**ISLAMABAD DECLARATION**

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), elected representatives of the people of Asia in 41 Member and 17 Observer countries, gathered in Islamabad on 8-10 December, 2013, for the APA Sixth Plenary Conference:

Mindful of the fact that we are meeting at a moment in our history that is witnessing historic transformations, with a decisive shift in the balance of economic, cultural and political power away from the West to the East, as the 21st Century is now generally considered as the 'Asian Century';

Realizing that the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, as the institutional voice of the 'Asian Century', must preserve, protect and promote the interests, aspirations and dreams of the teeming millions of Asians who are now determined that Asian hands must decide Asia's destiny,

Hereby,

1. Resolve to work in unison to promote cooperation and solidarity among Asian nations so that a collective vision and will is demonstrated to combat in a concerted manner the complex challenges that Asia faces in the 'Asian Century';
2. Commit to promote the pivotal role of Parliaments, emerging from inclusive democratic processes that have popular sanction through the ballot box, in realizing the hopes and dreams of their people for resolution of their long-standing problems, foremost among these being poverty alleviation and quest for a better quality of life;
3. Express our faith in building a just and equitable economic order, which provides for sustainable development, with fruits of progress benefiting the marginalized, the deprived, the minorities, women and youth, and all sections of society;
4. Recognize regional economic cooperation as an important pillar of promoting peaceful development and sharing prosperity, underlining the need for trade, commerce, investment, special economic zones, economic corridors, roads, railways and promoting energy cooperation;
5. Encourage collaboration among countries in energy and environment, so that together these result in 'green, clean and civilized development' and climate change and environmental degradation are combated, contained and controlled, thereby mitigating the consequences of the havoc caused in parts of Asia through natural and man-made disasters;
6. Affirm the inalienable right of every country to acquire, develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under IAEA safeguards, including access to civil nuclear technology without discrimination;
7. Express their strong commitment to pursue corruption-free politics and promote accountability in a transparent manner upholding the rule of law, so that credibility of political processes is enhanced among the people, empowering them as stakeholders, by giving priority to providing opportunities for the common man to rise on the basis of merit and hard-work;
8. Reject any form of prejudice, bigotry, bias, racism, xenophobia or Islamophobia, or discrimination on the basis of caste, class, religion, gender or ethnic origin, since these are repugnant to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, also signed this day in 1948, and to all canons of international law and principles of humanity;
9. Express their strong desire to promote dialogue among civilizations as well as strengthen inter-faith harmony and cooperation;
10. Resist all attempts to threaten the use of force or the actual use of force to resolve disputes among nations, believing that all conflicts require resolution through peaceful means including dialogue, bilateral or multilateral negotiations or mediation according to the United Nations Charter;
11. Call upon all parties in the Syrian conflict to agree to a ceasefire and to promote political dialogue in Syria in order to stop bloodshed and restore peace to the country. Syrian people have the sole right to determine their own destiny without outside interference. There is no military solution to this conflict.
12. Recognize the legitimate right to self determination of all people under foreign occupation;
13. Condemn all kinds of foreign occupation, interference in internal affairs and violations of territorial integrity and state sovereignty, be it through drone attacks, spying or telephone tapping, invasion or covert operations, which are not in compliance with the civilized conduct of interstate relations based on the rule of law;
14. Consider foreign occupation, terrorism and extremism as evils. Terrorism and extremism have no religion nor any national boundaries, since these are  enemies of humanity, which need to be condemned universally and combated collectively as these are common threats, and underline the need to remove their root causes;
15. Desire to build a better future for Asia, based on cooperation in economy, energy and environment, by providing equal opportunity in all areas particularly education and employment for all, so that progress and prosperity are shared, and wealth is not concentrated in few hands;
16. Appreciate the role of Asian countries and societies in hosting refugees, who are victims of war, foreign occupation, violence, climate change or other kinds of disaster, since this demonstrates the Asian spirit of resilience, generosity and a large-heartedness to host suffering humanity upholding brotherhood and camaraderie;
17. Seek to promote the path of peace and reconciliation as the way forward for Asia in the 'Asian Century' by promoting supremacy of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, the United Nations Charter and International Law;
18. Consider establishing a group of eminent and skilled persons from member parliaments of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to develop and provide vision for a more peaceful and developed Asia, bearing in mind that their valuable experience can be beneficial for Asian prosperity;
19. Determine to activate and build the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to realise its potential as a unique organization that can emerge as a credible, representative, institutional voice of the Asian people in the 'Asian Century'; and in this context, resolve to create a special committee to lay the groundwork for establishment of the Asian Parliament in order to encourage all Asian countries to meet the demands of the ‘Asian Century.’
20. Express our gratitude to the Parliament and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for graciously hosting the 6th Plenary Conference of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly;

Signed in Islamabad on the Tenth Day of December in the Year Two Thousand and Thirteen.