



SC- political/Rep/2016/02
2 June 2016

Report of the Meeting

Standing Committee on Political Affairs

1-2 June 2016

Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

1. The Standing Committee on Political Affairs held its meeting on 1-2 June 2016 in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. APA Delegations from Bahrain, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Maldives, Pakistan, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Turkey participated in this meeting. The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

2. In the inaugural session of the meeting, Honorable Eng. Shehadah Abu Hdaib, the Chairman of the Political Committee of the Senate of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, delivered his welcoming remarks and underscored the important role of the APA in strengthening friendship ties among Asian countries as it includes the majority of the world's population and is actively contributing to the development of regional cooperation in Asia. He also expressed hope for the productive results of the meeting. Honorable Senator Kim Yeat Chhit, from the Kingdom of Cambodia presented a statement in which he considered the political stability as an indispensable tool for promoting peace and security which would support sustainable development and economic growth. He pointed out that it is vital to build up a political platform involving all APA Member Parliaments to achieve reconciliation, peace, and security throughout Asia. H.E. Dr. Masoud Islami, the APA Acting Secretary General made a brief statement at the opening session. He briefly highlighted the great potentials of the APA in the realm of parliamentary diplomacy and encouraged all APA member parliaments to engage in practicing effective ways and means for the implementation of the APA resolutions. Texts of all three statements are attached to this report as Annex II.

3. In the first working session of the meeting, the agenda was adopted. (Annex III). Then the meeting elected Honorable Mr. Thushara Indunil Amarasena Giranapathirenehelae from Sri Lanka as the vice-chairman; and Honorable Dr. Khalil Abdullah of Kuwait as the Rapporteur of the Standing Committee.

4. The list of documents before the Meeting included:

- I. APA/Res/2015/01- Resolution on Advancing Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia

- II. APA/Res/2015/02 - Resolution on Mobilizing Interactions Between APA and Asian Governments
- III. APA/Res/2015/03- Resolution on Deploring Acts of Terrorism and Violent Extremism
- IV. APA/Res/2015/04 - Resolution on Significant Political Developments in Asia

5. The Report of the APA Secretary-General to the Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs was printed and distributed among all delegations and also orally explained to the participants. In his Report to the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs, the Acting Secretary-General reported the latest state of each item in order to provide a ground for further deliberation by the Standing Committee and pave the way for further action by the APA. H.E. Dr. Masoud Islami, APA Acting Secretary-General presented his report to the Standing Committee on Political Affairs and explained the rationale behind the APA practice of keeping certain subject matters on its agenda for consecutive years. He also reviewed background information on each document on the agenda of the meeting and elaborated on the achievements of APA pertaining to each item. He also emphasized the need for the APA to develop a set of missions to be able to play an effective role in the realm of parliamentary diplomacy in Asia. The text of the report is attached to this report as Annex IV.

6. General Debate on the modalities to promote and implement the previous four Resolutions started with the APA Resolution on Advancing Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia, followed by Resolutions on Mobilizing Interactions Between APA and Asian Governments, Deploring Acts of Terrorism and Violent Extremism, and finally Resolution on Significant Political Developments in Asia. Heads of delegations from Bahrain, China, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine and Turkey participated in the general debates.

7. After extensive deliberation by participants, the APA Secretariat prepared four new Draft Resolutions and presented them to the Meeting which were considered in the following order:

- Draft Resolution on Building Prosperity in Asia Through Friendship and Cooperation
- Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia
- Draft Resolution on United Against Terrorism and Violent Extremism

- Draft Resolution on Significant Political Developments in Asia

The Standing committee recommended these Draft Resolutions to the first APA Executive Council Meeting of 2016, to be forwarded to the APA plenary for its consideration and adoption.

9. Concurrent with the meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs, the APA Special Committee on the Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) held its meeting on 2 June 2016 and discussed various ideas and points of view by the participating delegates. All delegates expressed their general support for the promotion of the notion of Asian parliament in the light of the great potentials which exist in Asia and particularly in Asian Parliaments.

Meanwhile, they underlined the formidable challenges and crucial prerequisites facing the creation of an Asian Parliament. They all emphasized that the creation of Asian Parliament is a long term project various aspects of which needs to be explored in many discussions, conferences, and meetings to come. They also encouraged holding the meetings of the SCCAP more frequently with more effective preparation. References were made to the need for having clear direction, vision, innovation and capacity building for the consideration of the creation of an Asian Parliament. It was also pointed out that the feasibility of the project should be conducted in coordination with all APA Member Parliaments. The participating delegations also expressed their appreciation for the work of the APA Secretariat in preparing an analytical and substantive report entitled *The Foundations of an Asian Parliament* as well as the oral presentation by the Acting Secretary General on the subject matter. The participating delegates undertook the responsibility to raise the subject matter to respective authorities of their own parliaments and governments and send their feedback on the Secretariat's report to the APA secretariat as soon as possible.

10. The Standing Committee expressed special appreciation to the Senate of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for excellent organization of the meeting and the hospitality extended to all participants. The meeting particularly praised the APA Secretariat for outstanding service it provided for smooth running of the meeting. Appreciation was also made to the staff of the local secretariat for their effective contributions to the meeting.

