق رؤية مشتركة.

كما انني انتهز هذه الفرصة لدعوة جميع البرلمانات المنضوية تحت الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية الي العمل جنباً إلى جنب والتنسيق المشترك والدائم عبر آليات واضحة وعملية لتخطي التحديات التي تواجه المجتمعات الآسيوية في هذه المرحلة التاريخية التي يمر بها العالم من خلال تبادل الرؤى والأفكار التي تحقق التكامل الآسيوي، وتسهم في توحيد المواقف وصياغة القرارات المشتركة نحو القضايا المصيرية التي تواجه شعوبنا ودولنا وكياننا الآسيوي.

ختاماً،،، أتمنى لاجتماعات الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية المزيد من التقدم والأزدهار والرخاء، لتحقيق أهدافها وتطلعات الوفود البرلمانية المشاركة لما فيه خير وتقدم وازدهار مجتمعاتنا الآسيوية.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته،،،

3. Bangladesh



Asian Parliamentary Assembly

For welcome address,



HON'ble CHAIRMAN, Distinguished delegates

ASSALAMU ALAIKUM AND VERY GOOD MORNING

AT VERY OUTSET ON BEHALF OF BANGLADESH PARLIAMENT WE GREETING ALL MEMBERS OF ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA) AND DELEGATES. WE HAVE PROFOUND HONOUR & RESPECT OF ALL APA MEMBER COUNTRIES. LAST MONTH WE HAVE PARTICIPATED IN TEHRAN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE AND WE HAVE FEELING PROUD. WE HAVE SIMILAR CULTURE AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN APA COUNTRIES.

DR. SHIRIN SHARMIN CHAUDHURY, MP, HONORABLE SPEAKER OF BANGLADESH PARLIAMENT IS THE CHAIR PERSON OF COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA).

MR. SABER HOSSAIN CHOWDHURY, MP OF BANGLADESH PARLIAMENT IS THE PRESIDENT OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU).

WE ARE VERY EAGER TO WORK WITH APA. WE SHOULD FOLLOW AND IMPLEMENT THE AGENDA OF APA.

THANK YOU FOR ALL.

MR. MD. MOZAMMEL HOSSAIN
TEAM LEADER OF BANGLADESH

MR. CHHABI BISWAS
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
BANGLADESH

Peace and Reconciliation

MR. CHHABI BISWAS
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
BANGLADESH

Conflicts not only take human lives, it destroys communities and distracts development goals, but also leaves a legacy of fear, hostility and trauma. Without effective, inclusive peace and reconciliation processes, countries are likely to revert back to violence.

The term 'reconciliation' generally refers to the process of developing conciliatory accommodation between antagonistic or formerly antagonistic persons or groups. In conflicts areas worldwide local people are building peace, stopping violence, saving lives, healing shattered communities. Peace comes from, unity, kinship and harmony with those around us. Peace is a feeling we are born with. The religious face of the world is changing. At a dramatic pace, more and more regions of the world are becoming environments of multi-culture and multi-faith.

At the root of this phenomenon are international patterns of migration. The worldwide movement of people and cultures has facilitated dialogue, discussion of followers of various religions. Inter-faith dialogue refers to cooperative and positive interaction between people of different religious traditions of both the individual and institutional level, with the aim of deriving a common ground in belief through a concentration on similarities between faiths, understanding of values, and commitment to the world. We have to work together toward global peace, harmony and unity through reconciliation.

People belong to different faiths, communities, class need to work together to safeguard the values of families, society, to reduce poverty and to work together to overcome all kinds of violence. Our nation is a multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual nation of 160 million people. All citizens practice their respective religions freely and peacefully, a right guaranteed by the constitution of Bangladesh. More than 100 years ago Swami Vivekananda noted with profound regret that we cannot think of any crime which has not been committed in the name of religion. After so many years we note with extreme sadness that religion is seen as a leading contributor to intolerance, human rights violations and violent extremism afflicting the world in 21st century. But we know, no religion teaches violence or encourages hatred towards others. We know that all religions have a common core in the teachings of their founders or the teachings of their scriptures, which is: 'love one another'. All religions must mutually cooperate for the purpose of the new culture of peace through reconciliation. The core philosophy of each religion is the philosophy of love, respect and non-violence.

Dialogue is the best way to dispel misgivings of the religions and to let everyone know that despite differences in respect of external rituals, the essence of religions is same- unity, peace and welfare of the people. Indeed, all religions teach unity and fraternity and exhort the adherents rise above narrow sectarianism and respect the views of others. Unity in diversity should be the core value of peace and it is possible through reconciliation.

Dialogue is the search for an understanding between people with a view to a common interpretation of their agreement or their disagreement. It implies a common language, honesty is the presentation of one's position and the desire to do one's utmost to understand the point of view of others. We need to learn, or relearn, to live together or collaborate with one another to build our nation, our modern world. We need to collaborate unity in diversity and promote peace, harmony and reconciliation.

Peace and unity is very much essential for sustainable development of the country. Bangladesh, under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, is progressing tremendously in the field of economy, agriculture, education, women empowerment. Peace and reconciliation in the country is the pre-condition to achieve the goals of sustainable development by 2030. A process of dialogue between all religions should be strengthened and the Parliamentarians can play vital role in this regard.

4. Cambodia

Intervention

**Hon. CHEANG Vun, Chairman of Commission on Foreign Affairs,
International Cooperation, Information and Media of the Cambodian
National Assembly
and Head of Cambodian Delegation for the 8th Plenary Session of
Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)**

General Debate on "Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia"

Phnom Penh, 7-12 December 2015

- *Honorable Dr. NGUON Nhel, Chairman of the 8th Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*
- *Honorable Heads and Members of Delegations of APA Member Parliaments,*
- *Your Excellency Acting Secretary-General of APA;*
- *Excellencies, National and International Distinguished Guests,*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Today, it is my great honor as the head of the Cambodian delegation to join this very important and indispensable discussion and debate with all distinguished delegates.

On behalf of the Cambodian delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Chairman, who is organizing this 8th APA Plenary Session in a very smooth and warm manner.

Honorable Delegates

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

What you all have mentioned earlier is an indicator of the significance and importance of peace and reconciliation for the nations of Asia. The peace which we have enjoyed stems from national unity and reconciliation. They are preconditions for national unity and reconciliation with neighboring countries as well as with other nations in the region and around the world.

It is true that peace is the basic need for all nations in the world; it is critically essential for families, nations, regions, and the whole world. The purpose of today's discussion and debate is to seek, build, and promote genuine peace for all nations. We have been working very hard to build national reconciliation in our country, for peace in the region, contributing to peace in the world.

Honorable Delegates

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

What we are concerned and worried about is the spread of social divisions in South and West Asia and in Africa, stretching from the West Bank to Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya, all of which are currently facing all sorts of crises. None of us wish to see or face such grave social divisions. Cambodia was also one of the countries that experienced this kind of suffering. It is worth noting that the root causes of social division are poverty, mass unemployment, disruption of public services, social divisions, internal conflicts, loss of national unity, and interference by other states in a country's internal affairs. Therefore, at this moment, reconciliation within and between nations is of utmost importance as political priority and the most urgent task for all of us here today. We need to learn from one another with a view to helping our nations and people realize national reconciliation and forge national unity which are essential condition for a solid foundation for peace and long-term political stability, without which development and growth cannot materialize.

In this context, I would like to seize this opportunity to share with all distinguished delegates the experience of Cambodia which has enjoyed genuine peace in recent years. After the 1993 general elections organized and conducted by the United Nations, Cambodia did not yet enjoy full peace. Fighting dragged on along the border and in a number of other areas called leopard skin. During that time, Cambodia could be described as "a country of two governed areas". Remarkably, the genuine peace and unity Cambodia has achieved is a product of

various internal factors. The work of these includes the work of the late **King Norodom Sihanouk**, the father and key actor for national unity and reconciliation; together with the **Win-Win Policy** of Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The country became one again winning the hearts and minds of the remnants of the Khmer Rouge to surrender and dissolve their political and military organization to the benefited the whole nation and the Cambodian people. Our citizens were the ones who gained from great success. Most importantly, there was no revenge among people and armed forces. This peace is the product of efforts by Cambodia itself, with the help of neighboring countries and other international friends. National reconciliation was made possible through dialogue and negotiations as well as coordination, both of which were a prelude to gradual and mutual understanding between and among Cambodians. The realization of this policy is derived from trust and mutual understanding within the country and international recognition of our sovereignty, territorial integrity, neutrality and unity.

Honorable Delegates

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am proud of having been a Member of Parliament for many years and serving my nation and people. With this mandate, I can see the important roles of Members of Parliament in coordinating and supporting the termination of all sorts of hostilities that may trigger social unrest. We are the provider of an important institution for making and passing laws with a view to building long-lasting national, regional and global peace.

Our aims are not different from those of other nations throughout the world. We, in the framework of both the government and the legislative body, have made collective efforts in the quest for dialogue, negotiation, coordination, consultation and reconciliation among factions and nations for the sake of

building genuine peace in our countries and the region, and throughout the world.

Honorable Delegates

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The stance of Cambodia is to promote national reconciliation for the realization of genuine peace—non-violence and no armed confrontation. We do hope that peace will become reality in Asia as well as throughout the world through a wide range of political and diplomatic efforts in the future. Without reconciliation, there will be no peace, and without peace, there will be no development. As such, Cambodia supports any initiatives which bring about national reconciliation, national unity and regional peace—an indispensable indicator for ensuring sustainable development of the country and other nations. Cambodia strongly hopes that peace and reconciliation will stay in our hearts and our institutions, especially in the hearts of the world's top leaders. Along this line, the Kingdom of Cambodia continues to actively join in strengthening and protecting long-lasting regional peace.

Finally, may I wish the today's discussion and debate a great success. To all the members of delegations, I wish you good health.

Thank you.

5. China

Keynote Speech at the 8th Plenary Session of the APA

Mr. President,

Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to attend the 8th Plenary Session of the APA in Phnom Penh. First of all, On behalf of the Chinese delegation from the National People's Congress, I would like to thank Mr. Heng Samrin, Chairman of the National Assembly of Cambodia, and Mr. Mohammad Hadi Nejad Hosseinian, APA Secretary-General for their excellent preparations for the plenary session. With the joint efforts of Mr. President and all the colleagues, I believe this meeting will be a great success.

My fellow colleagues,

The international situation is undergoing profound changes. Geopolitical factors are more prominent than ever. Though the world economy is in recovery, the basis does not stand firmly. With the revolution of the international system intensified, ideologies worldwide turn to be more diverse. An increasing number of non-traditional security challenges, including terrorism, cyber security, energy safety, food security, climate

change and so on, require the international community to respond together. To our joy, regardless of the complicated transformation of the international configuration, Asia is largely stable with domestic political situations of most Asian countries being sound. Asian economy grows fast, with regional cooperation booming and the momentum for development being strong. It is the major trend to seek peace, stability and development. However, instability and uncertainties still exist. Some countries have increased military spending and deployment in the Asia-Pacific Region. Others lifted restrictions on military advancement, shadowing the peace of this region. Non-traditional security challenges, including terrorism, natural disasters, cross-border crimes and the like, are more severe. The recent explosion of the Russian passenger flight, as well as the terrorist attacks in Paris, reveal to us once again the cruel nature of terrorism and the uneasy fight against it. In terms of the economy, influenced by the global economic and financial trend, the economic growth in Asia faces some downward pressure. Countries have a growing burden for sustaining growth, restructuring economy and promoting people's livelihood. Faced with the changing global and regional environment, Asian countries follow the trend of our times closely, and jointly build

a better and preferential regional order for Asia and the globe. In such a context, we gather at Phnom Penh and discuss the topic, “promoting peace, reconciliation and dialogue in Asia”, which is of great significance to the regional peace and sustainable development.

My fellow colleagues,

During the past nine years since its establishment, with the joint efforts of all parties, the APA has become a very influential inter-parliamentary organization in this region. Since we are representing our people, it is our duty to urge and oversee governments to adhere to the path of peaceful development, to promote regional economic development and to deepen people-to-people exchanges in all areas. We should dedicate ourselves to Asian prosperity and progress, to bring more benefits to our people. Hereby, we would make the following proposals:

- 1, To build political mutual trust, and to maintain regional peace. We owe the fast development of Asia to the overall peace and stability in this region. All countries are benefited directly from regional peace, and should unswervingly maintain peace in this

region. During the general debate on the 70th UN General Assembly, President Xi Jinping proposed that we should build a new-model of international relations featuring cooperation and win-win results. Countries should also work to establish an equal, consultative and accommodating partnership with each other, and to uphold such basic international principles governing international relations, as the UN Charter. We should respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference with others' internal affairs, adhere to multilateralism, adopt a new idea of win-win results and mutual advancements and get rid of the zero-sum logic. Disputes and divergence should be solved through dialogues and consultations, which will lead us to a new path of international exchanges characterized by "dialogues rather than confrontations, partnership rather than alignment". It is our responsibility to create a secure international structure of equality, justice and sharing, and to abandon any form of Cold War mentality. By combining peaceful solutions to disputes with mandatory actions, we should build a new notion of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. We also channel efforts to fight against both traditional and non-traditional security threats. China advocates upholding

common values of human being, including peace, development, equality, democracy and freedom. We hope to build a community with common destiny with other Asian countries, so as to achieve peace, stability and prosperity in this region.

2, To intensify economic cooperation and to promote regional integration. The Asian economy is highly connected with the global one. When the global economy is sluggish in recovery and lack in demand, the Asian economy faces challenges brought by the infirm basis and transformation from old impetus to new ones. With this in mind, we should carry on enhancing macro-economic policy mediation, push forward structural reform, speed up the transformation of economic development model and adjust economic structure. We should improve the living standards for our people, facilitate trade and investment liberalization, constantly improve regional infrastructure network, and to enhance connectivity in this region. By the end of this year, the ASEAN community pillared by the political and security community, economic community and social and cultural community will be officially launched. This will be a landmark of the integration of ASEAN countries and a symbol that the regional cooperation enters a new stage. China

welcomes the establishment of the ASEAN community, wishes to see the integration of Asian countries, and would finish the free trade arrangements as soon as possible. With these efforts, we could fully unleash the dynamism of regional funds, technology, labor force and capital, make use of our respective advantages and improve trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, in order to inject new momentum into the economic development in Asia.

3, To deepen cultural exchanges, and to boost exchanges and mutual learning between different civilizations. In the long history, Asia has incubated many ancient civilizations, making great contributions to the human civilization. In today's Asia, cultural diversity has become more prominent. Various civilizations, nations and religions converge here, forming the colorful Asian family. Mencius, the Ancient Chinese thinker once said, "It is the nature of creations to be diverse." No one could judge a civilization to be more or less advanced, though different characteristics do exist. China firmly opposes to link terrorism with any specific religion, civilization or nation. We hold the view that religions and civilization diversity are common wealth of the human society. Countries should work

together to seek consensus. We propose to eliminate estrangements, miscomprehensions and divergence between religions and cultures on the basis of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation. With full respect for different countries and cultures, we will tighten the friendship ties with people from other countries by enabling civilizations to communicate and learn from each other.

My fellow colleagues,

As the second largest economy in the world, the development trend of China's economy draws a lot of attention from the world. Some of you asked me about China's economic development during this session. Here, I would like to give a brief introduction on China's economic development. This year, despite the fact that the world economic growth lacks momentum, China positively responds to all difficulties and challenges, strengthening macro-regulations and fueling reforms. The Chinese economy still operates within an appropriate range. A steady and relatively fast growth rate is maintained. In the first three quarters this year, China's economy grew by 6.9%, whose contribution rate to the world economy reached about 30%. This is a growth on such a big basis of 10 trillion US

dollars, as well as a growth from structural adjustment and development model transformation, which does not come easily.

As a member of the Asian family, China's development is closely connected with the Asian development as a whole. Two years ago, Chinese leaders put forward cooperative initiatives of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" and the "21st-Century Maritime Silk Road", which are warmly welcomed and actively participated by many Asian leaders. In the past two years, with the concerted efforts of 60 countries and international organizations along the route, these initiatives have gained a potent momentum and an initial effect. I believe that with your joint efforts, the "Road and Belt Initiative" will bring more concrete benefits and cooperative platforms for Asian countries, so as to achieve peace, cooperation and development in Asia, and to promote common prosperity in this region.

My fellow colleagues,

The APA, as an inter-parliamentary organization in Asia, upholds the principles and notions that are in accordance with the aim of the "Road and Belt Initiative" to promote "connectivity in five aspects", namely connectivity of policies,

infrastructure, trade, capital and people-to-people affections. The APA serves as an important platform for facilitating Asian connectivity and cooperation. We hope that all countries could link their development needs with strategies and planning, and achieve the goal that we could exchange production factors smoothly, make full use of industrial and capacity advantages to backup each other and draw on development experience from each other. Thereby, we can optimize Asian supply, industrial and value chains, pursuing a size economy and connected effect, and eventually revitalize Asian economy as a whole.

As we look forward, the development of Asia and the whole world is faced with unprecedented historical opportunities, together with more complicated risks and challenges. As a member of Asia, China is ready to work with all other Asian countries to establish a new model of comprehensive partnership, and to welcome a peaceful and prosperous future together.

Thank you all!

6. Cyprus

8th APA PLENARY SESSION
Phnom Pehn-Cambodia, 7-12 December 2015

GENERAL DEBATE
"Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia"
Mr. Nicos Tornaritis, MP (Cyprus)

Esteemed Chairperson,
Dear colleagues,

Asia is the largest, most populated continent in the world; abound with natural resources and a forceful young human capital, Asia has unique advantages and the potential to become the global driving force of economic and political stability and prosperity. This is a vision that I know is shared by all of us and inspires us to further intensify and consolidate our efforts towards achieving the goals of peace, justice, security and prosperity, as set out in the preamble of the Charter of the APA.

In order to achieve these goals, we should address the multi-dimensional root causes of conflict, through the implementation of a comprehensive and integrated approach aimed at prevention, considering in particular that armed conflicts are one of the most serious obstacles to development. Within the scope of our role as Parliamentarians, who can help restore lasting peace by promoting international reconciliation and give expression to democracy, we always have to keep in mind that conflict is often the result of mismanaged crisis reconciliation.

Moreover, we should always look for the human rights perspective, so encouragement of respective parliamentary committees that relate extensively with the UN and other international bodies ranks highly. Important humanitarian projects will be more easily carried out this way. All parliamentary assemblies, like the APA, should enhance their role and

activities in the areas of peace and reconciliation. In so doing parliaments will exercise pressure on governments to participate and finance peacekeeping operations under the UN, as well as provide technical assistance under bilateral or multilateral cooperation projects.

Conflicts remain unresolved as we tend to forget the very substance of our commitments to the UN Charter, pertinent resolutions and the rule of international law. The very existence of such conflicts today reflects, inter alia, the empty promises made to thousands of children and refugees. In general, we turn our faces away essentially to human rights and the rule of law, which are the main principles that we have pledged to uphold. We should focus all our attention in getting international, regional, sub-regional organizations and NGO's to promote international reconciliation, stabilize conflict-prone regions and consolidate peace through post-conflict reconciliation.

