



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)
Meeting of Standing Committee on Political Affairs
&
Special Committee on Creation of Asian Parliament

Gwadar
29th – 30th October,
2018

Inaugural Ceremony

DRAFT WELCOME SPEECH

By

Mr. AMJED PERVEZ MALIK
SECRETARY SENATE

- **Honourable Acting President and Chairman Senate.**
- **Honourable Speaker National Assembly.**
- **Honourable Secretaries-General of APA and IPU.**
- **Honourable Speaker**
- **Elected Members and official delegates of APA Parliaments, Observer delegations and Special Invitees.**
- **Distinguished Guests.**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Assalam-o-Alaikum:-

Greetings and a Very Good Morning!

On behalf of the Secretariat of Pakistan Senate, I am privileged to extend a very warm welcome to our guests, friends and partners from APA Member countries and other Parliamentary Organisations and Regions at this inaugural ceremony of the APA meetings.

I am, personally and institutionally, obliged to leaders and friends who have come and added value, meaning and purpose to our endeavours in the meetings at the port city of Gwadar.

I am thankful to the Speaker of Djibouti, Secretary General IPU, and President of Pak-France Friendship Group for attending on the special invite of Chairman Senate.

Inter-parliamentary cooperation and advancement of democracy, peace and prosperity are shared objectives between Pakistan Senate, Asian Parliamentary Assembly and Inter Parliamentary Union.

Excellencies, your generous patronage and guidance can materialize much needed convergence of shared values and pursuit of common goals.

My sincerest appreciation goes to Honourable Chairman Senate, Janab Sadiq Sanjrani sahib for taking the out of box challenging decision and moving such an important international gathering out of comfort zone of capital cities. Holding these meetings in the port city of Gwadar posed quite a few challenges, but it contributes to the concept of regional inclusivity and connectivity as per APA's charter. It is a big leap forward in Senate's bid to reach out to a federating unit as the House of Federation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the democratic journey in Pakistan moves forward promisingly under a new democratic government and a prop-people parliament, the geo-political vicissitudes and fluidity of international relations coupled with domestic and regional security, peace and development imperatives offer both challenges and opportunities.

On the domestic front, inequities and disparities in socio-economic progress have set the developmental clock back for many

areas. On the external front, the complexities of interconnected geopolitical, strategic and bilateral issues are altering the whole contenance of traditional diplomacy approaches.

This scenario has placed the institution of parliament right in the centre of the modern foreign relations chessboard. Parliamentary diplomacy is now a new force to reckon with due to its potential in rallying international gatherings in the country even in times of diplomatic isolation so as to dispel media-hyped myths and misconceptions.

Sentient of these challenges and possible new avenues of change and progress, the political and administrative leadership of the Senate of Pakistan is defining contours of a progressive multifaceted socio-economic development and parliamentary diplomacy paradigm.

The holding of these APA sub-committee meetings here in Gwadar is in continuation of this new domestic and regional policy vision of the Upper House of Pakistan Parliament.

Conceptually speaking, the elected and administrative leadership of Pakistan Senate had three-pronged objectives behind organizing this APA event here in this important port city of Gwadar.

Firstly, to establish and enhance linkages between House of Federation and its federating unit to facilitate governmental efforts of unleashing huge untapped potential of Balochistan and Gwadar. **Secondly**, to bring the emerging economic hub and trade route into national and international limelight. And, **thirdly**, to afford an opportunity to Asia and

other Region's friends and partners to witness first-hand the huge investment and trade potential that Gwadar offers to not only the region but much beyond.

The overarching guiding principle or objective is to introduce harmonious development which means taking along all areas and segments and pursuing development through synergy.

Due to limited resources and manpower of Senate Secretariat, it was a challenge from the organizational as well as logistics points of view. **At the organisational level, the successful holding of this event helped dispel some misperceptions about Senate Secretariat's capabilities and teamwork. It also helped drive home the importance of synergizing Local, Provincial and National efforts horizontally and vertically in tiding over national challenges.**

Holding of this international event in a befitting manner, despite huge challenges, became possible only due to national synergy and collaboration between Parliament, Federal and Provincial governments as well as Security and Defence Institutions of the country.

