

**SPEECH THAT MIGHT BE USED BY OUR ESTEEMED
SPEAKER OF THE GNAT, PROF. MUSTAFA ŞENTOP AT
THE OPENING OF THE 13TH PLENARY SESSION OF THE
ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)**

*Distinguished Speakers of Parliaments,
Distinguished Vice Speakers of Parliaments,
Dear Members of Parliament,
Dear Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am very pleased and honored to welcome you, our distinguished guests, in our country once again on the occasion of the 13th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

As you may remember, the previous plenary session was also held in Antalya in 2019 and we had fruitful negotiations there. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to meet since then due to the pandemic which caused painful memories for some of us.

Now we have convened again in this friendly atmosphere offered by Antalya with a very wide participation.

I hope that our meetings under the general theme "Promoting Multilateralism in the Changing Global Dynamics", which started yesterday and will continue tomorrow, will be fruitful and provide results for the benefit of our people and countries.

Hosting the last four plenary sessions in cooperation with this General Assembly is an indication of the great importance Türkiye attaches to the Asian continent and this Assembly, and it is a sign of priority we also attach to the parliamentary diplomacy carried out on this platform.

As Türkiye, our love and affection for Asia and our friends in Asia will continue to increase on every platform, and our efforts to improve our relations will hopefully continue without any interruption.

Distinguished Colleagues,

Last year, 2022, brought along an unprecedented and an important turning point to the human history of our world. According to calculations, on November 15, 2022, the world population reached 8 billion for the first time in history.

From 1950 to 2020, that is, in a period of only 70 years, the world population tripled and 60% of this population lives in the Asian continent, which is the reason why we meet here. Five of the ten most populated countries are Asian countries.

In our geography, in Anatolia, population growth symbolizes development and movement, and it is believed to bring abundance and fertility. On the other hand, we need to be aware that this population growth also brings difficulties in addition to opportunities and abundance, and we need to develop measures to overcome these difficulties.

We are facing existing and unprecedented issues such as economic crises, wars, pandemics, drought, migration movements, rising racism and xenophobia all over the world, -especially in the Western world-, as well as hybrid threats, attempts of international companies to manipulate national legislations, arbitrary sanctions, global power wars and search for balance. Undoubtedly, we have to deal with these intertwined problems and changing dynamics which are both the cause and result of one another.

Otherwise, the peace of our citizens and the stability of our countries will be threatened.

Dear Guests,

Unfortunately, terrorism is always one of the top agenda items in the malice we face at the regional and global level. We have to keep a principled and determined stance in our effective fight against terrorism.

Naturally, in this fight against terrorism, international cooperation is essential to achieve the results we aim for. In this direction, our country fulfils its responsibilities at the

regional and international level without compromising fundamental human rights and democratic values, and it fights with the same determination against all terrorist organizations, especially PKK/PYD/YPG, FETO and DAESH.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank to our friends who conveyed their condolences after the treacherous attack of terrorist organization PKK/PYD in Istanbul Taksim last November.

While the number of people displaced because of terrorism, conflict, war, violence, violation of human rights and persecution exceeds 100 million worldwide, new risks of mass migration continue to threaten the security and stability of our countries.

As the country that has hosted the highest number of refugees since 2014, we see that this burden is unfortunately not fairly shared by the international community.

A clear indication of this situation is that millions of Syrians, who escaped from their country due to the conflict in Syria, have completed 11 years as asylum seekers.

The importance of solving the problems that cause migration at the source is also clearly seen in Afghanistan, where humanitarian conditions have become critical.

We are all aware that there are cross-border problems fed by the instability in Afghanistan, especially irregular migration, terrorism and drug smuggling.

Establishment of permanent peace and stability in Afghanistan is only possible when every individual in the Afghan public has a life compatible with human dignity and when an inclusive political system that will involve all ethnic and political segments is created. At the current stage, unfortunately we cannot see the expected and longed-for developments in Afghanistan. Recently, new practices have been added to the existing ones which aim to exclude women from social and business life, and new restrictions have been imposed on the education of girls.

There is a common voice raising from the international community, especially the Islamic world, for the reversal of these decisions. It should not be forgotten that this is the expectation of the Afghan people for the welfare and future of the country.

Our wish and desire is that Afghan people have the honorable life and bright future they deserve as soon as possible. As Türkiye, we will continue to support the brotherly Afghan people in every field, especially humanitarian aid.

Another problem in the region is the continuously increasing effects of the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar. As a result of the disproportionate and systematic violence against Rohingya Muslims by the security forces of this country, more than 1 million people left their homes.

In our opinion, what is done against Rohingya Muslims is a systematic crime of genocide. We believe that the international community should pay more attention to this issue, which requires a permanent solution.

Again, the Palestinian issue continues to be insoluble. We wish to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in a way that results in the establishment of a sovereign, independent and geographically united Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital with the borders that were valid on 1967.

We emphasize and will continue to emphasize on every occasion that a fair and comprehensive settlement of the Palestine-Israel issue within the framework of international law and UN resolutions is essential in order to establish lasting peace and stability in the Middle East.

Undoubtedly, there are many more problems in our continent and regions, it is not possible to address each one individually due to time constraints. But I would like to emphasize that as Türkiye, we will continue to stand by the oppressed and the righteous in every situation and circumstance.

On the other hand, it would be unfair to mention our continent and regions only with their problems. Asia is an ancient tradition. Asia is the continent that cradles world history and civilizations.

The cultures that are claimed to be powerful and dominant today have been only able to build themselves on the material and spiritual richness they have taken from our continent.

Today, Asia has started rebuilding itself on the values it had in the past and started to rise again in every sense.

I believe that we have a common will to make our future more livable, more sustainable, more stable and more peaceful for our continent, regions, countries and most importantly for our citizens.

Distinguished Participants,

It is more important than ever that we have a common will and act in cooperation. Because we are facing radical changes and difficult times in politics, economics and sociology of the World.

We are going through a unique period in which the course of history has been broken down one after another.

It is such a period that a decision that we will take or refrain from taking as politicians, or hurrying a little or slightly hesitating, may have consequences that will affect individuals, societies, countries, regions and even the whole world.

A large part of the presuppositions that are supposed to be guiding in the issues faced before in the history of humanity and international relations, and the experiences that were thought to be helpful in producing solutions to our problems, have lost their validity today.

However, there are principles that do not and will not lose their validity no matter what.

One of the most prominent of these is our responsibility to take a common stance against injustices and wrongfulness in the world, and to prevent a chaotic environment where conflicts are resolved violently from dominating the international community.

Again, in times like these, another key that strengthens our hands, relieves us and helps us look to the future with more hope is multilateralism.

The solution of global problems depends on joint efforts based on cooperation and effective multilateralism. Promoting multilateralism in changing international dynamics is a historic responsibility.

For us, this is also a requirement of our religious belief. Because Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala advises us in our great book, the Qur'an to consult each other, and says, " Their affairs are decided after due consultation among themselves."

As Türkiye, we wholeheartedly believe in these principles and always give priority to dialogue, consultation and diplomacy in this period when the search for balance in the international system is experienced.

With a humane, conscientious, principled and transparent foreign policy approach, we strive for peace and prosperity all over the world.

Especially adopting the motto of "A New and Fairer World is Possible" under the leadership of our President Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, we consider the elimination of inequalities and injustices in the global system and the establishment of multilateralism in a more functional way as a foreign policy objective.

As I have repeatedly emphasized in my previous speeches, with the principle of "The World is Bigger Than Five" put forward by our President, reforming the United Nations and other multilateral institutions, in particular the Security Council, in a way that will meet today's needs, is the most important aspect and will be a big step in establishing multilateralism in a more functional way.

The current UN system is dysfunctional, outdated and above all is unjust. The so-called pioneers of the UN and those who built its rules exempt themselves from these rules. Such a situation might not be called multilateralism, but rather Western-biased at best. My wish from you, our esteemed guests, is that you support the principle of "The World is Bigger Than Five", send a message wherever you go, and explain that it is possible to build a fairer multilateralism.

I should also emphasize the following regarding multilateralism: We, as Türkiye, advocate especially regional ownership and solutions to regional problems.

The solution of the problems involving Asian countries will be possible with our efforts and the will of Asian countries.

The Western world's attempt to get involved in our problems with an egocentric, bossy and double-standard perspective, and to try to teach other nations history and civilization lessons without confronting their colonial past, cannot go beyond a futile effort. Asia is Asia, West is West.

Still, it would be in our best interest to take a part in this matter and make a sincere self-criticism. We believe in regional ownership and solutions, but we must admit that international initiatives in Asia are weak in terms of institutionalization.

There is no effective mechanism other than ASEAN, which includes a limited number of countries, and we have not been able to initiate an initiative involving all Asian countries.

In this context, institutionalization and increasing the institutional capacity of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly will be a step that can pave the way for initiatives in Asia.

As the current Term President, I would like to emphasize that we are open to all your concrete suggestions for the institutionalization of the APA, and we wish to hear your suggestions.

I should also point out that as Türkiye, we have assumed the Term Presidency of the APA for the last time. We support and await the candidacy of our friends who wish to become the new Term President of the APA, of which we have been proud to hold its last 4 plenary sessions and as well as its Term Presidency.

I am confident that the new Term President will make great efforts for the APA to become an important parliamentary diplomacy forum not only in Asia but also all over the world, and that this Assembly will make great efforts to develop cooperation between Asian countries.

In order for the APA to become more effective, all necessary institutional steps must be taken and our basic documents, especially our Bylaws, must be renewed; It is essential to reach a consensus on this issue.

I have no doubt that all members will show the necessary sensitivity on this issue. One of our most important issues is the payment of contributions and easing the economic burden on host countries related to the APA activities.

APA is the joint organization of not only the Term Presidents but also all Asian countries. First of all, it does not seem possible for the APA to take new, strong and long-term steps without a strong will on these issues.

If we express it frankly and a little bitterly; APA, with its current structure and regulations, will soon have problems even in its capacity to hold its meetings, let alone taking decisions which can guide governments and other international organizations on common issues; we must not allow this to happen.

At this point, the Honorable Secretary General, to whom we have entrusted the APA, has a great responsibility.

Consultations and preparatory work should be resumed by establishing working groups with experts from the member countries.

Due to the breadth of the geography, dividing these working groups into regions and discussing the results in a joint workshop after each regional group has completed its work can be considered.

Here, experts can be expected to present an unbiased report on how an international organization can be effective and how it can be harmonized with the reality of the APA, rather than the priorities of the member states.