Furthermore, our parliaments should foster national and international measures designed to promote the concept of a peace culture, volunteerism, combating all forms of violence, outlawing terrorism, and education for all. Along these guidelines, we should actively seek to reduce the trade in weapons, even small arms, drugs, combat poverty, corruption and environmental degradation. The Post – 2015 Development Agenda, adopted last September by the UN General Assembly should be placed at the centre of our efforts. Parliaments have a critical part to play in ensuring the implementation of the Post-2015 agenda, through the passing of laws, the adoption of budgets and the holding of governments to account in implementing the commitments they have made while ensuring the efficient use of limited resources.

As you may all know, Cyprus is placed at the heart of the Eastern Mediterranean, a region rich in culture and history but not a stranger to

conflict and war. Cyprus itself remains divided for more than 40 years now, striving all this time to reach a peaceful solution that will reunite the island and its people. Despite this long standing problem, however, Cyprus has successfully grown into a hub of stability and cooperation in its region and is therefore in a position to truly appreciate the importance of dialogue and reconciliation efforts as the means through which stability and development can be fostered.

Since 2004, Cyprus is a fully-fledged member of the European Union, while at the same time it maintains excellent relations with the majority of its neighbouring countries, promoting commercial, economic and other exchanges. Recent developments in the region in the field of energy, and in particular the discovery of rich hydrocarbon reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean basin, including within the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cyprus, have highlighted further the geostrategic importance of the region.

In today's globalized, inter-connected world, every single one of our actions and decisions has a direct or indirect impact on millions of people. Through our presence here today, we send out a clear message. It is only through dialogue and coordinated actions that we can resolve conflicts and bring about stability and prosperity in Asia and ultimately in the world.

Cyprus, in its part, can play a pivotal role, as a country placed at the crossroad of Europe, Africa and Asia and a full member of the European Union, acting as bridge for the further enhancement of ties and collaboration between Asia and Europe.

Thank you kindly for your attention.

December 2015

CS/LM

APA PLENARY SESSION
Phnom Penh-Cambodia, 7-12 December 2015

GENERAL DEBATE
“Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia”
Mrs. Stella Mishiaouli-Demetriou, MP (Cyprus)

Honourable Chairperson
Esteemed Colleagues,

Parliaments have a vital role to play in peace-building processes, in transforming a potentially violent conflict into a non-violent dialogue, aimed at creating consensus.

Parliaments are the ultimate expression of democracy and have an important role to play in preventing internal conflicts. Parliaments should ensure that all interested parties are represented in relevant peace building efforts and especially vulnerable social groups that are more likely to be affected by conflict.

Decision-making should be based on consensus in an attempt to build bridges between parties with conflicting interests. The opportunities for opposition parties to contribute to peace-building differ depending on the situation. When a country is affected by an internal violent conflict, parliamentarians have the potential to act as a bridge for dialogue and reconciliation between the conflicting parties and by putting forward confidence-building measures, which are essential when engaging in negotiations.

The contribution of civil societies can also be very important. Civil society groups, represent the wider society and parliaments should be ready to cooperate with civil society to encourage information flow and to gain greater support in efforts for conflict-resolving processes.

Free and responsible media can also play a significant role in disseminating information, and help parliaments to build a dialogue between conflicting parties. Parliamentarians can actually use this valuable tool in their efforts to resolve conflict situations or, better, to help prevent them, through dialogue.

In this respect the importance of a diverse media sector should be stressed. In order to assist the role of the media and in acknowledging this, parliaments should encourage the introduction of legislation that ensures the right to information and freedom of speech and does not restrict public service broadcasting.

Conflicts can arise from a variety of reasons: economic interests, race, ethnicity, religion, cultural differences, poverty or, from the overall absence of good governance and, on many occasions, simple aggression and expansionism.

The world today faces great political and financial instability. In order to achieve peace and prosperity we must first strive to tackle political instability, corruption and the surge of fanaticism and blind violence. In these efforts, regional collaboration is crucial. Our focus should be on policies that promote social stability and lay the foundations for a peaceful and prosperous Asia. As key issues in this respect, we identify the improvement of access to health, education and social protection for all, regardless of sex, race, social standing, religion or ethnic origin.

A key goal should always be to promote regional exchanges and cooperation, by developing both formal and informal networks and participating in regional institutions and inter-parliamentary bodies. These fora constitute a valuable framework for promoting dialogue and reconciliation, and help in confidence building and in facilitating learning between members of a region. They can also help mediate in disputes, by providing a neutral place for dialogue.

Parliaments can be effective in conflict resolution, when giving full effect to their status as rule of law institutions, by legislating wisely, by upholding judicial independence and by ensuring executive accountability. This is the fundamental role of parliamentarians, that commits every one of us.

I thank you for your attention.

December 2015

/CS/LM/

7. Indonesia



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
THE 8th PLENARY SESSION OF
"PROMOTING PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND
DIALOGUE IN ASIA"
Phnom Penh, Cambodia | 7-12 December 2015

**STATEMENT BY HEAD OF DELEGATION
HON. MR. AGUS HERMANTO
(Deputy Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives)
General Debate of Plenary Meeting**

Your Excellencies, Mr. President, Speakers and Deputy Speakers of APA Member Parliaments,

Your Excellencies, Head of Delegates and Honorable Delegates of Asian Parliamentary Assembly, Distinguished Guests,

AssalamualaikumWr. Wb.

May the peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be upon you.

Allow me to begin my statement by conveying my appreciation to the Parliament of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the warm welcome and hospitality in this auspicious occasion.

In the upcoming days, I look forward to working with your honorable parliamentarians of APA members in the eighth Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in Phnom Penh.

We gather here today under one goal to build a shared future for our people. Today, let me share Indonesia's thoughts of our challenges and beyond.

Distinguished delegates,

Let's start by addressing the challenge to our future. The recent act of terrors in Paris and Beirut shows us that terrorism remains a threat to the peace and stability of our people. The growing threat of terrorism calls for nations to work with each other to address this threat.

As we grief with the victims and their families, we have to bolster our cooperation in addressing this threat. From our experience, the promotion of tolerance and interfaith dialogue provide the avenue to counter the spread of radicalism. It promotes differences and dialogue within our people.

Differences and dialogue are parts of our daily life as legislators in our respective country. Being legislators, we believe that these differences and dialogue are not barriers, but instead a valuable asset to produce a greater good for the many.



Reflecting from that, I believe that the promotion of deradicalization and interfaith dialogue will be able to address the growing challenges of terrorism. Let's address this challenge together to maintain our shared peace and stability in the region.

Distinguished Delegates,

Now, allow me to talk about our future. We tend to vision the future as a distant thing while today our shared future is closer than we think.

From the rising global climate, natural disaster, unpredictable weather, and the rising sea level. We have witnessed that to build our shared future, we have to start today.

The sixteenth goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represents our commitment, as part of the international community, to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, *which is essential for our shared future.*

I am confident that this significant milestone will elevate our efforts in pursuing the assurance of regional economic growth and our future.

Distinguished members of APA,

Furthermore, we shall not forget the vision of connecting Asia's parliaments as one union under the umbrella of Asian Parliament which has been discussed last year in Lahore.

Indonesia wholeheartedly welcomes this idea.

However, we have to view the Asian Parliament as a process, as the preparation involved a lot of homework, especially in orchestrating the initiative amongst our diverse members.

Diversity is nothing new to us. We are of different cultures, beliefs, political systems, and perspectives. Nonetheless, it is not a barrier to work hand-in-hand altogether to build our shared future.

I believe that cultural diversity and heritage in the region can be a unifying force amongst us that eventually will integrate us further. Our constructive partnership is fundamental for our regional unity, for an Asian Parliament.



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
THE 8th PLENARY SESSION OF
"PROMOTING PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND
DIALOGUE IN ASIA"
Phnom Penh, Cambodia | 7-12 December 2015

**Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,**

To conclude, this meeting is a milestone for us Asian legislators to discuss and have a further dialogue to strengthen our cooperation and addressing our common challenges. Let these upcoming days deliberate a fruitful and meaningful outcome as we expect.

We are delighted to provide our contribution for the success of your hosting of APA Plenary Session this year.

Thank you.
Wassalamu'alaikum

8. Iran

In The Name of God
The compassionate The merciful
Cambodia_7-12December 2015

Mr. Chairman

Honorable speakers of the parliaments

Secretary general of APA

At the outset I would like to express my gratitude to the parliaments of Kingdom of Cambodia for their warm hospitality and successful organization of the 8th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly. I also congratulate all the members and participants of the Assembly on its fruitful activities that all indebted to efforts and follow-ups made by member states. The Efforts that has brought about great results for ancient continent of Asia.

Dear colleagues

“Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia” motto is of the greatest importance at this juncture of time that terrorism and violence have spread around the world. Promoting peace and reconciliation are prerequisites to the world today. Recognizing requirements of the world community and stressing on them, we delegates from Asian parliaments put our viewpoints on the table.

Increasing growth of terrorist acts, extremism and violence have turned out to be a serious concern for international community. these phenomena have posed serious threat to global peace and security. Unfortunately in recent years, despite of all international efforts, we are still witnessing continuity of false approaches taken by some countries’ in the region and outside of that to use extremism and terrorism as leverages aimed for political regime

change. These destructive approaches have turned out to be factors for instability in the region and have imposed tragic losses to the security of the region and the world.

During last 7 decades, Zionist Regime has insisted on it's inhuman and illegal aggressive acts due to inaction and silence of international bodies. Zionists have prepared a lengthy list of terrible actions against innocent people of Palestine that all runs counter to the human rights and international laws. On top of this list sacrilege of Masjid Al Aqsa, massacre of Palestinians, countless barricades in roads and streets, illegal detentions, state terrorism, construction of new illegal settlements, erection of separation walls, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, siege of Gaza and violation of initial human rights stand. In order to put an end to these crimes, international entities specially parliaments of different countries bear a certain responsibility and are expected to take more effective actions to alleviate miseries of Palestinians specially those who live in traumatised Gaza.

When it comes to dire humanitarian situation in Yemen, air and ground strikes have caused human tragedies and demolition of economic, social and cultural infrastructures of this war-torn country. This incursion has also caused speedy growth of terrorist groups and has enabled them to occupy some parts of this country. Condemning military incursion to Yemen based on our principled positions, we put emphasis on necessity of immediate stop of any kind of military operation against this country and urgent dispatch of humanitarian aides including medicine and foodstuff to alleviate miseries of defenseless people of Yemen.

Dear colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

International community needs peaceful coexistence and interaction of people from different nations and ethnicities. Realization of peace entails countering violence and rejection of extremism culture. Now, for those whose miscalculation led them to equip and support terrorist groups to

meet their false and short-time political goals, terrorism has gone out of control and not only it failed to help them to meet their illegitimate goals but it as their puppet has posed serious threat to themselves.

Therefore their misinterpretation of developments in the region caused terrorists to flourish in the region in an organized shape. If terrorism thereat had been recognized truly and on time, and if they hadn't been equipped and supported financially and militarily, today innocent people would have not been killed.

At the end, I do hope this assembly would make necessary preparations for a serious and effective developments in interactions of the ancient continent through relying on peaceful coexistence and all human principles. It is obvious that global community is in dire need of moderate interaction and restoration of peace and prosperity of it's all nations through real combat against violence and rejection of extremism culture.

9. Korea PDR

Speech by Mr. An Tong Chun
Vice-Speaker
Supreme People's Assembly
Democratic People's Republic of Korea

2015.12.9

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Mr. Chairman,

Honorable Delegates,

On behalf of the delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I would like to express my gratitude to Your Excellency Mr. President Heng Samrin and to the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the sincere efforts made to host this Assembly and for the kind hospitality we have received.

We are national parliamentarians of Asian continent, the continent where diverse culture, tradition and religious belief exist in harmony, the continent that is achieving astonishing economic growth on the basis of its immense potentials. Today we have gathered here in Phnom Penh of Cambodia, the city of long history, in the high spirit that the 21- century is the century of Asia.

This assembly serves as an important occasion in securing peace and stability and achieving sustainable development, the common goal of the Asian people overcoming differences between nations.

Today, as the political and economic pivot of the world is being shifted from the West to Asia ensuring peace and stability in the region and promoting dialogue, reconciliation and cooperation based on justice and equality by the joint efforts of the parliaments of APA members have become an important task.

To this end, I appreciate "Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia" as the theme of this Assembly and I believe that the Phnom Penh Declaration to be adopted in this Assembly should embody unanimous opinions of member parliaments.

The increasing strategic value of the Asian-Pacific region entails arbitrary practices and conflict of interests among big powers and this, in turn, further complicates the security environment in the Asian region.

Destabilizing factors such as territorial disputes and legacies of history have become more apparent and, with the emergence of extremist forces, acts of terrorism and violence have become more frequent, most of them being staged in Asia.

Right now the means of military pressure and confrontation reigns over the efforts to dissolve these issues through reconciliation and negotiation for the sake of peace and stability in the region.

Situation on the Korean peninsula plays a crucial role in ensuring peace and security in Asia.

The DPRK aspires after peace in the ideas of independence, peace and friendship and desires peaceful environment.

Under the outstanding Songun (military-first) leadership of respected Marshal **Kim Jong Un**, the DPRK government has set development its economy and improvement of people's livelihood as important policy goals and concentrates all the efforts to it.

State investment and efforts are being channeled into further improving people's dietary life onto a higher level with agricultural production, animal husbandry and fishing industry as three main pillars and the national economy firmly stays in track for growth as innovative changes are introduced in the management method and strategy of overall sectors of industry and agriculture.

Unbelievable speed was created in construction and, with this year alone, we have completed several infra-structure construction projects including dozens of hydroelectric power plants and increased national assets that contribute to enhancing the welfare of the people.

However, we still have more work to do than what we already have done and hence we need to promote economic exchange with regional partners and investment from them.

We have established Economic Development Zones in many provinces of the country and we are making steady progress in the program to expand

and develop tourism, while taking institutional and legislative measures to create favorable investment environment to draw investment from outside.

In order to guarantee sustainable economic development and to effect substantial improvement in people's livelihood we need peaceful environment more than anything else, and increased tension is by no means any help to us. However, durable peace has not yet settled on the Korean peninsula even after sixty years since the armistice agreement was reached.

The August incident, in which a minor case of unidentified reason led the situation to the brink of war in an instance, has left an important lesson that the current Armistice agreement which remains only in paper can no longer preserve peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The joint military exercise conducted by the US and south Korea in different codenames and scales are creating additional possibilities of accidental incidents that might trigger unpredictable disasters.

Out of the desire to terminate the unstable state of armistice persisting on the Korean Peninsula and establish a permanent peace system, we have clearly reiterated our stand to promptly replace the armistice agreement by a peace treaty.

Ever since the armistice agreement was concluded, the DPRK has put forward fair and realistic proposal and initiatives to supplant the armistice agreement by a peace treaty and exerted steady and sincere efforts on every possible occasions.

Our peace proposal draws support and sympathy from many countries.

However, the US, a party to the armistice agreement and the very one that holds the wartime operation control of south Korean army, and its vassal forces, are still turning their faces away our just proposal.

Anyone interested in the regional peace and stability should pay closer attention to terminating the anti-DPRK hostile policy of the US which is the biggest obstacle to the solution of the Korean peninsula issue and establishing a stable peace system.

We consistently assert that the north and the south of Korea be reunified in the federal formula in order to ease tension and preserve peace and stability on the peninsula.

The federal formula we have proposed is the most rational and peaceful way to reunify the country without dispute or conflict while keeping the two different systems intact and establishing a reunified federal state through nation-wide dialogue and reconciliation.

Some of the preceding "regimes" of south Korea expressed their agreement to the federal formula or came up with similar proposals and quite a few agreements for reconciliation and cooperation were reached between the north and the south in the past. Yet, none of them saw a proper implementation.

Again, it is attributable to none other than the US, the very one that has divided the Korean peninsula into two parts and who is still trying to take advantage of the division of the country and tension on the Peninsula for the realization of its strategic goals.

It is our consistent stand to put an end to the tension on the Korean peninsula in a peaceful way, through dialogue and negotiation, and contribute to peace and stability in the Northeast Asian region.

We are convinced that the replacement of the Armistice Agreement by a peace treaty and the reunification in federal formula is a practical way to contribute to peace and security in Asia and we will exert every sincere effort to this end.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the member states of APA for their support to and solidarity with the efforts of our Republic to ensure peace and stability and realize reconciliation and cooperation on the Korean Peninsula and we hereby affirm that the DPRK will make positive contributions to peace, stability and prosperity of Asia by joining efforts with the Asian countries.

Thank you.

10. Kuwait

Kuwait Inter-Parliamentary Group
State of Kuwait



الجمهورية العربية الكويتية
دولة الكويت

كلمة الشعب البرلمانية الكويتية
الجلسة العامة للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية
فنوم بنه – مملكة كمبوديا
خلال الفترة من ٨-١١ ديسمبر ٢٠١٥

السيد الرئيس ، السيدات و السادة الاعضاء ،،

بداية أود أن اتقدم بجزيل الشكر وعظيم الامتنان على إتاحة الفرصة للقاء الاشقاء والأصدقاء في القارة الآسيوية وذلك للتحاور وتبادل وجهات النظر للوصول الى المقترحات والحلول المثلى لتعزيز قيم الديمقراطية و السلام العالمي .

ومن هذا المنطلق فإننا نؤمن جميعاً بأن الحوار و المصالحة هي الحجارة اللازمة لبناء الأمن والسلام الدوليين ، فها نحن اليوم نجتمع من أجل إيجاد الحلول للقضايا الخلافية و إنهاء ثقافة الحروب واستبدالها بثقافة الحوار والمصالحة والمغفرة ، كسبيل لنبذ الفرقة والمضى قدماً في طريق التعاون و التلاحم لتهيئة مستقبل أفضل للأجيال القادمة في آسيا .

السيد الرئيس ، السيدات و السادة الاعضاء ،،

لقد أنتجت قارة آسيا العديد من نماذج التنمية المختلفة التي كانت و لازالت مصدر إلهام للكثير من دول العالم ، وقد استطاعت أن تصبح في زمن قياسي مركزاً للانتعاش الاقتصادي العالمي ، إلا أنها لازالت تواجه تحديات النزاع الديني و العرقي و الصراعات الحدودية التي زعزعت أمنها واستقرارها مما جعلها أحد أكبر بؤر الارهاب الدولي ، ومن جهة اخرى يجب أن لا ننسى قضيتنا الاولى والأهم هي القضية الفلسطينية و التي تمس الانسانية في المقام الأول وليس العرب أو المسلمين وحدهم ، فاليوم نحن في نظام عالمي يقوم على أساس احترام حقوق الانسان إلا أن إخواننا الفلسطينيين لا زالوا يقتلون بدون وجه حق ولا زالت أراضيهم تغتصب ومقدساتهم تدنس وسط الصمت الدولي ، لذا فإننا أيها السادة الافاضل يجب أن نتلاحم و نتكاتف جهودنا نحو تعزيز السلم و الامن الدوليين ، الأمر الذي يحتم وبصورة ملحة على فتح قنوات للحوار والمصالحة كسبيل لتوثيق التعاون الاقليمي وبالتالي اقامة الاستقرار الاقليمي .

