



Statement

His Excellency **Dr. NGUON NHEL**

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

At 7th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)

“Quest for Asian Parliament in Asian Century”

1-3 December, 2014, Lahore, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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- **His Excellency Mr. Syed Nayyer Hussian Bokhari, Chairman of the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and President of Asian Parliamentary Assembly/APA**
 - **His Excellency Dr. Haddad Adel, First APA President,**
 - **His Excellency Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of Organizing Committee,**
 - **His Excellency Dr. Mahammad Hussain Nejad Hosseinian, Secretary General of APA**
 - **Honorable Head of Delegates and Delegates of APA Member Parliaments,**
 - **Distinguished delegates and friends,**
1. First of all, on behalf of **Samdech Heng Samrin**, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and on my own, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks and sincere gratitude to His Excellency **Mr. Bokhari**, Chairman of the Pakistan Senate and APA President, as well as the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for their warm welcome and great hospitality extended to the Cambodian delegation in this beautiful city of Lahore.
 2. On behalf of the Cambodian Parliamentary Delegation, I wish to deeply thank and highly appreciate the Hon. Mr. Chairman of the Senate, the House of

Representatives of Pakistan, the Government and all leaders of Pakistan for their great efforts and wise leadership in hosting this historic 7th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

3. In addition, I also wish to thank and highly commend His Excellency Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of Organizing Committee, Dr. Hossenian, APA Secretary General and his colleagues for their hard-work and great achievement in helping to develop APA from its beginning. In addition, I wish to express my deep thanks to the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran for their on-going support both financially and technically to the work of APA since its establishment.

Excellency Mr. Chairman and honorable delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen

4. We recognize and are delighted with the achievements made by this young institution since it was established in 1999, known as Asian Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (AAPP), and then transformed into Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) in 2006 until now, and hope that it will turn into an Asian Parliament one day soon, thus reflecting our common future aspirations and vision. Those achievements include:
 - The Tehran Declaration, which established a cooperative framework to promote and strengthen closer cooperation and solidarity of all members in Asia, and which clearly pointed out the vision of close Asian integration.
 - The 2013 Islamabad Declaration and other important resolutions were approved and are very relevant to our contexts, in particular, the resolution on the promotion of close cooperation between APA and Governments, with the aim to build and maintain peace, solidarity and prosperity in our region.

- The Troika-Plus meeting in Pakistan in May 2014 clearly illustrated this vision through establishing a foundation document for an Asian Parliament.
 - The Ad-hoc Committee meeting in Phnom Penh last June discussed and adopted the resolution on Staff and Financial Regulation which are necessary tools for strengthening the APA Secretariat in order to help achieve the transformation of APA into an Asian Parliament. Taking this opportunity, I wish to thank all delegates who participated in this ad-hoc meeting, and we believe that you had a joyful and wonderful stay in Phnom Penh.
 - Recently, the First Executive Council Meeting in Switzerland in October of this year considered and adopted 19 draft resolutions that are very crucial and relevant to the current context of our region for us to consider and adopt at this Plenary Session.
5. However, although remarkable achievements have been made so far, a number of obstacles and challenges are still lying ahead of us. These include the following:
- The resolutions adopted by APA have either not yet been implemented, or have been implemented improperly or ineffectively.
 - The Troika Plus meeting, which is a key mechanism in accelerating the work of APA, has been slower than expected.
 - The current developments of our region include the political crisis in Ukraine, issues in the South China Sea, poverty, corruption, terrorism and violent extremism, illicit drug trafficking and energy crisis. These issues are of major concern and may affect the progress of our efforts in achieving our dream: of establishing an Asian Parliament.

***Honorable Mr. Chairman, Honorable Delegates of APA member parliaments,
Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,***

6. Subsequently, the chosen theme of this 7th Plenary Session on “Quest for Asian Parliament in Asian Century” is very significant and relevant to the progress of APA and current development in the region and the world. Of course, to accomplish our goals and aspirations in moving APA into an Asian Parliament, we face numerous challenges and obstacles on this long path. We all need to begin, strengthen and accelerate our joint efforts and close cooperation. Only then will the common vision be achievable. In this regard, on behalf of the Cambodian Delegation, we would therefore appeal to all APA member Parliaments:

- To continue to promote and encourage all APA member parliaments to implement as many of the adopted resolutions as possible, in particular the Resolution on “Promotion of Cooperation and Interaction between APA and Government through organizing a regular and agenda-focused meeting for discussion and deliberation.
- To promote the cooperation and interaction between APA and other Parliamentary forums or other related regional and global organizations, including the EU, Pan-African Parliament, ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and ICAPP, in order to achieve peace, security and inclusive development in the areas of economy, energy, culture and environment in our region.
- Enhance and accelerate the formation of an Eminent Persons Group to work more actively and effectively in developing strategy, plans and a roadmap for transforming APA into an Asian Parliament in a successful and smooth manner, as well as the transformation of AAPP into our existing APA.
- Encourage and gather the political commitment from all APA member countries in the region, from the Executive and Legislative branches, and the peoples in order to accelerate the evolution of APA.

- Continue to promote and enhance peaceful dialogues, respect of the democratic principles and rule of law towards solving any kinds of challenges, especially regional and global conflicts, to ensure peace and political stability, as they are the prerequisite and indispensable tools for development and prosperity in the region.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

7. Once again, on behalf of the Cambodian Parliamentary Delegation, I wish to express our profound gratitude to His Excellency **Mr. Bokhari**, APA President and Chairman Senate of Pakistan and Secretary General of APA for the excellent arrangements of this 7th APA Plenary Session, and I strongly believe that with your active participation and prominent delegates who are present here today, we will make this meeting successful and fruitful.
8. Before concluding my remarks, I wish to express my best wishes to His Excellency **Mr. Bokhari**, APA President and Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Hon. Senator Musahid , Chairman of Organizing Committee, APA Secretary General as well as his colleagues, in particular, the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with best wishes of health, prosperity and success in their noble mission.
9. Last but not least, on behalf of the Cambodian delegation and the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia I wish to appeal to all APA member Parliaments to continue and enhance their support and active participation in working together for achieving our common vision: the establishment of an Asian Parliament in the future, which will be an effective regional parliament representing the peoples of Asia to live in peace, stability, and prosperity.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.