Annex- I
List of Participants

	Parliament	Name of participants	Position in delegation
1	Bahrain	1- Mr. Abbas Al Madhi 2- Mr. Mohamed Al Khozai 3- Mr. Abdulaziz Abul 4- Mr. Mohamed Al Ammadi 5- Mr. Ahmad Qurata. 6- Mr. Ahmad Qurata. 7- Mr. Salman Abdullah.	Head of delegation- M.P. Head of delegation- M.P. M.P. M.P. M.P. Secretary Staff
2	Cambodia	1- Mr. Chhit Kim yeat. 2- Mr. Phal Bonbouddhis 3- Mr. Hok Bunly. 4- Mrs. Vann Vimol.	Head of delegation- Senator Secretary Staff Staff
3	China	1- Ms. Baige Zhao 2- Ms. Siqi Zhang. 3- Mr. Linlin Jin. 4- Mr. Deyu Liu.	Head of delegation- M.P. Staff Staff Staff
4	Indonesia	1- Mr. Syaifullah Tamliha Djaperi 2- Mr. Hasrul Musai 3- Mr. Anton Sihombing 4- Mr. Chairil Patria 5- Mr. Nurus Syamsi 6- Mr. Muhamad Munir	Head of delegation- M.P. M.P. M.P. Secretary Embassy Staff Embassy Staff
5	Jordan	1- Mr. Shehadah Abu Hdaib 2- Dr. Yaseen Khayyat 3- Mr. Yousef Aljazi	Head of delegation- Senator M.P. M.P.
6	Kuwait	1- Dr. Khalil Abdullah 2- Mr. Madi Al Hajri. 3- Mr. Bader Al Jum'a	Head of delegation- M.P. M.P. Secretary
7	Lebanon	1- Mr. Kassem Hachem. 2- Mr. Stephan Aldoueihi	Head of delegation- M.P. M.P.
8	Maldives	1- Mr. Ahmed Raseed 2- Mr. Faisal Naseem	Head of delegation- M.P. M.P.
9	Pakistan	1- Mr. Atta ur Rehman 2- Mr. Mian Najeebuddin Awasi	Head of delegation- Senator M.P.
10	Palestine	1- Mr. Zuhair Sanduka 2- Mr. Belal Qasem 3- Mr. Omar Hamed	Head of delegation- M.P. M.P. M.P.
11	Sri Lanka	1- Mr. Thushara Indunil Amarasena Giranapathirennelage. 2- Mr. Mohan Priyad Agampody	Head of delegation- M.P. M.P.
12	Thailand	1- ADM. Amorntep Nabangchang. 2- Gen. Nipat Thonglek 3- Mr. Aplchart Phetcharatana 4- Ms. Krisanee Masrichan. 5- Mr. Kitti Saereprayoon	Head of delegation- M.P. M.P. Ambassador Secretary Staff

13	Turkey	1- Mr. Burhan Kayaturk 2- Mr. Kemalettin Yilmaztekin 3- Mr. Baris Karadeniz 4- Mrs. Elif Onal	Head of delegation- M.P. M.P. M.P. Secretary
14	APA Secretariat	1- Dr. Masoud Islami 2- Mr. Bijan Moshirvaziri	Acting Secretary- General Deputy Secretary-General

Annex-II

In The name of Allah the most gracious, the most merciful

Your Excellency Mr. CHHIT Kim Yeat, representative of APA President,

Your Excellency, Acting Secretary General of APA

Dear Attendees,

Peace be upon you,

On behalf of myself and my colleagues, members of the Jordanian Senate, I would like to express my warm welcome from the capital of our beloved country Amman, the capital of the Hashemites and the symbol of pride, glory and persistence.

We are gathering here today in Jordan, the country of firm attitude towards Asian and International issues, with a methodology based on tolerance and moderation, always calling for international peace and security, and the wise leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II. This meeting also coincides with the joy of all Jordanians, as Jordan celebrates its independence day and the centenary of the launching of the Great Arab Revolution, so welcome again.

Ladies and gentlemen

Jordan has withstood, since its establishment in 1921, amidst turbulences, a series of consecutive events, and was able, due to its wise and noble leadership, and the awareness of a nation that loved its leaders, to maintain Jordan as a safe, stable and continuously developing country, until Jordan became a model of good administration and disposition, despite the scarce natural resources, and the waves of refugees, the last of which were our brothers and sisters from Iraq and then Syria, due to the conflicts in their countries and the absence of safety and stability.

Ladies and Gentleman,

The world values the Asian Parliamentary Assembly as it bears substantial responsibilities, and its strive to find solutions to different issues in the region, through dialogue and the drafting, enacting and amending of laws, according to the changing needs of societies, and its contribution in enhancing cooperation and communication among Asian parliaments in order to achieve the interests of their nations.

The Asian Parliamentary Assembly has a great importance and role in strengthening friendship ties among Asian countries, as it includes the majority of the world's population, and is actively contributing in developing regional cooperation mechanisms through entities and committees dealing with the political, economical, social, cultural and sustainable development affairs.

Our gathering today, ladies and gentlemen, forms a bridge between our parliaments and the parliaments of the world, to communicate with the states of our Asian continent and the rest of the world, and as a voice to express the issues and suffering of our nations to the rest of the world, aiming to achieve the wishes and aims.

The nations of our continent are living today in the globalization era, that did not leave a chance for developing countries to rise and be prepared to engage. Asia and its culture enjoys a huge position in today's world, especially that it includes two thirds of the world population, and provides the greatest manpower to the world, with its tremendous natural resources and colorful energies, with cultural and spiritual values, being the cradle of divine religions and the great cultural heritage and cultures that hold genuine and great values.

Thus, our states need to invest these varied resources and wealth to enhance cooperation, and strengthen the power of work, prosperity and welfare of our nation, and mitigate the living costs, through exchanging experiences and modules of success among our countries.

Dear attendees...

I assure you that our Asian Parliamentary Assembly is considered one of the most popular organizations in our beloved continent; as it plays a distinguished role in enhancing cultural cooperation and interfaith dialogues among different nations.

Such Asian varied civilizations can build communication bridges with the world of today and tomorrow, based on the principles of justice and common interests that serves nations and the goals of justice and freedom. The importance of strengthening parliamentary and economical relations of Asian countries, shall serve the international stability and security, and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly is considered the corner stone of cooperation among different parliaments of Asia.

We need, dear attendees, to take joint actions and cooperate to counter and eradicate international terrorism from its roots, by augmenting civilized cultures and intact thought, that rejects terrorism and promotes peaceful coexistence and fraternity among religions and beliefs, and benefit from Asian parliaments in achieving development plans, through cooperation between members of the assembly. Asian parliamentary organizations should also work seriously to reach a legislative integration in Asia.

I call on your behalf, that it is necessary that the United Nation shall hold its responsibility in being the basic reference in addressing crises, and to perform its organized role, supporting international relations, built on the statements of its charter. I also confirm the great importance of the Asian Union on the international level in general and the Asian level in specific, in supporting peaceful and just issues, and achieve the expectations of the nations of the region in development and reform.

Finally, I reiterate Jordan's continuous and permanent strive to mitigate the suffering of the Palestinian nation, supporting its legitimate rights in establishing its independent state, and Jordan's condemnation of the hostile practices by the Israeli occupation towards the Palestinian people, and its permanent demands to solve the regional issues and conflict through constructive dialogue, to serve the nations and stop the bloodshed and demolition, following the leader of the nation King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein, may God grant him prosperity and strengthen his steps towards righteousness.

From this blessed gathering, I call, on you, states and nations of the world, to push towards and actively contribute in ending the Palestinian –Israeli conflict, according to the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the serious assistance in solving the struggles in the area and region, and grant nations with justice and self-determination.

