**Asian Parliamentary Assembly**

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***Secretary-General***

**Report of Secretary-General to the SCCAP Meeting**

29 October 2018, Gwadar - Pakistan

The 7th APA Plenary held in Lahore in 2014, approved the establishment of “Special Committee on Creation of an Asian Parliament (SCCAP)”. During the SCCAP meeting on the sidelines of 9th Plenary in December 2016, most participating delegations expressed their support for the idea of Asian Parliament but it was also expressed that realization of this idea was a long-term project and would need acceptance by the APA Governments.

The Standing Committee in 2016 agreed to form six sub-regional groups to assist SCCAP Meeting in its functioning. The meetings of sub-regional groups were held in different capitals. The results and achievements of these sub-group meetings and the counter arguments are as follows:

The Sub-regions in East Asia expressed that any positive signals from their Speakers of Parliaments for the idea of the Asian Parliament are due to the prior consent of their States or Governments with respect to that idea. The model for Asian Parliament, which was proposed by majority of APA Member Parliaments, has a Forum status and the decisions have advisory nature but some Members have proposed the organization should have executive characteristic. This paradox should be resolved prior to any other steps . If the future Asian Parliament has a forum character then it cannot take executive decisions. If it is an executive organization then it seems to have a different function than that of a parliament. In fact, the future Asian Parliament should be naturally a Parliament with legislative character. Now the question is that whether its legislatives are compulsory for all APA Member Parliaments or not? If the answer is positive then it is a matter of sovereignty of each APA Member Parliament to be available to delegate a part of its rights to Asian Parliament. For example, EU Members ignored a part of their sovereignty and gave it to EU to decide on their behalf in both legislative and executive fields. Are APA Member Parliaments ready to give such concession to Asian Parliament? If the answer is negative then such Asian Parliament with the forum nature will be the same as Asian Parliamentary Assembly and no need to convert APA to Asian Parliament. Some others proposed the future Asian Parliament should have an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee by definition shall overlook the administration of the future Asian Parliament from agenda setting to budget- making. Let us try to test this budget-making project at first in APA and then transfer the best practice to the future Asian Parliament. At present, we have some difficulties to get the reactions and responses of all APA Member Parliaments to the Model of Payment or Assessed Contribution. Overcoming this difficulty and providing the budget be prior to budget-making project of Asian Parliament.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Asian Parliament is the ultimate goal of Asian Parliamentary Assembly. We are thankful to the Senate of Pakistan for its continued efforts to promote this idea. However, as the Chairman of SCCAP Meeting in the APA Tenth Plenary Session emphasized, we are in the beginning of a long way, converting APA to Asian Parliament is a long-term project and needs a lot of understanding and coordination among Asian countries, therefore we look forward to receiving your views. The APA Secretariat substantive report on the idea of the Asian Parliament entitled: *The Foundations of an Asian Parliament* has been the basis for further consideration of all APA Member Parliaments.

The Draft Resolution on “Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia” which has been on the agenda of APA Standing committee on Political Affairs clearly states;

***3. “Encourage*** *Member Parliaments to seek the views of their respective Governments*

*on the subject of Asian Parliament and to contribute to the work of the APA Special*

*Committee on the Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) by providing their point*

*of views and analysis of the subject matter”*

This paragraph clearly obligates the Members to seek input from their executive bodies on the prospects of Asian Parliament and report them to the SCCAP Meeting. In this regard, APA Member Parliaments were requested to send their communications to the APA Secretariat for more deliberation in SCCAP Meeting after incorporating their government’s point of views on Asian Parliament. This feedback shall be required to form new guidelines for the APA Secretariat to follow the creation of the Asian Parliament. Whenever the model for Asian Parliament is finalized and consensus is reached as an agreed plan, then for respecting the legal basis, APA secretariat should communicate with all APA Member Parliaments and get officially their views.