السيد الرئيس ، السيدات و السادة الاعضاء ،،

مما لا شك فيه أن عمليات السلام والمصالحة و الحوار مهمة جداً في ارساء دعائم الاستقرار ليس في آسيا وحدها بل على الصعيد العالمي ، ولكن كل خطاباتنا وتوجهاتنا سوف تذهب أدراج الرياح إذ لم تترجم على أرض الواقع بتضافر جهود الدول الاعضاء ورغبتهم الفعلية في اقامة حاضر ومستقبل يخلو من الصراع والفرقة والإرهاب ، عبر وضع الآليات والإجراءات التي تعتمد على

إشراك الآخر والإقرار بدوره المهم والحيوي بتلك المساعي الحميدة ، إذ لابد من تعزيز وتفعيل دور المبادرات التعاونية والتشاورية بين الدول الاعضاء على كافة الاصعدة السياسية ، الثقافية ، الاقتصادية ، التجارية والتعليمية مع اصدار القرارات المشتركة بين الدول الآسيوية والتي تكون كفيلة بإعادة بناء جسور الثقة والسلام التي هدمها الصراع طويل الأمد من أجل الأرض والتاريخ .

السيد الرئيس ، السيدات و السادة الاعضاء ،،

من جهة أخرى فإن المسؤولية الكبرى تقع على عاتق الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية في تقريب وجهات النظر بين أطراف الخلاف وفتح قنوات للحوار والتباحث بين السادة الاعضاء وذلك على مختلف المستويات ، هذا بالإضافة الى إصدار القرارات والتشريعات التي تزيد من مستوى التعاون والتقارب ، كما أنه يجب الدفع باتجاه حث السادة الاعضاء نحو رفع التوصيات والقرارات الصادرة من الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية الى برلماناتهم الوطنية وحكوماتهم وذلك بهدف تبنيها وتنفيذها .

السيد الرئيس ، السيدات و السادة الاعضاء ،،

ومن هذا المنطلق أحب أن أسلط الضوء على الدور الحيوي الذي تتبناه دولة الكويت في تعزيز أواصر التعاون والحوار بين الدول الآسيوية ، وذلك من خلال استضافة الحوار الآسيوي الاول في عام ٢٠١٢ بمبادرة من سيدي سمو أمير البلاد الشيخ صباح الاحمد الجابر الصباح لرسم خريطة مالية جديدة لمواجهة التحديات الاقتصادية التي تواجهها دول آسيا ، وإنشاء برنامج يكون هدفه تمويل المشاريع الانمائية في الدول الآسيوية غير العربية للمساهمة في تحقيق الاهداف الانمائية

للأنفية ، إذ ساهمت الكويت بمبلغ ٣٠٠ مليون دولار في ذلك البرنامج ، كما بدأت جهود سموه في توطيد العلاقات مع القارة الآسيوية منذ توليه الحكم حيث قام في عام ٢٠٠٦ بجولة آسيوية شملت عددًا من الدول أجرى خلالها سموه مباحثات رسمية مع قادتها ، تمخض عنها توقيع الكويت لاتفاقيات ثنائية عدة شملت مجالات مختلفة أبرزها الاتفاقيات الاقتصادية ، ومن جهة أخرى كانت ولازالت أيادي الكويت البيضاء مفتوحة وعلى أتم الاستعداد لإنقاذ المنكوبين جراء تحديات الطبيعة والتي شهدتها القارة الآسيوية ، كما كانت دولة الكويت في مصاف دول العالم في دعم قضية اللاجئين السوريين وذلك عبر استضافت ثلاث مؤتمرات دولية للمانحين تكلمت بالنجاح ونصرت فيها القضية الانسانية .

المسيد الرئيس ، السيدات والسادة الأعضاء ،،

وفي الختام فإننا ندعو الى التمسك بالقيم البناءة للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية والتي تقوم على أساس تعزيز السلام من خلال المصالحة والحوار بين الدول الاعضاء وذلك للوصول الى مستوى اعلى من التعاون الاقليمي الذي سوف يعود بالنفع والفائدة على الشعوب في كافة أرجاء القارة الآسيوية ويؤدي كذلك للمزيد من الاستقرار السياسي والأمني .

شكرا. لحسن استماعكم ،،،

11. Lao PDR

Statement

**made by DrKukeo AKHAMONTRY, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the
Lao PDR National Assemblyat the 8th plenary session of the ASIAN
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA),**

(7-12 December 2015, Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia)

Mr Chair,

Excellencies Speakers, Vice-speakers and heads of delegation,

Honorable delegates, distinguished guest, ladies and gentlemen.

I have the great honour to represent the National Assembly of Lao PDR at this APA plenary session excellently organized at Phnom Penh, the beautiful capital city of the Kingdom of Cambodia. First, allow me to convey the best regards and wishes of H.E. Madam Pany YATHOTOU, President of our National Assembly , and ,on Her Excellency's behalf, to express our sincere thanks to SamdechAkkaMahaPonheaChakreiHengSamrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and MrM.H.NejadHosseini, Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly for the kind invitation to this plenary session , the cordiality of the welcomeas well as the warm hospitality of the Cambodian Parliament.The Lao National Assembly is actually having her last plenary session before going to the poll next year. The agenda is rather heavy with the amendment of the constitution, the implementation of the 8th 5-year socio-economic development and the consideration of more than 10 bills at the core. Madam President has a high responsibility for the chairpersonship of the sessionand I am the only MP to have the privilege to leave the session for abroad. I would ask ,Mr Chair, your kind understanding for our limited participation.

I have a very high appreciation to the Parliament of Cambodia for the efforts and dedication in the arrangements of different ceremonies, events and meetings which, no doubts, will bring great success to this APA session and closer friendship among participants. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Islamic Parliament of Iran for hosting the 1stAPA Executive Council Meeting in Iran last month and providing the favorable conditions to the

meeting for the preparation of necessary documents that we have here tabled for consideration. APA as a regional forum for Asian parliamentarians to get closer to each other and to exchange views on issues of common interests is always committed to promote peace. The APA's original name, " the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace " or AAPP is a real testimony of her noble ideal. Since her creation APA has had a significant contribution in promoting and safeguarding peace in Asia. The theme chosen for our present plenary session, namely " Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia " at the time when the global community is achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and preparing for the implementation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is very relevant and timely for the stability and prosperity of Asia in accordance with the recently declared ASEAN COMMUNITY Vision 2025. Peace is one of the 5 Ps (People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity, Partnership) of today's world development agenda we all agreed upon, and without it, partially or globally, the other Ps are in great danger. Peace, typically the Asian way through reconciliation and dialogue, has to be established and firmly maintained for the well-being of our people and we have no other alternative.

It is fortunate that the prevailing trend of our era is peace, security and cooperation for development. Nevertheless, the international environment continues to face great challenges. Armed conflicts, terrorism, poverty and hunger, infectious diseases, climate change and natural disasters have seriously damaged, and are actually threatening peace and development of our region. I fully recognize as a great contribution to the promotion of peace, reconciliation and dialogue the efforts made and the commitments expressed by leaders from ASEAN and her dialogue partners at the last ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia last month to strengthen the ASEAN Political and Security Community for the long lasting peace in the region. South East Asia is at this moment in the process of economic integration through ASEAN cooperation frameworks. The nations of this region have continuously enjoyed peace, stability and economic growth. ASEAN has broadened and strengthened her external relations with different countries and regional groupings, e.g. China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Russia, India, The United States and Australia to name just a few. Next year is the first year of the ASEAN Community and Lao PDR will have the honour to chair this community towards the successful realization of the ASEAN vision through the implementation of different blueprints. In assuming the role of community chairman, first of its kind, we look forward to effective support and cooperation from Asian countries particularly from our ASEAN dialogue partner.

Laos, a country of 6.5 million people, has just finished the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Since 1975 we have gone through different development periods, hard at the beginning to heal the wounds of the past 30 year destructive war and to survive the post-war deprivation, then, a gradual improvement of the

living standards of the people reaching now a GDP per capita of more than 1500 USD which allowed for the step-by-step strengthening of peace and national solidarity, the broadening of external relations and the steady socio-economic development of the whole country towards sustainable development goals.

The Lao government has carried out a foreign policy of peace, independence, stability, friendship and cooperation with all nations of the world based on equality, mutual interests and peaceful coexistence. Actually Lao PDR enjoys diplomatic relations with 136 countries, has 26 embassies, 2 offices of the permanent representative, 8 consulates and 17 honorary consuls. We are also a member of many international and regional organizations, e.g. the United Nations, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the Group of 77 (G-77), the International Development Association (IDA), the Interpol.

With neighboring countries we pay great attention to the development of good neighborhood through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms to create a long lasting frontier of peace, friendship and cooperation, mutual understanding and assistance as well as multi-sectoral and multi-level exchanges. The mechanisms such as the Great Mekong Sub-region (GMS), the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), the Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam Development triangle (CLV), the Cambodia-Laos-Thailand Emerald Triangle (CLT) or the Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam Quartette (CLMV), joined by development partners like China, Japan and the Republic of Korea are the main regional cooperation fora to maintain peace, facilitate reconciliation and engage dialogue among concerned parties in the region.

Together with the countries of ASEAN we are committed to the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter that reflect our collective will to live with one vision, one identity and in one community in a region of lasting peace, security and stability, economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress, to embrace the values of tolerance and moderation and to uphold the ASEAN fundamental principles, shared values and norms. The ASEAN Community we are going to build will be rules-based, inclusive and responsive. We will resolve differences and disputes by peaceful means including confidence building and preventive diplomacy. The Community will be free of nuclear and other mass destruction weapons, and will actively develop friendly and mutually beneficial relations with dialogue partners to respond collectively and constructively to global issues of common concerns.

On domestic plane we will firmly uphold the policy of building a society based on reconciliatory solidarity, democracy, justice and civilization. The history of our country has taught us that the well-being we have, the level of socio-economic development we are at, the peaceful, secured and stable environment we live in, the international recognition and respect we enjoy today and

other great achievements in our nation building are the fruits of a policy that is based on the reconciliation and dialogue among people from all different ethnic groups, social strata, ages and religions to create a platform of firm national unity and solidarity. This undeniably is a significant contribution to the safeguarding of peace and stability in the Asian region and in the world at large.

Mr Chair,

Excellencies, Honorables,

To conclude, allow me to express our deepest gratitude and greatest thanks to the countries of Asia for their kind understanding, support and cooperation in different periods of development of our country. Lao PDR, particularly the Lao National Assembly will spare no efforts in contributing to the promotion of peace, reconciliation and dialogue in Asia.

I wish this APA session in Cambodia a great success.

All the best to the Excellencies Speakers, Vice-speakers and Heads of delegations, the honorable delegates and distinguished participants !

Thank you for your kind attention !

12. Lebanon

Lebanon's speech at the 8th Asian Parliamentary Assembly

M.P.Dr. Hassan Fadlallah

Cambodia 10-12-2015

We gather here in this serene city as we have been generously invited by the Cambodian parliament to the 8th meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. The Cambodian parliament has been an active participant in the work of our Assembly. Therefore I would like to thank this parliament for organizing this international Conference, as I would like also to thank the Cambodian people and their government for their hospitality and warm reception.

I would also like to thank the Assembly's General Secretariat for its tireless efforts throughout the last years which were associated with Executive Council and competent committees meetings, all of which witnessed discussions promoting cooperation among Asian parliaments and activating the work of the Assembly and implementing its decisions.

After all these years of constant efforts, we see that the Assembly has stepped forward in terms of proving itself as an International parliamentary Assembly, that holds Asia's rise as its priority. It is well known that this continent is the center of the world on the account of population, concentration of natural resources, cultural diversity, and for being the heart of the ancient world and the cradle of divine religions and human civilizations. Accordingly, Asia is the continent eligible to play a leading role at the global level, and its countries, particularly those in this Assembly, are capable of contributing in the drafting of a new world order free of Unilateral dominance, a world order that would be balanced based on constructive cooperation and respect for all peoples' rights, freedom and well-being.

The activity of this Assembly should be an incentive for further work to activate its role throughout the contributions of the member states and the implementation

of our meetings' decisions and transforming the required of it into legislations in our countries in addition to exchanging expertise and experience.

Dear Colleagues,

Asia is facing major challenges that threaten its countries' independence and its people's freedom. On top of all these challenges facing us at this phase is the terrorist Takfiri risk striking many countries in Asia and extending to many others, targeting civilians as we saw with the attacks on the Russian civil plane in Egypt, in Lebanon, and in Paris.

This terrorism wouldn't have grown and developed without the support it received from several countries and groups that provided it with a fertile ground and a nurturing environment, and employed it for the benefit of their own policies and projects, particularly in the Middle East.

This terrorism has targeted both the people and construction as it committed horrific acts of murder and destroyed religious sanctities where its destructive activities has extended to reach the human civilization landmarks as we've witnessed in the Iraqi Mosul and the Syrian Palmyra and elsewhere. This terror has tried to portray itself in the name of Islam, but Islam has nothing to do with it. Islam is a religion of mercy, love, and coexistence and that has been proved over the centuries when non-Muslims lived in Muslim countries peacefully and safely and their temples and religious symbols stayed as a witness of that before the emergence of the Takfiri groups that targeted and killed Muslims and destroyed their sanctities more than that of non-Muslims.

There are dear countries in Asia and members of this Assembly who suffer from this terrorism, as is the case in Syria and Iraq. These two ancient countries with a history of religious coexistence and who has been subjected for years now to a fierce attack by the Takfiri groups, are holding on despite attempts by many countries to support these groups with the aim of imposing their own will.

As for our own country Lebanon, the icon of coexistence between religions who's been able to free its land from the Israeli occupation thanks to its popular resistance, it has suffered from a terrorist wave through bombings carried out by

13. Malaysia

PROMOTING PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND DIALOGUE IN ASIA

First and foremost I would like to extend greetings and goodwill from the Parliament of Malaysia and the Speaker of the Parliament of Malaysia. I would like to thank the Chairman for this opportunity to speak at this 8th plenary of Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

On behalf of our delegation we thank the organizing chairman Hon Dr. Nguon Nhel and the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the warm hospitality and the excellent organization of this meeting in this beautiful and historical city of Phnom Penh.

Prosperous community needs more than just words postulated by politicians and the legislature in determining its success. The people today ask for more actions and globally oriented workings and understanding in promoting peace, reconciliation and dialogue in Asia.

A peaceful and prosperous community to advance further requires many elements supported by good capacity through its legislature and good governance supported by its people. The system of good governance should be in place over demands, change or policies of the Executive to suit to new conditions to aspire people to their quest for peace. Parliamentarians should have strong understanding and awareness of entrenched rights under the laws and at all times must act as law abiding citizens.

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY

Democracy has its own intrinsic values and that too has liberty and equality. The nation should understand that there are many elements to go for in democracy in ensuring that peace is not taken for granted. According to the United Nations GA in March 2005, democracy entails certain essential fundamentals inclusive of inter alia:

- Respect for human rights
- Separation of Powers for check and balance between the Executive, Legislative and the Judiciary
- Respect for law
- Transparency and accountability

Crisis in democracy should be avoided because they do undermine the promotion of peace, reconciliation and the better dialogue among the countries. It is no good for future collaboration in that the notion of democracy has been tarnished. No extremism and terrorism should be tolerated in a democracy as this is a threat to democracy and practice of moderation. We believe this is where dialogues and proper understanding among leaders and between states is of significance. As had been mentioned by many of our distinguished colleagues here we have to look inward to our strength together to face many of the challenges that the Asian community faced today – both in economy and security - that need states to work together and hold bilateral and multilateral dialogues.

This is when it is timely, the process towards an Asian Parliament to proceed, where regional integration to allow for Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia.

PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

The political and legal cooperation between communities could be set up and a blue print be designed to provide for legal and political cooperation without encroaching into the sovereignty of any states.

As we have in front of us the noble proposal of an Asian Parliament which we all can work towards its realization. The benefits are all there for us to consider and weigh against the challenges we have to face in the process. The focus on this development must be full and worked upon with a well-defined direction.

ENHANCING FACTORS

The factors that can also enhance a strong democratic system as a basis for dialogues for peace and reconciliations are:

A. Good and strong leadership that has to be maintained in each state to contribute to the strength of the whole. Leadership to be able to change the mindset of the people to be more resilient and work towards peace and harmony.

B. Empowering Women

To ensure full participation of women in all levels of decision making in conflict prevention, resolution and peace building. Women's presence in political movements reveals something about health, empowerment, peace, security, integrity and capacity of the political system in which they occur.

Succinctly, it could be said that the government has realized that the economic and social empowerment of women, young girls and youths at large were crucial to bring the country into developed nation for peace, reconciliation and dialogue were no short cuts to progress.

These are some of the points I see could contribute to the development of peace, reconciliation and dialogues in the region.

Thank you.

**Asian Parliamentary Assembly
The 8th Plenary Session**

Plenary Theme:

**“PROMOTING PEACE, RECONCILIATION
AND DIALOGUE IN ASIA”**

THEMATIC SPEECH

By

**SENATOR RUBINA KHALID,
PAKISTAN DELEGATION**

- **Honourable Speakers, Presiding Officers, Members and Representatives of APA Member Parliaments and Observer Parliamentary Forums.**
- **Excellencies, Dignitaries.**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen!**

I deem it a great privilege to share my views with a very worthy and discerning audience on the theme of **“PROMOTING PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND DIALOGUE IN ASIA”** at this important 8th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly here in Phnom Penh.

The relevance and importance of this theme cannot be over emphasized at a time when Asia is gearing up to play a leadership role on the world stage as the global economic, technological and cultural hub.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have no doubt that a brighter and prosperous future waits Asian people, but it is also a bitter reality of our times that progress and development is stunted in an unstable and uncertain environment.

Pakistan has experienced this bitter reality first hand being the frontline state in the international war on terror, braving huge repercussions on socio-economic and developmental fronts.

It's an incontrovertible reality that despite encouraging successes and triumphs in economic, technological and cultural domains, our continent remains locked in divisive conflicts.

Today, Asia faces numerous political and economic challenges in the form of long standing political and territorial disputes; emerging traditional and non-traditional security challenges including terrorism; illicit drug trafficking and organized crime; poverty; and negative consequences of climate change.

Over the past six decades, armed ethnic and inter-state wars, sectarian violence, religious intolerance and discrimination on the basis of cast, colour, creed and gender have been impeding Asia's forward march.

Genocide, violence and unrest in Kashmir, Iraq, Syria, Palestine and Myanmar stand as a poignant testament of enduring prejudices, polarizations, enmity and hatred rooted in religio-ethnic discrimination and extremism.

The ramifications of this perpetual unrest and turbulence have been staggering.

Economic advancement for many nations has been adversely affected, and basic rights like health, universal education and employment remain out of bounds for the vast majority.

Elsewhere in the world, ethnic conflicts have been encouragingly and bravely addressed as we have seen in the cases of South Africa and Northern Ireland.

Considering that dialogue among differing points of view was espoused ages ago in the region, present-day Asia's failure in concord is both ironical and tragic.

The worst face of this discord is daily manifest in the misery and hopelessness it perpetuates among our peoples.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

This situation threatens to unravel the gains on account of Asian pragmatism and rise on the world stage, demanding our most undivided attention.