Wishing you all the success and good stay in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, welcome to the land of stability, peace and safety, under the leadership of the devoted Hashemites, and you are always welcome.



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



Standing Committee Meeting on Political Affairs
1-2 June 2016
Amman, The Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan

WELCOME REMARKS

**By Hon. CHHIT Kim Yeat, Senator, Vice-Chairman of the
Commission on Foreign Affairs, and International Cooperation,
Media and information, Representative of APA President**

Honorable Mr. Eng. Shehadah ABU HDAIB, Chairman of the
Political Committee of the parliament of The Hashimite Kingdom of
Jordan,
Honorable Heads of Delegation and Delegates,
H.E. Dr. Masoud Islami, APA Acting Secretary- General,
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

1. Today, I have great honor and privilege to welcome you all to this important meeting of **Standing Committee on Political Affairs**, here in Amman, Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan.
2. On behalf of **Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin** President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of APA, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan for their excellent work in supporting APA, hosting this important meeting and particularly for the warm welcome and kind hospitality extended to all delegations in this beautiful city Amman. I also, wish to thank all delegates who participated the 8th General Assembly in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in December, 2015.

This meeting would continue our dialogues and deliberations related to the resolutions of political issues which are basic content of our objective of APA in promoting peace, security and sustainable development at region and global levels.

Honorable delegations, Excellencies, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

3. As we all aware that political stability is an indispensable tool to promote peace and security in the region that support the sustainable development and economic growth. To maintain peace and security, it is vital to build up a political platform involving all APA Member countries. Parliamentary play a very important key and roles in producing the efficient political development through dialogues, reconciliation and negotiation. We are very grateful to have APA as an collectively asset for exchanging view and experiences among us and to give us opportunities, as the parliamentarian, to play our important role in expressing our common concern of prosperity for the people in Asia.
4. Today meeting and discussion will lay out a major dialogue that needed to continue for strengthening friendship and cooperations in Asia, and setting the ground for further deliberation by the APA member countries. I believe our discussion today in this meeting will form a principle policy for resolving regional and international conflicts, and to further promoting dialogues which are concerned in the said resolution on **Advancing Principle of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia, and Significant Political Development in Asia.**
5. This gathering reflects our solidarity and it is a great pleasure to be able to exchange views and experiences for the future of the 9th APA Plenary Session. The Standing Committee will produce important legal documents to support the organization for the purpose of its sustainability and functioning.
6. Your presence today in this meeting not just to indicate your strong commitment to APA but also reflects another success history of the recommendations of resolutions to the 9th APA Plenary Session which will be held in the wonder land of Angkor, Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia in 2016.

Honorable delegations, Excellencies, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

7. Once again, on behalf of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I wish to express my profound gratitude and thanks to the Hashimite and Government of Kingdom of Jordan for their excellent work in hosting this important meeting and for the warm welcome and kind hospitality extended to all delegations in this to the all distinguished delegates and participants attending this important meeting. I strongly believe that with

your active participations in the discussions, views and ideas exchanges, the meeting will be a successful and fruitful one.

8. Before concluding my remarks, I wish to inform that the First Executive Council Meeting will be held in September 2016 in Phnom Penh (to be confirmed) and the 9th APA Plenary Session will be held in late November 2016 in Siem Reap cultural city of Angkor (to be confirmed) Cambodia. On behalf of the Cambodian Parliament, we look forward to welcome all delegates to the land of Angkor (the world heritage), the kingdom of wonders.
9. May I convey my best wishes of good health and success in your noble mission and please enjoy your stay in Amman. I wish this meeting a great success with a great deliberation.

Thank you so much for your kind attention.



**Statement by Acting APA Secretary-General,
H.E. Dr. Masoud Islami
At the Inaugural Session
of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs**

Amman, Jordan
1-2 June 2016

Mr. Chairman
Honorable APA Delegates,
Dignitaries,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am grateful to witness once again an important APA gathering with so many distinguished participants from so many Asian parliaments. I would like to welcome you all and express my gratitude for having the opportunity to address you here today. I would also like to register my special thanks and appreciations to the Senate of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in general, and Honorable Senator Eng. Shehadah Abu Hdaib in particular, for their accountability and responsibility towards the APA and for their generosity for hosting this important meeting.

Mr. Chairman
Distinguished Delegates

In light of the global integrative trends in the world, parliaments are becoming increasingly more relevant and more important both in domestic and foreign affairs. The principal function of parliaments in democratic systems of governance is legislative in nature. However, they also possess substantial weight in the political apparatus of their respective states. While Parliaments participate alongside the executive branch in exercising the national sovereignty of their respective state, they tend to assume a controlling function over certain governmental decisions in internal and external affairs.

As the largest Asian inter-parliamentary organization, and relying on its wide scope of membership which covers most countries of Asia, APA is in a position to depict itself as a Model Asian Parliament. As an assembly of parliaments, the APA does not possess executive powers to directly implement its resolutions and decisions. This is a fact but not a failure. Without executive powers at hand, the APA still can accomplish a lot. It needs not to overextend or exaggerate its capabilities.

What the APA does possess, however, would suffice to its realistic ambitions. First of all, APA has provided a reliable framework for consultation and collaboration among its Member Parliaments on a range of important cultural, economic, political and environmental issues. Secondly, it has facilitated communication, interaction and cooperation among its members and helped them to harmonize their viewpoints vis-à-vis regional as well as global developments.

Mr. Chairman
Distinguished Delegates

APA has promoted the notion of Asian integration as the pivotal theme of its goals and objectives. Achieving integration in Asia is a formidable endeavor which would require certain conditions and definitely face certain challenges. Regional and international integration is rather a multi-factor and multi-faceted process which requires prolong and

continuous cooperation. It should be underscored that the process of integration in Asia encounters serious challenges, too. Chronic poverty in many countries of the continent, where nearly half of the continent's population earn less than two dollars per day, has created an unfavorable condition in Asia. The developmental disparity in Asia and the growing gap between Asian countries are among other serious challenges in the continent. Potential border, territorial and ethnic disputes, crisis-prone areas and the danger of their escalation or spread to other regions should not be overlooked.

