

Keynote Speech at the 9th APA Plenary

by H.E. Wang Xiaochu

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Mr. chairman,

Dear colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to thank our host, the National Assembly of Kingdom of Cambodia, and the honorable speaker Mr. HENG. Samrin as well as the APA Secretariat for the excellent arrangements for this session.

Peace and development are the main theme of all Asian countries. The world of today is undergoing profound transformations and changes. The world economy is very weak in recovery. Regional conflicts and global challenges, such as political and security disputes and turmoil, refugee crisis, climate change and terrorist threats, are on the rise. Economic

globalization is suffering from setbacks. Unstable and uncertain factors of the international landscape become more common. Against this backdrop, the regional situation in Asia remains largely stable. With a fast-growing economy and thriving regional cooperation, Asia has become the most dynamic area of the world with greatest potential in development. It is beyond doubt that Asian countries are also confronted with new challenges. There are some countries expanding military input and deployment in the Asian-Pacific region. There is country attempting to lift their military restrictions. Non-traditional security threats, such as terrorism, natural disasters and trans-national crimes, are more prominent. Facing the new situation and new challenges, Asian countries should engage in more cooperation in the pursuit of peace, the maintaining of stability and the promotion of development.

Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, are responsible for safeguarding people's interests. The parliaments of our region should make concerted

efforts in our full functions to promote peace and sustainable development in Asia.

Firstly, we should stand firmly to safeguard peace and stability in Asia. There can never be sustainable development without peace and stability. The dynamism and potentials of our region can only be available thanks to the largely stable environment. This is a hard-won outcome, which we should be cherished dearly. We should be committed in pursuing common security, comprehensive security, and cooperative security with sustainable development, strengthening the inclusiveness of our regional security structure. We should adhere to the direction of settling disputes by political means, and replace confrontation by dialogue and give up alliance for partnership. Therefore, we can build jointly a new-type of international relationship with win-win cooperation as the core. China is ready to join hands with other countries, to promote the vision of an Asian community of shared future, to fight against all kinds of traditional and non-traditional security

challenges, to cooperate in good faith for a common pursuit, and to protect the healthy and stable environment for Asian development.

Secondly, we should make joint efforts to promote development and prosperity in Asia. In September of this year, the G20 summit held in Hangzhou, China, reached a series of important consensus on building an innovative, energetic, concerted and inclusive world economy by all. During the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima a few days ago, member economies reaffirmed their determination to build the Asian-Pacific free trade zone and develop an open economy. China is willing to join hands with all parties to strengthen collaboration, in order to translate consensus into actions and promote continuously regional integration. Together, we can strive for better connectivity and more macro-policy coordination among Asian countries, so that the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda could be implemented in an active manner.

Thirdly, we should enhance mutual learning and sharing among Asian countries. Asian civilizations boast diversity as a prominent feature. We should call for mutual respect among various civilizations, encourage learning from others, find agreement to disagreement, and pursue common development. APA, in recognizing and respecting the diversity of our region, has always upheld the spirit of equality, cooperation, unity and inclusiveness. China is ready to join hands with all parties to engage in more dialogues among different civilizations, which could reinforce mutual understanding and harmonious coexistence among Asian people. China firmly opposes any attempt to link terrorism with a particular religion, civilization or ethnicity. We believe that mutual learning and sharing among different civilizations can be an important driving force for peaceful and sustainable development in Asia.

Dear colleagues,

China, as the largest developing country as well as the second largest economy in the world, has its

development rooted in Asia. Three years ago, the Chinese leader proposed the "Belt and Road Initiative" for cooperation. Currently, the projects and constructions under the initiative are carried out in a smooth manner, and produced a series of early harvest. The production capacity cooperation has been accelerated, economic corridor building has made important headways, the network of connectivity has been shaping up. China is willing to make more efforts to coordinate and integrate development strategies with other countries, to build the "Belt and Road" together, to create new opportunities for Asian development together, which can further motivate the integration process and common prosperity in Asia.

Thank you all.