



SIDANG PLENO KE-7
ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)
1 – 3 DESEMBER 2014 DI LAHORE, PAKISTAN



STATEMENT OF THE HEAD OF DELEGATION
IN THE PLENARY SESSION

by H.E. Mr. Fadli Zon

(Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia)

Assalamualaikum.Wr. Wb.

Good Morning Mr. Chairman,

It is an honour and great pleasure to be here today, this is my first APA Assembly, and I look forward to working together with prominent political figures of Asian Countries in this seventh Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), held in the rich historical and cultural city of Punjab Region, Lahore.

Mr. President;

Distinguished delegates;

The idea in bringing the unity of Asia is timely as we are on the era of Asian Century. APA envisages that Asia will be in a unity, closer than ever before with a view of integration into an Asian Parliamentary Union. It is within that respect, the APA has consistently promoted a discourse on this idea. I also learnt, the last APA Troika, held in May 2014, in Islamabad, also discussed such issues of integration.

The quest for an Asian Parliament first and foremost requires a political approval of all Asian Countries. We need to recommend our respective Governments to make actions, coordinate efforts in bringing together the political will of integration.

I believe, we need a greater coherence, interdependence between Asian nations through greater campaign that Asia is one. Therefore we need to have a greater campaign on the Asia unity. We do also need to foster contact with our inter-governmental forum counterpart such as: the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, ASEAN, SAARC, to conduct a campaign on Asian Unity, promoting greater cooperation among Asian Countries, and other regions.



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By doing so, the sense of ownership to the region will be greater and in the end, there is a need for integration in a community or in a union: a single Asia.

Indonesia therefore would like to suggest each APA Member Parliaments to have a more direct involvement to their respective government, in the work of multilateral discussion of Asia Cooperation Dialogue. I believe, in the long run, the ACD may serve as the first gate of our work towards the establishment of Asian Parliament.

Mr President,
Distinguished Delegates,

The road towards such integration is not an easy task to do. The differences among nations, such as resources, level of democracy, social and cultural issues, economic growth and political development, and further commitment and involvement of the people. These should be addressed.

And foremost, an integration requires peace and stability. A pro-longed conflicts, violence and instability are daunting challenges for this region.

Asia needs peace and stability to harvest political supports. These supports are essential in the realization of the so-called Asian Parliament. It is therefore, I kindly suggest all parties related to take actions in promoting dialogue, resolve the differences and refrain themselves from any actions which may disengage the bond of friendship among Asian nations.

In this regard, we shall recall the principles of friendship embodied in the Declaration of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia which was adopted by this organization few years ago.

Distinguished Delegates,

In this monumental assembly, I would like to draw your attention to the issue of Palestine, as they are also our friends and families. As a big family of Asia, Palestine



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receive immense moral supports to their quest of the righty independences—their inalienable rights.

We have agreed on numerous resolutions to condemn, in our strongest term, to what Israeli has been done to Palestinian. And still there is no change. Israeli is consistent to deliberately and repeatedly violating the international law through their unilateral actions.

I have recently made a hearing with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestine Territory since 1967, an Indonesian fellow of mine, Mr. Makarim Wibisono. He gave us a shocking fact, that Israeli, in a statement they made at the Security Council, claimed that they are not the Occupying Power.

They claimed that they are in their own land, a righteous one for the Jewish. The Security Council at that time does nothing.

We cannot let that happen.

In this respect, Palestine as part of our big family of Asia, urgently need our support. We need to send a strong message, the strongest one, that Palestine deserves their sovereignty over their own land and their independence.

A parliamentary solidarity through a series visit to Palestine, Gaza, West Bank may provide a further message that we as parliamentarians, the representatives of the people, are signalling their support for the independence of Palestine.

I strongly urge all of my fellow parliamentarians to do so. To have a first-hand opportunity in Palestine so we can share their pain. Indonesia has done so, and will be happy to do so again in near future.



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Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

I should also mention that we applauded the continuing meeting of women parliamentarians in APA meetings, the idea that was initiated by Indonesia few years ago. I believe that with increased participation and contribution of women parliamentarians, we can strengthen the work of APA.

I also take note that few young parliamentarians attend this assembly. Presently young people represent one fourth of the total world population, and as seen in many parts of the world: youth role and influence in socio-political transformation are increasingly becoming significant. Hence, youth participation and engagement should be highly taken into account in political and development process.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

To conclude, I would like to place on record my appreciation to the parliament of Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation. I am happy to be here today. My delegation and I look forward to fruitful deliberation during this plenary and in each of APA meetings.

I thank you

Wassalamualaikum Wr. Wb.