The present meeting of the APA that we are going to hold today and tomorrow here in Amman has a number of important subject matters on its agenda. I am confident that by the end of these meetings, by virtue of your thoughtful and vigorous deliberations, we will have yet another successful event in the APA records.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Annex- III



Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Standing Committee on Political Affairs

1-2 June 2016
Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

AGENDA

- Opening Ceremony
- Adoption of the Agenda
- Election of the Bureau
- Opening Statement by the Chairman
- Report by the APA Acting Secretary General
- Consideration of the following documents:
 1. Resolution on Advancing Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia
 2. Resolution on Mobilizing Interactions Between APA and Asian Governments
 3. Resolution on Deploring Acts of Terrorism and Violent Extremism
 4. Resolution on Significant Political Developments in Asia
- Meeting of the Special Committee on Creation of Asian Parliament
- Adoption of the final report
- Any other matter
- Closing

Annex IV



Report By

H. E. Dr. Masoud Islami
Acting Secretary-General of the APA

To the Meeting of the
APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs

Amman, Jordan
1-2 June 2016

Mr. Chairman

Distinguished Delegates

I am pleased to report to this esteemed meeting that the APA 8th Plenary Session in Phnom Penh, adopted all draft resolutions which were prepared earlier by this Standing Committee and recommended to it by the Executive Council. We have gathered here to take those APA Resolutions¹ steps forward and deliberate on how to make progress on their subject matters which constitute an important part of the APA agenda as the largest inter-parliamentary organization in Asia.

I find it appropriate to provide the distinguished delegates of APA Member Parliaments

¹ Resolution on Measures and Methods of Materialization of Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2014/01— 3 December 2014); Resolution on Engaging APA with Asian Governments and Inter-Governmental Organizations (APA/Res/2014/02); Resolutions on Denunciation of Terrorism and Violent Extremism (APA/Res/2014/03—3 December 2014); Resolutions on Important Political Developments in Asia (APA/Res/2014/04—3 December 2014).

participating in this meeting with some background information on the resolutions which are on the agenda of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs in order to set the ground for further deliberation and stimulate further action by all APA Members.

Before addressing the resolutions, however, it seems noteworthy to remind the distinguished delegates of the rationale behind the reconsideration of these resolutions every year. There are, in my view, four main reasons why the APA continuously keeps certain resolutions on its agenda and reconsider them over and over again.

The first reason stems from the very nature of some issues which begets continuous attention and gradual progress. The challenging nature and the significant ramifications of important issues like terrorism and violent extremism; establishing peace and security in the region; ending foreign occupation in Palestine; and consolidating friendly relations among Asian countries; demand persistent and unceasing efforts just in order to make gradual and piecemeal accomplishments. The very nature of these subject matters and the imperative measures required for their pursuance would by no means allow for their realization in short or even medium terms. This is why they have been kept on the APA Agenda for consecutive years and they are likely to remain so for many years to come. There are no simple and quick solutions to these challenges to be compressed in annual time-bound formulations. The APA, like many other international organizations, keeps this kind of subject matters on its agenda with a view to achieving gradual progress. The desired function is thus to keep the APA as an organization, and its Member Parliaments as active players in parliamentary diplomacy, abreast of the recent developments *vis-à-vis* such vital issues.

Secondly; many APA resolutions are drafted and adopted as instruments of policy coordination among its Member Parliaments demonstrating their unified stance with regard to problems and challenges in Asia. The APA resolutions which are updated each year are indicative of the unanimous progressive approach of its Member Parliaments towards their common challenges as well as their firm collective resolve to meet them. Hence, many of the APA resolutions are of declaratory nature. In today's world, this declaratory function is of utmost importance and is considered an end by itself. Indeed, articulated unified stances and coordinated policies among the members of the organization pave the way for concerted practical steps in tackling such complicated challenges facing Asia.

Thirdly; as it is evident to you, the APA resolutions typically contain separate but interconnected preamble and operative paragraphs. Whereas the preamble usually reflects general considerations and contextual elements related to the subject matter of the resolution, the operative part include decisions made and practical measures determined to be carried out by the Members. Here is the area which needs to be seriously addressed by the organization. The APA is not well-equipped with effective mechanisms for the implementation of its decisions. In certain cases, the Member Parliaments do not carry out the commitments they have undertaken within the framework of the APA adopted resolutions and there is no efficient mechanism to make this happen. Examples of this kind include the commitment by the APA Member Parliaments to adopt a common legislation on issues such as combating the smuggling of cultural items in Asia; fighting corruption, as decided upon in respective resolutions. While the APA Secretariat has consistently reminded and followed up such matters time and again, it is not aware of any measures taken by the Members in these respects. Relying on the genuine commitment and unshakable resolve of its Member Parliaments to carry out the decisions collectively made through its resolutions,

the APA is in need to develop effective mechanisms, for their implementation at two organizational as well as at each individual member levels.

Fourthly; a number of resolutions adopted by the APA over the years tackle issues which require the involvement of the executive branch of their respective countries. Making progress on issues related to economics and environment as well as those concerning political and cultural affairs, would need close and effective coordination with governments. This need has been recognized by the APA many years ago leading to important resolutions which have remained on its agenda for a number of years awaiting effective implementation. These resolutions basically calls upon APA Member Parliaments to invite, encourage, and engage governmental authorities of their own respective countries in supporting and promoting the APA objectives.

With this rather indispensable introduction, I must attest to the fact that all distinguished delegates representing the APA Member Parliaments in the APA events have always been eager to encourage action and progress and never intended to stop only on adopting resolutions. They all have shown determination to turn the APA resolutions into reality and make a difference for the betterment of Asia. However, the lack of effective mechanisms for the implementation of the adopted resolutions has hindered the materialization of their wishes and wills.

At this point, please allow me to briefly review the background related to each item on the agenda of this meeting.

APA Resolutions on Principles of Friendship

The most recent APA Resolution on Advancing Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2015/01 dated 11 December 2015) is now at hand. The previous relevant APA resolutions are also retroactively cited below.² These resolutions contain significant points in their preambles and important positions and decisions in their operative parts. The subject matters of these resolutions are of paramount and fundamental importance to the realization of the APA principal goals and objectives.

While the earlier APA resolutions have encouraged the Member Parliaments to consider adopting or endorsing the APA Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia in accordance with their respective internal procedures or to promote it through their local media networks, the Secretariat is yet not aware of any action taken in this respect by any Member Parliament. Perhaps the lack of clearly-defined functions and internal mechanisms inside the structure of the Member Parliaments have hindered making progress in this respect. The APA Secretariat encourages the Standing Committee on Political Affairs to consider appropriate and efficient ways and means for dealing with this situation.

² Resolution on Measures and Methods of Materialization of Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2014/01, 03 December 2014); 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); Decision on 14 November: APA Day of Asian Solidarity and Cooperation (APA/Dec/2010/01--30 November 2010); Resolution on Cooperation and Coordination on Major International Issues of Importance to APA (APA/Res/2008/07--29 November 2008); Resolution on Pursuing Implementation of the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2008/09--29 November 2008); and Resolution on Friendship Pact in Asia (APA/Res/2007/06--19 November 2007).

