

Asian Parliamentary Assembly

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Statement by Honorable Sayed Mohammad Hassan Abutorabi

Fard

The First Vice Speaker of The Islamic Parliament of Iran

(Majles)

In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Dear Colleagues;

Honorable Speakers and members of Asian Parliaments;

Honorable Secretary General;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

At the outset I would like to express my warm appreciation to the parliament, government and people of brotherly and neighbor country of Pakistan. I also should express my sincere congratulation to Honorable Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, Chairman Senate of Pakistan and head of the Seventh Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA). I wish his sincere attempts for advancement of APA's objectives will be auspicious.

Mr. Chairman;

The developments have taken roots from extremism and violence in some regions of the world, are painful, gloomy, and tragic. Now a days, war, insecurity and homelessness have surrounded some areas in Asia, Africa, and Europe. No doubt, the Middle East is the core of anti human waves of violence and massacre of thousands of civilian who are separating from the trees of life, like the autumnal leaves falling down on the ground. An active confrontation against extremism and terrorist groups such as DAESH is inevitable, but to find out reasons and causes of extremism and violence is substantial. It also is a human and moral obligation. On this ground, by getting advantage of scientific methods, it is possible to make attempts in order to control such destroying flood. It goes without saying that different reasons and causes lead some individuals and groups to violence and terrorism. Among most fundamental and important reasons and causes of this phenomenon, the following can be mentioned:

1. Exertion of discrimination and inequality in the national, regional, and global realm;
2. Lack of supply of basic needs among lower classes and vulnerable people including security, food, accommodation, health service, education, and occupation.

3. Marginalization of disadvantaged groups, and ignoring their demands, proposals, protest, and criticisms.
4. Religious and ideological sectarianism, especially within the framework of absolutism and totalitarianism;
5. Theorization and sanctification of violence as a good deed, and prescribing it to the fabric of society;
6. Ultra nationalism and ignorance of the rights of sects and religious minorities;
7. Political and economic monopolization, and negation of pluralism amongst human communities through exertion of force within the hegemony of uppers over lowers.

The reasons and causes that I explained, underlie personal changes and behavioral signs among some individuals and talented groups. Gradually these peoples as dissatisfied turn to desperate, and then to isolation; afterwards they fall into the state of anarchy and destroying authorized order as “Others”. Mobilization of youth and berserk people towards negation of dominant tyranny through revenge by using violence, infringement a terror. Misusing such forces as mercenary by regional and global powers to the fulfillment of hegemonic political objectives is another tragic quencequence.

Whatever I said on the reasons and causes of extremism and violence, is not more than a brief expression of this complicated problem. I suggest that my dear colleague study and evaluate these fundamental issues which are laid with the security, liberty and development of great nations of Asia. The outcome of this study within the framework of concrete program could be helpful to restrain extremism and violence.

Dear Audience;

Doubtless, whatever among other things is going on in Asia and Africa, is displacement of millions of peoples, invasion against lands, annihilation of economic infrastructures on the one hand, and offensive confrontation against Abraham religions, in particular Islam on the other. Some sects or groups, execute their antihuman and shameful actions, from beheadings, kidnapping girls to slave trade and brutal sectarian massacres, in the name of Islam by the slogan of following Holly Quran and prophetic tradition. It is a bright truth that the teaching of the Holy Quran, tradition and governing experience of the prophet Mohammed indicate that since mankind- including believers and non- believers-, are human

beings. They enjoy intrinsic dignity, because it is made clear in Holy Quran that: “Verily we have honored the Children of Adam.”(Al-asra/70).As we know, in early Islam, the prophet of mercy and tolerance, abrogated the ignorant custom of buried alive babies, including girls and boys. Furthermore, he issued a command after liberation of Mecca, by which he called the day of victory as “the Day of Mercy”.

Dear colleges;

In addition to international support, the main paths to cope with the problems emerge from extremism, war, and insecurity is unity and cooperation between countries of the region. Besides the regional crisis, different problems in Asia have always been our main and serious concerns.

From its foundation till now, APA has draw attention to important subjects such as globalization, information and communication technology ,collaboration on health equity, corruption, rights of migrants, promotion of cultural diversity, coordinating meeting of APA women parliamentarians, combating the smuggling of cultural items, and combating illicit drug trafficking. Moreover, our Assembly has also issued resolutions on measures and methods of militarization of principle of friendship and cooperation, engage in APA with Asian governments and inter-governmental organizations, terrorism and extremism, political development, integrated energy market, financial affairs, environment, and poverty. These resolutions are revised and updated in different meetings of the Assembly.

Now, it is a time that lofty, positive, and developing ideas reflected in these resolutions come, one by one, into practice through adoption of an action- oriented policy. Such an approach makes us more determined and hopeful in order to gradually exert the vital idea of Asian Integration. Undoubtedly, Asian Integration is enforced through consultation, sympathy, and common participation. In parliamentary dimension, Asian Integration means collaboration in the framework of making necessary laws as well as continuous observation towards consolidation of common identity. Furthermore, it requires political, economic, social, and cultural cooperation by Asian countries.

It is necessary to be emphasized that Asian citizens play important role for enhancement and deepening of Asian Integration. In public sphere, citizens increase cooperative capacities among Asian nations through establishment of parties, civil society, and non- governmental organizations (N.G.Os). Moreover,

Asian Integration needs political will on the one hand, and commitment to structural requirement on the other to prepare irrevocable trust to the interest and capability of individual, civil society and N.G. O.s.

The cornerstone of Asian Integration is cooperation on the basis of some fundamental principles the most important of which are as follows:

1. Education and skills development;
2. Applied researches based upon knowledge and specially focusing on universities;
3. Expansion of innovations in the field of industry and technology;
4. Investment in infrastructure and its development;
5. Empowerment of women activities through distributive justice and equality of opportunity;
6. Endeavour to the environmental issues and promotion of the culture and the right of environment;
7. Empowerment of the structure of regional trade from a focus on raw materials or semi- finished products to those higher up the value chain.

Whatever is crucial regarding realization of Asian Integration would be the reflection of initiatives and innovation, in the sphere of action. Even if our movement begins and continues by small steps, it would eventually develop to big steps through the process of joint cooperation.

For us, it is important to endeavor further and to unite together. Our identity, our common fate, and realization of our objectives depend upon our dynamism and moving forward. We all know Mohammad Iqbal(1877- 1938) as a philosopher , a great scholar of Islam and a poet who wrote most of his poems in Persian language. Iqbal- whom we now have gathered together in his beautiful city, Lahore -, believes that our human existence depends to our movements and activities. In his “Massage of the East” (Payam-i-Mashriq), Iqbal through a dialogue between shore and wave, writes:

"I have lived a long, long while", said the fallen shore;

"What I am I know as ill as I knew of yore".

Then swiftly advanced a wave from the Sea upshot:

"If I roll, I am", it said ; "if I rest, I am not".

Dear Member Parliaments;

I hope this meeting would achieve its fundamental and important goals. I also wish that implementation of adopted resolutions on political, economic, cultural and social affairs boost whatever APA hold as its great responsibility. Last but not least, it is worthy that I express my warm gratitude and appreciation to honorable Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed for his attempts and sincere cooperation with Asian parliamentary Assembly.

Thank you for your kind attention.