

Wolesi Jirga
National Assembly of Afghanistan

Address by Hon. Irfanullah Irfan, Secretary of the Wolesi Jirga
(House of People) National Assembly of Afghanistan

Asian Parliamentary Assembly
The 9th Plenary Session
“Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia”

Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ!

Excellency President of the Plenary Session,
Hon. Parliamentarians, distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning/Afternoon,

At the outset, allow me please to convey the warm greetings and best wishes of the members of the National Assembly of Afghanistan to you all distinguished participants and hope that our meetings could be a great tool to ensure the multi-lateral cooperation between our governments to realize the goals and objectives we have set forth, promoting peace and sustainable development. Asia is the largest continent with most of the countries with different Socio-economic development level, peace and sustainable development is considered a serious need for all our countries.

Distinguished delegates,

Peace is needed for all the countries; however, peace is most important for those countries that have been deprived of this great blessing, because conflict and insecurity jeopardizes their peace and safety.

Distinguished Participants,

As you all know that I represent a country that has been facing thirty years of war and external interference which has taken the peace and safety of our people, the infrastructure and public facilities have been destroyed, unfortunately, the current growth and development and implementation of the fundamental programs have either been blocked or dulled.

What is going to be emphasized on, in this plenary session is to promote peace, and peace is a gift that human societies could achieve all their goals through, whether its planning, implementation or opening the pores of progress, economic, social, cultural and technological growth.

Without any doubt achieving peace and promoting peace requires honest efforts, attention and sincere cooperation of all the participating countries in a particular geography and I believe that if one of the countries facing insecurity, unrest and war, it can have a direct impact on other countries, challenging the security and mental peace of the people across the region where the psychological unrest is not only logical, but also, experience of few years has proved it, that the terrorists don't focus only on a single country, they don't spare a single nationality, country or ethnic group but through threats, intimidation, murder and destruction, mobilizing and using the resources of the nations want to broaden their existence and inhuman activities to achieve their goals.

The terrorists are extremists, whom are not subjected to any specific religion or name, that's why the terrorists from different nations and countries with common aim promoting extremism and violence and destruction of human and public facilities have come together and work as a united force to achieve their ominous goals, they don't have mercy on civilians nor the holy places, the terrorists have not only attacked the public facilities but also have targeted the holy places several times, just few days before the terrorists carried out a suicide attack on a Mosque in the capital Kabul in a ceremony commemorating the fortieth of (Imam Hussain) which killed at least 30 people and left more than 80 seriously injured.

Therefore, we have to take concrete steps to eliminate the safe havens, funding sources and equipping the terrorists as well as those countries interfering in the domestic affairs of others to repel their ominous plans and programs and strengthen our close economic and security cooperation to save our countries from the vicious of terrorism, extremism and violence.

I would like to quote *"Allama Mohammad Iqbal Lahori's Poem about Afghanistan, that says: "Asia is a body of water and clay, of which the Afghan nation forms the heart, the whole of Asia is corrupt, if the heart is corrupt, it's decline is the decline of Asia, its rise is the rise of Asia."*

Therefore, Afghanistan that has become a target of conspiracy and plot of the strangers needs to be saved, I believe that sustainable development in Asia without ensuring peace in the areas where peace is being challenged is impossible and peace will not prevail.

Distinguished delegates,

We have so many opportunities for development; cooperation is the only way that can assist us on the way to development and progress, our countries have rich natural resources such as water resources, mines agricultural land, industry and trade and energy transfer. Afghanistan is a good approach that can connect Central Asia with South Asia and the rest of the geography for trade development and energy transfer. We have very good work force in Afghanistan that could help our countries in the sustainable development sector.

I promise on behalf of the Afghan Parliament to implement all the decisions of the Plenary Session and will be committed to it and will not hesitate to extend our further assistance and cooperation for the realization of these decisions.

Distinguished Participants,

Although, you know more about the current situation in my country, but I briefed you, the terrorists, Al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and Daesh that belong to other countries, taking advantage of the long and insecure borders of our country infiltrate in Afghanistan to kill innocent civilians and destabilize our country. They are also trying to benefit from greater insecurity promoting the cultivation and drug trafficking and illegally exploiting the mines and other natural resources to financially support their needs and requirements and challenge the peace and stability of our country and continue the killing of our armed forces.

While thanking the host country, the government and the people of the kingdom of Cambodia for the kind hospitality extended to all of us in the beautiful cultural city of Siem Reap, I would like to kindly request the distinguished participants to further cooperate with us in countering terrorism, international mafia and drug trafficking to end the killing of the our people and ensure and promote peace and sustainable development in South Asia.

I thank you very much for the kind attention.