Cooperation with Asian Governments

The second APA resolution at hand is the Resolution on Mobilizing Interactions Between APA and Asian Governments (APA/Res/2015/02—11 December 2015). The expansion of ties and enhancement of cooperation between the APA and governmental bodies and organizations, have been among the priority areas in the work of the APA. Previous APA resolution on the subject matter of enhancing cooperation with governments in Asia are retrospectively cited below.³

The modalities that have been accepted and emphasized by relevant APA Resolutions in this respect have included informing relevant high-ranking governmental authorities of the potentials, activities, and achievements of the APA; inviting Ministers of Foreign Affairs, or their representatives, of APA Member and Observer Parliaments to participate in the Plenary Sessions of the APA and to exchange views on the most significant and urgent issues in Asia and on the APA agenda. Furthermore, it has been decided to appoint an APA delegate as a Focal Point within the APA Member Parliaments to be in charge of making regular coordination between the Parliaments and Governments on the one hand, and between the Parliaments and the Secretariat for the implementation of APA decisions and programs on the other. Many of these measures have not yet been realized and it seems imperative on this APA Standing Committee to discuss effective ways to make progress in this regard. The Secretary-General shall remain hopeful that the deliberations of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs would pave the path for more practical initiatives to enhance cooperation between the APA and Asian Governments and take the issue steps further.

Other Important Political Issues

The APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs cannot avoid addressing important political issues and developments at regional and global levels, particularly those related to the countries of its Member Parliaments. In order to contribute to fostering peace and security and promote prosperity throughout Asia, the APA should rely on principles enshrined in the APA Charter which include promoting dialogue and friendly relations in Asia through good offices; negotiation; reconciliation; mediation; and reduction of tensions between Asian countries through mechanisms like the APA Troika Plus; promoting culture of peace in Asia; and addressing both soft and hard aspects of peace and security in Asia through cooperation with inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Besides addressing particular issues of importance such as peace, terrorism, and atrocities of Israel in Palestine, the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs has over the past two years, has decided to enhance its involvements with more current issues and developments at political stage by considering and debating on a draft resolution under the title of Important Political Developments in Asia with a view to enhancing the relevance of APA resolutions to current affairs.

³ Resolution 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); Resolution on 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).

In consideration of the concerns and anxieties expressed so far by the APA Member Parliaments which have been reflected in the APA Resolutions, the following subjects seem worthy and suitable for consideration by this Standing Committee: the continued instability and war in Syria and Iraq and the atrocities committed by terrorist groups and the growing need to take decisive actions against them; the increasing need for positive interaction and constructive dialogue among Asian states and nations in order to foster regional peace and security and to avoid exacerbation of political tensions; support for inter-parliamentary initiatives aiming at promoting friendly ambiance among Asian states; the worrying and grave situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and defiant stance by Israel vis-a-vis the rights of Palestinian people as supported by the United Nations and international law;

Terrorism by ISIS and Atrocities by Israel

Terrorism and violent extremism continue to pose serious threats to peace, security, and prosperity not only in Asia but also in other parts of the world affecting innocent people and inflicting pain and suffering on our nations and states the like. In its resolutions pertaining to terrorism and violent extremism in Iraq and Syria as well as on the Palestinian issue, the APA has stressed its commitment to contribute to the promotion of peace and security at regional and global levels on the basis of justice and the rule of law and expressed deep concerns over the continuing occupation of the Palestinian territories. Given the importance continuously attached to these issues by the APA, it seems appropriate to keep the item on the agenda and keep the APA abreast of the developments on the ground.

The Initiative of Asian Parliament

The 8th APA Plenary decided that the Special Committee on the Creation of Asian Parliament shall function under the auspices of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs and convene wherever the committee holds its meetings. This is a heavy task which requires collective engagement and collaboration of all delegates participating in this meeting. The APA Secretariat has produced a substantive report on this subject in 2013 entitled *Foundations of an Asian Parliament* in which both potentials and challenges were discussed. The report has been presented to all the APA Member Parliaments for consideration, assessment, and comments. I have to report to this Standing Committee that no reply has been received so far in this regard.

Public Awareness about the APA

It seems appropriate to reiterate once again the basic need for the APA to reach out to the public and media for disseminating further information about its aims and objectives throughout Asia and beyond. In this context, the promotion and commemoration of November Fourteenth of each year as the APA Day by all Member Parliaments is of particular importance. 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. In this context APA Member

Parliaments must utilize various ways and means available to them to plan for certain public activities particularly during 14 November of each year as the APA Day.

APA Troika-Plus Meetings

Troika-Plus mechanism is an efficient institutional instrument at the disposal of the APA for responding to emergency situations and addressing important issues of concern to the organization. Over the past year, the APA did not utilize this institutional mechanism for addressing any current development in Asia. The APA, as a capable inter-parliamentary organization is expected to play an active role in parliamentary diplomacy offering its help for mediation and reconciliation throughout Asia. This Standing Committee is expected to suggest ideas and proposals for revitalizing the Troika-Plus mechanism in addressing the most pressing political challenges and concerns across Asia in the coming year.

Mr. Chairman

Distinguished Delegates

The great potentials of the APA for the betterment and improvement of Asia are yet to be discovered and realized. The APA is increasingly expected to assume a more vivid stance in influencing the course of events in Asia in line with its goals and aspirations which include peace, prosperity and development for all people and further integration in Asia.

We need to increase effectiveness and relevance of the APA activities to current developments and priorities of our region. All Member Parliaments are thus required to undertake their fair share of activity and further contribution to the work of the Organization. Such determination would have to be translated into action and function.

The principal vehicle through which the APA pursues its goals and objectives is its resolutions. By adopting resolutions, on the basis of unanimity and consensus, the APA sets priorities for further convergence among Asian nations. Through its resolutions, the APA does exert certain influence on the process of policy-making in Asia. The significant function of the APA Standing Committees stems from their critical role in identifying priority subject matters, and drafting pertinent resolutions.

Bahrain

مجلس النواب

البحرين
House of Representatives of Bahrain
Ministry of Research and Information

كلمة

النائب/عباس عيسى الماضي
رئيس وفد الشعب البرلمانية

أمام

اجتماع اللجنة النوعية الدائمة المعنية بالشؤون السياسية في
الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية
في خلال الفترة من (١-٢ يونيو ٢٠١٦م)
عمان - المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية

٢٩ مايو ٢٠١٦م

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الحمد لله، والصلاة والسلام على سيدنا محمد، وعلى آله وصحبه وسلم أجمعين.

