

**SPEECH OF H.E.MDM TONG THI PHONG,  
VICE PRESIDENT OF VIET NAM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, HEAD OF  
VIET NAM DELEGATION AT THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> APA  
“Promoting peace and sustainable development in Asia”**

*Excellency Mr Chairman,*

*Excellencies Speakers, Heads of Delegations and deputies,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the Viet Nameese National Assembly delegation, I would like to express my gratitude for your warm hospitality extended to our delegation by the National Assembly of Cambodia. Through you and leaders of Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to convey to you my great sentiments of the National Assembly and people of Viet Nam. I wish the Plenary a fine success.

*Mr Chairman,*

*Honorable delegates,*

A year has passed since the 8<sup>th</sup> APA plenary in 2015; the world has experienced many complicated developments with undermining and unpredictable risks. However, we hope that peace, cooperation and development remain the prevailing stream in international relations because it is the legitimate aspiration of all people.

I highly appreciate the theme of the Conference as "*Promoting peace and sustainable development in Asia*" and the statements delivered by speakers. Viet Nam is also in agreement with the agenda of the 9th APA Plenary Session, reflecting APA's concern in the field of security, political, economic and socio-cultural, dialogue and harmony between religions, ethnicity... to strengthen solidarity, friendship and peace consolidation, economic development and poverty alleviation, support each other in the implementation of sustainable development goals. It is that Asia is home to long-time civilizations and history, the illustration of cultural and religious diversity. On the foundation of such values of mankind civilization, rising above differences in political institutions, history, ethnicity and religions, Asian countries need to strengthen cooperation to promote peace and security, and to cope with common challenges; continue building and consolidating mutual trust, enhance mutual understanding, resolve disputes through dialogue and negotiations based on the fundamental principles of international law, respect for

independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Connecting people in Asian countries and between Asia and the rest of the world is very important for a continent of peace, prosperity and sustainable development.

Along with the trend of peace and cooperation, focusing on sustainable development is a valuable lesson that we can learn from the SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate change... At national level, we need to reform growth models, restructure the economy towards sustainability, ensuring the harmonious balance between economic development and social equity together with protection of environment and natural resources.

*Excellency Mr. Chairman,*

*Distinguished delegates,*

We, representing our peoples, need to continue holding our Governments in accountable for implementing the commitments and supervise the Governments; to adopt laws and allocate appropriate budget; as well as safeguard the people's interests and expand regional, inter-regional and international partnership.

Over 17 years of existence and development, APA today and the predecessor Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) with its mission to promote peace in Asia, has been exerting efforts to preserve peace in the region, build up and steadily cement the trust between nations through dialogue and cooperation on the regional, inter-regional and global scale. Against the new international background, for APA to become an effective parliamentary institution in the region, I respectfully draw your attention to the following matters:

1. Strengthening the organizations and activities of the APA towards efficiency and practicality, meeting the interests and concerns of the member parliaments.

2. Reforming the agenda, further boosting solutions especially to prevent potential conflicts, comply with international law, to build and share standards of conduct including basic principles to govern relations between nations as well as the peaceful settlement of disputes.

3. Enhancing the relationship and interaction between APA Member Parliaments and APA Member Governments to encourage the implementation of the recommendations outlined in APA's documents and resolutions.

4. Maximizing the voice and participation of the people in the national development processes. This is a prerequisite for ensuring democracy, bringing about peace and stability for countries and regions all over the world.

5. Promoting the exchanges among APA Member Parliaments at all levels, in all forms in order to contribute to the enhancement of mutual understanding and trust between the leaders and MPs, to deepen friendship and relations among nations.

In a capacity of a founding member of AAPP, Viet Nam has always been persistent with its foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, diversification and multi-lateralization of relations; actively integrating into the world; being a friend, reliable partner and a responsible member of international community for peace, cooperation and development. The National Assembly of Viet Nam of innovation, solidarity, creativity and action for the benefit of the people, for the national honor and pride, for the national sustainable development is willing to cooperate with APA Member Parliaments to jointly build up the Asian continent of peace and sustainable development.

I am confident that, under the chairmanship of Mr. President, with the close cooperation of parliamentarians and thorough preparation of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the 9<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary will be crowned with great success. It is our privilege to listen to the speeches by Samdech Say Chumm, President of the Senate, Samdech Heng Semrin, President of the National Assembly and Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Kingdom of Cambodia and see to our own eyes the development of the beautiful country of Cambodia. I wish Cambodia further blossoming development, prosperity and happiness for all Cambodian people.

I wish Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates good health, happiness and success in your noble capacity.

Thank you.