Following technical consultations, the heads of our delegations first develop the political dimension. Then, we hold final consultations at an APA Speakers of Parliaments' summit and we can implement the necessary decisions at the nearest plenary session.

In this period, where our clocks run faster than at any other time in history, we should not delay any longer in taking these steps as the representatives of the peoples of the Asian countries.

Dear Colleagues,

Dear Guests,

Before I end my speech, I would like to share with you an extremely important issue from my point of view.

As you know, our President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been exerting efforts and making calls for ending the Russia-Ukraine war to establish a fair peace through, first of all a ceasefire, and then diplomacy, and to eliminate the negative effects of the war.

In this context, for example, the implementation of the Istanbul agreement for the export of Ukrainian grain over the Black Sea has been ensured by the efforts of our President.

This agreement has been the most concrete and powerful step taken in this period against a food insecurity that may be faced around the world. Our Honorable President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is also taking important initiatives on energy security and is trying to prevent the deepening of crises in this area as well. As you know, positive results have been achieved.

I personally nominated our President for the Nobel Peace Prize, thinking that these efforts should be recorded concretely by the international community.

President of the Senate of Pakistan, our dear friend Mohammed Sadik Sanjrani, in a letter he wrote to the Norwegian Nobel Committee last week, nominated our President for the "Nobel Peace Prize" for his efforts to resolve the Ukraine crisis.

I would like to thank him once again in your presence. I would like to take this opportunity to express that I expect the support of you, our esteemed guests and friends, in this regard.

Your support will be remembered as a brick to be laid in the construction of a fairer order and multilateralism that our President and all of us desire, and as a testament to future generations that shows who is on the right side.

The parliamentarians who wish to have their signature on this historical document can contact our secretariat.

Dear Guests,

I believe that the ideas we will develop at our Plenary Session, the goals we will set, will contribute to the reinforcement of the ties and common ideals between our countries and peoples.

I hope that our meeting will yield concrete, practical, useful and beneficial results for the upcoming period, and I wish you success in your work.

I welcome you again.

**The 13th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
“PROMOTING MULTILATERALISM IN THE CHANGING GLOBAL
DYNAMICS”**

9 January 2023

**Honorable Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of
Türkiye, President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, His
Excellency, Prof.Dr. Mustafa Shentop,**

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, I would like to thank His Excellency, Prof.Dr. Mustafa Shentop for his invitation to the 13th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, for his warm welcome and hospitality.

The leadership of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye in the Asian Parliamentary Assembly for the last 5 years is highly commended for the clear expression of commitment and dedication of the brotherly Türkiye to multilateralism, solidarity and inter-parliamentary cooperation.

Honorable colleagues,

Our contemporary world has been facing the challenges that have become hard to deal with.

The period of COVID-19 has only intensified the negative effects of problems affecting all spheres of human life: such as poverty, humanitarian crises, political and social tensions, economic inequalities, climate change. But I believe, the main outcome of the past two years has been about the approaches taken by global community in relation to these problems. Tendencies like “vaccine nationalism”, gaining unfair economic advantages have shown inefficiency of unilateral approaches adopted by some big countries.

Today, as our societies slowly move toward post-pandemic period with all of its harsh realities, dialogue, solidarity and unity gain importance as never before. Despite coming under pressure, past experiences have taught us that there is no alternative to multilateralism.

Yes, it needs serious refinements in order to meet today's challenges, which I will touch upon later in my speech. But only by mobilizing our efforts and staying true to international cooperation that we can find ways out of complex challenges. I strongly believe that it is exactly at this point where parliamentary diplomacy gets an opportunity to unlock its full potential.

Distinguished colleagues,

Having already shown their value over the past years, today, international parliamentary platforms have become an important element of multilateralism by supporting collective efforts and joint actions. We, parliamentarians, as the representatives of our people, have a say in finding solutions to the challenges that concern all of us. And parliamentary cooperation platforms prove our commitment and determination to work together for a better world.

In this sense, the Asian Parliamentary Assembly plays an important role. It brings together parliaments of Asia and provides a framework for dialogue, generation of new ideas and perspectives for greater and closer cooperation. A vast and diverse Asia region offers many opportunities that we can and should use.

As the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Network of the Non-Aligned Movement, which was established by the initiative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, His Excellency, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, I would like to state that the Network shares the same vision and principles, and is ready to cooperate with Asian Parliamentary Assembly for the common goals.

Honorable colleagues,

As I stated above, today's multilateral system needs serious refinements that will benefit all countries. What is needed? First and foremost, norms and principles of international law should be strictly and fully observed. International organizations that stand at the core of the multilateral system, should refrain from double standards. Their decisions and resolution should be implemented without selective approaches.

This is a demand of today's international relations. But it is also imperative for justice and sincerity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

20 percent of the internationally recognized territories of my country Azerbaijan were under the occupation of our neighbor Armenia for almost 30 years. During the years of occupation, Armenia deliberately destroyed all our cities and villages, vandalized all historical, cultural and religious sites of Azerbaijan. Armenia carried out ethnic cleansing in these territories. Almost 4 thousand citizens of Azerbaijan, both civilians and military, still remain missing in connection with the First Karabakh War. Ethnic cleansing resulted in more than one million Azerbaijanis becoming Internally Displaced Persons from the occupied territories and refugees from Armenia.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At this point, I would like to share with you some historical facts. The Azerbaijani people living in Armenia were ousted from their native lands even before the conflict started.

It should be mentioned that historical maps and documents prove that present-day Armenia was established in historical lands of Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijani people lived in those lands for centuries. Our historical city Iravan was made the capital of Armenia in 1918. In 1920, by the decision of the Soviet government, Zangezur was severed from Azerbaijan and

annexed to Armenia. It resulted in geographical separation of Azerbaijan from its Nakhchivan region and Türkiye.

Unfortunately, the Azerbaijani people were subjected to deportations several times throughout the 20th century. The last phase of these deportations took place in 1988-1991, which I have mentioned before. As in Karabakh, the Armenians destroyed all our historical and religious monuments in the Western Azerbaijan and changed the names of cities and villages of Azerbaijani origin. During the last century, it was done consistently with the aim of erasing our historical heritage in these lands.

Honorable colleagues,

Continuing with the issue of the occupation, I would like to remind that during all these years, Azerbaijan tried to solve the conflict by peaceful means. However, four resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council in 1993, resolutions and decisions of other relevant international organizations that demanded immediate, complete, and unconditional withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from Azerbaijan's occupied territories, were not implemented.

But we do know that some resolutions of the UN Security Council are implemented within hours and days. In the case of Azerbaijan, they remained unfulfilled for 27 years. Unfortunately, no sanctions were imposed on the aggressor state by international organizations.

Using the right of self-defense, which is provided by the Article 51 of the UN Charter, and at the cost of the lives of almost three thousand of martyrs, Azerbaijan implemented UN Security Council resolutions, norms and principles of international law, and restored its territorial integrity and historical justice.

After the end of the Second Karabakh War in November 2020, Azerbaijan has started the large-scale restoration and reconstruction works in the liberated territories in the framework of the “Great Return” program. All our former internally displaced persons will return to their homes and this process has already started. And I would like to share with you my firm belief that the rights of the Western Azerbaijanis will also be restored and they will return to their native lands.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Despite being the victim of occupation, it is Azerbaijan that makes efforts to ensure long-term peace and stability in the region and has proposed to Armenia to normalize relations and sign a peace agreement on the basis of 5 principles of international law.

However, Armenia has been grossly violating the Trilateral Statement of November 10, 2020 that put an end to the conflict. It has still not withdrawn its armed forces from the territory of Azerbaijan and has been using the Lachin road for military purposes, transportation of mines and looted natural resources of Azerbaijan.

During the years of occupation, Armenia planted more than 1 million mines in these territories and still continues to do so. Since the end of the Second Karabakh War, almost 280 Azerbaijanis have been killed or seriously injured as a result of mine explosions.

While showing destructive position in the negotiations, Armenia has also been disrupting the process of opening of communications and transport routes, despite the undertaken obligations. The opening of the Zangezur corridor, which will become a new transport route along the

Middle Corridor connecting Asia to Europe, will greatly increase cooperation in transport and trade in the region and beyond.

Honorable colleagues,

At the end of my speech, I would like to express my hope that this plenary session, our discussions will give impact to promoting multilateralism in the changing global dynamics.

Thank you for your attention.

In the Name of God

The Text of Speech of His Excellency Dr. Qalibaf, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran, at the 13th APA Plenary

Antalya, Turkey
January 2023

In the Name of Allah, the most Compassionate, the most Merciful

His Excellency Mustafa Şentop, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey;

Distinguished Speakers of Parliaments;

Respected Heads of the Parliamentary Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

At the outset, I would like to express my pleasure for participating in the important APA Plenary session. At the same time, I would also like to appreciate the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, particularly its Speaker, my dear brother Mustafa Şentop for their great efforts and arrangements to host this meeting. I also thank the APA secretariat, the distinguished Secretary General and all his collaborators for their great efforts to prepare the documents and organize this meeting.

Mr. President;
Distinguished Participants;

Currently, the world is going through challenging days; challenges which do not only belong to one specific country, region or continent, but they would affect everyone living in different parts of the world. These challenges include climate changes, pandemics, terrorism, occupation and aggression by imperial powers, violation of human rights and migration. Taking into account the current global circumstances, all of us should feel responsible to resolve these challenges and promote a joint effort to built a common future. To overcome the current and upcoming challenges, humanity has no other option but to resort to integration and cooperation.

Considering its current position in global affairs, Asia can play a serious and crucial role to resolve the global problems. In recent years, Asia has witnessed a significant and high growth and development which is in fact moving in line with realizing the “Asian Magic”.

We are in need of a new and fair international order inspired with Asia as its main focus. In this regard, it is crucial to remain committed to the idea of multilateralism as a pattern for Asian cooperation. At the same time, it is required to be committed to some fundamental principles, including the respect to sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states, supporting non-interference in internal affairs of other countries, respect to right of nations to make independent choices and effective opposition to unilateralism and occupation.

Mr. President;

If we as Asian nations deliver our responsibilities adequately during this critical time, the impacts of our actions will not be exclusive to our old continent. They will create positive changes worldwide and bring about global peace, security and welfare. To this end, we should pay sufficient attention to dire needs of all Asian countries and ensure practical cooperation on key areas of reduction of poverty, food security, funding balanced development and industrialization in order to realize fair and balanced development for all Asian countries.