معالي الرئيس،،

أصحاب السعادة رؤساء وأعضاء الوفود الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية،،

السيدات والسادة الحضور،،

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته، وبعد،،،

عزيراً وشاكراً
يطيب لي في البداية أن أقدم بحالص الشكر والتقدير إلى الملكة الأردنية الهاشمية بقيادة شعبها وإلى رئيس وأعضاء مجلس الأعيان الأردني على كرم الضيافة وحسن الاستقبال، كما أود الترحيب بالأخوة والأخوات المشاركين في اجتماع اللجنة النوعية الدائمة المعنية بالشؤون السياسية، شاكرين لرئيس مجلس الأعيان الأردني بالملكة الأردنية الهاشمية واللجنة المنظمة للاجتماع حسن التنظيم والمتابعة مع الوفود البرلمانية، والشكر موصول إلى الأمين العام للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية وجميع العاملين بالأمانة العامة للجمعية على جهودهم المقدرة في التنظيم والمتابعة والإعداد الجيد لأعمال هذا الاجتماع، وثمنياً ما بذلنا من جهدنا لتحقيق الأهداف المرجوة منه في تعزيز التعاون الآسيوي.

معالي الرئيس،،

أصحاب السعادة،،،

السيدات والسادة،،،

بعد التقارب الجغرافي عاملاً حقيقياً للتكامل الإقليمي، كما أن للروابط التاريخية والثقافية والاقتصادية والسياسية والأمنية تأثيراتها الخاصة والتميزية في تشكيل التكامل الإقليمي المجدي ضمن المحيط العالمي. فالقارة الآسيوية تمتلك إمكانات جغرافية واقتصادية وبشرية هائلة سوف تحقق لنا كدول وشعوب آسيوية تملأ بارزاً لا يستهان به على الصعيد الدولي إذا ما قمنا بتوظيفها واستغلالها الاستغلال الأمثل.

وكما تعلقون جميعاً فإن التكامل الآسيوي مراحل ومستويات، ويبدأ العمل من توحيد المواقف ووجهات النظر على الصعيد القضاة الداخلية للدول الأعضاء، ودعماً لمواجهة المشاكل الداخلية التي تعوق نموها وتطورها وتفاعلها مع الوضع الخارجي، فمواجهة هذه القضايا الإقليمية وتوحيد المواقف ووجهات النظر على الصعيد الإقليمي سيصل بنا إلى توحيد المواقف نحو القضايا الدولية.

معالي الرئيس،،،

أصحاب السعادة،،،

السيدات والسادة،،،

بما لاشك فيه أن الأمة العربية والقارة الآسيوية تواجهان اليوم منعطفاً تاريخياً وتحديات داخلية وخارجية تهدد أمنها واستقرارها ونهضتها. وأن هذه التحديات جميعها تنصوي تحت مظلة الفقر والجوع والمرح والبطالة والعنف والجريمة، والصراع الاجتماعي والحراك السياسي والمخاطر البيئية وغيرها من العوامل.

إن من أخطر التحديات التي تواجهنا هي ظاهرة الإرهاب وانتشار الجماعات الإرهابية، واتخاذ أراضي دولنا العربية والآسيوية منها مقرات لها لنشر فسادها وخطرها وإجرامها، والعمل على زعزعة أمننا واستقرارنا حيث أنها تهدف إلى المساس بتقرير وحدتنا، وتسعى إلى عزل شعوبنا عن المجتمع الدولي، عن طريق بث الفتنة الطائفية وتشويه قيم ديننا الإسلامي الحنيف، وللأسف يأتي ذلك بدعم من دول تعتبرها دولاً صديقة وحارة، لكنها سعت بكل جهد ممكن إلى دعم تلك الجماعات، وتلك الممارسات التي تعارض مع مبادئ حسن الجوار والقوانين والأعراف الدولية وميثاق الأمم المتحدة، والتي باتت مؤثرة حتى على إجماعنا في مواجهتها وردها، بما يتطلب منا جميعاً العمل بجد وحزم للحفاظ على وحدتنا وما يربطنا من أهداف ومصير مشترك.

معالي الرئيس،،،

أصحاب السعادة،،،

السيدات والسادة،،،

أن المنطقة العربية والآسيوية تروان بتحويلات سياسية مهمة، ومرحلة عدم استقرار سياسي وأمني، وصراعات داخلية في بعض الدول ما هي إلا ترجمة واضحة للتدخلات الخارجية والمحاولات المتواصلة لزراعة استقرار وأمن هذه الدول تحت غطاء التغيير والتحرر ونشر مبادئ الديمقراطية.

كما أن القلق يسيرة بشأن تدهور الوضع الإنساني في دول الجوار ومشكلة الهجرة واللاجئين في بعض البلدان كسوريا، والعراق وليبيا وأفغانستان وفلسطين وغيرها من الدول والظروف الصعبة التي يعانيها اللاجئون في دول الجوار، على أمل إيجاد حل ملائم ودائم لوقف دوامة القتال والصراع لعود الحياة الطبيعية إلى مجراها، متطلعين إلى أن نرى جميع هذه الدول آمنة مزدهرة وقادرة على حل جميع مشاكلها وإعادة أي تدخل خارجي في شؤونها، مع ممارسة دورها والحفاظ على هويتها الجامعة لمختلف الأعراق والأديان والثقافات.

ومن هنا نود التوقف لتسليط الضوء، بالإشادة بالجهود الإنسانية والإنغاثة التي تبذلها المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية في المنطقة، خاصة قيامها باستقبال أعداد هائلة من تدفقات اللاجئين، والخدمات الإنسانية التي تقدمها لهم حيث أن المملكة الأردنية تستقبل على أراضيها ما يزيد عن 3 ملايين لاجئ منهم 1.5 مليون سوري، وأكثر من مليون لاجئ فلسطيني مضى على لجوئهم أكثر من 50 عاماً بالإضافة إلى الدور الفاعل والهام للمملكة الأردنية عربياً وإقليمياً، والنقل الاستراتيجي الذي تشكله للأمة العربية والآسيوية، ومبادرتها المستمرة لتكون ضمن أي تحالف عربي أو إسلامي، الأمر الذي يصب في مصلحة هذه الدول وصد الهجمات التي تعرض لها، كما لا يسعنا أن نغفل عن الإشادة بالأجهزة الأمنية الأردنية، وقيامها مؤخراً باعتقال خلية إرهابية كانت تحتخط لتنفيذ عمليات تهدد أمن واستقرار الأردن، والتأكيد على دعمها المستمر لمواجهة الإرهاب بكافة أشكاله وصوره.

