



## Asian Parliamentary Assembly

### 12<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session

#### ANTALYA DECLARATION

(December 2019 16)



**We**, Members of Parliaments of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) who attended the 12th Plenary Session of APA in Antalya from 14 December to 16 December 2019, upon the invitation of H.E. Mustafa ŞENTOP, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and President of APA,

**Representing** the nations in Asia having deep rooted bonds of history, culture, economy, politics and civilizations which gain strength from respecting their rich diversities;

**Expressing our satisfaction** that countries of APA have about 60 % of world population and have competence to play a decent role in addressing current issues in world politics;

**Guided by** the system of international relations that is based on the principles of equality, dialogue, cooperation, respect for international law, respect for the sovereignty of states and noninterference in their internal affairs;

**Stressing** the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in maintaining peace, security, stability and development through mutual understanding, dialogue, cooperation and solidarity;

**Emphasizing** the need to further expand parliamentary support for more active involvement of young people in the process of developing and making decisions on social, economic and political issues of national and global development;

**Desiring** to boost mutually beneficial political, economic, commercial, social and cultural cooperation among the countries;

**Mindful** of the fact that the establishment of a true economic convergence among the Asian nations will enhance interconnectivity among our countries and will result in improvement of our overall economic and social welfare;

**Deeply convinced** that inter-parliamentary cooperation establishes dialogue channels that advance interstate relations, contributes to rapprochement between countries;

**Reaffirming** the negative and unacceptable impacts of unilateral sanctions in pursuit of political gains on economic growth and trade expansion in the APA Geography;

**Concerned** by the ongoing challenges and conflicts in parts of Asia, particularly the menace of violent extremism, the threat of terrorism and the suffering of people, which particularly affected women and children;

**Draw attention** to women empowerment and action of raising the status of women through education, raising awareness, literacy, and training;

**Emphasizing** that violent extremism and terrorism should not be associated with any culture, civilization, religion or ethnicity and should be neither tolerated nor condoned;

**Reminding** that the connection between organized crime and terrorism becoming more intertwined and complex with the emergence of new technologies and tools;

**Commended** the positive outcomes following the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption held in The State of Qatar between 9 and 10 December 2019, and **welcome** the election of H.E. Mr. Ahmad Bin Abdulla Bin Zaid ALMAHMOUD, Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar as President of this global organization.

**DO HEREBY EXPRESS OUR COMMITMENT TO:**

**Reaffirm** our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations (UN) in particular those concerning the maintenance of international peace and security,

**Reaffirm also** our adherence to the principles and norms of the international law, as well as the international obligations under the treaties and other international instruments which our countries have ratified in order to strengthen cooperation;

**Reiterate** our commitment to UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and the principle of “Leaving No One Behind”;

**Reaffirm** parliaments and parliamentarians commitment as agreed on Bali Declaration, Bali Commitment, and Bali Roadmap which become the foundations for parliamentary involvement toward the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals;

**Support** the strengthening of multilateralism, making international organizations more efficient and transparent, global governance and the international rules-based order;

**Repeat** the utmost importance of inter-parliamentary relations to develop multidimensional, comprehensive and intensive cooperation and promote common interests and values in the international arena,

**Propose** enhancing partnerships within the framework of other regional and international parliamentary mechanisms to which we belong, in order to generate synergies that address the political, economic, social and cultural issues;

**Strongly encourage** the efforts of the Parliaments with a view to resolving disputes through inter-parliamentary relations to promote common interests and values as well as the multi-dimensional cooperation of our governments;

**Recommend** to deepen interaction between legislative authorities and exchange experience in order to further improve lawmaking and supervisory processes as well as parliamentary diplomatic relations;

**Underline** the importance of fostering economic relations and trade channels to strengthen regional connectivity;

**Promote** the search for joint responses to modern challenges and threats, as well as the harmonization of the geo-economic interests and ensuring greater connectivity of Asian countries, as the main elements in the formation of a common growth space in Asia, realizing a free, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment;

**Reaffirm** obligations of all States to abide by the Charter of the UN and the universally recognized norms and principles of international law in implementing the UN Security Council resolutions. We **consider** that any politicization of the UN Security Council sanctions architecture undermines the UN Security Council sanctions regime and principles and purposes of the Charter of the UN. We **reject** any unlawful political and economic pressure against any Member State in this regard, particularly with those Member States, whose nations are suffering from negative consequences of unilateral coercive measures at political, cultural and economic levels, taking into consideration the Charter of the UN and the universally recognized norms and principles of international law. With regard to Member States we **reiterate** the principles of international law, including inadmissibility of extraterritorial application of national law inconsistent with the principles of international law.