Increasing the role of Asian countries in international politics requires collective planning and following up of common objectives at regional and international organizations and APA is one of the most clear and outstanding examples in this regard. Within the framework of APA, we can identify our weaknesses and privileges for Asian integration and multilateralism and move towards promoting interconnectedness and cooperation among the Member States. Recently, the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran adopted the Headquarters Convention of this regional organization with the Islamic Republic of Iran and we hereby express our readiness to promote further cooperation with its secretariat and Member States.

Distinguished Participants;

In recent years, we have all witnessed the U.S. unilateral approach tarnishing the global peace and security. At the same time, we have all witnessed the efforts made by Western countries to introduce their cultural values as the dominant ones and have been trying to impose them upon the Asian communities through numerous methods. The latest example of such an approach was the insulting act of the French magazine against the leader of the world of Islam and Shiism His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Khamenei which was done by the support of the French government. This demonstrates that, through mutual cooperation, the Asian countries should resist against such attacks, which target the cultural identity of other states.

Mr. President;

We are at the anniversary of the unfair assassination of General Suleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis the international hero of the fight against terrorism, and his selfless companions at Baghdad Airport by the American occupiers. Martyr Suleimani served his being honestly for the sake of regional and international

security and took effective measures in line with fighting against international terrorism and Takfiri groups.

Undoubtedly, the criminal act of the then U.S. President to assassinate General Suleimani, is a clear and definite instance of “state terrorism”. Trump and all his accomplices in this inhuman act have “definite international responsibilities” against this big crime and must be held accountable before authorized courts and human conscience.

Distinguished Colleagues;

The question of Palestine and its innocent people require further serious attention from international circles.

We believe that the final solution to the Palestinian crisis is not achievable through imposed plans to consolidate occupation but it is workable through referring to the votes of the Palestinian nation, return of Palestinian refugees to their homeland and establishment of a fair peace.

In conclusion, I would like to restate the principled belief of the Islamic Republic of Iran that in order to overcome the existing challenges and realizing our common objectives, particularly to strengthen multilateralism, our Parliaments, representing our nations, can play a significant role.

I, on behalf of the respected MPs of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran, express the full readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran’s Parliament to consolidate cooperation and interaction with our counterparts from other Asian Parliaments. In this regard, it is noteworthy that the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran has tabled a draft resolution on “Promoting Cooperation among the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Member States to Expand and Consolidate Multilateralism”. It’s adoption by the APA would paved the ground for evolution of cooperation among APA Member States and expansion of multilateralism in Asia.

Thank you for your attention.



**STATEMENT BY
H.E. MR. ANICETO LONGUINHOS GUTERRES LOPES
PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT
OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE**

AT THE 13TH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

***“PROMOTING MULTILATERALISM IN THE CHANGING GLOBAL
DYNAMICS”.***

**08-10 January 2023
Antalya, Turkiye**

His Excellency Prof. Mustafa Sentop, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and President of the 13th APA.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the people of Timor-Leste, allow me to offer my New Year greetings and deep gratitude for the invitation to be present at this plenary which takes place in Antalya, “**the old city**” or known as “**Kaleici**”, where Asian countries meet to share our common perspectives on the importance of how we are “Promoting Multilateralism in Changing Global Dynamics”.

The theme of the plenary touches exactly on the ongoing challenges facing the world today. The challenges of the last three years, added to the existing climate changes, are placing the world in a unique moment of rethinking and reconfiguring new social and economic perspectives.

Over the past three years, the world has experienced major transformations, politically and economically, and while many global challenges remain and have grown in complexity, in particular the war between Russia and Ukraine, and have had a transformative impact on the world economy, growing geopolitical tensions and delays in recovery from Covid-19 is shaking all nations and imposing serious obstacles to continued efforts at inclusive and sustainable development. The world is facing interconnected threats that could jeopardize global stability, such as a global health pandemic, climate change, widening inequalities and economic insecurity. Unfortunately, in the face of these unprecedented global challenges, international cooperation is under pressure due to rising nationalism and protectionism.

Similar to what happens to other countries, the pandemic blockades, public catastrophe and war in Ukraine greatly affect our social and economic sector; in Timor-Leste, **food prices increased by 8.2% in September 2022** and the **price of oil increased by 21%** compared to the same period last year, due to global increases in energy prices and disruptions in the supply chain caused by the Russia-Ukraine war. To address these challenges, Timor-Leste has created a robust response, implementing various economic stimulus packages to reinforce public health measures and protect vulnerable households and the business sector, through the design of subsidies and incentives, as well as through the allocation of fuel subsidies for public transport operators.

We recognize the importance of continuing to keep the peace in this growing region with promising trends across all sectors. Preventing, creating and maintaining peace is an arduous task that can take years to accomplish. We emphasize the importance of investing much more in conflict prevention and the resolution of tensions through peaceful resolution, dialogue and reconciliation.

Timor-Leste is a strong advocate of multilateralism, and regional organization can play a pivotal role in maintaining regional stability and regional economic cooperation, which will help not only to address current and emerging global issues, but also national issues. In this era, of course, we need more cooperation and more multilateralism, when some countries prefer to prioritize their own strategic agenda and abandon the rest of the world. Timor-Leste will play a more active role in these areas, to encourage stronger cultural, economic and commercial relationships with other countries, all of which are crucial to maintaining commitment in the struggle for peace and stability.

Timor-Leste was the first country to adopt the document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Common Life, which was signed on February 4, 2019 by His Holiness Pope Francis of the Catholic Church and His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al- Azhar, Professor Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayeb, in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates). Our National Parliament unanimously voted in favor of adopting the Document on Human Fraternity as a national document. It has been shared with our national authorities, as well as the Catholic Church and other religious groups, and it has been introduced into the school curriculum. In fact, this document is in line with the values and principles of our Constitution.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm that the war in Ukraine and the Covid-19 pandemic constitute the greatest test of multilateralism, both the virus and the consequences of war know no borders, all countries are affected. Therefore, the multilateral is an international system that can effectively address global issues within their nature and complexity. In this regard, Timor-Leste calls for more multilateral action, comprehensive and holistic approaches, cooperation and joint efforts; it requires renewed political will and solidarity to end the war in Ukraine; urges accelerating recovery from the effects of Covid-19, allocating more resources to climate mitigation, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This will ensure that all our

citizens, including women, children and the elderly, can benefit from regional peace and respect humanity based on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Common Life.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker! Çok Tesekkurler!

In the Name of Allah, Most Merciful, Most Compassionate

Your Excellency Professor Mustafa Sentop, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Your Highness the Secretary General of the Asian National Assembly, Dr. Mohammed Reza Majidi; dignitaries, ladies and gentlemen

Honorable parliament speakers and all other participating international VIPs,

Ladies and gentlemen, honorable attendance.

Peace, mercy and the blessings of Allah be upon you

I would like at the outset of my speech to express my sincere thanks to the august Grand National Assembly of Turkey for hosting the 13th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and all the positive contributions the Assembly has made to the success of the workings of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, thanks to Turkey's legislative institution for its keenness to constantly play hosts.

It's my great honor and pleasure to lead the Iraqi parliamentary delegation to this major event regardless of the fact it is my first attendance. After I have become well aware of the detailed contents of the Assembly's agenda items, I made up my mind to attend the session and make attendance of the Iraqi delegation constantly felt and express the ICOR's everlasting interest in having a key role to play within this institution in general and in all other relevant activities.

Our successive attendances which have lasted for so many years in the past and the ICOR's previous preparedness to host the 2019 Planning and Budget Standing Committee in Baghdad provide concrete evidence of our profound interest in the Assembly and the great importance which our legislative institution pin to Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

We all hope the scope of influence of forthcoming events will be extended beyond the boundaries of ordinary protocol meetings to enable our chambers'

legislations have active and positive effects on the lives of their own respective peoples.

Dear colleagues,

When I explored the assembly's previous debated topics and compared them with those of the present session, I was really pleased to discover the great efforts that have been made in the latter meeting to make the workings of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly a full success and help it carry on with its currently operational mechanisms and its forthcoming debatable subjects.

Ladies and brothers,

There is no denying the world has witnessed tremendous productive changes at the political and economic levels. We also aware of how the situation in Asia where some Asian nations are now well ahead of other parts of the world. The point I am trying to make here is that we the attendants need to mutually cooperate to help our nations achieve even higher levels of progress and technical advancement with the help and aid of the abundantly available human and natural resources of our respective countries.

Dear Brothers,

Your Brothers in Iraqi Council of Representative have come along in confronting political crisis, proceeded with the election of the new **Head of State**, given confidence to the newly elected government, and being, currently tasked to passing the important necessary legislations.

Iraq, after overcoming its security problems, addressing its political crisis and achieving that immortal victory over ISIS' criminal gangs, has become a more powerful and coherent country that looks forward to improving its current reality at all levels, on top of which, the development and economy. We are, therefore, mindful of the importance of enhancing cooperation with brothers and friends from brotherly and friendly neighboring countries specially the first ones. Hoping that those countries will demonstrate their constructive cooperation and genuine partnership with us in accordance with the principles of sovereignty respect.

Dear loved Brothers,

We thank God for our restoration of safe civil life which culminated in the organization of Arab Gulf Football Cup being, currently, held in Basra Province which the last time, we organize it was about 43 years ago, so the years have passed by and we, once more having the honor to organize this event in Basra City with a solemn, majestic and eye-abducting opening ceremony that won satisfaction of all.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We seize this opportunity to reaffirm Iraq' supportive position to the Palestinian just case and the Palestinian peoples' right to establish its own independent State with Al-Quds Al-Aharif as its capital.

Dear Dignified Attendees,

We in Iraqi Council of Representatives, as President esteemed Assembly and Members, will do our utmost to make the work of our most grateful for insuring us the opportunity of involvement success and will be in any activity to enhance the work of Assembly.

I, once more, repeat my thankfulness to our dear neighboring country, Turkey, seizing this opportunity to express my deep and ultimate gratitude to **APA's General Secretariat**, in general, and especially, to my Dear Fellow Dr. **Majidi** for the great effort done by him and his team to make the work of Assembly a success and for the organization of these meetings.