I like to extend our gratitude to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for giving a national and state ownership to these APA engagements by approving VVIP / State Guest status to the delegates, which made possible comprehensive security arrangements.

We are also indebted to the Provincial Governments of Sindh and Balochistan especially Chief Secretary Balochistan, besides local Senators, and MPs. Local Administration, law-enforcement agencies, Army, Air

Force, and especially the Navy and the Southern Command, for their support and cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Standing at this esteemed forum here in Gwadar, is like a dream come true. During my long administrative career with civil service and parliamentary service, I have seen the parliamentary evolution vis-à-vis executive's developmental efforts over decades.

All along, I had envisioned a time when the institution of Parliament would be able to win the hearts and minds of the people by becoming a proactive socio-economic developmental catalyst on ground for the under privileged. And this would not mean displacing or duplicating the role of Local or Provincial Governments mandated to do so, but creating an enabling environment and removing barriers and hurdles rooted in misperceptions or lack of information and communication.

With this APA event being held in Gwadar, Pakistan Senate has taken the first stride towards adding a new dimension of facilitating regional and local development by showcasing to the world the peaceful ground situation as well as huge untapped potential of the port city.

For what I am particularly happy is that the efforts by Senate leadership compelled the concerned federal department to greatly increase Gwadar's internet bandwidth from previously limited internet services. Chairman Senate will also soon inaugurate the Gwadar fiber optic line. Whether it is alternate sources of power or overhauling of roads and

infrastructure, any such advancement is a source of pride for me. However, these initiatives are but a small step towards a sustainable and long-term progress in the region.

There is another dream, of our great Asian continent regaining its lost glory. Throughout ages, Asia has been a cradle of wisdom and knowledge. Our diverse history, our unique cultural variations, our rich literature, art and architecture have been a cause of envy and praise for the whole world. This glory was lost for some of our own acts of omission and commission besides the colonial forces and approaches with different terminologies and forms.

Although, the 21st Century is again witnessing the rise of the Asian continent in international affairs; yet we have a long way to go in bridging developmental gaps and wide-ranging socio-economic inequities and disparities.

Establishing an Asian Parliament may appear a goal in distant future, but the reality is that gradual integration on socio-economic and sustainable development front is no longer a choice. It is more of a compulsion considering our extraordinary circumstances and evolving peace and development paradigms.

This **ladies and gentleman** is the rationale or my understanding of the theme of this session “Parliamentary Leadership for regional Peace and Development”.

With these words, I again welcome all our distinguished guests.

I wish you a comfortable stay with assurances that the Pakistan Senate Secretariat will be here for your kind assistance and convenience so as to enable you to make the most out of these meetings.

Thank You!

**Standing Committee on Political Affairs and Meeting of SCCAP
29 OCTOBER 2018, Gwadar, Pakistan**

Honorable the Acting President of Pakistan and The Chairman of Senate
Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great privilege for me to participate on behalf of APA President in the inaugural session of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs and the meeting of Special Committee for Creation of Asian Parliament of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. Allow me to begin my address by thanking our Pakistani hosts for their initiative and their warm hospitality.

The venue of our meeting is significant, as Gwadar is an important and promising industrial hub.

Turkey as APA President is very enthusiastic to support and accommodate every meeting including the Political Standing Committee.

We expect to hold the Plenary very soon in Istanbul.

From now we welcome your participation and your documents and resolutions.

We participate in this august meeting very actively and we respect the chairman of Senate for holding this meeting.

Today, October 29, marks the 95th anniversary of the foundation of our latest state, the Republic of Turkey proclaimed under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

The Turkish nation, which has never given in to bondages and dictations, crowned the war of liberation that it launched against the invaders targeting its liberation.

After this glorious victory, on 29 October 1923, we established the Republic of Turkey on the principle of “sovereignty belongs unconditionally to the nation” and with the aim of raising our nation above the level of contemporary civilizations.

Also, I would like to inform you to we are having an amazing celebration ceremony of our National Day in Istanbul today in the inauguration of our new airport which is the 7th biggest airport of the world.

We are all aware that the behavioural norms of the 20th century are now out of date. Our world in general, and Asia in particular, face numerous new risks and threats which often have global dimensions like never before but Many countries have achieved significant advances in development, production and prosperity.

