



"Troika Plus" Meeting  
of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly

## Islamabad Communiqué

27 May 2014

The Troika Plus meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held in Islamabad, Pakistan and adopted the following communiqué. High level delegations from the APA Member Parliaments included representatives of the parliaments of Afghanistan, Bahrain; Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Pakistan, Syria participated in the Meeting.

The Troika Plus meeting was convened upon the invitation of the APA President, Honorable Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, in order to review the most important developments at global and regional levels and to address the requirements of establishing an Asian Parliament.

### **Text of Islamabad Communiqué**

We, the participants in the meeting of APA Troika-Plus which was held in Islamabad on May 27<sup>th</sup> 2014, declare:

*Aspiring* for a more peaceful; prosperous; and progressive Asia;

*Considering* regional integration a prelude to further peace, prosperity, and development in Asia;

*Cognizant* of the growing significance of Asia at the global level in terms of its economic growth; political weight; cultural and civilizational heritage; natural resources; and strategic importance;

*Assuming* that there is no substantive contradiction or inconsistency between globalization and regionalization and that global and regional trends could be mutually reinforcing;

*Recognizing* the indispensable role of Parliaments of Asian countries in paving the way for growing regional integration;

*Observing* the increasingly important role of Parliaments and parliamentary diplomacy in global, regional, as well as national governance through the exercise of their deliberative, consultative, legislative, and oversight functions;

*Admitting* that parliaments as law-making institutions can immensely contribute to the process of Asian integration through their common legislations beginning from acute common concerns such as smuggling of cultural items; promoting health equity; and climate change and environmental protection in Asia.

*Encouraging* Asian States to build up a collective political will and become more engaged in the processes of regional integration in Asia to foster their common interests;

*Taking Note* of considerable and growing trends of formation and functioning of inter-governmental organizations in Asia including ASEAN, SAARC, ESCAP, ECO, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence in Asia (CICA), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD); and International Conference of Asia Political Parties (ICAPP).

*Promoting* removal of barriers, easing further interaction and cooperation among Asian countries in areas such as science and technology; trade and business; art

and culture; education and research; tourism and investment; human rights particularly the rights of women and children and other fields

Supporting possible joint initiatives by Asian governments and parliaments to combat terrorism and organized crimes; violence and extremism; illicit drug trafficking; human trafficking and money laundering

*Being Aware* that Asian integration is a multi-factor and multi-faceted process which requires prolonged and continuous cooperation based on a common vision, common interests and well-defined missions for all the involved stakeholders;

*Emphasizing* that regional integration in Asia should inevitably be based on global and international principles such as, *inter alia*, adherence to strengthening cooperation and friendly relations among Asian Nations, Asian Parliaments, and Asian States; adherence to justice; respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs of others; good neighborliness; and ensuring further participation by Asian political parties;

*Reiterating* further importance of the principles of peaceful settlement of all disputes; the prohibition of threat or use of force; denouncing violence and extremism; promotion of tolerance and commitment to dialogue with other religions and cultures; respect for human rights and democracy; participation and accountability as well as determination to promote balanced and sustainable development;

**Appreciate** the generous hospitality extended to all participants in Troika-Plus meeting in Islamabad for the promotion and laying the foundations of an Asian Parliament;

**Welcome** the initiative made by Honorable Senator Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, the APA president to hold the Conference of Speakers and Presiding officers of all Asian Parliaments to address requisites of establishing an Asian Parliament

**Determine** to promote the oversight, legislative, deliberative, and consultative functions of parliaments; as well as inter-parliamentary organizations in Asia with

a view to enhancing democratic accountability and greater legitimacy at national, regional, and international levels throughout Asia;

**Decide** to further utilize great potentials of the APA for augmenting interaction and cooperation among its Member Parliaments; and provide guidance for further harmonization of parliamentary practices and possible common legislations on subjects of common interest;

**Decide** to identify priority areas for further convergence and capacity building among Asian Parliaments with a view to increasing APA influence on the processes of law-making and policy-making in Asia.

**Determine** to further promote, publicize, and pursue the implementation of the APA Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia as a framework for convergence and integration in Asia

**Resolve** to take effective measures to engage Asian governments and inter-governmental organizations in further collaboration with Parliaments in Asia with a view to accelerating the processes of regional integration in Asia and in order to prepare a ground for the consideration of the idea of an Asian Parliament with consultative, deliberative, and oversight functions alongside with an Asian inclusive inter-governmental organization.

**Agree** to keep the subject of “recent developments in Asia and ways and means to curb violence, promote dialogue and peace in Asian sub-regions,” as a permanent theme on the agenda items of the APA Troika-Plus meetings in the future;

**Request** Honorable H. M. Hidayat Nur Wahid, MP from Indonesia, to form an open-ended informal working group to prepare a report on enhancing interaction among APA and governments and international organizations in Asia to be submitted to the Troika Plus meeting and Executive Council through the APA Secretariat.

**Request** the APA Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on the background paper prepared by the APA Secretariat entitled “Foundations of An Asian Parliament,” and report thereon to the next Troika-Plus meeting and to the Executive Council for their further consideration.