May Allah, the Almighty, Bless our upcoming works and conclude our session with success

Peace, Mercy and Blessings of Allah be upon you all



المناقشة العامة: كلمة وفد المجلس الوطني الفلسطيني في الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية

السيد الرئيس البروفيسور مصطفى شنطوب،
الأمين العام الأستاذ محمد رضا مجيدي،
رؤساء الوفود وأعضاء الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية،

من ارض فلسطين التي لا زالت تئن تحت نير أكثر احتلال في عصرنا دموية وارهابا، جنناكم من ارض الصمود والتاريخ المتجذر فيها لآلاف السنين، الارض التي تواجه استعمارا صهيونيا لم يعرف التاريخ مثيلا له، الارض التي ما زالت بأبنائها وشعبها يواجه آخر احتلال على وجه الارض.. نعم آخر احتلال على وجه الارض، احتلال استعماري استئصالي عنصري بغيض، قتل البشر واقتلع الحجر ويسعى اليوم لمواصلة مشروعه بمحو تاريخ شعب فلسطين الذي يأبى الرضوخ والاستسلام ويقف صامدا بلحمه الحي يواجه اعنى ما نتجته اسلحة القتل والارهاب والتدمير..

جنناكم بإسم اكثر من خمسة آلاف أسير فلسطيني، اطفال ونساء وكبار سن ومرضى، قابعين في سجون الإحتلال الإسرائيلي، بإسم عشرات آلاف الشهداء الذين سقطوا دفاعا عن حقهم في الحرية والإستقلال، بإسم شعب فلسطين، في غزة المحاصرة والصامدة، في الضفة المنتفضة، في مخيمات اللجوء والشتات خارج فلسطين، في أراضي عام ١٩٤٨، وفي المهاجر الاجنبية.. بإسم رئيس المجلس الوطني الفلسطيني الأخ روجي فتوح، و رئاسة واعضاء المجلس الوطني الفلسطيني الذي يحبيكم على دعمكم لنضالنا من أجل إنهاء الإحتلال الإسرائيلي ونظامه الإستعماري الإستيطاني الإحلالي الذي يرفض التسليم بحقوق شعبنا الفلسطيني في إقامة دولته المستقلة وعاصمتها القدس على حدود الرابع من حزيران عام ١٩٦٧، وعودة اللاجئين إلى ديارهم التي تحظى بدعم مئات القرارات الدولية.

جننا هنا لننقل تحية القدس عاصمة دولتنا الابدية، ولنضعكم في صورة ما يتعرض له شعبنا في فلسطين وخارجها من معاناة ومآسي ما زالت متواصلة منذ اكثر من ١٠٠ عام، طالبين حرية وعدالة ما زالت غائبة عن فلسطين، أملين النجاح والتوفيق للدورة ١٣ للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية والتي تعقد تحت عنوان " تعزيز تعددية الأطراف في الديناميات العالمية المتغيرة" وهو عنوان يفتح بابا لنسأل عن ازدواجية المعايير الدولية في التعاطي مع قضايا العالم، وما فائدة المنظمات والقوانين الدولية وشرعة حقوق الانسان ان لم تكن قادرة على وقف عدوان ومعاينة معتدي، وليس هناك اكثر اجراما وقتلا وارهابا من الإحتلال الاسرائيلي الذي يتجرأ علنا على تحدي الارادة الدولية بدعم مباشر من الولايات المتحدة الأميركية التي اصبحت عنوانا وسببا مباشرا في كل الحروب والصراعات التي يشهدها العالم.

الحضور الكريم،

إن جوهر القضية الفلسطينية هو الأرض وشعبها المتجذر فيها منذ آلاف السنين، وصراعنا مع إسرائيل هو من أجل الحفاظ على استرجاع ارضنا المحتلة والحفاظ على هويتها التي تعمل إسرائيل وبشكل يومي

على تهويدها، بناء على خرافات واساطير تاريخية موهومة لكنها تلقى دعماً من قوى الاستعمار القديم والجديد وعلى رأسه الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية، التي تسعى بكل الأساليب إلى تكريس الرواية الصهيونية، التي لم ولن تجد سوى مقاومة فلسطينية على أرضية رواية فلسطينية أصيلة مدعومة بحقوق التاريخ والقانون الدولي ودعم أحرار العالم الذين أكدوا قبل أيام في الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة على مجموعة من الحقوق السياسية والاقتصادية والقانونية والتي تتطلب اسنادها بمجموعة من الإجراءات الضاغطة على المحتل لإجباره على الاعتراف بهذه الحقوق وتطبيقها وتمكين الشعب الفلسطيني من ممارسة حقوقه الوطنية كبقية شعوب العالم.

لقد نهض شعبنا الفلسطيني من تحت ركام النكبة الوطنية التي حلت به، واستعاد كيانيته، وأعاد بناء حركته الوطنية، وتجسدت هويته وكيانيته في منظمة التحرير الفلسطينية ممثلة الشرعي والوحيد، وأطلق برنامجه الوطني، برنامج العودة وتقرير المصير والدولة المستقلة، وهو الآن يخوض مقاومة شعبية شاملة، ومسلحة في الضفة الفلسطينية المحتلة بما فيها القدس، ويقف صامداً في وجه الحصار الظالم المفروض على قطاع غزة، يقدم الشهداء الأبرار، على طريق الخلاص الوطني.

لقد تصاعد القمع الدموي الإسرائيلي ضد شعبنا، فبلغ عدد الشهداء لهذا العام حتى الآن أكثر من ٢٥٠ شهيداً، عشرون منهم من الأطفال الأبرياء، وأربعون من النساء، بعد أن استهدفت نيران العدو مواطنينا بدم بارد في عمليات إعدام فردية في الضفة، وبعد أن استهدف نيران مدفعيته المنازل الآمنة في القطاع المحاصر واقفلت الطريق أمام تطبيق قرارات الشرعية الدولية الأمر الذي دعا مجلسنا الوطني لاتخاذ سلسلة من القرارات في مواجهة العدوان من أهمها إلغاء كافة الاتفاقات التي عقدت بين م.ت.ف والسلطة الفلسطينية ودولة إسرائيل بما فيها اتفاق أوسلو وملحقاته الأمنية والاقتصادية إلى جانب تعليق الاعتراف بها ومقاطعتها اقتصادياً ومحاكمتها قانونياً وتطوير أشكال المقاومة وصولاً لتجسيد سيادة دولة فلسطين على كامل الأراضي المحتلة بعدوان ٦٧ وعاصمتها القدس، الأمر الذي سيلزم استعادة الوحدة الوطنية في إطار منظمة التحرير الفلسطينية الذي دعا له المجلس الوطني.

إن الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية وفي تعاكس مع الإرادة الدولية الداعمة للشعب الفلسطيني ما زالت توفر لكيان العدو الإسرائيلي كل مقومات الحيالة والبقاء، وما زالت أولويتها ضمان أمن إسرائيل وحمايتها من الملاحقات القانونية، ما يؤكد بأن الولايات المتحدة وكما عبرت التجارب ليست شريكا نزيهاً في عملية التسوية المسدود الأفق، بل شريكا للاحتلال وداعماً له في كافة ممارساته وجرائمه، وهي تعمل على بناء أحلاف وشراكات سياسية وأمنية وعسكرية واقتصادية في المنطقة والعالم وإثارة النعرات والحروب كما حصل في أفغانستان وسوريا، ويحصل في العراق وأوكرانيا لحماية مصالحها ومصالح إسرائيل على حساب شعبنا وشعوب المنطقة، بعد أن فشلت في الاستمرار بأحكام الهيمنة على العالم وسياسة الحصار والعقوبات الاقتصادية على الدول المناهضة لسياستها، كفلسطين، سوريا، إيران، روسيا، الصين، كوبا، فنزويلا، وكوريا الشمالية وغيرها، والآن تقوم قوى دولية جديدة تدعو إلى عالم جديد قائم على التعددية بدلاً لسياسات القطب الواحد الذي دفع العالم اثماناً باهظة بسببه وفي مقدمتها الشعب الفلسطيني.

إننا واذ نؤكد على تمسكنا بحقوقنا الوطنية ورفض التنازل عنها، فإننا مصررون على مواصلة مقاومتنا ورفض جميع أشكال التطبيع والانفتاح على العدو، وندعو حلفاءنا واصدقائنا وأحرار العالم إلى دعم نضالنا الوطني واتخاذ الإجراءات التي تكفل عزل الكيان الإسرائيلي ووضعها أمام المحاكمة الدولية وفرض العقوبات الدولية عليها خاصة في ظل حكومة التطرف الفاشية الجديدة صاحبة مشروع الضم والاستيطان والتهويد والتهجير واستباحة الأماكن المقدسة الإسلامية والمسيحية.

ويهمنا هنا أن نؤكد وقوفنا الى جانب لبنان ومقاومته لتحرير ما تبقى من أراضيها المحتلة والى جانب سوريا في استرجاع اراضي الجولان المحتل، ومواجهة الاعتداءات الاسرائيلية والاميركية، وفي حضرة هذا الجمع من ممثلي البرلمانات الاسيوية فاننا واذ نتقدم بالشكر والتقدير على كل الدعم الذي تحظى به قضيتنا من المجموعة الاسيوية في الامم المتحدة بمختلف منظماتها نطالب بالعمل على التالي:

١- دعم مقاومة الشعب الفلسطيني واعتبار القضية الفلسطينية قضية سياسية في المقام الاول وليست انسانية او اقتصادية، وهي قضية تحرر وطني لشعب احتلت ارضه وله كامل الحق في تحريرها من خلال المقاومة بجميع اشكالها، وعلى خلفية ان حل هذه القضية هو في تمكين الشعب الفلسطيني من ممارسة حقوقه السياسية فوق ارضه وبحرية خاصة حقه في اقامة دولة مستقلة وسيدة عاصمتها القدس على حدود الرابع من حزيران وعودة اللاجئين وفقا للقرار الاممي رقم ١٩٤.

٢- دعم دولة فلسطين في مطلبها لنيل العضوية الكاملة في الأمم المتحدة، وتقديم الدعم الكامل لها لنيل عضوية المؤسسات الدولية وتمكينها من ممارسة دورها فيها، لا سيما نظام روما الأساسي للمحكمة الجنائية الدولية، الذي من شأنه أن يخفف من العراقيل القانونية والإدارية، ويدعم قرار الدائرة التمهيدية للمحكمة الصادر في ٥ شباط (فبراير) ٢٠٢١ لمباشرة التحقيق في جرائم دولة الاحتلال الإسرائيلية المرتكبة على الأرض الفلسطينية المحتلة.

٣- وقف الإستيطان وتفكيك المستوطنات وجدار الفصل العنصري بناء على فتوى محكمة العدل الدولية عام ٢٠٠٤، وقرار مجلس الأمن ٢٣٣٤ الصادر عام ٢٠١٦ والتصدي لمخطط الضم الاسرائيلي وتداعيات صفقة القرن الامريكية التي تشطب الحقوق والهوية الوطنية للشعب الفلسطيني.