How to push forward steady and continuous cooperation, dialogue and bonhomie among Asian countries, which are still divided on numerous issues, is

a question that must be resolved by regional states through mutually-acceptable solutions.

Unfortunately, there is no one-size-fits-all approach.

We need well-integrated, diverse, progressive and multi-stratum strategies to promote understanding, tolerance and peace across the region.

Promoting democracy, proactive parliamentary intervention, carrying out just mediation between rival stake holders, encouraging regional integration, enhancing inter-parliamentary ties, increased people-to-people contacts are some of the prerequisites of a peaceful and prosperous Asia.

Please, allow me to briefly touch upon some of these aforementioned factors.

Democracy and promoting inter-faith harmony are vital to tackle the menace of militancy and extremism and achieving peace and progress.

A great challenge to peace and stability comes from intolerance to opposing views. Whether it is militancy, extremism or sectarianism, its roots lie in intolerance.

One effective response to this challenge lies in democracy that believes in unity, in diversity, and in tolerance towards dissent.

Democracy, peace, security and development issues are invariably interlinked.

Based on the rule of law, democracy holds the key to realizing our cherished ideals concerning peace and security, economic and social progress and development, and respect for human rights, as also set forth in the UN Charter.

That democratic states are less likely to indulge in interstate wars is a well-established concept that has dominated the field of international politics since long.

Since 1970s, new data and analysis have helped generate impressive empirical evidence in favor of the democratic peace proposition.

Democratic institutions and practices are essential for fostering long-term security and stability by allowing peaceful political dialogue and contestation.

Similarly, **Ladies and Gentlemen**, Parliaments institutionalize a non-violent means of addressing conflict, and are designed to include all sectors of society reflecting the divergent views of the populace.

They are thus able to contribute to peace building and conflict prevention by helping create consensus around commonly held values and goals.

As the elected representatives of society in all its diversity, Parliamentarians have a unique responsibility for reconciling the conflicting interests and expectations of different groups and communities through democratic means of dialogue and compromise.

Here, I strongly urge APA Member parliaments to lay a lead role, through potent in-house debates, effective oversight, and conducive legislations, in delicately balancing the critical equation between peace, democracy and development.

Using the forum of APA, we parliamentarians must collectively work towards building synergies, sharing experiences and good practices, and promoting inter-parliamentary cooperation in order to promote peace, reconciliation and rule of law in Asia.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Allow me to say that more than anything, a comprehensive socio-economic and cultural integration holds the key to peace and prosperity in the continent.

The success of European countries, which once differed from each other on many issues, in advancing and realizing integration on their continent, serve as a case in point for us.

The emergence and development of integration in different regions at different historical periods were rooted in different driving forces.

The establishment of security links between EU members on a mutually beneficial footing, which has ensured peace, stability and development in their continent, has offered an important reference for Asia.

Moreover, with economic globalization rapidly sweeping every corner of the global village, the world has irreversibly entered a new era in which peace, development and cooperation remain the mainstream.

Regional integration worldwide has also been a key factor driving Asian members to deepen cooperation with each other.

A great stimulus to Asian nations, the formation of these regional markets has caused a sense of urgency among them that they should strengthen dialogues and coordination.

Moreover, as we strive for greater regional integration there is a need for a new and comprehensive approach supported by political, security, economical and social measures.

In this regard, I propose imbibing the two-pronged concept of **“cooperative security and shared responsibility”**, in order to ensure stability as a precursor to a more people-centric and rights based human development approach.

I am confident that we can achieve all this and more through joint, and, more importantly, sustained efforts.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The global hot-seat role that Asia aspires, demands paradigm shifts, reformations, transformation and prompt action across a wide range of issues and fronts demanding immediate attention back home.

To make cooperation deliver in response to the extraordinary challenges we are up against, there cannot be a better response than establishing an all-inclusive and truly representative Asian Parliament.

Establishing a regional Parliament representative of the whole Asian and sensitive to its special needs both country and region-wise, is a prerequisite on many counts, out of which I deem the following ones of key significance, especially in context of 8th Plenary’s theme:

- Making possible a formal process of dialogue towards dousing regional conflict and ushering in peace, and also identification of priorities for concerted and supportive action in this regard.
- Developing systematized regional security cooperation and establishing a sense of mutual trust towards effectively neutralising all threats posed to our peace and development by transnational terrorism, extremism and global crime and drug trafficking syndicates.

Strong, comprehensive and enduring partnerships contributing to the security and prosperity of our nations, and reinforcing efforts for peace and development in the region will be crucial to realizing the dream of Asian Century, and also towards establishing an Asian Parliament.

The quest for an Asian Parliament is also important because parliaments embody the will of the people, and also play a vital role in conflict prevention and dispute resolution that our region direly needs.

The envisaged Asian Parliament, through effective legislation sensitive to our peoples' rights, aspirations and needs, can help manage more effectively the social crisis; and institute clear governance procedures to bring about lasting peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Inter-faith harmony through increased dialogue holds the key to resolving many conflicts the region faces today.

Let me say that dispute resolution is most harmoniously and effectively handled when dialogue is given a chance.

Dialogue is the optimal method to arrive at a settlement which may truly be in congruence with the general will of the people.

We parliamentarians, as public representative, must carry the cross in this regard by playing a proactive role both on and off the floor of the House by means of:

- shaping and moulding opinion;
- building bridges though dialogue;
- and promoting pluralism and better understanding.

Together, we can effect a potent struggle at both the country and the regional level to usher in an era of prosperity and peace for our people.

- **Let us join hand to eliminate the stereotypes of colour, race, creed and religion that have put a spoke in our socio-economic uplift plans.**
- **Let us join hands to rid our region of terrorism and religious extremism to make possible mutually-beneficial trade, investment, technology transfer and industrial cooperation.**

The time has come to rise above our differences, and build on our convergences.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Pakistan is desirous of a stable, peaceful and prosperous Asia.

Prompted by “Asian Spirit” with an eye on creating “Asian Harmony”, we seek to establish a political discourse in the continent that is based upon cooperation, not confrontation.

In this context, Pakistan seeks friendship and good-neighbourly relations with all its neighbours, especially India and Afghanistan.

With these words, I once again express my confidence that APA can play a crucial role towards promoting political as well as inter-cultural and interfaith dialogue, and inter-state harmony, and also respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty.

I conclude on the famous adage that:

“UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL.”

Thank you!

15. Russian Federation

Unofficial translation

**RESOLUTION
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION
OF THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**On the Appeal of the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly
of the Russian Federation to the Parliaments of Foreign States
and to International Parliamentary Organizations Due to the Need
for Joint Efforts to Combat International Terrorism**

The Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation resolves:

1. To adopt an Appeal of the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to the Parliaments of Foreign States and to International Parliamentary Organizations Due to the Need for Joint Efforts to Combat International Terrorism;
2. To forward the Appeal to the President of the Russian Federation, to the Government of the Russian Federation, to the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, to the parliaments of foreign States and to international parliamentary organizations.
3. This Resolution shall enter into force on the date of its signature.

**Chairperson
of the Council of the Federation
of the Federal Assembly
of the Russian Federation**

V.I. Matviyenko

Moscow
18 November 2015
No. 428-SF

**APPEAL
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION
OF THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**To the Parliaments of Foreign States and to International
Parliamentary Organizations Due to the Need for
Joint Efforts to Combat International Terrorism**

The Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation expresses deep concern over the terrorist threats to the security of the Russian Federation and its citizens. Over the recent years, our country has repeatedly suffered the pain and shock of tragedies caused by the actions of terrorists.

The explosion on board the Russian airliner over the Sinai Peninsula on 31 October 2015 that killed civilians, including women and children, has become yet another in a series of criminal acts of international terrorism. We join the families and friends of the victims in mourning and call for a fair retribution for the heinous crime. No one involved in that terrorist attack must avoid responsibility.

Today, terrorism is unimpededly moving across State borders and spreading throughout the whole world. The most recent examples were terrorist attacks in France on 13 November 2015, and earlier - in Turkey, Lebanon, Tunisia, and Kenya. In Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, where violent extremist groups had entrenched themselves, terrorist acts have become almost commonplace. The Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation strongly condemns inhuman acts of international terrorists and extends its condolences to the States whose citizens have fallen victims to these acts.

Mankind is facing a global challenge that no State on the planet can address alone. Nazism, defeated 70 years ago, represented the same global challenge to human civilization. At that time, to fight the common enemy the

anti-Hitler coalition of States with different political systems was created. The Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation is convinced that the current global challenge also requires global response in strict compliance with the international law. Unfortunately, we have repeatedly met with double standards and unilateral sanctions that hinder the ability of the international community to counter terrorism.

In order to comprehensively combat terrorism all members of the international community must unite their efforts and create a large coalition of States rejecting violent extremism and prepared to contribute to defeating the global evil. Such coalition will render these endeavours coordinated and systemic straight away in many critical spheres allowing to:

in the political sphere – exclude double standards and the dichotomization of terrorists into good and bad, and demonstrate ability of the international community to overcome the differences in the face of a common threat;

in the legislative sphere – adopt the necessary international, national and regional acts criminalizing terrorism and any assistance for it, harmonize the modalities of interaction between all anti-terrorist entities in order to prosecute and punish terrorists and their accomplices by employing the potential of parliamentary diplomacy to agree upon the relevant decisions;

in the security sphere – coordinate efforts of relevant organizations in order to prevent terrorist acts and detect terrorist networks and channels for terrorist support, reconcile military operations in order to inflict maximum damage on terrorist groups in their precise locations, and establish a single unified list of terrorist organizations as well as a mechanism for its prompt update;

in the financial and economic sphere – identify and shut down direct and potential sources of terrorist financing, including drug trafficking, trade in energy and other resources, as well as channels for supplying weapons to terrorist organizations;

in the diplomatic sphere – seek strict implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism by all States, consistently pursue the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and seek an early finalization of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism;

in the interparliamentary sphere – use the potential of the parliamentary diplomacy in order to actively promote international counter-terrorism agenda and political discussion of counter-terrorism cooperation in the framework of international events;

in the humanitarian sphere – ensure the protection of the world cultural heritage on the basis of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 14 May 1954;

in the information as well as spiritual and religious sphere – strongly condemn all manifestations of terrorism which is based on the misanthropic ideology, exclude any justifications of terrorist methods of achieving any goals whatsoever by engaging religious leaders in this process, discourage the glorification of acts of violence, debunk the ideas of radical protest, and develop understanding of inevitability of punishment for terrorist activities.

The Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation calls upon the parliaments of foreign States and international parliamentary organizations to put aside political differences and take a firm position in favour of establishing broad and effective interparliamentary and interstate cooperation in countering international terrorism. The issues at stake are the future of the human civilization and a fundamental right of every person on our planet – the right to life. It is our common duty is to ensure this right.

The Council of the Federation
of the Federal Assembly
of the Russian Federation

16. Saudi Arabia

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Majlis Ash Shura
Inter-Parliamentary Unit



المملكة العربية السعودية
مجلس الشورى
الشعبة البرلمانية

كلمة معالي رئيس مجلس الشورى

بالمملكة العربية السعودية

الشيخ الدكتور/عبدالله بن محمد بن إبراهيم آل الشيخ

في الجمعية العمومية الثامنة لاتحاد البرلمانات الآسيوية

بنوم بنه - كمبوديا

٢٦ - ٢٩/٢/١٤٣٧هـ الموافق ٨ - ١١/١٢/٢٠١٥م



الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين وبعد :

أصحاب المعالي والسعادة..

السادة والسيدات الحضور..

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته....

يطيب لي باسمي ونيابة عن زملائي أعضاء وفد مجلس الشورى بالمملكة العربية السعودية أن نتقدم بالشكر الجزيل للإخوة الكرام في برلمان مملكة كمبوديا على كريم استضافتهم لأعمال هذا الاجتماع، وما حظينا به من حسن الوفادة وكرم الضيافة، متمنياً لهم وللشعب الكمبودي دوام الأمن والرخاء .

السيدات والسادة:

يستمر اتحادنا في مواصلة مسيرته من أجل تحقيق أهدافه وكلنا يحدونا الأمل في أن تثمر المناقشات والحوارات عن نتائج فعالة نحو كل ما يحقق الأمن والاستقرار والرخاء ، ولاشك أن جدول أعمال هذا اللقاء حافل بموضوعات مهمة تحتاج منا لتظافر الجهود وتنسيق المواقف من أجل مستقبل واعد ومشرق للإنسانية جمعاء .

السادة والسيدات:

للمملكة العربية السعودية تاريخ مشهود وجهود مخلصه في مد يد العون والمساعدة إلى غيرها من الدول الأقل نمواً، حيث تعتبر المملكة واحدة من أكبر عشرين دولة مانحة للمساعدات الإنمائية حول العالم، واحتلت المملكة المرتبة السادسة في العالم في العام الماضي طبقاً لإحصائيات الأمم المتحدة، ويبلغ إجمالي



ما قدمته السعودية خلال الأربع عقود الماضية أكثر من ١١٥ مليار دولار استفادت منها أكثر من ٩١ دولة حول العالم. ولا تنتظر المملكة من هذه العثرات أي فوائد اقتصادية أو منافع مستقبلية.

السادة والسيدات:

لقد بذلت المملكة العربية السعودية جهوداً سياسية كبيرة في بداية الأزمة اليمنية في العام ٢٠١١م، وأثمرت هذه الجهود عن تقديم المبادرة الخليجية كأساس لحل الأزمة؛ وعقد "اتفاق السلم والشراكة الوطنية" في سبتمبر ٢٠١٤م بين الأحزاب السياسية اليمنية، إلا أن الميليشيات الحوثية وقوات الرئيس المخلع انقلبت على مقررات الاتفاق وعلى الشرعية، وطالما أكدت المملكة مراراً موقفها المتمثل في وجوب احترام الحكومة الشرعية في اليمن بقيادة الرئيس عبد ربه منصور هادي، والدعوة لوقف العنف وانسحاب الميليشيات المسلحة من المباني الحكومية والميادين الرئيسية والانخراط في العملية السياسية السلمية ونبذ استخدام السلاح، إلا أن هذه الميليشيات استمرت في أعمالها التخريبية وهو ما أدى إلى إطلاق الرئيس اليمني عبد ربه منصور هادي لنداء استغاثة للدول الخليجية لنجدة اليمن من مستقبل مجهول.

وقد استجابت المملكة ودول التحالف لنصرة الشعب اليمني الشقيق وحكومته الشرعية إيماناً من المملكة بأن الوقوف مع الشعب اليمني الشقيق واجب أخلاقي وبأن عملية عاصفة الحزم تنسجم مع المواثيق الإقليمية والدولية، لا سيما ما تضمنته المادة (٥١) من ميثاق الأمم المتحدة.



كما جاءت هذه العملية منسجمة مع قرارات مجلس الأمن الدولي الخاصة بالوضع في اليمن ومنها قرار ٢٢١٦ تحت الفصل السابع الذي يقضي بإعادة الشرعية المُغتصبة من الميليشيات.

وفي مجال المساعدات الإنسانية تبرعت المملكة بحوالي ٨٠٠ مليون دولار لأعمال الإغاثة الإنسانية في اليمن من خلال الأمم المتحدة، كما قامت بإنشاء مركز الملك سلمان بن عبد العزيز للإغاثة والأعمال الإنسانية، وتبرع خادم الحرمين الشريفين الملك سلمان بن عبد العزيز حفظه الله للمركز بمبلغ مليار ريال، بالإضافة إلى ذلك فقد بادرت المملكة باتخاذ الإجراءات اللازمة لتصحيح أوضاع أكثر من ٥٠٠ ألف مواطن يمني من المقيمين في المملكة بطريقة غير نظامية من أبناء اليمن الشقيق بمنحهم تأشيرات زيارة لمدة ستة أشهر قابلة للتمديد.

أيها السادة والسيدات :

إننا نتألم جميعاً من مأساة الشعب السوري الشقيق وما يعانيه من قتل وتشريد ، وكانت المملكة العربية السعودية من أوائل دول العالم التي طالبت بشار الأسد بالتوقف عن استخدام الألة العسكرية في استهداف المدنيين عند بداية الأزمة ، وبدلت المملكة جهوداً مضنية لإقناع بشار الأسد، والعالم أجمع بخطورة الذهاب بعيداً في هذه السياسة الدموية التي تعامل من خلالها مع شعبه، وأن عليه أن يحكّم العقل لتفادي إيصال بلاده إلى الخراب والحرب الأهلية، وهو ما حدث.

ولقد تعاملت المملكة منذ بداية الأزمة مع هذا الموضوع من منطلقات إنسانية بحثة، وفتحت أبوابها للأشقاء السوريين حيث استقبلت المملكة منذ



اندلاع الأزمة في سوريا، ما يقارب المليونين ونصف المليون مواطن سوري، ومنحتهم حرية الحركة التامة، ومنحت أن أراد البقاء منهم في المملكة الذين يبلغون مئات الألوف، الإقامة النظامية أسوة ببقية المقيمين، بكل ما يترتب عليها من حقوق في الرعاية الصحية المجانية والانخراط في سوق العمل والتعليم، حيث بلغ عدد الطلاب والطالبات السوريين الذين انضموا لمقاعد الدراسة في المملكة لهذا العام " ١٣١٦٥٤ " يدرسون في مختلف مراحل التعليم.

كما امتدت جهود^{المملكة} لتشمل دعم ورعاية الملايين من السوريين اللاجئين إلى الدول المجاورة لوطنهم في كل من الأردن ولبنان وغيرها من الدول. واشتملت الجهود على تقديم المساعدات الإنسانية بالتنسيق مع حكومات الدول المضيفة لهم، وكذلك مع منظمات الإغاثة الإنسانية الدولية، سواء من خلال الدعم المادي أو العيني، حيث بلغت قيمة المساعدات الإنسانية التي قدمتها المملكة للأشقاء السوريين نحو ٧٠٠ مليون دولار.

الإخوة والأخوات:

تظل القضية الفلسطينية من أهم القضايا التي يجب أن تتضافر الجهود لحلها والاستجابة إلى ما تنص عليها المواثيق والمعاهدات الدولية ومبادرات السلام فلقد عانى الشعب الفلسطيني طيلة أكثر من ستين عاماً مضت من الاحتلال والتهجير والاعتداءات المتكررة، والاستيطان الإسرائيلي فوق أراضيه. وإن المملكة لتستنكر أشد الاستنكار ما وقع مؤخراً من اقتحام سلطات الاحتلال الإسرائيلي للمسجد الأقصى المبارك، وانتهاك حرمة والاعتداء على المصلين، وتدعو المجتمع الدولي للوقوف بصرامة أمام الممارسات الإسرائيلية المشينة التي تقوّض أي أمل تجاه الوصول للسلام المنشود.



