



Statement

By

H.E. M. H. Nejad-Hosseinian

The Secretary-General of the APA

Before

The Fourth APA Plenary Session

Bandung, 8 December 2009

Mr. President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to speak before this August Assembly today and present an overall assessment on APA work in the year 2009. Before doing so, I would like to congratulate H.E. Mr. Marzuki Alie, as the new Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives and the new APA President. I am confident that under his able leadership, APA will continue to work towards the realization of its objectives. I am also sure that the Secretariat will enjoy the full support of the President as we did during the last year, thanks to H.E. Mr. Agung Laksano, the former APA President and his competent colleagues particularly H.E. Mr. Toha, the former Head of APA Executive Council.

In my presentation today, I will briefly explain about the role of parliaments on shaping governmental policies in the era of globalization and then go over APA meetings held in 2009 and explain about some of them.

There is an increasing recognition today that governments are no longer the sole players in the conduct of domestic and foreign policies of states. International policy making and standard settings at international organizations are also important domains in which non-governmental actors have found growing voice and influence. As people seek and find greater participation in public life of their countries, the role and influence of non-governmental organizations in shaping the policy agenda and priorities of their governments are bound to expand.

Non-governmental organizations may influence governmental policies and the manner in which policies

are implemented through advocacy and public campaigns. However, as a state organization, but not a governmental organization, parliaments directly shape governmental policies through the power of the purse; they monitor and question government activities and may seek to adjust or shift government policies or strategies for policy implementation. Parliamentary diplomacy continues to gather strength and influence in national and international policy formulation. It is in this context that the APA combines the potentials of its member parliaments to advance its programs and objectives.

Asian Parliamentary Assembly recognized the critical significance of studying globalization and promoting a unified approach to its growing forces. In 2006, when the APA was born in its current character, it decided to develop a Plan of Action on “Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization.”

APA has underlined the significant role of Asian parliaments in both strengthening national policies and harmonizing Asia approach in dealing with globalization; it has called on all Asian parliaments to promote actively networking among major governmental and non-governmental institutions dealing with the impact of globalization in Asian countries in order to share experiences with a view to formulating a common understanding of globalization and a common Asian strategy to deal with it, and to assert the growing role of Asia in the process of globalization. APA has also resolved to develop a common legislation within Asian parliaments on “Reform of Global Financial System” and on “Bridging the Digital Divide in Asia.”

On the basis of the deliberations within the Sub-Committee, the APA Executive Council has formulated a

draft resolution on “Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization”.

In the course of year 2009 the APA Sub-Committee on “Ramification of the International Financial Crisis” met twice, in Kuala Lumpur and Amman, to develop an Asian approach to managing the ramification of the international financial crisis for economies of Asian states. As this was an urgent issue, the Sub-Committee was the only APA Sub-Committee that saw it fit to meet twice in a year. The Sub-Committee has dealt with the roots of the global financial crises which sparked in the United States in 2007 and escalated to financial markets across the world with continuous negative repercussions on the economies of the Asian countries. It urged Asian parliaments to collectively address the crisis, including through supporting the establishment of a new global financial architecture that could regain the confidence of the public; calling for the urgent reform and restructuring of the Bretton Woods and other international financial

institutions to strengthen the existing monitoring and supervisory roles and prevent the recurrence of similar crisis in the future. The Sub-Committee also proposes the establishment by the APA of an Advisory Group within the APA to keep the crisis and its ramification for Asia under constant review and to offer independent advice to the APA on global economy, finance, trade and regulatory initiatives.

The Sub-Committees on Combating Corruption, Globalization, Cultural Diversity, Achieving Health Equity, Environment, Alleviating Poverty, Energy and the Ad-hoc Committee on Financial Regulations met once. Here, I would like to express our thanks to the esteemed Parliaments of Malaysia, Jordan, Indonesia, Iran, Korea, Cambodia and Turkey for hosting the Sub-Committee meetings in 2009. I hope APA will enjoy the full cooperation of these and other Member Parliaments in conducting our work in 2010. Our appreciations also go to

all Member Parliaments that have actively participated in these Sub-Committee meetings.

I need not go into the details of proceedings of all the meetings in 2009 since the distinguished delegates are in the possession of the reports of these meetings.

In order to inform Member Parliaments of the calendar of APA meetings in 2010 and prevent the overlapping of meetings, the first APA Executive Council, based on the proposal made by the Secretary-General, adopted a resolution on the streamlining of APA work. It requested the Secretary-General to conduct consultations with Member Parliaments to identify Member Parliaments interested in hosting any Sub-Committee meetings. I believe we should encourage this practice since the atmosphere of Sub-Committee meetings allow the participants to get to know each other better and exchange views more informally **and in a more constructive manner.**

In the event that hosts are determined only for some Sub-Committee meetings, the remaining meetings will be held in three Standing Committee meetings in March, May and July of each year. One Standing Committee meeting will be held on May ...2010 at the APA Headquarters. As I mentioned last night, I am very glad to report that Duma of Russia and the Palau National Congress have graciously offered to host the July and March Standing Committees. The Parliament of Cambodia has also kindly offered to host the Sub-Committee meeting on cultural diversity in 2010. We are thankful to our colleagues in Russia, Palau and Cambodia for their offers.

Thank you