٤- تكثيف كل الجهود القانونية والتشريعية اللازمة لسن قوانين تحث على مقاطعة البضائع الاسرائيلية وخاصة بضائع المستوطنات الإسرائيلية، وقف التطبيع معها والتراجع عنه وقطع العلاقات مع دولة الاحتلال، باعتبارها دولة فصل عنصري، ومن اجل اجبارها على تطبيق قرارات الشرعية الدولية المتعلقة بالقضية الفلسطينية.

٥- التأكيد على أن القدس على حدود ٤ من حزيران (يونيو) عام ١٩٦٧، جزء لا يتجزأ من الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة؛ والتأكيد على أن جميع الإجراءات الإسرائيلية الهادفة إلى تغيير الطابع القانوني والجغرافي والديمقراطي للقدس وللأرض الفلسطينية المحتلة باطل ولاغ وليس له أي شرعية. والامتناع عن إنشاء بعثات دبلوماسية في مدينة القدس بناء على قرار مجلس الأمن ٤٧٨ (١٩٨٠) وقرارات الامم المتحدة.

٦- إدانة الممارسات الاجرامية من قبل مجموعات المستوطنين المتطرفين الاسرائيليين في الضفة بشكل عام وفي القدس بشكل خاص، والتأكيد الدائم على رفض كافة الاجراءات الصهيونية في مدينة القدس والتي تهدف الى تهويدها وتغيير طابعها التاريخي.. والتصدي للاقتحامات التي ينفذها بن غفير

والمطرفين الصهاينة وقوات الاحتلال للمسجد الأقصى بهدف تقسيمه زمانيا ومكانيا ووقف الاعتداءات على الاماكن الاسلامية والمسيحية المقدسة.

٧- العمل على إطلاق سراح جميع الأسرى والمعتقلين الفلسطينيين في سجون الاحتلال الإسرائيلي وفي مقدمتهم الأطفال والنساء والمرضى وكبار السن، ووقف سياسة الاعتقال الإداري والتدخل الفوري لحماية حياة الاسرى، والافراج عن جثامين الأسرى والشهداء في مقابر الأرقام.

٨- السعي مع دول اخرى لاجبار دولة الاحتلال الإسرائيلي على تطبيق قرارات الشرعية الدولية، والقانون الدولي الإنساني، لاسيما إتفاقيات جنيف الأربعة، والتعامل مع اسرائيل على أنها دولة خارجة عن القانون، ومعاقبتها على ما تسببت به من دمار للمنازل والممتلكات الفلسطينية والبنية التحتية والأراضي الزراعية من خلال الأنشطة الاستيطانية، وتهجير المدنيين الفلسطينيين قسرا وانتهاك جسيم للقانون الدولي.

٩- دعم قضية اللاجئين الفلسطينيين وحقهم في العودة إلى ديارهم وفقا للقرار ١٩٤، وتقديم كل أشكال الدعم الكامل لوكالة الأمم المتحدة لإغاثة وتشغيل اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في الشرق الأدنى (الأونروا)، والعمل مع المجتمع الدولي على معالجة الازمة المالية ووقف الضغوط الاسرائيلية الامريكية عليها.

١٠- الضغط لرفع الحصار عن قطاع غزة وتسهيل وصول المساعدات الإنسانية والإمدادات الطبية والاقتصادية..

١١- تشكيل لجنة برلمانية لفلسطين تهتم بكافة التطورات الخاصة بالقضية الفلسطينية وتقديم كل أشكال الدعم البرلماني على كافة الأصعدة الدولية والقانونية.

١٢- دعم نضال شعبنا في الاراضي المحتلة عام ٤٨ في مواجهة سياسة التمييز العنصري وطمس الهوية الوطنية الفلسطينية ووقف مصادرة الاراضي.

١٣- السعي الجاد لعقد مؤتمر دولي بحضور الدول الخمسة الكبرى برعاية الأمم المتحدة وعلى أساس قراراتها لتمكين الشعب الفلسطيني من تقرير مصيره على أرضه وإقامة دولته المستقلة بحدود الرابع من حزيران عام ١٩٦٧ بعاصمتها القدس الشرقية وعودة اللاجئين الفلسطينيين إلى ديارهم وفق القرار ١٩٤.

١٤- الحفاظ على مكانة منظمة التحرير الفلسطينية باعتبارها الممثل الشرعي والوحيد للشعب الفلسطيني واعادة افتتاح مكتبها في واشنطن ورفعها عن لائحة العقوبات الأميركية، والتنسيق الكامل مع المجلس الوطني الفلسطيني باعتباره الهيئة التشريعية العليا والوحيدة لها.

كل التحية لكم .. مع الامل بمواصلة دعمكم لنا ولشعبنا ومقاومتنا حتى انتهاء الاحتلال الاسرائيلي واقامة
الدولة الفلسطينية المستقلة على كامل الاراضي المحتلة بعدوان ٦٧ بعاصمتها القدس وعودة اللاجئين
وفقا للقرار الاممي ١٩٤ .

لكم السلام .. ولفلسطين وشعبها الحرية والاستقلال والعدالة الناجزة
وشكرا

علي فيصل،

نائب رئيس المجلس الوطني الفلسطيني

**Address by Head of the Russian delegation, Deputy Chairman
of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Sergey Neverov
at the opening ceremony of the 13th Plenary Session of the APA**

Dear colleagues!

Finally, after two years of the pandemic, you and I are able to meet on the grounds of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, and, in fact, today's meeting is the beginning of the implementation of our usual formats, where we can meet and look at each other, discuss and make decisions that our citizens are waiting for.

In this regard, I would like to thank His Excellency, Chairman Mr. Mustafa Shentop for the hospitality and excellent organization of the event by the Turkish Grand National Assembly.

And of course, the APA format will help us work out optimal solutions, because without dialogue we can't do that. Of course, new means of communication allow us to meet in video conference mode, but there is no substitute for personal communication.

The theme of our general discussion, like that of the whole session, is «Promoting multilateralism in the changing global dynamics», is fully in line with the current situation in the world.

New challenges and threats in the emerging multipolar world order, the need to urgently address the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, the importance of ensuring sustainable growth, global security, including food supply and effective action to combat climate change require the concerted efforts not only of the world's Governments, but also of the entire international community, and the use of the intellectual and creative potential of the civil society.

Parliaments undoubtedly have a crucial role to play. Their authority and ability to find a balance of interests, to reach compromise can and already play a stabilizing role for the entire system of international relations, giving it the much-needed flexibility and sustainability, predictability in the transition to a new paradigm of world governance.

In this context, the practicing by some States of discriminating restrictive measures against parliamentarians is of serious concern. The use of sanctions for political reasons against legislators and the creation of obstacles for full participation of parliamentary delegations in the work of international associations/organizations are absolutely unacceptable. Such practices contradict the fundamental principles of democracy, create artificial barriers, block the productive activities of people's representatives on multilateral platforms, hamper interaction and undermine the foundations of trust, global and regional security.

Therefore, the formation of a culture of mutual respect and the search for an optimal balance, taking into account different national interests, should take a special place in international communication. There is a need to continue an equitable and constructive dialogue and to make better use of bilateral and multilateral mechanisms of parliamentary diplomacy to determine the best solutions to overcome the global crisis.

There are many places on the world map where we continue to witness massive human tragedies. Stopping what is happening in Syria, Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan and other territories that have experienced the intervention of the so-called collective West is a task that requires the concerted efforts of the entire international community, with the active participation of parliamentarians.

Colleagues, we should develop the Assembly's capacity to respond to the challenges facing our countries. The world must be multipolar. The United States of America is trying to restrain the development of other countries in order to maintain its hegemony. This applies to all our nations, so we believe it is necessary not only to state our position, but also to do everything possible to preserve and protect our sovereignty, to do everything to ensure that people live in peace and of course, to develop relations on the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

We can see that Washington and Brussels are using various methods: imposing illegal sanctions, blackmailing, intimidating, fomenting conflicts, trying to destroy our traditional values, traditions, history, culture, religion. What this is

done for is quite obvious – they want to pull a person out of the family and society, leave him alone with his problems and make him dependent, and then manage. To govern in the interest of the state, in the interest of maintaining its dominant position, and, of course, all this will be done at the expense of other countries, at the expense of citizens who live in other states.

In this context, we must find a common solution to ensure the information security of APA member countries and the world as a whole. It is important to protect the traditional values that unite us, to protect people from destructive propaganda, to strengthen the digital sovereignty of our countries.

The United States and the European Union are accustomed to interfering in the internal affairs of other states, as we can see in the example of Ukraine: having become an American colony, the country has lost its independence, Washington is using it as an instrument to fight against Russia, seeking to undermine security in the Eurasian space.

Today, the Kiev Nazi regime is carrying out terrorist acts against civilians and shelling the critical infrastructure of nuclear power plants. This threatens tragedy, nuclear catastrophe. It is important for us to do everything to prevent such situations.

I would like to remind you that Russian specialists have discovered facts of US military biological activity on the territory of Ukraine. The United States has also violated the Chemical Weapons Convention. Washington and its satellites are expected to block the adoption of the UN Security Council resolution developed by our country on the establishment of a commission to investigate these crimes. Obviously they have something to hide.

Washington's biological warfare is a threat to all humanity. Colleagues, it is important that we work together to develop effective measures to ensure the safety of our citizens.

The Russian Parliament has appealed to its foreign counterparts on the inadmissibility of developing biological and toxin weapons.

The emergence of new hot spots, terrorism, increasingly sophisticated financial and economic crimes, including cross-border crimes, pose a threat not only to national security but also to the foundation of democracy - parliamentarism, the rule of law and human rights.

In these circumstances, the Westerners' imposition of their system of values provokes tension, exacerbates inter-State contradictions and fuels national and religious strife.

Our efforts are aimed at implementing the generally accepted norms of the United Nations Charter, the universal principles of equal and indivisible security, strengthening stability and ensuring sustainable development. Such unifying approaches by Russia are always supported, including on multilateral parliamentary platforms, by the majority of States that are unequivocal in favor of strengthening the legal foundations of international relations.

I wish you all success and fruitful work!

Thank you for your attention!



Brief Note Of
Bangladesh

On

“Promoting Multilateralism in the Changing Global Dynamics”

13th Plenary Session of the Executive Council Meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)
8-10 January 2023, Ankara, Turkey

Bismillah-Hir-Rahmanir-Raheem

Honorable Chair, member of Delegation, a very good morning/ afternoon,

First of all, I would like to thank you with our warmest gratitude on behalf of our Delegation from Bangladesh for Inviting us to the executive council meeting of APA.