أيها السادة والسيدات :

يتنامى خطر الإرهاب ويمتد بشكل سريع وسريع ولأن المملكة العربية السعودية تعي خطورة هذه الظاهرة الدموية ، فإنها لم تأل جهداً في سبيل التصدي لكافة أشكال الإرهاب والمشاركة في أي جهد دولي يسعى إلى محاربهته ، وترجمت المملكة هذه السياسة بإجراءات مشددة من خلال سن التشريعات المجرمة له، وتجفيف مصادره المالية، ووضع القوائم بأسماء التنظيمات الإرهابية، وتشكيل "لجنة عليا لمكافحة الإرهاب" والمملكة وهي أول دولة دعت إلى عقد مؤتمر عالمي لمكافحة الإرهاب عام ٢٠٠٥م، وطالبت وعملت على إنشاء مركز الأمم المتحدة لمكافحة الإرهاب (UNCTC) ودعمته بمبلغ ١١٠ مليون دولار، وهي رئيس المجلس الاستشاري لمركز الأمم المتحدة لمكافحة الإرهاب، وعضو فاعل في مجموعة الدول ضد التنظيم الإرهابي داعش (CIG)، كما حذرت المملكة المجتمع الدولي من التساهل أو التخاذل عن مسؤوليته التاريخية ضد الإرهاب.

وكل ذلك يأتي انطلاقاً من مبادئها التي قامت على الشريعة الإسلامية تلك الرسالة التي تحمل السلام للعالم كله، وهي تؤكد أن أعمال العنف والتطرف التي تقع من بعض الفئات التي تدعي انتماءها للإسلام لا تمثل الدين الإسلامي الصحيح، بل إن الإسلام منها براء، وليس لها مرجعية دينية ووظائفها أكدت المملكة أن الإرهاب ليس له دين، أو عرق، أو طائفة.

وفي الختام أجدد الشكر للقائمين على أعمال هذا الاجتماع متمنياً أن نوفق جميعاً في الخروج بما يحقق الأهداف والتطلعات .

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته ،،،

17. Thailand

Draft Intervention

by

Honorable ADM Amorntep Na Bangchang
Leader of the Thai National Legislative Assembly
Delegation

At the 8th Plenary Session of The Asian Parliamentary
Assembly

“Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in
Asia”

7th - 12th December 2015

Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia

His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei
HENG Samrin,
President of the APA,
Honorable Dr. Mohammad Nejad Hosseinian,
Secretary General of the APA,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Thai National Legislative Assembly Delegation, it is my very great honor to be here with all of your honorables at the 8th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. We are touched by the warm hospitality which the host has accorded to us since our arrival in Cambodia.

I would like to extend my special thanks to His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin for your remarkable role as the Chairperson of this Plenary Session and also express my appreciation to Honorable Dr. Mohammad Nejad Hosseinian, Secretary-General of the APA for his great work to the organization.

Almost a decade, the APA has set its goals to be one of the inter-parliamentary organizations to make the concretion and solidarity in Asia under the conceptual ideas of peace and security creation. Through many years, we have assembled to share our views and experiences on important subjects for

finding the best practice, particularly peace, security and reconciliation among Asian countries.

Under the world situations, we must face the fact that in many parts of the world still suffer from new forms of wars and conflicts, ethnic or violence, violence against women both in conflict and in daily life. Recently, a terror threat becomes a major issue of our concern.

In order to bring peace, security and reconciliation to the continent, the inter-parliamentary cooperation plays a vital role in such mission. The APA could serve as a way to further strengthen and become a forum for multilateral and bilateral dialogue and consultation on the establishment of effective principles for dialogue and cooperation, featuring decision-making by consensus, non-interference, incremental progress and moving at a pace comfortable to all member countries. Mutual understanding can be gradually built up by

cooperative activities as well as the transparent and sincere parliamentary diplomacy of the relevant parties should be promoted by the members of APA in all aspects.

As I have mentioned, the way of parliamentary diplomacy for peace and reconciliation has to be the negotiations and discussions carried out according to the procedure in international organizations and the main objective of parliamentary diplomacy is to increase mutual understanding and to maintain friendship among the Asian countries, and to increase the democratic legitimacy of inter-governmental institutions.

Thailand strongly believes that sustainable peace can only be achieved through meaningful negotiations and dialogues that will lead us to solidarity by way of trust and confidence in Asia. Driven by the objective of security for the people in Asia, the APA member countries, as the legislative

branch, can work closely with each other by exchanging their experiences and point of views on how to promote peace and reconciliation via the channel of parliamentary diplomacy like this forum.

As far as I mentioned concerning the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy which initiated by His Majesty the King BhumibolAdulyadej, the King of Thailand, when I attended the the APA Standing Committee Meeting on Economic and Sustainable Development in Jakarta. I would like to emphasize that the philosophy does not only apply for Thai economy, but also can apply to the economic under the globalization. The main idea of Philosophy describes a step by step and balanced approach to develop and also provides guidance on the appropriate conduct covering all aspects of living. Of course, this drives the society strike the achievement of poverty eradication and sustainable development. And also can be proved by the success His Majesty's projects for more than 3,000 projects over the past three decades.

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

In conclusion, on behalf of the Thai Delegation, I affirm that this is the best opportunity for all of the APA Members to carefully and seriously think about how to create our own channel for promoting cooperation in peace and security. I, therefore encourage all APA members to adhere to the aims and objectives of the APA and also lend support to the efforts of the relevant parties on this issue and to achieve peace and security in Asia.

Thank you for your kind attention.

18.Turkey

**SPEECH OF MR. BURHAN KAYATURK
HAED OF THE TURKISH DELEGATION OF APA
(7-12 Aralık 2015, Phnom Penh, Kamboçya)**

“Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia”

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by expressing my pleasure to address such a distinguished audience today in the friendly capital city of Phnom Penh on the occasion of the Eighth Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to thank to our Cambodian hosts for their warm welcome and hospitality.

Distinguished colleagues,

Today, the majority of the world's fastest growing economies are in Asia. According to the indicators given by the Asian Development Bank, the share of global gross domestic product produced by the Asia and Pacific regions are almost 39 per cent in 2013, increasing 9 percent between 2000 and 2013. According to many economic researches, Asia will continue to be the engine of growth for the world in the years to come.

Asia has undergone a process of rapid urbanization and increasing social dynamism in the last 20 years, with growing cities, new hi-tech roads, new bridges, new factories and new universities. Asia accounts for 61 per cent of the world population today.

Considering these political, economic and social advancements and indicators, it is now widely accepted that the rise of Asia is one of the defining and decisive trends of the 21st century, Asia has already become a centre of attraction.

Dear colleagues,

Despite these bright developments, Asia is far from being risk free. Inter-state tensions, frozen conflicts, terrorist networks, resource-allocation competitions and territorial disputes continue to disturb our common security.

Nevertheless, despite the serious problem on our security agenda, this is not and should not be a time for pessimism. The promising developments in our continent show that Asia has huge potential for a prosperous future. If this potential is harnessed fully through appropriate policies and a strategic vision, Asia will certainly play a far greater role in world affairs.

Dear friends,

Situated at the hearth of Eurasia, Turkey has a special place in Asia for historic, linguistic and religious ties with a wide range of countries and regions. We have shouldered our own part of responsibility in bringing more prosperity, stability and peace to the region.

Let me briefly mention our endeavours in this regard.

With the understanding that dialogue, interdependence and cooperation are essential for the achievement of comprehensive security, stability and prosperity, we have concentrated on establishing win-win type of relations and consolidating multi-dimensional cooperation not only in our neighbourhood but also beyond. We have established a dense network of cooperation in a wide area, from Middle East to Central Asia, from Balkans to Caucasus, from Asia-Pacific to South-East Asia by strengthening political dialogue, raising economic interdependence and intensifying social and cultural interactions.

We also took concrete steps for sustainable regional stability. We initiated regional cooperation processes and established new channels of dialogue to strengthen mutual trust among the countries of the region and to address our common issues. The trilateral processes of

Turkey-Azerbaijan-Iran, Turkey-Azerbaijan-Georgia, Turkey-Azerbaijan-Turkmenistan and Turkey-Afghanistan-Pakistan are just a few examples in this regard.

In Asia-Pacific, we have elevated our relations with Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Singapore to the level of “strategic partnership” and with China to the level of “strategic cooperation”. We have also strengthened our diplomatic presence in the region by rising the number of our missions to 14, with recently opened embassies in Myanmar, Cambodia and Brunei.

Distinguished delegates,

At the recent G-20 Leaders Summit held in Turkey on 15-16 November 2015, we, together with our partners and on the basis of this agenda, committed to implement our past promises and to boost investments as a powerful driver of economic growth.

Distinguished colleagues,

Humanitarian diplomacy is another very important aspect of Turkish foreign policy. Turkey is a leading country in terms of official development aid amount of 3,5 billion US Dollars. Turkey also ranks third worldwide in humanitarian assistance, and the top country in proportion to its GDP.

We have also pursued an open door policy for all Syrians who need our assistance since the very beginning. Currently, we are hosting more than 2 million Syrians. During the last four years, we have spent 8 billion US Dollars for the maintenance of the needs of our Syrian guests, whereas the contribution of the international community remained as low as 455 million US Dollars.

Unfortunately the humanitarian plight in Syria has already exceeded the boundaries of this country and led to an immense crisis in the Mediterranean. Every day, more and more people take a very dangerous course of journey in the sea, risking their lives and that of their children, simply because they are denied the very basic right to

life in their home country. Since the beginning of 2015, Turkish Coast Guards rescued more than 80 thousand migrants from sea by conducting more than 2.100 operations so far.

As for the rest, we are deeply saddened by their losses, for all late women, men and little children, whose only guilt is to ask for what they deserve as human beings.

The recent attacks in Ankara on 10 October and in Paris on 13 November revealed once again that terrorism is among the gravest threats to international peace and security today. Turkey actively contributes to international community's efforts in the fight against terrorism.

We currently co-chair "The Global Counter Terrorism Forum". We have been among the very first countries to declare DEASH a terrorist organization and we are determined to continue our fight againsts them.

Dear colleagues,

We are going through very challenging times. We have so many issues on our security agenda. However, the world keeps changing, just as our continent. As long as there is change, there is always hope for the better.

And we also witness that the current situation in America, in Europe and in the world is not much better than the situation in Asia. As an MP of Turkey, I worked in European Parliament as well as in the Council of Europe for eight years. I have seen that the future in Europe is not brighter than the future of Asia.

Despite challenges and difficulties if we enhance our partnership, we can boost our capacities and stand together against all problems we face.

This is a responsibility we should praise and bear here today as representatives of the countries and peoples of Asia, which deserve a better fate of peace, stability and prosperity.

Thank you.

19. Vietnam

Updated 10.00 am 8/12/2015.

**Statement by Viet Nam's Head of Delegation at the
8th Plenary of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
*Phnom Penh, December 9th, 2015***

“Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia”

*Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin, President
of the National Assembly, Kingdom of Cambodia,*

*Excellencies Speakers, Heads of Delegations and deputies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the Vietnamese National Assembly delegation, I would like to convey the warmest greetings from H. E. Mr. Nguyen Sinh Hung, President of the National Assembly of Viet Nam as well as the great sentiments and friendship of the Vietnamese people to Excellency Mr. President and all distinguished participants to the 8th APA Plenary, held in Phnom Penh, capital city of the beautiful and hospitable Kingdom of Cambodia.

*Excellency Mr. President,
Honorable delegates,*

The 8th APA Plenary takes place at a time when the world and the region are experiencing fast-changing developments. The economy is gearing up the recovery pace especially the big economies in Asia such as China, India, Korea, Japan are developing dynamically. Many initiatives to expand economic links in more diverse and substantial forms have become new driving forces for development in Asia.

Although cooperation remains a prevailing trend in international relations, security issues both traditional and non-traditional such as violence, terrorism, racial and religious conflicts, territorial disputes, pandemics, natural disasters, climate change etc require all parties to cooperate closely, respect international law, conduct peaceful dialogues, and act with cautiousness and responsibility. Vietnam's stance is to resolve all disputes by peaceful means, abide by the international law and spare no efforts to cooperate with all parties for peace, stability and development.

Distinguished delegates,

Asia is a long-time continent, rich in history, diverse in culture and religion. Peace in Asia is attached with peace on earth. Striving for a sustained peace in Asia is to maintain a long-term peace for the human kind. Therefore, on the foundation of such precious values, in the capacity of the people's representatives, we, the Asian deputies/parliamentarians need to enhance mutual understanding, dialogue and consolidate common grounds, bringing into full play our roles as bridges to connect friendship among the peoples of Asia and between Asia and the rest of the world towards a continent of peace and prosperity.

Over the past more than 15 years of existence and development, APA today and the AAPP (Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace) before, with its mission to promote peace in Asia, has been exerting its all-out efforts to preserve peace in the region, build up and steadily cement the trust between nations through dialogues and cooperation on the regional, inter-regional and global scale. It is needed for APA to boost up preventive diplomacy measures, particularly prevent and manage potential conflicts, abide by the international law, set up and share conduct standards especially basic principles to govern the relations between nations as well as resolve disputes peacefully.

In that spirit, I highly appreciate the theme of this Plenary which is "Promoting peace, reconciliation and dialogue in Asia". This is a valuable opportunity for us to exchange our views and experiences, outline action plans, initiatives to bring about peace, reconciliation and dialogue for the sake of stability and prosperity in Asia. Viet Nam is in agreement with the agenda which reflects the role and the interest of APA in such fields as security, politics, economy, society and culture in order to strengthen friendship and cooperation, promote interaction between APA and Asian Governments for economic development, poverty reduction as well as the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)... To follow up the success of the 132nd General Assembly of the IPU (Inter-Parliamentary Union), held in March this year in Viet Nam, themed "the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, Turning words into action", I would like to reaffirm our commitments that we have made in the process of implementing the SDGs after 2015. We, the people's representatives, should encourage the Governments' engagement to realise the committed goals, and assure to approve appropriate bills and budget, conduct effectively our supervision missions, protect the peoples' interests and expand the relations with partners in the region and in the world as a whole.

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

With the policy of international integration implemented in an active and responsible manner, Viet Nam continuously enhances national reforms and strengthens solidarity, friendship and cooperation with other countries, actively works with other countries to develop a peaceful and stable region. The National Assembly of Viet Nam has amended and issued new policies and legal documents in accordance with international commitments. As a founding member since 1999, together with other APA members, the National Assembly of Viet Nam stands ready to work with other APA Parliaments to make practical and effective contributions to the joint efforts, building up an Asian continent of peace, independence, democracy and social progress towards the stability and sustainable development of our nations.

I am confident that, under the chairmanship of Mr. President, with the close cooperation of parliamentarians and thorough preparation of the National

Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the 8th APA Plenary will be crowned with success.

Thank you.

20. PUIC

H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin,
Speaker of the National Assembly of Kingdom of Cambodia,

H.E. Mr. Njad Huseinian,
Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Excellencies,

I am gratified and honored to respond to your kind invitation to participate in an Observer Capacity, in the proceedings of the Eighth Session of the Asian Parliamentary (APA) which is convened in the beautiful city of Phenom Penh. Through this participation we reaffirm our certain wish to consolidate relations of cooperation and exchange of expertise between our two institutions which we hope will achieve constant progress that serves their noble objectives.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Your Conference is being convened while most parts of the world are passing through a critical juncture. Doctrinal, ethnic and other conflicts engender unrest which, in many cases, leads to clashes and confrontations that result in the lack of security and peace in the area of strife, and imperil stability at the regional and world levels. Lucky are those whom God has protected from the evil of such a scourge which spreads without being hindered by geographical or political borders. As terrorism is now recognized as the major threat to international peace and security, it has been established that terrorism is not linked to any religion, belief or ethnic group. Pursuance to this fact the Parliamentary Union of OIC Member States has called for the adoption of unified and comprehensive measures *vis-à-vis* the conflicting policies that are based on doctrinal bigotry and ethnic factionalism and to maintain a

collective stand against terrorism. Our PUIC has emphasized the Islamic principles based on tolerance and non- extremism, and founded on peace, justice, dialogue and abstention from practicing violence whether within communities or world – wide. In order to curtail excessive extremism the PUIC has encouraged promotion of mutual tolerance and understanding and countering all manifestations of animosity; it also encouraged the propagation of peace and love among all categories of society. As regards political differences, we maintain that they may be addressed through diplomatic means as well as regional and international mediation. We also maintain that world institutions of arbitration are most effective and proper for the prevalence of peace and avoidance of war.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peace should be the objective and aim of all our communities and states at the national, regional and international levels. These are the same objectives and aims which international and regional organizations advocate and ceaselessly endeavour to achieve and spread among nations. We are right to suppose that any sincere efforts exerted to realize just and durable peace-being the corner- stone for any socio-economic progress or sustainable development- must have its steps pass through several stages, whose objective and constructive dialogue constitute its most important mechanisms. Furthermore, such dialogue must involve the various elements of society, and that youth ought to play an appreciable role in it. The conclusions and results of this dialogue must materialize tolerance and reconciliation among the conflicting parties. A strong political will ought to be available in order to implement the outcome of dialogue and reconciliation which are meant to achieve peace and the establishment of security so that concordance and compassion replace discordance and strife.

Mr. President

Ladies and Gentlemen

Our PUIC has reiterated the responsibility of all states to refrain from the use of violence and extremism or the threat thereof against the safety of another state or its political exploitation. It also advocated granting further attention to combating terrorism and extremism through several means, including addressing the root causes which nurtured it, as well as the adoption of moderation, propagation of compassion; renunciation of hatred and enhancement of the culture of dialogue, tolerance and reconciliation. The mass media must be invited to promote peace and its significance as well as renouncing war with its destructive consequences, and avoiding sensationalism when addressing the causes of conflicts.

In conclusion, I wish your conference to be crowned with success in its call for the consolidation and propagation of peace so that love, coexistence and conciliation may prevail among nations and communities.