However, this prosperity has not been shared equitably. Our world and Asia have not become safer. A new and functioning international order based on better cooperative relations in tackling global issues is yet to be attained.

Turkey has close parliamentary contacts with other countries as we consider the democratically elected parliaments as the principal legitimate bodies representing the people's will.

Our National Assembly constituted interparliamentary friendship groups with many countries and participates actively in the work of international and regional parliamentary unions and we are one of the principal countries contributing to the work of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

In order to explore the optimum way to address the creation of an Asian Parliament, we believe that priority should be given to improving the effectiveness of the APA, its working mechanisms and implementing its decisions more efficiently.

As being the representatives of our nations, we are carrying a special responsibility for the preservation, continuation and enhancement of constructive, peaceful and forward looking relationship among our nations and cultures. Confrontation is the easy option, while conciliation is the difficult one. I firmly believe that we will accomplish the difficult option through our genuine and determined efforts.

Thank you very much for your attention.



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Meetings of Standing Committee on Political
Affairs
& Special Committee on Creation of Asian
Parliament

GWADAR
29 – 30 October, 2018

Inaugural Ceremony

Remarks

by

Senator Mushahid Ullah
Parliamentary Leader, Senate

- **Honourable Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Acting President and Chairman Senate.**
- **Honourable Mr. Shibli Faraz, Leader of the House in the Senate;**
- **Honourable Justice (R) Amanullah Khan Yasinzai, Governor Balochistan;**
- **Honourable Secretaries-General of APA and IPU**
- **Representatives of APA Member Parliaments and Observer Delegations.**
- **Distinguished Guests.**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Greetings and a Very Good Morning!

On behalf of Pakistan Senate, I extend a very warm welcome to our APA friends and colleagues at this inaugural ceremony.

I am certain that your invaluable participation in these meetings will yield positive outcomes in line with the APA ideology.

I take this opportunity to congratulate **Honourable Sadiq Sanjrani, the Chairman Senate**, for his APA Vice-Presidency. He is an able leader who will surely play a significant role in upholding the APA vision.

I am also thankful to the Baloch leadership in particular, for their utmost hospitality towards our distinguished guests.

Gwadar is surely turning into a gateway to prosperity in the region, and our gathering here only complements our future aspirations of regional integration, and particular inclusivity of developing regions.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

To achieve our objectives, cooperation and comprehensive integration on socio-economic, security, and sustainable development front is no longer a choice, but a compulsion.

We must also work towards strengthening dialogues, coordination and synergies with a view to removing any hurdles to our progress related ambitions.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am confident that our discussions during the course of these two days will help evolve suitable ideas and proposals towards a more realistic and conducive course of action.

With these words, I again wish all our distinguished guests the best of luck.

Let us all work together to achieve all that we aspire from this august forum. **Thank You!**



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Meetings of Standing Committee on Political
Affairs
& Special Committee on Creation of Asian
Parliament

GWADAR
29 – 30 October, 2018

Inaugural Ceremony

Remarks

by

Mr. Syed Shibli Faraz
Leader of the House, Senate

- **Honourable Chairman Senate.**
- **Honourable Governor Balochistan.**
- **Honourable Secretaries-General of APA and IPU.**
- **Distinguished Representatives of APA Member Parliaments.**
- **Dignitaries and Friends.**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to propose a vote of thanks on behalf of Pakistan Parliament and people to all our distinguished guests and participants here in Gwadar.

I commend the Honourable Chairman Senate and APA Vice-President for holding these meetings in Gwadar, thereby bringing this important hub of regional connectivity into Asian limelight.

As Leader of the House in Senate and also a representative of the ruling party, I would like to emphasize that the present government puts premium on human development and prosperity in underdeveloped provinces and areas.

Balochistan and Gwadar are on our top priority. This is due to the fact that socio-economic and infrastructural developed here has a direct and positive bearing on the prosperity of not just Pakistan but the whole region.

Therefore, to have Asia's visionary leaders here in Gwadar, united in purpose to change the fate of the teeming millions, to improve our present for a better future, is a sight to behold and a step towards a common destination.

I convey our sincere thanks to representatives of APA Member and Observer countries.