Dear colleagues

Bangladesh maintains her steadfast commitment to multilateralism and diplomacy. Bangladesh firmly believes that multilateralism is an effective process to promote peace, security and ensure human development through collective action and find a just solution to the competing and complex global challenges and issues.

Multilateral mechanism was a safeguard for Bangladesh during our struggle for independence in 1971. Due to this very reason Pakistan's effort supported by few countries to crack down the movement of the Bangalee people for their right to self-determination were not successful. The UN agencies came forward to help the million refugees who took shelter in our friendly neighboring India during the war of Independence. After independence, Bangladesh became a member of the UN in 1974 and many countries of the world recognized Bangladesh as a sovereign state because of Our liberal values and adherence to the principles of the UN Charter. Bangladesh is a constant supporter of peaceful settlement of international disputes through dialogue and diplomacy. Bangladesh does not want to see any war or armed conflicts anywhere in the globe as we know how the innocent people, in particular women and children suffer during war and armed conflicts.

The statement 'Friendship to all and malice to none' advocated by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is the cornerstone of Bangladesh's foreign policy. On 6 December 2022, the UN resolution titled 'International Year of Dialogue as a Guarantee of Peace, 2023' incorporated this historic quote of Bangabandhu. As an ardent advocate of global humanity and peace, Bangladesh actively participated in the negotiation for inclusion of our

foreign policy dictum in the UN resolution as it is very much relevant now and again to promote constructive cooperation, dialogue and mutual understanding.

Bangladesh under the leadership of our Prime Minister H.E Sheikh Hasina continues to contribute to the multilateral system. Bangladesh believes that collective attention and action are needed more robustly than ever to address the cross-cutting and competing global issues such as climate change, geopolitical tensions, humanitarian and migration issues. Bangladesh is the flag-bearer of the norm-setting resolution on “Culture of Peace” in the United Nations which was adopted on 13 September 1999. Bangladesh considers the “Culture of Peace” as an overarching notion strengthening the message for peace in years to come and moving beyond the landmark Agenda 2030.

Bangladesh takes pride as the leading peacekeeping nation and for our contribution to global peace. Despite unprecedented challenges of the pandemic, our peacekeepers are serving in some of the most difficult places across the globe with utmost dedication. Bangladesh stands committed to the principles laid down in the United Nations (UN) Charter highlighting ‘peaceful settlement of international disputes and maintenance of global peace and security’. The vow for establishing peace and security by Bangladeshi peacekeepers comes from the principles enshrined in the Constitution of Bangladesh. The Preamble to the Constitution reads “.... We may prosper in freedom and may make our full contribution towards international peace and cooperation in keeping with the progressive aspirations of mankind.” We as always been responding promptly to the United Nations’ call for strengthening world peace and stability. Currently, a total of 7181 (October 2022) Bangladeshi peacekeepers are deployed in different UN peacekeeping missions. Bangladesh co-sponsored the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, also known as resolution on Women, Peace and Security and played a leading role in garnering support for this resolution during our Presidency of the UN Security Council. The Resolution 1325 emphasizes women's equal participation for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

Multilateralism manifests the collective willingness to cooperate with multi-stakeholders under a rule based system and strengthens liberal values. Multilateral institutions like the UN, IMF, World Bank, WTO emerged to provide a rule based structure for political and economic relations among the countries. The rule based system guided nations through the last seven decades. The COVID pandemic followed by the Russia-Ukraine conflicts trapped global actors in a mindset of protectionism and isolationism. The state actors are seen as ever more reluctant to channel funds to multilateral institutions and to engage into binding agreements. The changed power dynamics has shown less interest in preventive diplomacy. Efforts to resolve crises are often being taken once they have broken out. Multilateral efforts to address climate change have made symbolic progress at best. The Palestine issue has become a glaring example of how multilateralism has utterly failed to deliver. The Rohingya Crises needs more Multilateral effort in sending back Rohingya Community to Myanmar, to their home where they belong. There is an overall deficit of confidence of the global audience in UN mechanisms, which could not live up to their expectation and deliver its primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. On the human rights agenda, the UN system has not done justice to the principle of non-selectivity, objectivity and non-politicization of the rights issues.

Given the erosion of multilateralism and the reasons thereof, there is no alternative to international liberal order and the win-win dynamic inherent to international cooperation. Multilateralism is not over; rather it is needed more than ever in its refreshed form. It is the question of remaining relevant.

Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) can be torch bearer of promoting Multilateralism. important issues which needs to be addressed jointly, quickly and effectively can be pushed in platforms' such as the UN through APA and to other regional and international bodies. We welcome this meeting as a step forward as an effective multilateralism engagement. I on behalf of Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury Hon'ble Speaker of Bangladesh National Parliament once again congratulate the Host for the all-important meeting and wonderful hospitality.

Thank you very much.

Alhaj Syed Nazibul Bashar Maizvandary MP

Team Leader of Bangladesh Delegation

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Statement by Hon. Prof. Dr. TY SOKUN, Head of Delegation
of Cambodia's Parliament at the 13th Plenary Session of APA
"Promoting Multilateralism in the Changing Global Dynamics"

A Very Good Afternoon!

- Honorable Madame Chairperson;
- Honorable Distinguished APA Delegations and Observer Delegations;
- Honorable APA Secretaries-General;
- Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is with great pleasure and honor that I am here today, to present my view on behalf of my fellow Cambodian delegates and the Cambodian Parliament at the 13th Plenary Session of APA. This event is a true testimonial to the work ethic and expertise of our organizers, the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, of which I offer my fullest plaudit and gratitude.

Again, I echo the sentiment that without the efforts of our respective nations in the battle against COVID-19, we would not all be here today. I encourage that we bring this very same spirit and sense of togetherness to our next chapter together in the pursuit of complete multilateralism, which is the topic I am excited to be able to discuss with you all at this 13th APA Plenary Session.

Cambodia, as a developing nation has mutually benefited from the ties, knowledge, and expertise it has shared and continues to share with so many other nations. Now with the world facing more interwoven issues than ever before, never has global efforts and solutions been so crucial, and certainly never has multilateralism become such a necessity.

As the Chair of ASEAN in 2022, Cambodia with the support of its ASEAN Member States and partners, was successful in hosting the 43rd AIPA General Assembly, and the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits as well as Related Summits, which were successful in adopting numerous key instrumental documents aimed at promoting a sustainable, inclusive, and a more resilient ASEAN. In fact, a lot of emphasis has been placed on Human Resource Development through educational reform and vocational training to ensure that both men and women alike receive adequate capacity to undergo and take advantage of opportunities provided by global trends

including the newly introduced digitalization efforts, circular economy, the green economy, and the ASEAN FTA among others. The ASEAN Green Deal was also most recently proposed to ensure ASEAN's sustainable recovery and green future. Cambodia now underlines how none of these achievements would be possible without the mechanism which also stands as today's hot topic, multilateralism. With the rise of numerous geopolitical rivalries/wars, crimes and drugs trafficking, as well as the ongoing food and energy insecurity crisis, cooperation that respects international law based on the principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the UN Charter is needed more than ever before. As such, multilateralism, which gives priority to convergence as well as enhanced mutually beneficial cooperation and partnership on equal basis, people-to-people relations, and the promotion of the rule of law, democracy, human rights, and good governance, has proven and will continue to prove to be so crucial to contributing to resolving these challenges.

To achieve this level of thriving multilateral cooperation, Cambodia, drawing from our own experience, propose that numerous steps be set out and achieved:

1. First, we must look to ensure a sustainable and resilient recovery by introducing a regional regulatory roadmap on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) approach with clear mechanisms and action plans to enhance our resilience and guide our investment into a clean and renewable energy transition.
2. Second, given the interconnected nature of today's world, the success of the entire world depends on the success of each individual country. As such, we must ensure that all our respective nations are equipped with the capacity, knowledge, and technical expertise to perform what is asked of it when faced with impending challenges that require urgent and concrete global actions at all levels.
3. Thirdly, we must truly embrace the idea of "no one gets left behind", when looking to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs. As such, people must be at the center of our efforts, whilst facets such as digital and financial inclusion, social protection, gender equality, and people-centered development must be uplifted wherever and whenever possible.
4. Second to last, Cambodia encourages further strengthening of multilateralism with the United Nations, which should adopt a more democratic, inclusive,

and representative approach to deal with problems that dominates today's global context. Given its central role, the United Nations should aim to become nimbler and more responsive to its Member States needs. To ensure a higher level of inclusivity and representation, Cambodia particularly urges the revamping of a UN Security Council that increases its representation of developing countries which comprise most of its Member States.

5. Fifth, we need to further enhance parliamentary cooperation and partnership in promoting human rights, democracy, good governance, including Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, as well as look to accelerate community building through the harmonization of regional/global legal frameworks.

As we look to find global efforts and solutions to global challenges, we should seek to keep in mind the African old proverb, "if you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together". We need to go far and quickly. Lest we risk, coming short at the final hurdle, we must see multilateralism as our means to galvanizing the necessary international cooperation and solidarity for the global community to succeed and achieve shared prosperity for all.

Thank you very much with all my best wishes for a great successful deliberation and productive 13th APA Plenary Session!

Remarks by Hon. Mr. Chen Fuli of the NPC of China At the 13th Plenary Session of the APA

Mr. Chairman, Dear Colleagues,

I wish to begin by expressing heartfelt thanks to the Grand National Assembly of Turkiye on behalf of the National People's Congress of China for the thoughtful arrangements for hosting this Plenary.

The world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century. As changes of the world, of our times and of history are accelerating, the world and Asia are once again at a crossroads. Peace and development remain the theme of our times and the common aspiration of Asian people. We parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, should actively respond to their calls, uphold and practice true multilateralism, and play a bigger role in promoting peace, stability and development in Asia.

First, we need to jointly safeguard peace and security in Asia. We should firmly uphold the international order underpinned by international law and the basic norms governing international relations built on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and uphold Asian values and development paths and political systems that suit the national conditions of various countries. President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Security Initiative, which advocates a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security,

offering a fundamental solution to eliminating “the peace deficit”. China is ready to work with other Asian countries to commit ourselves to the path of peaceful development and take concrete actions to put the Initiative into action.

