



**Statement by His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi
Secretary-General of Asian Parliamentary Assembly
APA Coordination meeting at the sideline of
The 136th Assembly of IPU**

**2 April 2017
Dhaka- Bangladesh**

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am very pleased to welcome you all to this Coordinating Committee of APA. As the new Secretary-General of this prestigious organization, it is my first time to meet you in the side line of IPU Assembly but I know that tens of such gatherings have been held with very fruitful outcomes.

As you are all well aware, APA's core goals can only be achieved when all Member Parliaments join together to implement the decisions and resolutions which already have been adopted in our previous 9 Plenary sessions. To this end, APA Secretariat is willing to act as a bridge among Member Parliaments to ensure fruitful communication and to promote understanding. Therefore, I believe it is necessary to enhance our activities including exploring ways to unite our voices against any unpleasant circumstances threatening peace and security, social and economic developments in Asia as the largest and more populated continent.

On the other hand we need to raise APA's profile around the world, promoting the organization as the greatest parliamentary body in Asia and I believe our presence in this Assembly is a unique opportunity to introduce our works to all other similar organizations from every corner of the world.



This will also lead us to increase future cooperation and to focus on our goals.

Now I wish to present a brief report on recent APA activities. The 9th APA Plenary session was held early December 2016 in Siem Reap – Kingdom of Cambodia. It was a very successful meeting and I wish to express my gratitude to the Honorable Heng Samrin, President of APA for excellent hospitality extended to all participants. In this Plenary four Member Parliaments were elected as the Vice Presidents as the following:

1. Senate of Pakistan as the Vice President for chairing the Standing Committee on Political Affairs
2. Council of representatives of Kingdom of Bahrain as the Vice President for chairing the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development Affairs
3. Federal National Council of United Arab Emirates as the Vice President for chairing the Standing Committee on Staff and Financial regulations
4. National Assembly of Kingdom of Bhutan as the Vice President for chairing the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

The Senate of Pakistan has organized the meetings of Standing Committee on Political Affairs and the Special Committee for Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) on 13 to 17 March 2017 in Islamabad. Presence of representatives from 23 APA Member Parliaments and approval of 7 draft resolutions is a good indication that our Member Parliaments are deeply accountable and are ready to cooperate on such important issues. My sincere thanks go to Honorable Mian Reza Rabbani, Chairman of Senate of Pakistan for his able leadership.

The APA Standing Committee meeting on Economic and Sustainable Development is scheduled to be held on 24-27 April 2017 in Manama – Kingdom of Bahrain and we expect to come out with constructive deliberation on sensitive economical issues. Important subjects such as affordable and clean energy, clean water and sanitation, eradication of poverty, international financial issues as well as the environmental issues shall attract the views of participants. Securing the sustainable developments in Asia, needs full attention of parliamentarians to end poverty and create a life of dignity and opportunity for all. The official invitation letter and other



related documents have been forwarded to all Member Parliaments and we are waiting for feedbacks.

The Standing Committee meeting on Staff and Financial Regulations will be hosted by the Federal National Council of United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi, most probably on 21 – 24 May 2017. The ways and means of assessed contribution to the budget of APA, revision of some rules and regulations and other administrative issues will be discussed. I hope also this meeting can propose certain binding regulations on the participation in the regular events to secure the legitimacy of APA decisions.

The APA Secretariat is in close contact with the Honorable Speaker of National Assembly of Bhutan to set the date and venue for the APA Standing Committee meeting on Social and Cultural Affairs.

Finally, the 1st Executive Council meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly will be held in Phnom Penh – Kingdom of Cambodia in early August. The exact date shall be conveyed to all Member Parliaments shortly.

I would like to take this opportunity and invite all distinguished APA Member Parliaments to actively participate in these meetings to enrich the deliberations, promote cooperation among Asian Parliaments and to protect the rights of Asian people to live in a more reliable world.

**Mr. Chairman,
Dear delegates,**

While express once again my sincere gratitude for participation in this meeting and hopefully conveying my request for being more active in APA events to your relevant authorities, now floor is open for discussion and decision on the favorite choice of APA Member Parliaments to be included in the agenda of 136th IPU Assembly as the “Emergency Item”.

Thank you.