Excellencies, we are deeply appreciative for your invaluable participation in these important APA sub-forum meetings. I have no doubt that cooperation holds the key to fulfilling expectations and aspirations that people of Asia associate with parliamentary democracy.

I also convey special commendation to **Honourbale Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Senate**, for having assumed the prestigious portfolio of APA Vice-President and Chair of Standing Committee on Political Affairs and SCCAP.

Mr. Chairman, I am confident that under your able stewardship, these two committees would show

more progress in realizing their respective mandates, especially that of forming a grand Asian Parliament.

And last but not the least, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment by Secretary Senate Mr. Amjed Pervez Malik and his officers and staff as this is instrumental to the successful hosting of this event.

Once again, **Ladies and Gentlemen**, please accept our heartfelt welcome with abiding sentiments of goodwill. May you have a comfortable stay and a mutually rewarding experience.

Thank you!



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Meetings of Standing Committee on Political
Affairs
& Special Committee on Creation of Asian
Parliament

GWADAR
29 – 30 October, 2018

Inaugural Ceremony

Remarks

by

Justice (R) Amanullah Khan Yasinzai,

Governor Balochistan



- **Honourable Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Acting President and Chairman Senate,**
- **Honourable Secretaries-General of APA and IPU.**
- **Honourable Members of Parliaments from Asian countries.**
- **Distinguished Guests.**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Assalam-o-Alaikum!

With sincerest sentiments of goodwill and friendship, I welcome you all to Gwadar, Balochistan.

On behalf of Balochistan, I extend our deepest appreciation to the **Honourable Chairman Senate and the Honourable Speaker National Assembly** for granting Balochistan the opportunity to host such distinguished members of Parliaments from all around Asia.

Gwadar in Balochistan defines the triumph of developmental cooperation between Pakistan and China with positive regional

implications. It is from here that we must build upon the notions of cooperation, and propel its effects deeper into the Asian region. I am confident that this very port city will play a critical role in the APA's pursuit of Asian prosperity in the future.

Your presence here is an expression of confidence in Pakistan and this beautiful doorway to future progress.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our great continent that is home to more than half of the planet's population is undergoing an extraordinary transformation, especially on geo-political, security and developmental fronts.

Our continent on the whole is playing an increasingly important role in the global economy, international security, and the collective efforts to advance human development.

Asia's rise on the world stage depends on economic, geo-political, and sociocultural pillars that will be crucial in reaching the common goal of a peaceful, prosperous and stable region.

It is here that I commend the Senate of Pakistan's efforts as the House of Federation, to guard the rights of its federating units. This grand intra-continental meeting here in a developing port city of Gwadar thus grants immense significance to the all-inclusive development agenda.

I firmly believe that building trust and understanding based on mutual respect must be our priority being indispensable to regional integration. At the same time, we must also crush any prevailing stereotypes and discrimination based on geography, religion or creed, and encourage interfaith harmony and dialogue.

Forming a grand joint parliament of Asia offers best guarantee to address the common challenges being faced by Asian nations and build a sound and bright future for our peoples.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to play a significant role, especially in promoting the ideals of peace and prosperity in the region, and to help put Asia on global centre-stage.

With a view to maximizing our economic partnership, underdeveloped areas demand a special attention of Asian leadership so

as to lift them out of poverty, illiteracy and extremist tendencies, and help them moved forward on the road to prosperity.

I am confident that our endeavours will prove to be successful in achieving all objectives on our present agenda, leading to further deepening of cooperation among Asian nations on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

Thank You!



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Meetings of Standing Committee on Political
Affairs
& Special Committee on Creation of Asian
Parliament

GWADAR
29 – 30 October, 2018

Inaugural Ceremony

Keynote Address

by

Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani

Acting President / Chairman Senate



- **Honourable Mr. Shibli Faraz, Leader of the House in the Senate.**
- **Honourable Justice (R) Amanullah Khan Yasinzai, Governor Balochistan.**
- **Honourable Secretaries-General of APA and IPU.**
- **Distinguished Members of Parliament from 23 countries.**
- **Excellencies, Guests.**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Assalam-o-Alaikum!

It is indeed a privilege to welcome and address leaders, legislators and public representatives from across the Asian continent at this ceremony arranged in conjunction with the Meeting of Special Committee on Creation of Asian Parliament and APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs.