Second, we need to promote win-win cooperation in Asia. At present, the Asian economy is facing growing risks, with disruptions to the stability of regional industrial and supply chains. The Global Development Initiative put forth by President Xi Jinping has boosted the collective efforts to drive global economic recovery and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is necessary that we stay development-oriented, defend the multilateral trading regime with the WTO as the cornerstone, ensure a free and open global market, promote integrated economic development, so as to bring more benefits to our people.

Third, we need to work together for unity and progress in Asia. History has proved and will continue to prove that mutually beneficial cooperation will replace zero-sum game, and multilateralism will win over unilateralism. Asian countries should guard against and resist attempts by certain countries outside the region to introduce the Cold War mentality into the region and incite confrontation between blocs. Countries, no matter their size and strength, and both in and outside the region, should all follow the trend of the times featuring peace, development and win-win cooperation and contribute to an Asian family of unity and progress together.

The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China held last October made strategic plans for comprehensively building a modern socialist country and comprehensively promoting the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. China will unswervingly pursue Chinese-style modernization and create more development opportunities for other countries. The National People's Congress of China stands ready to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the APA and all other legislatures to jointly promote regional development and stability, uphold true multilateralism and build an Asian community with a shared future.

Thank you!

**13TH PLENARY SESSION OF THE ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY,
8 - 10 January 2023
Antalya, Turkey**

**INTERVENTION BY THE HEAD OF THE CYPRUS DELEGATION TO THE APA,
Mr. NICOS TORNARITIS, MP**

“PROMOTING MULTILATERALISM IN THE CHANGING GLOBAL DYNAMICS”

Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

It is a great pleasure to be able to address you in person as we finally meet again in Plenary after a long hiatus as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The three years that have passed since our last meeting have been particularly challenging for all of us.

The Covid - 19 pandemic highlighted in no uncertain terms that we live in an interdependent and interconnected world. In order to recover from the pandemic and to successfully tackle the many challenges of our times it is imperative that we pull our forces together. Global challenges require global solutions, and in this context, supporting multilateralism and international solidarity is the only way forward.

Steered by the principles and values we must ensure that the international community and the APA member parliaments take on board the lessons learned from the pandemic and use them as an opportunity to invest in the values of solidarity and trust so that we can rebuild our world and secure a more sustainable future for the planet and our people. It is now time for a systemic shift towards more inclusive economies, for more resilient, just and equal societies, for improving digital cooperation and for more effective youth engagement. But most importantly, it is now time for a stronger and inclusive multilateral system.

As parliamentarians, we have a key role to play in this respect. We must use the many challenges we are facing as an opportunity to redesign a more sustainable and resilient world. Our role is crucial in this process as it is parliaments that approve budgets, hold governments to account and serve as the connection between people and governance.

Our most significant contribution, as parliamentarians who embrace multilateral cooperation, should be through the promotion of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. National parliaments should play a fundamental role in promoting development and achieving the

SDGs, through joint initiatives, actions and synergies and exchange of best practices. Furthermore, as APA legislators, we must ensure, through our legislative and scrutiny functions, that our governments possess the necessary institutional and financial tools to implement this agenda.

Cyprus is committed to the implementation of a sustainable development policy, in line with UN Agenda 2030, actively upholding international cooperation on related issues. Furthermore, due to its geostrategic position at the crossroads of Asia, Africa and Europe, Cyprus has the ability to act as a connecting hub between Europe, the Middle East and Asia. This is a role we are actively pursuing in recent years. The House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus has already activated Trilateral Summits, mainly at the level of Presidents of Parliaments with countries of the Eastern Mediterranean region. The fields of energy, tourism and education and culture were identified as priorities, on which we resolved to focus our joint initiatives and actions for the production of tangible results. We remain open to extending these collaboration mechanisms even further, with the aim of contributing to stability and peace in our turbulent region.

I am convinced that, through exhibiting strong political will and determination, the APA can be a shining example of regional cooperation, which leads to tangible progress and advances that respond to the growing everyday needs and aspirations of our citizens. Times ahead will be difficult. Now is the time to add substantial value as parliamentarians and in the context of parliamentary diplomacy, to global efforts towards securing a better future for our citizens and generations to come by upholding multilateralism based on universal principles and values and by promoting unity, solidarity and inclusiveness.

Thank you.

/LM/

Draft Speech on the General Debate on the theme of the Plenary entitled “Promoting Multilateralism in the Changing Global Dynamics” for the use of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation at the Executive Council Meeting and 13th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) to be held in Antalya (Turkey) from 8 – 10 January 2023.

Hon’ble Chairperson and Distinguished Delegates

- I would like to thank H.E. Mr. Mustafa Şentop, President of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye for his warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for the meeting. In the present era of globalization, no country can afford to live in isolation as events in one part of the world are affecting other regions across the globe. The Covid-19 crisis not only has demonstrated the need for further strengthening of multilateral solutions but also the need of new and reformed multilateral institutions which are well equipped to deal with the new challenges.
- The need of the hour is to come together and evolve consensus and strengthen multilateral institutions to tackle common challenges before humanity which have consequences, irrespective of borders, regions, gender, age, race and nationality. The challenges such as climate change and terrorism

that we face today can be solved only by working together through hope, harmony and healing.

- As a *founding member of the UN*, India steadfastly remains committed to multilateral diplomacy in its approach to deal with major challenges to international peace and security, along with issues of sustainable and inclusive development.
- India always believes in rule of law and a fair & equitable international order of things. I want to emphasize that India is committed to promote responsible & inclusive solutions to challenges and conflicts marked by geopolitical and economic power shifts.
- *Hon'ble Chairperson*, India's philosophy is anchored in our way of life and civilizational ethos of *Vasudhaiva-Kutumbkam* (The world is one family) and *Sarvodaya* (The Welfare of All Humanity).
- India is in strong favor for reforming the present structure of multilateralism, including that of the UN and other international organizations in order for them to accurately reflect the contemporary world realities and enable them to deal

appropriately with its current challenges such as emerging environmental issues, stimulating green finance and establishment of energy market.

- *Distinguished Delegates*, you may be aware that there is prevalent concern at the inadequacy of the existing multilateral institutions to deliver results or meet new challenges like climate justice and growing conflicts. In this context, we should evolve a consensus in a mission mode manner to restructure multilateral institutions to present global dynamics, which becomes more important in post-COVID19 era.
- A nation deeply committed to democracy and multilateralism, India had made reformed multilateralism a priority for its two-year tenure in the UN Security Council that it completed in December 2022.
- India's External Affairs Minister had spoken at the General Debate of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly and I quote "The reform of governance of multilateral financial institutions will continue to be one of our core priorities. We believe that multipolarity, rebalancing, fair globalization and

reformed multilateralism cannot be kept in abeyance. The call for reformed multilateralism- with reforms of the Security Council at its core - enjoys considerable support among UN members.” The reform of the UN system is essential in order to make it fit for purpose.

- Present India's G20 Presidency seeks to play a vital role by finding pragmatic global solutions for the wellbeing of all so that *no one is left behind*.
- Whether it is *vital issue of reform of the United Nations Security Council* to reflect contemporary realities or call for more transparency and accountability in institutions like *International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (WB), World Trade Organization (WTO)* and *World Health Organization (WHO)*, I believe, there is general agreement that these institutions should stand for those countries whose issues have remained unattended to for decades altogether.
- *Hon'ble Chairperson*, I believe all distinguished delegates here will agree that it is the responsibility of all the Parliamentarians at national and international forums to bring into focus the

important impending issues such as Food Security, Energy Justice, Poverty eradication, Sanitation for All, Climate Change and Sustainable Development.

- *Distinguished Delegates*, last but not the least, I also want to share that India always has been at forefront in lending prompt support to its immediate and distant neighbours alike, with food supplies, fighting against the pandemic by providing vaccines under *Vaccine Maitri*, other medical equipments and active cooperation in development of clean energy resources, especially under the ambit of multilateral bodies like International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- Therefore, as public servants and parliamentarians, we should focus on finding comprehensive and integrated solutions, harmonizing national choices and international priorities at multilateral forums. All these efforts will ensure that Parliamentary cooperation will play an effective role in strengthening and reforming multilateral institutions to make them fit for purpose to respond to global challenges of our times.

Thank You.



**Asian Parliamentary
Assembly
The 13th Plenary Session
“Promoting Multilateralism
in the Changing Global
Dynamics”**



**Antalya (Turkiye),
January 8-10, 2023**

PLENARY SESSION

**General Debate: Statement by Head of
Delegation**

Monday, 9 January 2023

DR. FADLI ZON

Chairperson of the Committee for Inter-
Parliamentary Cooperation

The House of Representatives of the Republic of
Indonesia

His Excellency President of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) and Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkiye, Excellencies Speakers and Vice-Speakers of the APA Parliament Members, Honorable Delegates, Honorable Secretary General of the APA, Distinguished Guests, and Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum Wr.Wb, May peace and health be upon us all,

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and high appreciation to the APA Secretariat and the Grand National Assembly of Turkiye for hosting this 13th Plenary Session. It is an honor to be here among distinguished parliament leaders and delegates from Asian countries.

In this moment, I would like to emphasize that this parliamentary meeting is very timely in the middle of recent global uncertainty. Today we are facing numerous dynamic and multifaceted global challenges such as security threats, economic uncertainty, political instability, as well as climate change impact.

I hope this Plenary Session would become a new milestone for APA to actively engage in solving various global and regional challenges along with harnessing Asian potentials.

***Honorable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Asia is on its way of becoming epicenter of growth. We are now witnessing its massive development, where the economy will account for more than half of the world GDP by 2050 or even sooner.¹

With the immense growth, we may say that Asia is the center point and the future of the world. Not only we are blessed with the massive growth, we also are enriched with demographic bonus, fast advancement of technology, diverse socio-cultural community as well as huge economic and social capitals.

These potentials must be endeavoured as we are also facing challenges. Inequality and development gap; regional security issues; as well as complex domestic affairs are happening in our region. We also have to overcome the prolonged humanitarian crises across the region due to external military interventions, civil wars, and repressive regime.

Until today, we still perceive the endless sufferings of Palestinian people as impacted by occupation of Israel authority; human rights crises against Rohingya people in Myanmar; discrimination and violence against Uyghur minority ethnic in Xinjiang Province; as well as socio-economic uncertain situation in Afghanistan, Syria, and Yemen.

¹ *Asia 2050: Realizing the Asian Century, Asian Development Bank 2022*

Asian region is one of the most conflict-prone and most dynamic region in the world in terms of political-security.

Honorable Delegates,

We should seek multilateralism as the way for us facing the global dynamics. The spirit of multilateralism should be utilized to promote fair and inclusive cooperation among us, the Asian countries.