May peace be upon you



Resolution on Advancing Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia

Resolution 201501

Page 1 of 2

We the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Recalling relevant APA Resolutions including Resolution on Measures and Methods of Materialization of Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2014/01— 3 December 2014); Resolution on Consolidation of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2013/01-- 9 December 2013); Resolution 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);

Upholding deep-rooted ties of history, geography, culture, economy, politics, and civilization which bind Asian peoples together;

Recognizing the amity and the friendly relations among the Asian Nations, Parliaments, and States as an indispensable political asset which need to be further strengthened by all kinds of cross-national cooperation in general, and APA parliamentarians and inter-parliamentary cooperation in particular;

Emphasizing the fundamental role of democracy and human rights in the promotion of friendship and cooperation in Asia and calling upon all Member Parliaments and their respective Governments to ensure equal and non-discriminatory access of their citizens to civil rights;

Reiterating the importance of the Declaration on the Principles of Friendly Relations in Asia as a proper framework for promoting peace and prosperity in Asia;

Encouraging further expansion of friendly relations including cultural, diplomatic, scientific, and commercial relations among all Asian States and further interaction among Asian Parliaments and Nations in pursuance of the purposes of the Declaration;

- 1. Urge** Asian Parliaments to disseminate information about the APA Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia by all available means including parliamentary and state publications, parliamentary friendship groups, public programs, etc.
- 2. Decide** that every Member Parliament would motivate public and private media, press, actual and cyber networks, websites and the like at local and national levels to engage in promoting and spreading the word about the content, importance and positive results of the adoption and implementation of the APA Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia;

3. **Encourage** Asian academic institutions, think-tanks and research centers, universities and educational schools, as well as professional associations throughout Asia to take part in promoting and adhering to the tenets and guidelines enshrined in the APA Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia,
4. **Call upon** all APA Member Parliaments to inform the APA Secretariat of measures they have taken in promoting the APA Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia
5. **Request** the Secretary-General to continue its 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;





Resolution on Mobilizing Interactions Between APA and Asian Governments

Resolution 201502

Page 1 of 2

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

Recalling APA resolutions on Engaging APA with Asian Governments and Inter-Governmental Organizations (APA/Res/2014/02); Asian Parliaments and Governments: Together for Solidarity and Prosperity in Asia (APA/Res/2013/02 --9 December 2013); 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)

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

Encouraging Member Parliaments to consider endorsing and adopting common legislations on issues of mutual interest to both APA and Asian Governments;

- 1. Urge** all Member Parliaments to inform relevant high-ranking officials of their respective governments of the great potentials, activities, and achievements of the APA as the largest inter-parliamentary organization in Asia;
- 2. Decide** to form APA parliamentary groups comprising nominated delegates from volunteer Member Parliaments under the supervision of the APA Vice-President for Political Affairs, and in full coordination with the APA Secretariat, to hold contacts and meetings with relevant inter-parliamentary and inter-governmental organizations, with a view to converging points of view and considering possible joint initiatives pertaining to regional and global issues, including the creation of an Asian Parliament;
- 3. Encourage** Member Parliaments to contribute to the work of the APA Special Committee on Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) which is mandated to generate substantive and result oriented reports for consideration by the next APA Executive Council and Plenary sessions by providing their respective points of views and analyses of the subject matter;
- 4. Request** APA Member Parliaments to identify and describe their priority desirable topics for receiving training, as well their capabilities to offer training and best practices, and share them with other Parliaments through the APA Secretariat, in order to organize training programs on exchanging best practices and learning from each other;

5. **Request** the Vice-President for Political Affairs to report to the Executive Council and the Plenary Sessions on his/her activities pertaining to the formation of working groups from interested Member Parliaments to focus on the implementation of APA decisions on political affairs;
6. **Request** the Secretary-General to expand the scope of its contacts and communications with 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 on common grounds 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.





Resolution on Deploring Acts of Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Resolution 201503

Page 1 of 3

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions on Denunciation of Terrorism and Violent Extremism (APA/Res/2014/03—3 December 2014); Supporting Palestinian State and Protecting the Rights of Palestinian People (APA/Res/2013/08—3 December 2013); Comprehensive Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Occupation Strategies (APA/Res/2010/07, 30 November, 2010); Supporting the Rights of Palestinian People (APA/Res/2010/08-- 30 November 2010); Violations of International Humanitarian Law in Palestine and the War Crimes Committed by the Zionist Regime in Gaza (APA/Res/2009/02--10 December 2009); Humanitarian Crisis in Palestine in Particular in the Gaza Strip (APA/Res/2008/08-- 29 November 2008);

Reaffirming APA commitment to the promotion of peace and security at regional and global levels on the basis of justice and the rule of law;

Encouraging all Member Parliaments as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations in Asia to generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance and sectarian violence and the importance of inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue;

Condemning any and all kinds of support for, or advocacy of, national, racial or religious hatred that would constitute incitement to terrorism, extremism, discrimination, or sectarian violence;

Being Concerned that terrorism and violent extremism continue to threaten peace and security in many areas of Asia and are menace to social and economic development of international community;

Expressing anxiety as to the formidable threat posed by Daesh in Iraq and Syria who carry out large-scale terrorist activities and defy the security and territorial integrity of sovereign states originally sponsored and supported by certain western states who used these terrorist organizations as illegitimate instruments to undermine regional peace and stability;

Warning that recurrent direct military operations by Israeli forces targeting residential areas, schools, mosques, and hospitals in the Palestinian occupied territories have endangered peace and security and caused gross violations of human rights tantamount to war crimes and crimes against humanity which warrant making a case before the United Nations Security Council and the International Criminal Court;

Expressing grave concerns over the continuing threat of Daesh and its associates with capabilities of launching large-scale terrorist activities and defying the security and territorial integrity of sovereign states;

Recognizing that acts of “terrorism and horrorism” by Daesh, al-Qaeda, and their offshoots and affiliates have no basis in the teachings of true Islam which is a Divine peaceful religion, as there is no ground in the teachings of true Judaism justifying acts of terror and atrocities by Israel and reject stereotyping of any religious, national, or ethnic group as supporting terrorism;

Acknowledging that atrocities committed by Daesh in Iraq and Syria and crimes committed by Israeli regime in the occupied Palestinian territories have led to disastrous humanitarian, economic, social and cultural consequences and continue to undermine international efforts towards achieving a just and lasting peace in the region;

Considering foreign occupation as a violation of independence of the occupied countries that constitutes a real threat to peace and international security thus according the people under foreign occupation the right to resist occupation and exercise self-determination in accordance with international law is not, in any way, an act of terrorism;

1. **Invite** all parliaments and parliamentarians in the world to utilize all means available to support regional and global efforts aimed at stopping acts of violence and addressing conditions conducive to spread of terrorism and violent extremism;
2. **Call Upon** all APA Member Parliaments to focus on improving capacity building in their own respective countries, and collectively across Asia, for combating terrorism and violent extremism;
3. **Encourage** Member Parliaments and their respective governments to exchange their best practices in fighting terrorism and extremism including through the promotion of interfaith dialogue;
4. **Urge** all Member Parliaments to harmonize their efforts in promulgating counter-terrorism legislations in Asia with a view to facilitating more effective cooperation among Asian governments in combating terrorism;
5. **Identify** Daesh; al-Qaeda; Jabhat-al-Nosrah; Taleban, Boko Haram; as well as the Zionist regime, as terrorist and extremist entities who violate international law; undermine territorial integrity of states of Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Nigeria and Palestine; illegally occupy parts of their respective territories; target civilian populations; directly and deliberately attack public places like schools, hospitals and mosques; thus committing war crimes and crimes against humanity;
6. **Call Upon** the international community to fulfill their pledges and promises to rebuild infrastructure and rehabilitate people in Gaza which were destroyed by Israeli forces and request the Government of Egypt to put pressure on the occupying power to remove obstacles hindering the transfer of essential needs for helping the people of Gaza;
7. **Condemn** all and any kind of support including political, financial, military, logistical, commercial, technological assistance provided to Daesh and Israeli regime through making oil-deals with them and purchasing smuggled cultural items, as well as granting them financial aids and lethal weapons;

8. **Decide** to keep this item on its agenda and monitor the developments related to atrocities by Daesh and Israeli regime in order to take all possible measures to curb the effects and consequences of terrorism and extremism in Iraq, Syria, and Palestine.





Resolution on Significant Political Developments in Asia

Resolution 201504

Page 1 of 2

Inspired by the principles and values enshrined in the Charter of the APA;

Reaffirming its commitment to the promotion of freedom, democracy, peace and security at regional and global levels;

Promoting, as an APA principal policy, the resort to political means and diplomatic solutions, including parliamentary diplomacy, for resolving internal and international conflicts, instead of violent and military course of actions;

Considering terrorism and violent extremism as serious common concerns for all Member Parliaments, threatening the security and well-being of human societies;

Mindful of grave potential and actual ramifications of the critical situation in Ukraine and the Crimea for regional and international stability, peace and security;

Being Concerned with the situation in Yemen, call for national and political solutions to the crisis and warns against the escalation of tensions by terrorist groups like al-Qaeda which could swirl the country into chronic violence and instability;

- 1. Deplore** massive destruction and indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians in Syria and Iraq and urge the international community to help Syrian and Iraqi peoples to confront the menace of terrorism;
- 2. Deplore** deliberate destruction of archeological and cultural sites and museums, by Daesh in Iraq and Syria; as well as unauthorized and illegal excavations under Masjid al-Aqsa in al-Quds al-Sharif by Israeli regime;
- 3. Criticize** Israel's continuation of building settlements defying applicable international law; disregarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian People including their right to resist and protest against foreign occupation of their lands; and hampering international efforts towards achieving a just and lasting peace in the region;
- 4. Reject** recent brutal violence against the Palestinian youth in the occupied Palestinian territories and unlawful resolutions adopted by the Israeli Knesset such as Judaisation of the Jerusalem and the citizenship loyalty law, as well as irresponsible statements made by Israel's officials to the effect that they would repudiate their obligations under international law and United Nations resolutions by denying the State of Palestine and the rights of Palestinian People in the occupied territories;

5. Denounce recent excessive and unjustified use of force by Israeli military and security forces against Palestinian civilians, particularly against children, women and the youth;
6. **Urge** the governmental authorities as well as all civilian opposition fronts and entities in Syria to expedite their engagement in constructive dialogue and mutual compromise with a view to achieving political solutions to their disputes; putting an end to internal armed conflicts; safeguarding independence, national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Syria; and guaranteeing civil rights and freedoms including fair and free elections;
7. **Call Upon** the governments of European Union, Russian Federation, and Ukraine to de-escalate tensions in the region by seeking reconciliation and peaceful solutions to the crisis through inclusive political negotiations and refraining from all sorts of provocative actions with a view to alleviating tensions;
8. **Call Upon** all relevant parties to establish effective mechanisms to ensure peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula, adhere to principles of international law including the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes, and avoid any action that might provoke tension and destabilize regional and international peace and security;
9. **Welcome** the conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between the Islamic Republic of Iran and EU+3 as endorsed by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 to address the Iranian nuclear program and urge all parties to fully implement the JCPOA which would ensure the peaceful nature of the program while at the same time confirm the removal of all sanctions exerted against Iran and its rights under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT);
10. **Decide** to offer APA Good Offices for peaceful settlement of disputes through mediation; conciliation; and negotiation in Asia utilizing its unparalleled capacities in parliamentary diplomacy, through its Troika-Plus mechanism or otherwise, whenever requested by parties.





Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth

Resolution 201505

Page 1 of 3

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA resolution on the Ramification of International Financial Crisis for the Economies of Countries of APA Member Parliaments, APA/Res/2013/13, APA/Res/2013/06 and other relevant APA resolutions;

Expressing concern with the following repercussions of the sovereign defaults and financial markets volatility to the economic growth in APA countries;

Taking note on the deliberations at the UN, G-20, IMF, WTO, WB, ADB and other international organizations and their recommendations towards a global economic slowdown to redress the situation;

Appreciating the measures that have already been taken by Asian Parliaments and their governments to contain the negative impacts of economic crisis in their economies, and expect them to take further steps to stimulate their respective economies;

Noting that the economic growth in Asian Economies has not been shared equally in the society whereby the Gini Coefficient, as reported by the Asian Development Bank, had grown significantly over the last decades and that regional cooperation which have already existed in Asia could serve as a platform for enhancing cooperation among sub regional economic organization that would improve welfare for all in Asia;

Noting that peace and stability in the region is an important contributor to economic growth and that violence and political instability act as inhibitors for economic development and that maintaining regional collaboration on political stability is crucial;

Recognizing also the necessity to effectively reform the current global financial architecture so as to achieve a more balanced world economic and financial order;

We therefore,

1. **Call upon** Asian governments to take new policy approaches to develop a more comprehensive and innovative growth strategies needed to sustain a more resilient, balanced and sustainable economic growth as a sole means to create decent jobs and reduce inequalities.
2. **Call upon** APA member parliaments to support the development of Asian-led multilateral banks and its capacity to promote equitable economic growth, improve

- national and trans-boundary connectivity and to seek possible establishment of a regional stabilization fund in times of economic crisis;
3. **Encourage** APA member governments to create a protocol to enhance resilience to economic crisis which regulates the allocation for some budget reserves for economic crisis mitigation;
 4. **Also encourage** governments in Asia to promote cross-border private investments while ensuring an institutional capacity and prudent regulatory framework to enable countries to absorb large capital flows, while at the same time using bilateral swap arrangement to promote the role of local currency in financing cross-border trade;
 5. **Recommend** parliaments in APA member countries to improve the fiscal policies, especially the tax system in order to expand tax collection;
 6. **Also recommend** government in APA member countries to promote the adoption of Basel III to improve supervision on financial sector governance;
 7. **Encourage** parliaments in APA member countries to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development and focus on policies that alleviate poverty, including improving access to health, education and social protection to help close income inequality;
 8. **Call for** parliaments in respective countries to review its legislations, where appropriate, to give more support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by giving access to low interest credit loan and to provide capacity building and regional networking to integrate SMEs into regional and global value chains;
 9. **Encourage** parliaments to support financial inclusion for the poor in each respective country and to share best practices of financial inclusion in the region;
 10. **Stress** the importance to invest in human development and to provide sufficient public funding for education and health for everyone, without gender bias, to face the future global economy demands;
 11. **Request** the government in respective countries to channel more funds in joint research and development (R&D) activities as a means to spur innovation and viable economic growth strategies to sustain a more resilient economic growth;
 12. **Also request** the government in respective Asian countries to promote the implementation of low carbon economy despite the global economy deceleration;
 13. **Call upon** the APA Member Parliaments to continuously promote the need for reform in global financial institutions and architecture, with the view for a balanced world economic and financial order;

14. ***Call upon*** APA member countries to strive to create an enabling institutional and business environment that can promote financial stability, financial inclusion, and efficient mobilization and utilization of the available resources;
15. ***Call upon*** APA member countries to facilitate and promote investing their sovereign funds *and* encourage their private investors to invest in Asia rather than other parts of the world.





11 December 2015

**Resolution on
The Role of APA Parliaments to Adopt Legislation
in Supporting the Implementation of the
Sustainable Development Goals**

Resolution 201506

Page 1 of 3

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Acknowledging the outcome document for the United Nations Summit for the adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda entitled “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,” adopted in September 2015;¹

Referring to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Hanoi Declaration on The Sustainable Development Goals: Turning Words into Action, adopted at its 132nd Assembly, held in Hanoi, Vietnam, March 2015; the Surabaya Declaration adopted at the Parliamentary Event on MDGs Acceleration and Post-2015 Development Agenda held in Surabaya, Indonesia on 12-13 November 2014; and other relevant inter-parliamentary organizations resolutions;

Being convinced that the SDGs are integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable, upholding the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, taking into account different national capacities, levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities;

Underlining the strong political will, leadership and national ownership of the parliament to meet the international commitment of the SDGs and that the role of parliament is essential in improving economical, social, cultural and ecological to improve the human development and promote the Human development Index as an index for the sustainable development goals.² Set up the consensus for the government, parliament and people to recognize the efficiency of the development particularly in the areas of health, education, housing, food security, nutrition and environmental sustainability;

We, therefore:

1. **Endorse** the outcome document of the UN Summit for the adoption Post-2015 Development Agenda which adopted the SDGs as the new development framework for 2015-2030. The list of the SDGs is annexed;³
2. **Determine** to be actively involved in the formulation of national policies to support the mainstreaming and implementation of SDGs;

² Thailand also proposed " Sufficiency Economy Philosophy", a project apparently with similar content

³ The list of the SDGs needs to be updated with the adopted version of SDGs (September 2015). The present list of SDGs is attached from the *zero draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda*.

3. **Decide to establish** an Asian information centre, which provides an independent, scientific and reliable data and analytical information in reference to sustainable development indicators.
4. **Call upon** APA Members to provide adequate budgetary resources and adopt legislations which are relevant to support and monitor the successful implementation of the SDGs;
5. **Strengthen** the national ownership of SDGs by actively involved in the advocacy of SDGs so that the people understand that SDGs are relevant to their lives;
6. **Request** the Standing Committees of APA to deliberate in a comprehensive manner issues of SDGs which are relevant to the work of their committees;
7. **Stress** the importance to develop data and indicators to set up a proper follow-up mechanism on the implementation of SDGs and the need to strengthen statistical capacities of all countries to support the progress;
8. **Request** the Asian Parliament to report the achievement of the implementation of the SDGs to the APA Secretary General for the information and discussion in the next Economic and Sustainable Development Standing Committee.

Sustainable Development Goals⁴

- Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
- Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

*acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change

⁴ Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, finalized text for adoption (1 August), page 12, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>, retrieved by 14 August 2015.





Resolution on Asian Integrated Energy Market

Resolution 201507

Page 1 of 2

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution on Integrated Energy Market in Asia (APA/Res/2014/05) adopted at the 7th APA Plenary in Lahore, Pakistan, December 2014 and other relevant APA resolutions;

Welcoming the Report of the Secretary-General on the Asian Integrated Energy Market (AIEM), to the meeting of the Energy Sub-Committee held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 20 August 2015;

Considering the role of energy market integration between West and East Asia that will be even more important in the future due to high rate of energy consumption in the East and South of Asia.

Concerning about the political turbulence in the West Asia in recent years as a real obstacle for the realization of Asian Integrated Energy Market;

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;

Emphasizing the need to develop multilateral co-operation among Asian countries and the work of APA to develop an Integrated Energy Market in Asia as efforts to provide a sustainable, green and clean energy as they are crucial for the climate change mitigation and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;

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;

Welcoming the Asian governments’ commitments to reduce carbon emissions affecting global warming and environmental cleanness;

We, therefore;

1. **Decide** to expand the mandate of the Advisory Group on Energy not only to link the demand and the supply for energy in Asia but also to promote the sustainable use of

energy, in line with the spirit enshrined in the UN Summit 2015 Declaration in order to secure our planet for present and future generations;

2. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments to scale up bilateral and multilateral cooperation among Asian countries on energy-related issues to further develop energy cooperation and its sustainability and to be linked such efforts with those existing international commitments such as the SDGs and the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC);
3. **Urge** all Members of 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;
4. **Request** 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 Standing Committee;
5. **Decide** to extend the mandate of the Sub-Committee to promote the development of the Asian Integrated Energy Market.





Resolution on Environmental Issues

Resolution 201508

Page 1 of 3

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change, and Planting Billions of Trees Throughout Asia (APA/Res/2014/07) adopted at the 7th APA Plenary in Lahore, Pakistan, December 2014 and other relevant APA resolutions;

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 31 July 2015;

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;

Highlighting the link between sustainable development and other relevant ongoing processes such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and UN Convention Biological Diversity (UNCBD), UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the International Conference on Financing for Development among others;

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

Concerning about the negative environmental impact of unbridled energy consumption on a global scale and particularly in Asia;

Encouraging Asian parliaments to speed up their acceptance of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, in order to provide further momentum for global climate action for the years leading up to 2020;

Supporting the global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of at least 50 per cent by 2050 compared with the levels in 1990, in the context of equitable access to sustainable

development, so as to limit global warming in this century to below 2 °C or 1.5 °C. The main responsibility on this issue seems to be assumed by developed countries;

Calling upon developed countries and international institutions to assist 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;

Welcoming the inclusion of Asian parliamentarians in the national delegations participating in the climate change negotiations in Paris in December 2015;

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;

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

1. **Invite** APA developed members to assess how loss and damage due to climate change affects the world particularly vulnerable developing countries in Asia;
2. **Ask** APA Member Parliaments to facilitate the conclusion of an agreement that addresses in a balanced manner to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2 °C or 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels;
3. **Urge** APA Parliaments to support Sustainable Development Goals with regard to environmental issues by adopting appropriate legislation;
4. **Invite** the APA 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:
 - 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 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 Global Environmental Facility (GEF), those operating within UNEP and the newly established technological and financial mechanisms in Durban in 2011;
5. **Recommend** the holding of APA coordination meetings of Member Parliaments in the sidelines of Paris event to enable the Members interact, assess the possibilities of better coordination and better understanding the legislation challenges and opportunities as regards the draft agreements under negotiation and also as concerns the collective efforts within the APA;
6. **Invite** APA Member Parliaments to exchange experiences and best practices on environmental issues and provide, on a voluntary basis, the data and information 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;
7. **Invite also** APA Member Parliaments, in a position to do so, to provide material and technical support to APA members in their efforts to combat desertification;
8. **Request** the Secretary General to seek the views of APA Member Parliaments on the implementation of the present resolution and report thereon to the next session of the Standing-Committee in 2016;
9. **Call on** parliamentarians from APA to urge their respective government to publish Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) before COP-21;
10. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to support the endeavour done in COP 21 in Paris to control and reduce the greenhouse gasses;
11. **Invite** APA Member Parliaments to exert political pressure on Israel, the occupying force, in international organizations to stop its unjustifiable exploitation of the natural resources of Palestine, especially water resources, and to stop its policy of dumping its nuclear and poisonous chemical wastes in the homeland of Palestine.