I am also pleased to have learnt that this esteemed forum of Asian parliamentarians has been making tremendous progress in forging

regional partnerships towards achieving the shared ideals of peace, democracy, stability and development.

However, for me, the most important achievement of APA is entrenchment of parliamentary cooperation. This is reflective of parliamentary supremacy prevalent in Pakistan. This is because parliament is the best forum for dispute resolution, creating political consensus, and promoting progress.

I am confident that this esteemed forum of seasoned parliamentarians and visionary leaders from all over Asia will be able to guide us as to what novel approaches can be adopted and initiatives taken to further strengthen parliamentary democracy and pluralistic politics.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Early this year, Pakistan has undergone a remarkable political transition following general elections that not only strengthened democratic process and parliamentary democracy, but also the deep democratic ethos of Pakistani society.

Strengthening federation by improving federal-provincial developmental synergy is a priority area for us, and Balochistan is a

special focus in this regard. This province, despite its immense wealth of minerals resources and economic potential to change the destiny of not just Pakistan but the whole region, has struggled in terms of development in past.

In this regard, socio-economic, human and commerce development as well as trade activities are being given priority in the province so as to alleviate poverty and deprivation there, and also making it the mainstay of Pakistan's economic trajectory.

I am also elated that this APA meeting has been arranged in Gwadar, an important port city located at the cross junction of international shipping and oil trade routes. We aim at further development of Gwadar as a hub of economic prosperity and regional connectivity. I like to commend the leadership role being played the Parliament, especially Senate, to this effect.

With a 60 per cent population comprising youth, large and growing middle class and a consumer market that is over 200 million strong, Pakistan will soon be a bridge connecting markets in the Middle East, Africa and Europe with convincing reduction in cost and time.

I, therefore, take this opportunity to wholeheartedly welcome all countries across APA spectrum and elsewhere in Asia to join Pakistan and be partners in our endeavor to see an economically, socially and culturally integrated Asia ready to lead the world, as also aspired and envisioned by the APA charter.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are aiming at equitable development, equality, inclusivity, improved and accessible health and educational facilities, non-discrimination towards minorities, women and disadvantaged, good governance and tolerance.

At the regional and global level, we seek friendly relations with all, especially our neighbours.

We believe that peaceful settlement of longstanding disputes together with developmental cooperation will be vital towards regional development by helping each other realize our true economic potential with mutually beneficial outcomes.

It is an incontrovertible reality that as we find ways to strengthen mutual cooperation, we would be experiencing shared prosperity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Coming to the theme of this meeting **“Parliamentary Leadership in Promoting Peace and Development”**, all me to say that today, the APA Member states are facing somewhat common challenges and opportunities on key fronts of peace, security, development, environment, energy, trade, health and education, basic amenities, human rights, and regional conflicts.

Extremism, food insecurity, water shortage and pollution are issues that are not endemic to one particular state, carrying much wider implications for the whole region.

In particular, the adverse socio-economic impacts of terrorism can hardly be overemphasized. Pakistan being the frontline state in the global war on terror has rendered great sacrifices for both domestic and global peace and stability.

Despite over 70,000 Pakistanis having been either martyred or injured in the war on terror, and our economic losses amounting to \$126.79 billion during last 17 years, our people, our parliament and our armed forces stand united and resolute in defeating terror.

For Asia to fully realize the shared vision of Asian Century and become true economic, cultural and technological leader of the world, we must join hands across all possible avenues like clean energy, sustainable development, science and technology, agriculture, education and culture for mutual dividends.

I believe that we need to create a better understanding and awareness of the guiding principles of the resolutions of the Political Affairs Committee, especially with regard to Good Governance, Rule of Law and Judicial Empowerment to name but a few.

Moreover, the Special Committee on Creation of Asian Parliament is also a praiseworthy endeavor towards addressing intricacies of integration and leveling the ground for a grand parliament that is representative of a unified Asia.

It is indeed a long and step-by-step task, but Pakistan's Parliament, especially, Senate, has the honour of playing a leadership role in defining its vision and taking important steps in this regard.

This is indeed a challenging task, but by no means, and impossible feat, and these meetings constitute an important headway to this end.