معالي الرئيس،،

أصحاب السعادة،،

السيدات والسادة،،

لقد أدركت مملكة البحرين ومنذ بدء مشروعها الاصلاحى مطلع الألفية الواحدة والعشرين أهمية العمل الديمقراطي ومواجهة تحدياته وتعزيز مبادئ حقوق الانسان، ولا يخفى على أحد الظروف والأحداث المؤسسة التي مررنا بها خلال الفترة المنصرمة، جراء التدخلات الأجنبية في الشأن المحلي والسياسات الداخلية،

وبمحاولة بث الفتنة وشق الصف بين أبناء الوطن الواحد، وقيام بعض المنظمات الحقوقية بقياس الأوضاع التي تمر بها البحرين من منظور واحد وسياسة العين الواحدة. وكذلك تسييس قضايا حقوق الإنسان في البحرين بما يجند أجنداث من يرددون تشويه صورة الوضع الحقيقي للمملكة. إلا أن سياسة مملكة البحرين تستند على الحوار على اعتباره العنصر الأساسي والطريق الأمثل لمعالجة الأزمات، بالإضافة إلى القيام بمجموعة من الخطوات غير المسبوقة والتي كان من أهمها تشكيل اللجنة الوطنية المستقلة لتقصي الحقائق للتحقيق في الأحداث التي جرت خلال عام ٢٠١١. حيث تم الإعلان مؤخراً عن تحقيق أهداف توصيات هذه اللجنة.

كما أن العمل على استباب الأمن ومواجهة الإرهاب والتطرف ومواجهة كل ما يزعزع أمن واستقرار المملكة، يشكل قضية هامة ومحورية توليها مملكة البحرين جل اهتمامها ورعايتها، وبعد السابع عشر من شهر ديسمبر يوماً للاحتفاء بـ «شهداء الوطن تزامناً مع يوم الجلوس النينون وهي مبادرة سامية تجسد الإيمان والتقدير للمواطن البحريني المخلص في أداء واجبه الوطني في جميع المجالات، و تأتي دليلاً ناصعاً على الوفاء لأصحاب المواقف النبيلة من رجال الأمن البواسل الذين ضحوا بدمائهم وأرواحهم من أجل البحرين وشعبها.

وتلعب السلطة التشريعية دوراً هاماً في العمل على سن التشريعات والقوانين والأنظمة التي من شأنها مكافحة الإرهاب وتعزيز الوحدة الوطنية والترابط المجتمعي المبني على التعايش وإعلاء أسس ومبادئ المواطنة التي تتناغم مع المواثيق الدولية لحقوق الإنسان والعدالة الاجتماعية وحق العمل والحياة واحترام الحرية والكرامة الإنسانية.

معالي الرئيس،،،

السيدات والسادة،،،

ولكي نتجاوز دولنا هذا المأزق الحضاري والانساني، فإنه يجب علينا بذل أقصى الجهود لمواجهة التطرف ومعالجة جذوره الفكرية والاجتماعية بموازاة مع الإجراءات الأمنية، وإعادة بناء العلاقات بين هذه الدول وتشكيل تحالفات أوسع نطاقاً، فعلياً أن نبدأ بالسلام والأمن والعلاقات الودية والتعاون البناء بين الأمم والشعوب، ولن يتأتى تحقيق الأمن والاستقرار في المنطقة والعالم الا بحل عادل وشامل للقضية المحورية للامة العربية والاسيوية والعالم وهي القضية الفلسطينية، فوجب علينا العمل على تحقيق العدالة والكرامة الانسانية عبر الزام الكيان الاسرائيلي بكافة الالتزامات والقرارات الدولية والتي اقرتها الامم المتحدة اضافة الى المبادرة العربية لعام ٢٠٠٢، فلا يمكن

تقول باستمرار الوضع اللا إنساني والمخز في القضية الفلسطينية رغم التعهدات الدولية ووقف هذه الانتهاكات الاسرائيلية المستمرة من الاعتداء على المواطنين الفلسطينيين والاستيطان وتهجير الفلسطينيين من اراضيهم ورفض عوة اللاجئين ورفض ترسيم الحدود، إضافة الى الاوضاع اللا انسانية في سوريا والعراق ويورما، ومن واقع دورنا كبرلمانيين نطلب علينا الأمر التسيق وتحقيق التقارب في الرؤى بين كافة الدول الاسيوية عبر استمرار اجتماعات الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية لتشكل منصة لتبادل الآراء والأفكار التي تحقق التكامل الآسيوي وتسهم في توحيد المواقف وصياغة القرارات المشتركة نحو القضايا الصعبة التي تواجه شعوبنا ودولنا وكياننا الآسيوي.

وفي الختام، نتمنى أن تحقق اجتماعات الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية النجاح المرجو من انعقادها بجهودكم واسهاماتكم وحرصكم على خير ومصصلحة العمل البرلماني ما يعزز الآمال ويسهم في تحقيق تطلعات الشعوب الآسيوية نحو التطور والنمو على الصعيدين الإقليمي والدولي.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Indonesia



Asian Parliamentary Assembly
Standing Committee on Political Affairs, Amman, Jordan

STATEMENT BY HEAD OF INDONESIAN DELEGATION

Hon. Mr. Syaifulah Tamliha

(Vice Chairperson of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of the Indonesian House of Representatives)

*Your Excellencies, Head of Delegates,
Honourable Delegates of Asian Parliamentary Assembly,
Distinguished Guests,*

Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.
May the peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be upon you.

I am delighted and honoured to be here on this important meeting, and I look forward to working with prominent political figures of Asian countries in this Standing Committee of Political Affairs of Asian Parliamentary Assembly held in the charming city of Amman.

Distinguished Delegates,

Peace and stability are the fundamentals for development. They are the essential enabler of economic growth. Without peace and stability, we will not be able to prosper. In this interconnected world, the rapid change of global political and economic landscape has contributed to instability. Irresponsible acts of terror continue to threaten global peace and stability.

Responding to the recent global incidents, let me share with you some ideas which resonate with Indonesia's own narrative as a democracy.

