



Asian Parliamentary Assembly  
Ninth Plenary Session  
28 November – 1 December 2016  
Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia



## SIEM REAP DECLARATION

We, Members of Parliament from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam, attended the Ninth Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) in Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia, from 28 November to 1 December 2016, at the invitation of Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and current APA President.

**Recognizing** that peoples in Asia have brilliant civilizations, philosophies, religions, diverse cultures, arts, ideologies, and have made great achievements in the fields of socio-economic development, science and technology, among others, to meet the demands of societies. We are also concerned of the existence and proliferation of means of mass destruction;

**Reiterating** the importance of united efforts, especially by APA members toward the prevention of the destruction as well as the preservation of cultural heritage;

**Concerned** by the increasing tensions in parts of Asia, particularly the threat of terrorism, and the suffering of people affected by ongoing conflicts, especially displaced people, and further concerned by the dire situation of millions of women and young people in all war-torn areas. We, therefore, stress the importance of maintaining world peace, security, stability and development;

**Emphasizing** that violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, should not be associated with any culture, civilization, religion or ethnicity and should be neither tolerated nor condoned. The resolving of issues through radicalization, violent extremism, terrorism causes great hardship and breeds even more violence, settlement of the issues should be by dialogue and negotiation;

**Underlining** our commitment to building societies based on the rule of law with Asian Parliaments not only representing Asian people, but also enacting legislation and promoting dialogues, reconciliation and a culture of peace;



**Agreeing**, in principle, that the vision of an Asian Parliament shall meet the goals and aspirations of Asia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. SCCAP, chaired by Pakistan, has been entrusted with the task of taking this vision forward by consensus through consultation.

**Welcoming** the entry into force of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Agreement on Climate Change on 4 November 2016 and the *Marrakech Action Proclamation for Our Climate and Sustainable Development* adopted at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Morocco that concluded on 18 November 2016;

**Deeply concerned** that one billion people across Asia could face severe water shortages by 2050, highlighting the need for Asian governments to focus national policies on water and sanitation issues;

**Noting** that sustainable development and poverty eradication are a shared commitment for Parliaments of Asia, and we should all strive for a balanced and more equitable distribution of resources;

**Expressing** our utmost concern at the passing of the JASTA Law by the US Congress in September 2016, which is in direct violation of the UN Convention on Jurisdictional Immunity of States and their Property. APA urges its members to call upon the US Government and Congress to retreat from this law.

**Rejecting** all US unilateral and extra-territorial laws and judicial verdicts against other states especially APA members which are in contradiction to international law, United Nations Charter and violate sovereignty and independence of states;

DO HEREBY EXPRESS OUR COMMITMENT TO:

**Emphasize** the need to promote peace, reconciliation and dialogue in Asia, hereby promoting democracy, the rule of law and the role of Parliaments.

**Urge** APA and all other stakeholders to support the reconciliation process with Taliban and other militant/armed groups in Afghanistan;

**Promote** the peaceful settlement of disputes and renounce the threat or use of force, in accordance with international law, to contribute to achieving world peace, security and stability, and to saving future generations from the scourge of war and conflicts. We denounce the policies of regime change aimed at overthrowing legitimate Governments, in contravention of international law. We stress that to achieve lasting peace, a holistic approach to address the root causes of conflicts is needed to realize the three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, development and human rights;

**Promote** lasting peace, security and stability in Asia, with all lingering disputes including Kashmir resolved as per the UN Charter, international law and UN Security Council Resolutions;



**Express** our support to the Palestinian people on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People;

**Denounce** the interfering activities of any country which have, under the pretext of defending human rights and democracy, led to wars in several sub-regions of the world, causing incalculable deaths, extreme suffering and misery as well as millions of refugees.

**Hold** parties responsible for overthrowing legitimate governments for the consequences of their actions including human suffering and the forced displacement of people, noting that Asian people have been particularly affected by forced regime changes since the mid-20th century, and that those who support such changes have the responsibility of providing shelter, food and jobs to refugees and other displaced people;

**Reaffirm** our determination to continue opposing any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity or territorial integrity of a State as well as the non-interference in the internal affairs of States;

**Declare** our full solidarity with the people and democratically elected government of Turkey in its fight against the Fethullah Gulen Terrorist Organization in order to uphold democracy, justice, security and stability in the country, calling on member countries of APA to take necessary measures against the Terrorist Organization;

**Combat** all forms of terrorism through international cooperation and law and enhance moderation agenda and deradicalization initiatives, involving every level of society including youth and the private sector, while addressing and combating the root causes of radicalism, violent extremism and terrorism;

**Congratulate and support** the Iraqi government in its war against terrorism and its determination to liberate its land from terrorist groups;

**Express concern** about the territorial unity of Syria and condemn the killing of innocent people especially children;

**Support** the call for deeper discussions and an international conference on the root causes of terrorism and the implications of regime change policies, including the assessment of human suffering caused by this policy implementation;

**Recognize** that we have an urgent duty to respond to the alarming and unprecedented warming of the global climate, and we call for further climate action and support, taking into account the reaffirmation of the \$100 billion mobilization goal of developed country parties as stated in the *Marrakech Action Proclamation* as well as the special needs and circumstances of developing countries, least-developed countries and those particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change;

**Stress** the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals and agree to work toward fully implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, bearing in mind the economic, social and environmental dimensions.



**Reiterate** that ending poverty and hunger is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We further underline the importance of developed countries fulfilling their commitments regarding the provision of finance, transfer of appropriate technology and capacity building to developing countries, to ensure the global realization of Sustainable Development Goals;

**Thank** Cambodia for its warm, gracious and efficient hospitality in hosting the Ninth Plenary Session in Siem Reap and for chairing the APA over the past two years. We look forward to Turkey hosting the Tenth Plenary Session in 2017.

Done in Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia, this First Day of December in the Year of Two Thousand and Sixteen.