I once again like to extend my appreciation to Senate Secretariat for excellent arrangements. By assembling a truly Asian gathering of parliamentarians here in Gwadar, Senate has really played its role as the “House of Federation”.

I was looking forward to preside the meetings of SCCAP and Standing Committee on Political Affairs, however, since I had to assume office of the President of Pakistan, I am nominating Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, Leader of the House in the Senate, to chair the meetings on my behalf.

With these remarks, I hereby declare the meetings open.

Thank You.

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Pakistan Painsdabad.



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Meetings of Standing Committee on Political
Affairs
& Special Committee on Creation of Asian
Parliament

GWADAR
29 – 30 October, 2018

Meeting of Standing Committee on Political Affairs

Remarks

by

Mr. Amjed Pervez Malik
Secretary, Senate

- **Distinguished Delegates,**
- **Guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Assalam-o-Alikum

Before starting the formal and official business of the Standing Committee of APA, the host Parliament with the concurrence of APA HQ had arranged a special presentation that Senate of Pakistan has arranged on the ongoing developmental activities in Gwadar.

The briefing will help to understand the backdrop why we have arranged these APA committee meetings here in Gwadar. Promoting regional inclusivity and socio-economic mainstreaming of peripheral areas of Federating Units is in the current and emerging functions of the Upper House of Pakistan Parliament, the House of Federation.

Moreover, interconnectivity and regional integration is a joint quest for both APA and Pakistan. In this regard, Gwadar carries an enormous significance in furthering our ‘shared prosperity’ agenda a potential economic, trade and energy hub in the region, that will open doors for inter and intra-regional trade among different continents.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The demographical canvas and development of a civilization have always been sketched by pragmatic facets like geography and history. Civilizations have always developed along the waters, which served as trade routes. Changing world economy, Globalization has ushered in the era of 'Borderless Civilization', whereby sea trade has become a major component of modern trade.

Pakistan being a gateway to the strategically important 'Strait Of Hurmoz' is laying a special focus on developing Gwadar Port.

Asia has many landlocked countries for whom availability of viable shortest routes for international trade is of vital importance. Gwadar's location to this end is ideal. It can fulfill the requirement of three strategically important regions, that is, the oil rich Middle East, heavily populated South Asia and Western China, and the economically emerging resource-laden region of Central Asia. It offers virgin areas and fields for investment ranging from construction to oil refineries and wide ranging seminars.

The port is likely to open up new vistas of cooperation and development in the region by providing facilities such as warehousing, transshipment, transit, coastal trade, and commercial and industrial facilities for international export-import trade.

It is in this perspective that this upcoming presentation has been arranged so as to create more awareness among our esteemed Members

about the potential and significance of Gwadar for inter and intra-regional integration which as a result can lead to peace and development, a core objective of APA and its Committees.

With these words, I now invite the GDA representative to take the floor.

Thank You!



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Meetings of Standing Committee on Political
Affairs
& Special Committee on Creation of Asian
Parliament

GWADAR
29 – 30 October, 2018

Meeting of Special Committee on Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP)

Opening Remarks by Vice President or Nominee

Mr. Syed Shibli Faraz

Leader of the House, Senate



- **Honourable Members of Parliaments;**
- **Representatives of APA Secretariat;**
- **Excellencies;**
- **Distinguished Guests;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I would like to extend my appreciation to all the Members for their commitment towards the creation of Asian Parliament. I am hopeful that this committee will catalyse our intentions and actions towards the creation of an Asian Parliament.

There is no doubt that our meetings under the SCCAP always generate positive vibes towards the target of the Asian Parliament. I take this opportunity, however, to urge all our honourable delegates to sensitise their governments back home, and especially to bring their parliaments on board the goal of the Asian Parliament with parliamentary feedback.

Simultaneously, the Senate of Pakistan is working on a detailed proposal on the roadmap for Asian Parliament, building upon an earlier document of APA titled “*Foundation of an Asian Parliament*” which would be presented in the SCCAP Meeting at the 11th Plenary. This study

will help synchronise the committee's approach towards SCCAP's ultimate goal.

Subject to approval of the recommendations by the Plenary, the Senate of Pakistan also proposes that a Speakers Conference of APA Members may be convened to attain a clear parliamentary consensus and approval towards the establishment of Asian Parliament.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

In this backdrop of Gwadar, the doorway to regional cooperation, let us all look beyond any differences and cooperate to find common ground.