As legislators, we represent their shared aspirations: the desire to live peacefully and prosperous, as well as the freedom to maximize their prospective potentials as individuals and as citizens of our countries.



As we all believe, democracy is peaceful. It listens to all voices, interests, and aspirations. Democracy guarantees well-considered decisions. Democracy is stable and effective. Not only for developing political capacity in the region, it is also effective in strengthening people-to-people interaction as the foundation towards an integrated Asia. I believe that democratic values shall address the global challenges of terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism.

Distinguished Delegates,

In order to face the challenges brought by globalization and global political challenges, regional friendship and cooperation should be nurtured. To reach the ideal, all stakeholders should be involved. It is therefore, very timely to discuss and support further interaction between Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) and Asian governments. By ensuring the accommodation of parliamentary perspective in the decision making process made by governments, we have fulfilled our obligation in delivering the interests of the people. It is indeed, the essence of democracy.

Distinguished members of APA,

To conclude, I would like to convey my appreciation to the Parliament of Jordan for the warm welcome and hospitality that have been extended to the Indonesian delegates. We are delighted to provide our contribution for the success of your hosting of APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs.

*Thank you.
Wassalamu'alaikum Wr.Wb.*

Thailand

Speech

Delivered by Hon. ADM. Amorntep NABANGCHANG
Leader of the Thai Delegation to the Asian Parliamentary
Assembly

at the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs

1st - 2nd June, 2016

Sheraton Hotel

Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Mr. Chairman,

My dear colleagues,

First of all, I would like to thank Mr. Chairman and the Senate of Jordan for hosting this meeting and give me a chance to see you, all good friends, again. As I mentioned in our meeting in Cambodia last December, one important key to success in living peacefully together is friendship. This key must be held by everyone. You can not solve any problems, political problems, social problems, or

environmental problems or any other problems without this key. As you may know that Thailand is in the transitional period. Others may look at us and believe that our situation is strange, something that is not according to international norms for democracy. I wish to seek understanding among dear good friends that each country has its own culture. We eat rice every day but sometimes we eat bread. You may eat bread everyday and sometimes you may eat hamburger. But nobody can force us eat hamburger everyday because we do not like it and because we like to eat rice . This implies that Democracy itself may come in different forms. Democracy in my country maybe in our form. It may not be the same as democracy in your country. The most important thing is the goal to set up a good living standard for the people, respecting other countries, cultures and internal problems. Every time we faced any difficulties, as good friends, we always try to have a good dialogue and try to solve the problems together. Parliamentarians have no direct involvement in management like the government but we

can play an important role to propose to them what additional actions should be done apart from what they are doing. This is not to interfere with their responsibilities but we try to help . I am sure that parliamentarians in each country try to help their executives as well as trying hard to construct a peaceful Asian, to construct a very fruitful and good living standard for people. That is why we are here to see each other at least four or five times in a year to try solve problems together, to try to create something that are tangible that we can use and go back and tell our governments what the colleagues in APA member nations, have agreed upon . Let's go forward together. I begged you last time in Cambodia not to leave us behind, because Thailand is good friend of everyone. We try at least to be good friend in our capacity, in our full capacity. Our policy is to be friend with all other good friends and all nations. We may condemn acts of terrorism and violence, but our national policy is not to condemn any nations or any organizations. That is still the national policy of my country. So, I assure you that my country will work closely

with all of you in order to solve any parliamentarians problems and to contribute to a greater and more peaceful Asia together with you. I am very pleased to be here, enjoying this time not only to see you all, but as this year is also the 50th year of the bilateral relationship between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. We are looking for some big celebration together but Jordan still has no Embassy in Bangkok. I heard that Jordan will establish embassy in Bangkok very soon which is a very happy information .

I hope everyone will enjoy this meeting as always because we are good friends. Remember we have a key in our hands and we call that key "friendship" .

Thank you very much



Draft Resolution on Building Prosperity in Asia Through Friendship and Cooperation

We the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Recalling relevant APA resolutions on Advancing the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2015/01—11 December 2015); 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);

Relying on deep-rooted ties of history, geography, culture, economy, politics, and civilization which bind Asian nations together;

Recognizing the amity and the friendly relations among the Asian Nations, Parliaments, and States as an indispensable asset which need to be further strengthened by all kinds of inter-governmental; inter-parliamentary as well as inter-national interaction and cooperation; ;

Deploring the current widespread war and violence in West Asia which undermine peace and security and entail massive killing and indiscriminate targeting of innocent people;

Offering in Good Faith all our capacities and capabilities in parliamentary diplomacy for mediation, reconciliation, and supporting dialogue with a view to promoting friendship and cooperation and contribute to peaceful resolution of conflicts in Asia;

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** collective and concentrated efforts by all Asian States whose parliaments are APA Members to provide humanitarian assistance of all kinds to the vulnerable people in war thrown countries;
2. **Call Upon** all Asian States to direct their diplomatic efforts at reducing political tensions and utilize all ways and means within their power to avoid the de-escalate controversies which are likely to undermine principles of friendship and cooperation in Asia;

3. **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.
4. **Decide** that every Member Parliament would motivate public and private media 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;
5. **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,
6. **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
7. **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.



Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia

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

Recalling APA resolutions on Mobilizing Interactions Between APA and Asian Governments (APA/Res/2015/02—11 December 2015); 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 and report thereon to the Secretariat for circulation;
- 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 seek the views of their respective Governments on the subject of Asian Parliament and to contribute to the work of the APA Special Committee on the Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) by providing their 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 inter-parliamentary 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 United Against Terrorism and Violent Extremism

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions on Deploring Acts of Terrorism and Violent Extremism (APA/Res/2015/03—11 December 2015); 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;

Remaining 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;

Deplore the acts of terrorism carried out by Daesh and Jabhat-al-Nosra against innocent people in Iraq and Syria and hold certain Western states who originally sponsored and supported these terrorist organizations accountable for undermining 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;

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. **Call Upon** the international community to stand united in the global fight against terrorism and spare no efforts to combat all terrorist and extremist entities who violate international law;
9. **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.



Draft Resolution on Significant Political Developments in Asia

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. **Support** the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between the Islamic Republic of Iran and E3/EU+3 (Germany, England, France/European Union+ United States, China, Russia) as endorsed by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 and acknowledge the fulfillment of undertakings by the Islamic Republic of Iran under the plan as verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and urge other parties to leave up to their commitments in confirming the complete removal of all sanctions of the United Nations Security Council, as well as multilateral and national sanctions related to Iran's nuclear program and in upholding 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.