Indonesia would like to highlight that multilateralism should overcome the geopolitical tensions, competition and rivalry, and also the unilateral arrangements, which only resulted in distrust and misperceptions.

Unilateral sanctions are imposed in a very biased way and in contrast with the spirit of diplomacy, dialogue, and equality. Sanctions should be imposed only for those who break international laws and violate human rights such as genocide, minority displacement, and ethnic cleansing.

We also have noticed that multilateralism nowadays often deals with hypocrisy and double standards. For example, we are taking notes on Israeli-Palestinian crisis, Russia-Ukraine conflict, and issues of Afghanistan and Syria.

For that, Indonesia would like to urge the APA Members to move forward beyond the stigma, and become the solution through our multilateral cooperation in this forum.

In the multilateralism spirit, we may be benefited from the splendid economic and development growth in our region. As we are striving for a much better Asian region, APA should be the agent of change, not just routine business as usual.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As parliamentarians, we have moral and institutional responsibility to promote a closer, a stronger, and a fairer cooperation among nations. As parliamentarians in Asian countries, along with APA principles, we must be at the forefront of promoting dialogue and diplomacy in resolving conflicts and creating peace in our region as oppose to unilateral sanctions.

Mutual understanding and cooperations among parliamentarians are a strong basis to support the development of Asia.

To conclude, I would like to encourage all APA Members of Parliament to continue to maximize and be benefited upon this forum. APA must take the opportunity to strengthen the spirit of regionalism and take more concrete and actionable actions.

Indonesia is fully committed in strengthening regionalism and multilateralism as important frameworks of cooperation in building a more equal and more sustainable world.

Thank you.



Speech of the Delegation of the
Kuwaiti Inter-Parliamentary Group
at the Meeting of The 13th Plenary Session of
The Asian Parliamentary Assembly
under the title

**((Promoting Multilateralism in the Changing Global
Dynamics))**

from 8 -10 January 2023
Antalya - Republic of Turkey



H.E. Mr. Mustafa Sentop - Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Your Excellencies, Speakers of Parliaments, Heads and Members of Asian Parliamentary Delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peace and blessings to you all

On behalf of H. E. Mr. Ahmed Abdulaziz Al-Sadoun - Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait, my fellow members of the delegation of the Kuwaiti Inter-Parliamentary Group and myself, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and great gratitude to the friendly Republic of Turkey and the Grand National Assembly of Turkey for the warm reception and hospitality, and to extend my thanks to the Secretariat of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly for the efforts exerted to organize the meeting of the 13th plenary session, wishing the work of this meeting all success.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The change in global dynamics in our world today is alarming with dire consequences, unless we all set the course right by promoting multilateralism to ensure peace and security, achieve development and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the peoples of Asia, at a time when conflicts multiplied and unprecedented varieties of suffering were born, which shook the confidence of people in the ability to provide peaceful solutions by the international community.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our region has not been immune to what the whole world is exposed to in facing the challenges of the forces of isolation and extreme nationalism, which are now directly threatening the course of the international order that is based on multilateralism, law and justice. This drives us to strive for an effective commitment to the implementation of the sustainable development goal 17, which is to build partnerships for shared universal values and to promote multilateralism in the light of international transformations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is no secret to you, ladies and gentlemen, that we live in a time when confidence in political institutions has plummeted with the emergence of anxiety and uncertainty about the future, and the difficulty of predicting it. It is our common duty, as parliamentarians, to show the world that the multilateral system is one that defends democracy and brings our peoples' issues to international platforms, and that it is also the link between local and global affairs. Therefore, we need new forms of cooperation that operate outside traditional structures and go beyond bureaucratic systems, in order to implement the necessary changes according to global dynamics on an equal basis between states as realistic reforms to regional and international parliamentary organizations.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

The State of Kuwait attaches great attention to the concept of collective security, as the 1991 liberation process is considered a historical model that embodies a successful example of multilateralism. The first line of defense for this small and safe country was the existence of a global multilateral system that applies the legitimate decisions issued by the United Nations Security Council, such as Resolution (678) at the time. It is also the meeting line for achieving justice for the Palestinian cause which suffers from the oppression and crimes of the Israeli occupation which violates international charters and resolutions to this day.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We must guide our national governments towards adopting many domestic legal amendments that stand against international agreements and treaties that support multilateralism, and seek concerted efforts to raise societal awareness of the changing global dynamics and their impact on our nations, and setting plans and strategies based on more effective foundations to advance all necessary policies and implement them to address global issues by collective action, whether by individuals, institutions, or organizations, which contributes to promoting multilateralism in all societies.

In conclusion, we highly appreciate what the Republic of Turkey has done, especially His Excellency President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, in finding peaceful solutions and mediating in the Russian-Ukrainian war and his initiative with the United Nations to save the world from the food crisis and guarantee a safe passage for grain, food and energy crisis.

Thank you for your kind attention, may God's peace and mercy be upon you

Statement by
Honorable Mr. Issara Sereewatthanawut
Head of the Thai National Assembly Delegation
at the General Debate during the 13th Plenary Session
of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
“Promoting Multilateralism in the Changing Global Dynamics”
8th - 10th January 2023
Antalya, Republic of Türkiye

Mr. Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, and President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly or APA,

Mr. Secretary-General of the APA,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and a great pleasure to be here and to address you all at this 13th Plenary Session of the APA.

Allow me to first express my heartfelt thanks to His Excellency Professor Mustafa Şentop, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, for your outstanding role as the Chairperson of this Session and for welcoming us with the kind and warm hospitality. I would like to also extend my gratitude to Mr. Mohammad Reza Majidi, Secretary-General of the APA, for your impressive work on behalf of the organization.

What a dynamic decade we all have had. As the world keeps evolving from the Globalization, to the Disruptions of technology and pandemic, and then the Complexion of geo-political conflicts, we, as parliamentarians, have had and still will have to help our people not only to withstand the impacts of the circumstances but also to adapt themselves to the changes not to be left behind. To name a few key issues; hunger and health; poverty and inequality; violence: physical and digital; climate change and demographic shift.

Thus, we must be aware of these extra responsibilities we are elected to carry; to innovate new ways out, to instill a stronger-than-ever resilience in our people, and to increase the efficiency of every measure as time and resource are limited.

Mr. Chairperson,
Honorable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 2021, the trade value of the Asian region's global merchandise accounted for over one-third of the world's exports, and despite the pandemic, the economy in Asia still overperformed the rest of the world. However, the region still faces with various problems. First, there were 425 million undernourished people in Asia who were struggling with hunger.

Second, some parts of Asia lost millions of people in 2018 to cancer while the whole region lost around one and a half million to Covid-19 thus far and counting.

Third, 17 major natural disasters in Asia fell across the spectrum in 2022; floods, droughts, heatwaves, earthquakes, and landslides. And on top of these, the Asian people also suffered more from other damages caused by the man-made disasters like corruption, carbon emission, inequality, illiteracy, etc.

Does history teach us lessons that, rather than the military war, these crises aforementioned are in fact the wars that should be worth fighting? And beyond that, we, also need to prepare for the upcoming ageing society of which, by 2050, a quarter of Asian population will be over 60 years old. Looking ahead, our crucial missions are truly challenging and even tougher if each country decides to handle them alone.

So, should this be the time that Multilateralism be intensely empowered to combat the crises over crises ever happened? Should this be the time to rally our power and spirit together to create new ways out? Should this be the time to enhance the quantum leap of Multilateralism to advance both resilience and sustainability in Asia? For this, I propose to you the potential resolution that I thought worth calling for:

The first is Ultra-Commitment: If the highly-motivated pledge can be constructed and the steadfast commitments can be induced, it will lead all participants to seriously engage in accomplishing the missions we all set out to execute.

The second is Absolute Cooperation: When each country dares to share and cares to spare, either affordable information, expertise, or resource, the aggregate force needed for effective multilateralism will be made feasible and the potentials to overcome challenges or uncertainty will be enabled.

The third is Total Collaboration: The all-in dedication and all-around support are required to make multilateralism work. And for this, communication technology is the vital element in getting us closer and working together.

Last but not least, the Super-Coordination: In order to make multilateralism matter, not only the interests of each country need to be aligned, but also the understandings from all 4 pillars of democracy, notably Legislature, Executive, Judiciary and the Media, must be synchronized and orchestrated well.

Distinguished parliamentarians,

As the world intensively turns more dynamic, there may not be many resources left for us to test and not much time to waste. At this very moment, let multilateralism be another effective mechanism to help us create sustainability, resiliency and prosperity for our region at best possible. Thank you for your kind attention.



**Speech of the Head of the UAE Parliamentary Division Delegation
in the Proceedings of the 13th Plenary Session of the Asian
Parliamentary Assembly.**

(5 Minutes)

Antalya, Türkiye

January 8-10 2023



Your Excellencies Parliament Speakers and Members,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the UAE Parliamentary Division, I am pleased to express my appreciation and gratitude to the Republic of Türkiye for its outstanding efforts in hosting the proceedings of the 13th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, and for the distinguished preparation for this session, which is being held in the midst of escalating international and regional challenges.

Perhaps the crises and challenges of the international reality underscore the urgent need for multilateral diplomacy, because the indirect or indirect contribution multilateralism to addressing international crises is the main way to contain the ramifications of these crises.

We in the United Arab Emirates believe that multilateralism should be dominated by the values of tolerance and human brotherhood, the dialogue of civilizations and the convergence of religions on shared universal values. Then came the Document on Human Fraternity, signed in February 2019 in Abu Dhabi between the leaders of the two largest religions in the world, for the sake of global peace and coexistence, and promotion of a culture of tolerance and acceptance of others between all civilizations and religions.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

We recognize the urgent need to revive multilateralism and trust in the United Nations that is considered the forum where states and civil society can come together to address the most pressing challenges of today's world, especially combating climate change, global terrorism, the threat of new epidemics, the spread of nuclear weapons, and confronting migration flows and forced displacement in a humane manner.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this regard, we would like to stress the need to abide by international laws, conventions and treaties, including the United Nations Charter, Security Council resolutions and international humanitarian law, work together to maintain international peace and security, seriously consider reforming the United Nations system to be more effective and influential in international events and crises, and achievement of international peace and security. We should build on synergies with international organizations in order to prevent crises, promote human rights, and achieve the principle of multilateralism to face current and future challenges.



In conclusion, I hope that we will reach the desired results from these Proceedings of the 13th Plenary Session.

May peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you,