Resolution on Poverty Eradication

Resolution 201509

Page 1 of 2

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution on Alleviating Poverty in Asia (APA/Res/2014/08) adopted at the 7th APA Plenary in Lahore, Pakistan, December 2014 and other relevant APA resolutions;

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on Alleviating Poverty in Asia, SG/Rep/2015/03-1 dated 31 July 2015;

Underlining the significance of the role of Parliaments both in advocating and overseeing to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially on Poverty Eradication;

Welcoming the High-level Plenary meeting of the U.N. General-Assembly on the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015 and its outcome;

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, women & children abuse and drug trafficking, arms smuggling, human trafficking, sea piracy and transnational crimes;

Taking note of the positive progresses attained by countries through the global acknowledged development framework of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and that MDGs have raised awareness of ending global poverty as an urgent challenge and a priority for global action while at the same time, the MDGs shortcomings need to be addressed in a fully manner under the definition of the post-2015 framework;

Mindful of the fact that the sustainable development recognizes that poverty eradication, fighting inequality, preserving the planet and creating inclusive economic growth are linked to each other and interdependent and that the SDGs balance all the three crucial sustainable development dimensions: the economic, the social and the environmental;

Reaffirming that poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development;

Supporting also a publicity campaign to raise awareness in the society about SDG's goals utilizing the potentials of mass media;

Acknowledging any act of aggression and injustice that hinder development and any efforts aiming at promoting poverty which have been implemented by any party including Israel as occupying power are against the United Nations Charter and Sustainable Development Goals.

1. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to participate actively in the achievement of SDGs and urge Member Parliaments to encourage their governments to facilitate adoption of pro-poor economic growth policy;
2. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to work closely with their governments in the formulation and implementation of the measures which are outlined in the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development;
3. **Invite** Member Parliaments to adopt necessary legislation to a) improve labour market regulations, b) support the informal sector and offering increased security to it, c) establish legal savings and loan associations that can help to reduce the reliance on moneylenders, d) promote modern agriculture which contributes essentially to reduction of poverty in urban and rural areas, e) empower the 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 poor live and work and to provide better education for poor particularly for girls and g) improve disaster preparedness, disaster relief as well as post-disaster economic recovery;
4. **Determine** to be more ambitious in our efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, ensure food security, access to healthcare and education;
5. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to redouble their efforts in supporting activities of poverty eradication and encourage their respective governments to facilitate the implementation of effective policies to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
6. **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;
7. **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;
8. **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 Standing-Committee in 2016.





Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia

Resolution 201510

Page 1 of 3

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions, APA/Res/2013/05; 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, submitted to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 11-12 August 2014;

Recognizing the significant role of parliaments both in safeguarding their respective national cultural heritage and in harmonizing Asian approach in respect of cultural diversity;

Emphasizing that cultural diversity is depended to protection of cultural heritage, and the existence of common grounds among Asian ancient civilizations provide platforms for co-existence and co-operation among nations in the region;

Recognizing that tolerance is one of the fundamental values of humanity, which entails promotion of cultural diversity, culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations;

Recognizing the increasing importance of culture, as an integral part of development plans of all nations in Asia and beyond; Promotion of greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures and religions by means of concrete projects in the priority areas of youth, education, and media, in collaboration with governments, international and regional organizations, in line with the outcome of the first World Cultural Forum, in Bali, Indonesia in November 2013 and document entitled “Bali Declaration on the Alliance of Civilizations”, held in Bali, Indonesia, in 29 and 30 August 2014;

Reiterating that multicultural dynamism in Asia provides an indispensable asset for making a strong Asian community based on mutual respect and recognition of all Asian cultures and civilizations;

Noting the opportunities offered by globalization for greater interaction among cultures and civilizations, as well as challenges brought about by its trends to preserving and celebrating the rich intellectual and cultural diversity in Asia;

Considering the smuggling of cultural objects from Asia 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;

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

Expressing great concerns regarding the damage brought to cultural and religious heritage by terrorism and, crimes, and organized crimes, especially damages to Muslim and Christian historical sites and holy shrines and mosques by indiscriminate aerial bombing and shelling in Syria by ISIS and other terrorist groups condemning the grave violations of Israel against the sanctity of the AL Aqsa Mosque, particularly the intrusions of the Israeli settlers and far right extremists under the protection of the Israeli occupation forces into the AL-Haram AL-Sharif rightly leading to reaction and resistance on the part of Palestinians and resulting in increased tension;

Express great concern with regard to the Israeli plans to spatially and temporally divide AL-Haram AL- Sharif, threatening the historical status quo at this Holy place;

Expressing grave concerns regarding theft, damage, or destruction to any place of worship of any religion, any cultural, religious, or historical heritage in Asia especially to Muslim, Christian and Buddhist historical sites by any person, group, or organization;

Determine to encourage and promote further intercultural dialogue and inter-religious exchanges throughout Asia;

Resolve to appreciate and promote the benefits of diversity in Asian nations, and encourage values such as justice, human rights, non-discrimination, democracy and respect within and among communities and nations;

Reject all manifestations of exclusion and arrogance that are based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance;

Remain Committed to the protection of the rights of indigenous and ethnic communities so as to ensure the fulfillment of indigenous community rights in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

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

Decide to remain cognizant of damages to Moslem and Christian holy places and historical sites, by ISIS terrorist organization in Iraq and Syria, as well as destruction of cultural and educational premises brought about by Israeli invasion to Gaza Strip;

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;

Call Upon APA Member Parliaments to consider drafting common legislations on the basis of principles endorsed by APA, as annexed to APA/Res/2013/05, with a view to develop a model legislation to combat smuggling of cultural objects in Asia;

Urge all APA Member Parliaments to actively participate in an open-ended ad-hoc working group, under the auspices of the APA Standing Committee of Social and Cultural Affairs to prepare a draft common legislation for combating the smuggling of cultural objects in Asia;

Call Upon all Member Parliaments to promote tolerance and empathy among Asian nations with a view to diminish distrust, misunderstanding, and conflict among religious communities;

Call Upon APA Member Parliaments to support establishing an award to be presented annually to outstanding Asian artists; authors, poets, film makers, painters, etc, who best convey the APA's commitment to cultural diversity in Asia;

Condemn all forms of contemptuous actions against religions, holy books, religious places and personalities and religious rituals;

Condemn Israeli attempts to alter the religious and cultural heritage in the Palestinian occupied territories, particularly in Jerusalem, including the provocative practices violating the sanctity and historical status quo of Haram AL- Sharif and Aqsa Mosque; the dangerous excavations under Al-Aqsa Mosque and its surroundings; imposing changes in the educational curricula; changing the original names of places into Jewish names by referring to so-called "list of Jewish heritage" and disrespecting Islamic and Christian holy and historical sites;

Request the APA Secretary General to uphold cooperation between APA and international and regional organizations such as UNESCO, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations(UNAOC), ISESCO and relevant Asian NGOs active in promoting cultural diversity and dialogue among civilizations;

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 Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.





Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology

Resolution 201511

Page 1 of 2

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling para.5 of article 3 of the Charter of the APA;

Recalling APA Resolution, APA/ Res/ 2014/11, and APA/Res/2014/13;

Underlining that Asian integration can be achieved through dialogue, contemplation, and interaction in order to promote peace, liberty, equality, human rights, and welfare in Asia;

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

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

Emphasizing the principle of free flow of information, easy communication, and access to new technologies at the national, regional and global levels;

Underlining the fundamental role of information technology as an indispensable factor in all areas of national; regional, and global development;

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, on the way of Asian integration process;

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;

Emphasizing that, the role of parties, civil society, non- governmental organizations (NGOs) and other democratic structures in public sphere, provide opportunities in Asian countries for exchange of views, interactions and synergy to promote regional and global cooperation in order to reinforce the long term process for Asian Integration.

Call Upon APA Member Parliaments to volunteer for providing knowledge and know-how, technical assistance, financial support, human resources; and other sorts of assistance in creating a "Virtual Asian Parliament" based on the report by the APA Secretary General on

the subject matter in order to enhance collaboration and interaction among parliaments and parliamentarians in Asia and as a prelude to establishing a model Asian parliament;

Call Upon APA Member Parliaments to support vocational and knowledge-based education in Asia in order to enhance people's life-skills and competitiveness in coping with the challenges of globalization;

Urge APA Member Parliaments to share best practices and exchange experiences with a view to inspiring a common approach toward Asian integration through holding special workshops and forums among Asian Parliaments;

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

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

Request the Secretary-General to seek possible technical and financial assistance from Member Parliaments and other institutions to facilitate the implementation of this resolution and prepare a report with comprehensive approach on how Asian Parliaments should coordinate to accelerate the process of Asian Integration





Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia

Resolution 201512

Page 1 of 3

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions, APA/Res/2013/07; APA/Res/2010/02; and APA/Res/2009/06;

Recalling the advises in 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;

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 Sustainable Development Goals adopted on 25 September 2015 and reaffirming its pivotal role in enhancement of the health equity;

Welcoming the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, adopted 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;

Recalling the importance of placing equity and human centered policies in the core of health agenda and noting central role of enabling Universal Health Coverage to provide equitable access to quality health services without financial hardship;

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 is 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 Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, as health-related Millennium Development Goals' (MDG) 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;

Expressing concern on deteriorating health effects of wars and armed conflicts by hindering provision and quality of health service and causing deprivation from a fundamental human rights health, due to the inequalities in access and utilization of qualified health services.

Welcome the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/Rep/ 2014/02, dated 10 August, 2014;

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;

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

Urge the APA Member Parliaments to strengthen collaboration among themselves with a view to formulating a coherent approach with regard to social determinants of health in Asia, especially education, housing, and employment;

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

Urge 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;

Call on Member Parliaments of APA to encourage their respective governments in order to establish 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;

Call upon APA Member Parliaments to persuade 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;

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;

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;

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;

Request Member Parliaments to inform the Secretary-General on the progress made on the implementation of this resolution in their respective countries in order to share them with all Member Parliaments.





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

10 December 2015

Resolution 201513

Page 1 of 3

We, members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Acknowledging that the development of migrant workers and the protection of their rights are in line with the principles of human rights and 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;

Noting 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), established a broad legal framework for the protection of migrant workers;

Emphasizing the importance of ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers;

Acknowledging 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, colour, 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 national legal framework as well as 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 abuse, harassment and violence, discrimination, low pay and low status jobs, unpaid jobs, ignored labour and overwork;

Underlining the challenges that women migrant workers are facing such as forced confinement, low paying , non- payment, excessive working hours, physical limitations, and sexual harassment and abuse which can be the target of human trafficking and prostitution ;

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 labour immigrants to 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 labour 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 relationships and cooperation among governments, parliaments and the peoples of Asia in solving the problems relating to Asian migrant workers; and in particular, providing repatriation assistance 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 an 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;

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;

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;

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 women, made at the global and regional level into national legislation;

Request APA sending countries to provide migrant workers with adequate skills and knowledge in order to be able to fulfil their task and understand the culture, prevailing laws and regulation in the receiving countries;

Urge 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;

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;

Urge the respective States of the APA Member Parliaments to conduct bilateral, or regional agreements including Mandatory Consular Notification Agreement under the spirit of Vienna Convention on Consular Relations; whereby the sending countries are well informed on the legal problems faced by their migrant workers;

Emphasize the importance of involving civil society, non-government organizations, and increasing their opportunity for participation and interaction with stakeholders to develop better policies and supervise the implementation of regulations on migrant workers issues;

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;

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





Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption

10 December 2015

Resolution 201514

Page 1 of 4

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2013/09, December 2013; APA/Res/2010/01; APA/Res/2009/03; APA/Res/2008/18; and APA/Res/2007/05;

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;

Taking note of UN Convention against Corruption, and other anti-corruption conventions and relevant binding legal instruments;

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

Recognizing that fighting corruption at all levels is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication and sustainable development;

Reaffirming the importance of respect for human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and democracy in the fight against corruption;

Acknowledging that the fight against all forms of corruption requires comprehensive anti-corruption frameworks and strong institutions at all levels;

Expressing concern about the laundering and transfer of stolen assets and proceeds of corruption, and stressing the need to address this concern in accordance with the UN Convention against Corruption;

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;

Determine to strengthen our parliamentary capacities to develop a strong and comprehensive anti-corruption strategy, by taking practical measures to implement APA Plan of Action and APA resolutions against corruption;

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;

Consider all APAC delegates attending the 7th Plenary to be the founding members of APAC¹;

Decide to hold the initiation and the first meeting of APAC in 2015 in... at a time to be coordinated by the Secretariat when at least 10 APAC founding members participate, and to report thereon to the 2015 meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs;

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 2015;

Build synergy with other related GOPAC Chapter which has been established in Asia namely: ARPAC, SEAPAC, SAPAC to further study the establishment of APAC;

Condemn corruption at all levels and in all its forms, including bribery, as well as the laundering of proceeds of corruption and other forms of economic crime;

Express determination to preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption as well as the laundering of proceeds of corruption;

Welcome the significant number of Member States that have already ratified or acceded to the Convention, and in this regard urges all Member States and competent regional economic integration organizations, within the limits of their competence, that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, and urges all States parties to take appropriate measures to ensure its full and effective implementation;

Urges States parties to the Convention that have not already done so to designate a central authority for international cooperation in accordance with the Convention and, where appropriate; focal points for asset recovery, and also calls upon States parties to give timely consideration to the requests for assistance made by such authorities;

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 2015;

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

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 Affairs.

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:





Resolution on Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians

Resolution 201515

Page 1 of 3

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 the 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, social, political, cultural and economic affairs, and peace dialogue;

Reaffirming that to include women in positions of power and elected bodies, and also their involvement in the decision making process, strengthens the development of democratic principles in public life and increases the economic development;

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

Mindful of the necessity to put on the agenda of APA meetings matters of importance to women such as combating violence against women, empowerment of women in society, participation of women in political life, and prevention of sexual violence against women and girls, including in situation of armed conflicts;

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

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

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;

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 matters of specific concern to women;

Urge APA Member Parliaments to ensure the inclusion and effective participation of women in all peace building processes.

Encourage Member Parliaments to adopt legislative regulations to facilitate women's representations in Asian Parliaments;

Urge active and effective participation of women parliamentarians in political, economic, social and cultural and educational affairs;

Urge the including at least one woman parliamentarian in APA delegations;

Affirm the need of APA Member Parliaments to provide inputs on ways to promote the implementation of the enhanced and effective participation of women in political, economic, social and cultural affairs;

Urge APA Member Parliaments to recognize and prioritize the concerns of women, and to effectively implement the relevant United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which promote gender equality and empowerment, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment, and building accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Determine to enhance the activities of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarian through more effective exchange of views and close interaction;

Decide to supersede the establishment of the Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians under the auspices of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, to coordinating meeting of APA Women Parliaments;

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

Request the APA Secretariat to assign one part of the website of the Assembly to facilitate such a network between women parliamentarians of Asia through the establishment of data base covering update information on APA Women Parliamentarians;

Express concern at the dire situation of millions of women in all war-torn areas such as Afghanistan Azerbaijan, Kashmir, Iraq and Syria, and for suppression and injustice faced by Palestinian women under the Israeli occupation in Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem, and also Syrian women in the Israeli occupied Syrian Golan as well as violence against women, such as killing, rape, and captivity;

Request the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements to hold the third Special Committee of APA women parliamentarians in 2015 seek the views of Member parliaments on this resolution and submit a report thereon to the meeting.





Resolution on Promoting Inter- Faith Dialogue and Harmony Among World Religions

Resolution 201516

Page 1 of 2

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, security and tolerance;

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, and also resolution 57/6 of 4 November 2002 concerning the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, 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 the sixth global Forum of the United Nations alliance of Civilizations, held in Bali, Indonesia. On 29 and 30 August 2014;

Recognizing the essential role of dialogue among different faiths and religions in enhancing mutual collaboration, harmony and cooperation among nations of the world;

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;

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

Urge 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;

Maintain 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;

Denounce 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;

Declare that terrorism, extremism and violence have no religion nor any borders, as these are common enemy of all humanity;

Consider Islamophobia, Christianophobia, Antisemitism and any other form of xenophobia based on belief, faith or ethnic adherence contrary to the , contrary to the merits of inter-faith dialogue which has no place in the community of civilized nations;

Deplore, in the strongest terms, all atrocities and acts of violence, committed by extremist and terrorist groups under the guise of Islam which hold no authentic reference to Islamic principles and no legitimacy among Muslims all around the world, and call upon all states to refrain from providing any support to such groups;

Condemn the misuse and distortion of religious beliefs, by leaders of extremist groups and their followers, which inflame intra-faith as well as inter-faith hatred and hold them accountable for instigation of ill-judgment, violence, and brutality against other faithful people;

Call Upon the international community to be cognizant of those grave humanitarian crises in Asia that involve violations of religious communities' right;

Urge 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;

Request the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments commensures taken to implement this resolution and to report the efforts of Member Parliaments for their contribution in this regard.





Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia

Resolution 201517

Page 1 of 2

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA/Resolution/2013/05 of 9 December 2013 on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia;

Expressing support for the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 prohibiting the smuggling of cultural items by terrorist groups, including from Iraq and Syria;

Expressing deep concern about the growing problem of smuggling of cultural items in Asia;

Affirming the important role of parliaments to develop a national strategy including a legal framework to combat smuggling of cultural items;

Considering the smuggling of cultural objects from Asia a threat to the richness of Asian cultural heritage;

Recognizing the role of parliaments to enhance public awareness about the threat to national identity and heritage of states from which cultural items are smuggled abroad;

Recognizing also the need to enhance national capacities, including parliamentary capacity to reinforce national strategy to combat smuggling of cultural items;

Urge all APA Member Parliaments to utilize their legislative powers to prevent and punish the smuggling of cultural objects in Asia and facilitate concerted efforts to return the stolen items back to their original locations without any cost to the original owner country;

Call on all APA member parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the International Convention for the Safeguarding of World Natural and Cultural Heritage, and the International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;

Decide to hold the meeting of the open-ended working group established by APA Resolution, (APA/Res/2013/05 of 9 December 2013), concurrent with the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, in 2016 to further consider the subject with a view to developing a model legislation on combating smuggling of cultural items on the basis of the principles prepared by the APA Secretariat and annexed to this resolution and in conformity with national legislative procedures of the Member Parliaments;

Request the Secretary-General to follow up preparation of a common legislation on combating the smuggling of cultural items in Asia by APA member Parliaments and submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.