With these words, I wish all the respected delegates the best of luck with their efforts and contributions that are to follow in this meeting. And I also hope that the outcome of today's meeting will tangibly catalyse the objectives of SCCAP.

Thank you!

Gwadar Statement

30th October, 2018

The Standing Committee on Political Affairs and Special Committee on Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) met in Gwadar, Pakistan, from 29th – 30th October, 2018. In its journey towards becoming a model port city of the world, this gathering of countries from all over Asia witnessed first-hand and appreciated the potential that Gwadar offers to the region and beyond.

The high-level delegations comprising of parliamentary leaders, senior officials, and diplomats from 23 countries participated in the meeting, including China, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, Sri Lanka, Qatar, Indonesia, Bahrain, Oman, Thailand, Cambodia, Nepal, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Samoa, Lao Peoples Democratic Republic, Timor-Leste, and Bhutan. The opening plenary witnessed participation from the Chair of Pakistan-France Friendship Group, from the French Senate, as well as the Secretary General of the Inter Parliamentary Union, signifying the growing potential and global recognition of the ideals and goals of APA. The attendance was recorded as the highest participation ever in any APA Standing Committee Meeting.

The meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs further strengthened the resolve towards enhanced cooperation on areas of convergence, including strengthening economic, trade, cultural, and political linkages among the countries of the largest continent.

At the same time, the meeting of SCCAP helped guide the APA member nations in taking forward the deliberations on the creation of an Asian Parliament and towards an Asian Century of peace and prosperity. Continued exchanges,

deliberations, and cooperation among APA states would further facilitate attainment of the common goal of sustainable development.

It is critical to highlight the fact that our Asian vision is not just limited to trade, politics, economic markets' integration, and energy, but also carries a much-needed heed to help adapt to climate change and preserve the environment. To mark this historic gathering, our distinguished delegates also lent a hand in our national drive towards tree plantation campaign. This effort received a boost by China's contribution of one million trees for a greener Gwadar.

While we all have our national priorities and goals, we must continue to take our cooperation forward, synergise our resources and efforts, and support each other for the collective development of Asia.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Details of APA delegates

<u>S.No</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Room No.</u>
1.	Ms. Asuman Erdogan, Hod,	Mp	Turkey	105
2.	Ms. Cigdem Erdogan Atabek,	Mp		106
3.	Mr. Vecdi Gundogdu,	Mp		103
4.	Senator Pascal Allizard,	Mp	France	110
5.	Mr. Meikuan An		China	109
6.	Miss. Wu Dan			114
7.	Mr. Galappaththi Arachchige Nihal,	Mp	Sri Lanka	116
8.	Mr. Upali Bandara Wanninayaka Mudiyansele	Staff		118
9.	Mishal Muhammad A.A. Al-Ansari,	Counsel General	Qatar	107
10.	Mr. Maadi H. E Rashid Bin Haamad Al	Mp		124
11.	Mr. Al Nasr H. E Ibrahim Bin Khalifa	Mp		125
12.	Mr. Al Majid Abdul Radha Mahdi	Staff		123
13.	Dr. Chenarani Hajar	Mp-Hod	Iran	126
14.	Dr. Fard Mohammad Naeem Amini	Mp		127
15.	Dr. Babaheidari Ali Kazemi	Mp		128
16.	Mr. Hassani Reza	Staff		129
17.	Ms. Mohammadi Pantea Ranjbar	Staff		130
18.	Engineer. Al-Rawahi Majid Bin Said Bin Salim	Mp	Oman	212
19.	Mr. Yeat. Chhit Kim	MP	Cambodia	215
20.	Mr. Socheat Nguon	Mp		216
21.	Mr. Khlang Oudam	STAFF		214
22.	Mr. Phai Bonbouddhis	STAFF		214
23.	Hon. Nima,	MP-HOD	Bhutan	218
24.	Hon. Tshewang Rinzin	Mp		219
25.	Mr. Jigme Samdrup	Mp		220
26.	Hon. Mr. Pasru Ram Mehgi,	Mp	Nepal	324

27.	Hon. Ms. Mukta Kumari Yadav,	Mp		325
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