**Emphasize** that economic viability and long-term social and environmentally sustainable growth should be based on mutual benefits, inclusiveness and transparent and nondiscriminatory procurement processes;

**Underscore** the regional interconnectivity projects to revive the ancient “Silk Road” which will constitute another link bonding the people of Asia for the benefit of all;

**Reiterate** the spread of terrorist organizations and significant rise in acts of terrorism directly undermine the maintenance of international peace and security as well as endanger the regional and global economy and sustainable growth and development;

**Recall** the Siem Reap Declaration of the 9<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of APA, between 28 November-1 December 2016, reiterates its full solidarity with Turkey in its fight against the Fetullah Gülen Terrorist Organization (FETÖ);

**Reaffirm** our strong condemnation of violent extremism, xenophobia and terrorism in all their forms and manifestations as one of the major threats to the humanity; with a special focus on the suffering and outcrying mothers of Diyarbakır and mothers of the world who endlessly search for their beloved children manipulated and forcibly recruited by loathed terrorist organizations such as PKK/YPG.

**Support** an Afghan owned and Afghan led peace and reconciliation process, encourage all sides to refrain from violence and seek negotiated political solution to the war in Afghanistan through a transparent inter-Afghan dialogue with the participation of the Afghan Government with a view to bringing sustainable and lasting peace to Afghanistan.

**Remain** united in combatting terrorism and to further strengthen and develop inter-parliamentary cooperation without political motives and double standards, respecting sovereignty and independence of the states of the continent and the whole world;

**Express** that the ongoing refugee crisis is of global concern with major political, social, economic and, especially, humanitarian consequences; **underline** the responsibility of the international community to take joint actions to address the root causes and **call** for more effective, concerted efforts of the international community in jointly addressing this problem.

**Reaffirm** our support for an independent, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine based on 1967 borders as outlined in the relevant UN Resolutions with al Quds (Jerusalem) as its Capital; **strongly condemn** the illegal settlement activities, demolitions and other grave violations of international law and human rights by the Israeli occupation forces; **recognize** the importance of al Quds (Jerusalem) for all three monotheistic religions and **reject** any attempt to alter its legal status and historical character;

**Call upon** the Government of Myanmar and Bangladesh to actively coordinate the returning of the Rohingya refugees to Rakhine and live there with safety and human dignity; **encourage** the Government of Myanmar to find long-term solutions to Rohingya crisis and **continue**

implementing recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission within the framework of reasonable timetable; **urge** the international community to maintain and increase humanitarian assistance to Rohingya refugees;

**Advise** Pakistan and India to resolve escalating tensions in the region through negotiations and peaceful dialogue;

**Urge** unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid to Yemen in light of the alarming deterioration of the humanitarian situation;

**Stress** the importance of the legislative functions of the parliaments while **affirming** that parliaments are not the right venue to make judgment on qualification of historic events, which should be under the auspices of historians, and politicization of the parliaments through such resolutions as a means of unilateral sanction is unacceptable.

**Declare** our readiness to expand the exchange of legislative experience in the key areas in order to create a favorable legal environment and eliminate obstacles to build a comprehensive, mutually beneficial partnership and making Asia a prosperous and secure continent;

**Consider** sharing ideas and experiences as a way to find innovative and breakthrough strategies for the strengthening of bilateral and multilateral international relations;

**Thank** Turkey for its warm, gracious and efficient hospitality in hosting the Twelfth Plenary Session in Antalya.

**Congratulate** the Grand National Assembly of Turkey on the centenary of the parliament to be marked by solemn meeting that will be held on 23 April 2020 in Ankara.

Footnote: Delegation of India registered its dissociation/reservation to Antalya Declaration.