Annex

Principles for Drafting Common Legislation by Asian Parliaments Concerning the Smuggling of Cultural Items

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.





Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia

Resolution 201518

Page 1 of 3

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 illicit drug trafficking and its negative impact on health, safety, public order, governance, economic development and social health constitutes a prime concern in Asia and deserves a comprehensive consideration by the APA;

Stressing the need to continue to take concentrated measures within the framework of the Paris Pact in order to strengthen cross-border cooperation and information exchanged with a view to countering illicit cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs in Afghanistan;

Emphasizing that the danger of illicit drug trafficking is so pervasive that may undermine international peace and security, and there is an urgent need to mobilize efforts of all countries to curb the production of opium and heroin in Afghanistan and to dismantle networks of illicit drug trafficking from that country;

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 legislators to combat drug trafficking and make anti-drugs policy a priority in programs of co-operation with, and of assistance to, the Asian countries which are affected by illicit 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 neighbours and other countries;

Expressing the need to increase international and regional support for the capacity building of law-enforcement agencies in Afghanistan, and to intensify training programs for Afghan law-enforcement staff;

Stressing the need to enhance joint operations with the relevant Afghan law-enforcement agencies focusing on clandestine heroin-producing laboratories and organized criminal groups involved in the drugs trade, and to combine them with increased efforts aimed at integrated rural development, building infrastructure and supporting farmers engaged in alternative production;

Recognizing the need for more cooperation with a result-oriented approach between the law enforcement agencies of the Member States including customs and border authorities in order to better tackle smuggling of narcotics and psychotropic substances within the region and beyond;

Call upon Asian Parliaments to adopt laws on extradition of convicted persons on terrorism and illicit drug trafficking to their original countries for fair trial on the bases of their laws and regulations.

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

Emphasizing the need to assist Afghanistan in developing its economy and diversifying agriculture so as to reduce dependence on revenues from the illicit drugs trafficking, in line with the Lima Declaration and International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development (November 2012);

Stressing the need to take adequate measures in preventing, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts;

Expressing the need for more active and efficient international cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking in Asia;

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;

Call upon Asian Parliaments to coordinate among themselves to review relevant legislation to address different aspects of combating illicit drug trafficking;

Stress the need to exchange information and best practices within APA Member Parliaments on combating illicit drug trafficking;

Reiterate the need to coordinate and improve law enforcement activities to combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and curtailing the flow of illicit drug more effectively;

Underline the importance of effectively using international financial assistance for the creation of alternative economic opportunities in order to ensure a sustainable anti-drug policy;

Call upon APA Asian Parliaments to enable civil society as an effective partner of parliaments and to enhance the role of mass media in combating drug trafficking in Asia;

Encourage all APA member Parliaments to support their respective governments in order 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;

Believe that a regular dialogue on supporting joint actions of Asian governments 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;

Express our commitment to encourage and 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;

Encourage networking of the relevant national agencies or organizations in Asia dealing with transnational crimes to further enhance information exchange and dissemination;

Request the Secretary General to prepare a report on the contribution of Asian Parliaments to combating illicit drug trafficking including a review of relevant legislation in Member Parliaments in this regard.





Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) The 8th Plenary Session



List of Participants

7 – 12 December 2015, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

No.	Countries	Name of Delegates	Position
APA Member Parliaments			
1	Afghanistan	1- H.E. Abdul Raouf Ibrahim	President of the National Assembly of Afghanistan (Head of Delegation)
		2- Hon. Mr. Khuda Dad Erfani	MP
		3- Hon. Mr. Mohammad Iqbal Safi	MP
		4- Hon. Lutfullah Baba	Senator
		5- Hon. Mohammad Tayeb Ata	Senator
		6- Mr. Said Farooq Omer	Chief of Staff of the President of the House
		7- Mr. Samiullah Hussaini	Director of Relations with IPU
		8- Mr. Sayed Hasib Sadat	Personal Assistant to the President of the House
		9- Mr. Waheedullah Nabil	Assistant
		10- Mr. Mohammad Salim Fekrat	Media officer/Photographer
2	Bahrain	1- Hon. Mr. Abbas Almadhi	Head of Committee on Service- Council of Representatives (Head of Delegation)
		2- Hon. Mr. Fuad Alhajee	Head of Committee of Public Utilities and Environment at Shura Council
		3- Hon. Mr. Mohamed Alkhozai	Member of Shura Council
		4- Hon. Mr. Abdulaziz Abul	Member of Shura Council
		5- Hon. Mr. Ahmed Qarata	Member of Council of Representatives
		6- Hon. Mr. Mohamed Alammadi	Member of Council of Representatives
		7- Ms. Areej Matoq	Secretary
		8- Mr. Tareq Albureshaid	Secretary
3	Bangladesh	1- Hon. Mr. Md. Mozammel Hossain	Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Social Welfare
		2- Hon. Ms. Sabiha Nahar Begum	MP
		3- Hon. Mr. Chhabi Biswas	MP
		4- Hon. Mrs. Hapy Baral	MP

		5- Mr. Md. Wahiduzzaman	Private Secretary to Hon.ble Chairman		
		6- Mr. Md. Aminul Islam	Secretary		
4	Cambodia	1- Hon. Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG SAMRIN	President		
		2- H.E Dr. NGUON NHEL	2 nd Vice-President and Chairman of Organizing Committee		
		3- H.E. Dr. PEN PANNHA H.E.	MP		
		4- H.E. Post Dr. CHEAM YEAP	MP		
		5- H.E. Mr. CHHEANG VUN	MP		
		6- H.E. Mr. HUN NENG	MP		
		7- H.E. Mrs. NIN SAPHON	MP		
		8- H.E. Mr. YEM PONHEARITH	MP		
		9- H.E. Mr. KUNG SAREACH	Senator		
		10- H.E. Mrs. MEAN SOM AN	Senator		
		11- H.E. Mr. CHHIT KIMYEAT	Senator		
		12- H.E. Mrs. LAK AUN	Senator		
		13- H.E. Mr. CHEA SON	Senator		
		14- H.E. Mr. YANG SEM	Senator		
		15- H.E. Mr. TEAV VANNOL	Senator		
		16- H.E. Mr. SOK EYSAN	MP		
		17- H.E. Mr. OU CHANRITH	MP		
		18- H.E. Mr. HEMKHAN	MP		
		19- H.E. Mr. AI KHAN	MP		
		20- H.E. Mrs. POT PEOU	MP		
		21- H.E. Mrs. LY KIMLEANG	MP		
		22- H.E. Mr. NHEM THAVY	MP		
		23- H.E. Mrs. KHUON SUDARY	MP		
		24- H.E. Mr. MEN KUON	MP		
		25- H.E. Mr. CHAY BORIN	MP		
		26- H.E. Mr. NGIN KHORN	MP		
		27- H.E. Mr. KHY VANDETH	MP		
		28- H.E. Mr. LONG BUNNY	MP		
		29- H.E. Mrs. EIM PONNA	MP		
		30- H.E. Mrs. TROEUNG THAVY	MP		
		31- H.E. Mrs. NOURM SOPORN	MP		
		32- H.E. Mr. HENG DANARO	MP		
		33- H.E. Mr. SAR SOKHA	MP		
		34- H.E. Mr. TAN KIMVIN	MP		
		35- H.E. Mr. SOK SOKAN	MP		
		36- H.E. Mrs. SUN SAPHOEUN	MP		
		37- H.E. Mr. HUN MANY	MP		
		38- H.E. Mr. SUOS YARA	MP		
		39- H.E. Mrs. BAN SREYMOM	MP		
		40- H.E. Mr. TOK VANCHAN	MP		
		41- H.E. Mr. SARY KOSAL	MP		
		42- H.E. Mrs. LY SREY VYNA	MP		
				43- H.E. Mr. UCH SEREY YUTH	MP
				44- H.E. Mr. PIN ROTANA	MP

		45- H.E. Mrs. UN SOKUNTHEA	MP
		46- H.E. Mr. HONG TOUHAY	Senator
		47- H.E. Mr. UNG TY	Senator
		48- H.E. Mr. MEN SIPHANN	Senator
		49- H.E. Mr. AM SAM ATH	Senator
5	China	1- Hon. Mme. Zhao Baige	Member of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress (Head of Delegation)
		2- Hon. Mr. Ren Maodong	Member of the Standing Committee of National Peoples Congress
		3- Hon. Mr. Xu Rujun	Member of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee
		4- Ms. Wang Aihua	Staff
		5- Ms. Jia Yongmei	Interpreter
		6- Mr. Cao Yuan	Staff
		7- Ms. Wu Dan	Staff
		8- Mr. Yang Tao	Staff
		9- Ms. Zheng Yi	Interpreter
6	Cyprus	1- Hon. Mr. Nicolaos TORNARITIS	Parliamentarians Leader (Head of Delegation)
		2- Hon. Dr. (Mrs.) Stella MISHIAOULI-DEMETRIOU	MP
		3- Mrs. Loukia MOUYI	Secretary
7	Indonesia	1- H.E. Dr. AGUS HERMANTO	Vice Speaker (Head of Delegation)
		2- Hon. Mr. ROFIQ MUNAWAR	Vice Chair of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation
		3- Hon. Mr. Dr. ZULKIEFLIMANSYAH	MP
		4- Hon. Mr. SUMAIL ABDULLAH	MP
		5- Mr. CHAIRIL PATRIA	Secretary
		6- Mr. ACHMAD AGUS THOMY	Secretary of vice-speaker
		7- Mr. EDI EFIYANTO	Secretary of vice-speaker
		8- Ms. HILDA KURNIA NINGSIH	Secretary
		9- Ms. ANISSA MARIANA KARTAATMAJA	Advisor
		10- Mr. BENNY JUNITO	Advisor
		11- Mrs. YULIANA TANSIL	Interpreter
		12- Mr. M. IBNURKHALID	Journalist
		13- Mr. MOKHAMMADHERMAN WIBOWO	Journalist
		14- Mr. ALFONSUS HARYO DAMARDO	Journalist
		15- Mrs. SINTIA RETNO SARI	Journalist
		16- Mrs. RUTH ALICIA SUCIADI	Interpreter
		17- Mr. IGNATIUS RANDY	MFA
8	Iran	1- Hon. Mr. ESMAEIL JALILI	MP/Head of Delegation
		2- Hon. Mr. EVAZ HEIDARPOURSHAHREZAEI	MP
		3- Hon. Mr. MOHAMMAD JAVAD	MP

		NAZARIMEHR	
		4- Hon. Mr. HOSSEIN NEJABAT	MP
		5- Hon. Mr. MEHRDAD BAZRPASH	MP
		6- Hon. Mr. SHAHRAM SALIMINAMIN	MP
		7- Hon. Mr. MAHMOUD ALIZADEH	MP
		8- Mr. HOSSEIN SHEIKHOESLAM	Advisor to Speaker
		9- Mr. SEYED MORTEZA RAZAVIANI	Secretary
		10- Mr. MOSTAFA HEDAYATIMANESH	Protocol Officer
		11- Mr. ABBAS TAVEFEHALIJAFARI	Security Officer
		12- Mr. AMIRBAHADOR FOULADVAND	Interpreter
9	Jordan	1- H.E. ENG. SHEHADAH ABUHDAIB	Member of the Jordanian Senate (Head of Delegation)
		2- H.E. ENG. NAIF LAIMOON	MP
		3- Hon. MOHAMMAD HEDAIB	MP
		4- Hon. ALI AL SNAID	MP
		5- Hon. Mr. MOSTAFA ALRAWASHDEH	MP
		6- Mr. SHADI OBIEDAT	Head of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Conferences
		7- Mr. MANSOUR KRAISHAN	Administration
10	Korea DPR	1- H.E. Mr. An Tong Chun	Vice-Chairman of SPA (Head of Delegation)
		2- H.E. Mr. Kim Kyong Ho	Member of SPA
		3- Mr. Hyon Jong Ung	Member of SPA
		4- Mr. Kim Hak Song	Member of SPA
		5- Mr. Jong Hyon Chol	Member of Foreign Ministry
11	Kuwait	1- Hon. Mr. Faisal F. AL-Shaya	Member of Parliament (Head of Delegation)
		2- Hon. Mr. Khalil Abdullah A Abdullah	Member of Parliament
		3- Hon. Mr. Madi Mohammed Al-Hajeri	Member of Parliament
		4- Hon. Mr. Odah AL-Rowaie	Member of Parliament
		5- Hon. Mr. Saif Motlaq Al-Azemi	Member of Parliament
		6- Mr. Bader M. AL-Juma	Official
		7- Mr. Meshal M. Al-Enezi	Secretary
		8- Mr. Saleh A. Ashour	Official
		9- Mr. Bader A. AL-Tabtabae	Official
12	Kyrgyzstan	1- Hon. Mr. OSMONBEK ARTYKBAEV	Member of Parliament (Head of Delegation)
13	Lao PDR	1- Hon. Dr. Koukeo AKHAMOUNTRY	Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee (Head of Delegation)
		2- Ms. Kaysone KEOMANYKHOT	Chief of Inter-Parliamentary Relation Division
14	Lebanon	1- Hon. Mr. HASSAN FADLALLAH	Deputy, Chair of Information and Telecommunications Committee (Head of Delegation)
		2- Hon. Mr. KASSEM HACHEM	MP

15	Malaysia	1- Hon. Dato' Sri Dr. MUHAMMAD LEO MICHAEL TOYAD ABDULLAH	Member Of Parliament, Constituency For Mukah (Head of Delegation)
		2- Hon. DATUK KOH NAI KWONG	Member Of Parliament, Constituency For Alor Gajah
		3- Mrs. DATIN SRI INTAN NURHANISA ROSNI ABDULLAH	Spouse of Hon. Dr. Muhammad Leo Michael Toyad Abdullah
		4- Ms. LEE JING JING	Secretary
		5- IMMAN TOYAD MUHAMMAD LEO	Accompanying person
16	Pakistan	1- Hon. Mr. MIAN RAZA RABBANI	Chairman Senate of Pakistan (Head of Delegation)
		2- Hon. Mrs. TAMANA RABBANI	Spouse of Chairman Senate of Pakistan
		3- Hon. Mrs. NUZHAT SADIQ	Senator
		4- Hon. Mrs. RUBINA KHALID	Senator
		5- Hon. Mr. MUSHAHID HUSSAIN SAYED	Senator
		6- Hon. Mr. MUHAMMAD ALI KHAN SAIF	Senator
		7- Mr. Muhammad Arshad Jan Pathan	Joint Secretary
		8- Mr. Mohammad Arshad Nazar	PSO to Chairman
17	Palestine	1- Hon. Mr. ZUHAIR SANDUQA	Head of Delegation
18	Russian Federation	1- Hon. Dr. RAFAIL ZINUROV	Member of the Council of the Federation Committee for Foreign Affair (Head of Delegation)
		2- Hon. Mr. STEPAN ZHIRIAKOV	Member of the Council of the Federation Committee for Agrarian & Food
		3- Hon. Mr. ALEXEY CHEPA	Deputy Chairman of Committee on Science and High Technologies
		4- Ms. VERONIKA BELOUSOVA	Advisor
		5- Ms. OLGA FOLOMEEVA	Chief Advisor
		6- Ms. YULIA GUSKOVA	Advisor
		7- Mr. Valery Khodzhaev	Minister Counselor
		8- Mr. Dmitry Yudin	Counselor
		9- Mr. Andrey Borodenko	Attache
19	Saudi Arabia	1- H. E. Dr. SAID ALSHAIKH	Member of the Consultative Council (Head of Delegation)
		2- H.E. Dr. ZUHAIR ALHARTHI	Member of the Consultative Council
		3- H.E. Mr. DAKHIL A.R.ALJOHANI	Ambassador to Veit Nam
		4- Mr. Amer Almadhi	PR Manger
		5- Mr. Saad Alangari	Parl. Relations Manger
		6- Mr. Ahmed Alshahrani	Protocol
		7- Mr. Mohammed. Dahluey	
		8- Mr. Fahad Al Dosary	Secretary
		9- Mr. Muhammad Al Nefiy	Secretary

20	Thailand	1- Hon. ADM. Amorntep NA BANGCHANG	Member of the National Legislative Assembly, Member of NLA in APA/Head of Delegation
		2- Hon. Gen. Nipat THONGLEK	Member of the National Legislative Assembly, Member of NLA in APA
		3- Hon. Mrs. Suwannee SIRIVEJCHAPUN	Member of the National Legislative Assembly, Member of NLA in APA
		4- Hon. Ms. Jintanant Chaya SUBHAMITR	Member of the National Legislative Assembly, Member of NLA in APA
		5- Ms. Krisanee MASRICHAN	Secretary
		6- Mr. Kitti SAEREEPRAYOON	Assistant Secretary
		7- Ms. Kanteera LEELANOND	Assistant Secretary
		8- Ms. Pornthip SAKSIRIWATEKUL	Accompanying Person
		9- LCDR. Ulailuk CHAISOTTEE	Accompanying Person
		10- H.E. Mr. Nuttavudh PHOTISARO	Ambassador to Cambodia
		11- Mr. Rutchabhoom BOONRAWD	Counselor
		12- Ms. Charoenporn RAKSAPOLMUANG	First Secretary
21	Turkey	1- Hon. Mr. Burhan KAYATURK	MP/Head of Delegation
		2- Hon. Mr. Suat ONAL	MP
		3- Hon. Mr. Baris KARADENIZ	MP
		4- Mrs. Fikriye Sirel DELILOGLU	Secretary to Delegation
		5- Mr. Murat HASTURK	Secretary of the Turkish APA Group
22	Viet Nam	1- Hon. Mr. TRAN VAN HANG	Chairman of National Assembly's Committee on Foreign Affairs (Head of Delegation)
		2- Hon. Mr. VU HAI HA	Vice Chairman of National Assembly's Committee on Foreign Affairs
		3- Hon. Mr. DINH CONG SY	Standing Member of National Assembly's Committee on Foreign Affairs
		4- Hon. Ms. DINH THI PHUONG LAN	Full-time Member of National Assembly's Committee on Foreign Affairs
		5- Ms. TRAN KIM CHI	Head of Multilateral Section, Department of Foreign Affairs
		6- Mr. BA DINH TRUC	Officer
APA Observer Organizations			
1	Arab IPU	1- Hon. Nouredine Bouchkouj	Secretary General
2	AIPA	1- Hon. PERIOWSAMY OTHARAM	Secretary General
3	PABSEC	1- Hon. Mr. GHEORGHE VLAD NISTOR	Head of Delegate
		2- Hon. Mr. ASAF HAJIYEV	Member of Delegate
4	PUIC	1- Hon. Dr. MAHMUT EROL KILIC	Secretary General
		2- Hon. Mr. ALIASGHAR MOHAMMADI SIJANI	Assistant