



APA/Rep/2016
December 2016

Report of the APA Ninth Plenary

***“PROMOTING PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA”***

27 November -2 December 2016
Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia

SECOND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

1. The Second Executive Council of Asian Parliamentary Assembly in 2016 held its meeting on 28 November 2016 in Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia. APA Delegations from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Korea DRP, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam participated in this meeting. List of participants is attached as **Annex- I**

2 . Honorable Dr. Ali Khorram, Deputy APA Secretary General welcomed the delegations at first. Upon the request of the Iranian delegation and through an emergency intervention, it was announced due to terrorist action by ISIS (Daesh) and train crush it would be National Mourning in Iran. Deputy APA Secretary General expressed the APA Meeting condolences to Iran and proposed for one minute of silence to respect the victims. The text of head of Iranian delegation is attached as **Annex- II**

Honorable Nguon Nhel presented the Agenda for adoption. The meeting adopted its Agenda unanimously after the interventions by some delegations. Then Dr. Ali Khorram elected the Bureau of the Second Executive Council of APA. Honorable Mr. Nguon Nhel, high representative of President of APA as the Chairman, Honorable Admiral Amomtep NA Bangchang of Thailand as Vice-Chair and Honorable Mr. Irfanullah Irfan of Afghanistan as Rapporteur of the Executive Council Meeting.

Honorable Dr. Nguon Nhel, introduced H.E. Dr. Majidi as the new APA Secretary-General and invited him to come to the podium.

Then Honorable Dr. Nguon Nhel delivered his opening statement at the beginning of the meeting. He pointed out that the present Executive Council meeting picks up the thread in continuation of our joint endeavors to tap the enormous potential of Asian continent for the betterment of our peoples, by forging strong and enduring inter and intra-regional partnerships. Text of Speech is attached as **Annex- III**

He also pointed out that "Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia" is a very important and relevant topic in the current regional and global context.

3. H.E. Dr. Majidi, the APA Secretary-General delivered his report to the second Executive Council. While thanking the Chair and the Meeting for welcoming him as the new APA Secretary General, assured the Meeting to fully cooperate with all the Member States. He also briefed the meeting about the three previous Meetings of the APA Standing Committees in Amman, Islamabad and Tehran . He pointed out that "we are gathered here to perform one of the most important organizational functions of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. As you are well aware, in accordance with the APA Charter and the Rules of Procedure, one of the main responsibilities of the Executive Council is to consider the draft resolutions which have already been deliberated upon in the APA Standing Committees and make appropriate recommendations to the Plenary for its final decision. This important function has been devised with a view to assessing the most recent developments pertaining to each draft resolution.

4. The following Decision and draft Resolutions were considered and recommended to the Plenary for final approval:

- Draft Decision on the Deliberations in the Executive Council and the Plenary
- Draft Resolution on Advancing Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Mobilizing Interactions between APA and Asian Governments
- Draft Resolution on Deploring Acts of Terrorism and Violent Extremism
- Draft Resolution on Significant Political Developments in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support For The Palestinian People,
- Draft Resolution on Asian Integrated Energy Market
- Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth
- Draft Resolution on the Role of APA Parliaments to Adopt Legislations in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues,
- Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for all
- Draft Resolution on Planning APA Budget.
- Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology,
- Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrants Workers in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption
- Draft Resolution on Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians
- Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions
- Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Drug Trafficking in Asia

5. Delegation of Bahrain proposed the resolutions and decision could be approved except the resolution on "Migrant Workers" which some Arab delegations had reservation on it. After these deliberations, some other delegations supported this proposal and the Chairman decided to recommend all 21 resolutions and the Decision for further discussion to the Standing Committees of the Plenary.

6. The Draft Agenda of the 9th APA Plenary Session was presented and adopted in the meeting.

7. The Organizing Committee proposed the Vice-Presidents in 2016 as follows:

- Bahrain as the Vice-President on Economic and Sustainable Development & Staff and Financial Regulations Standing Committees
- Pakistan as the Vice-President on Political Affairs Standing Committee

- Bhutan as the Vice-President on Social and Cultural Affairs Standing Committee
- UAE as the Vice-President on Staff & Financial Regulations Standing Committee

8. His Excellency Dr. NGOUN Nhel thanked the Parliament of Turkey that had indicated its readiness to hold the next APA Presidency for the period of 2018 and 2019. Honorable Ahmet Aydin, the Head of Turkish delegation was given the floor and announced that the Parliament of Turkey is ready to assume the honor and responsibility of the APA Presidency in 2018 and for two years. He also has invited all delegations to the next Plenary

INNAUGURAL SESSION

9. The Inaugural Session of the 9th APA Plenary began at the Sokha Hotel in Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia, on 28 November 2016. The session began with the National Anthem of Cambodia, followed by local cultural performances. The Royal Message of His Majesty Preah Samdech Preah Boromneath NORODOM SIHAMONI, King of Cambodia was presented. His Majesty pointed out that:

I know that APA has in the past made enormous efforts for humanity to fully acquire the natural right to live in peace. I am convinced that APA is now pursuing and will pursue again this goal to liberate many of our brothers and sisters from all suffering in fratricidal killings that have no justification.

I sincerely appreciate the great achievements of APA, which represents the voice of Asian people, to benefit our nations by strengthening legislative processes, policies and strategic goals that fully complement international standards.

I am confident that the 9th Plenary Session will produce fruitful results, with the aim of contributing to Asia's goals. May I wish this noble event a successful outcome in promoting peace and development in the region.

The full Royal Message is attached as **Annex- IV**.

10. Honorable Dr. Nguon Nhel, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chairman of Organizing Committee welcomed the APA delegations and emphasized that peace and political stability, national reconciliation and peaceful dialogue are prerequisite to sustainable development and key components of prosperity and harmony at national, regional and world levels.

11. The second speaker was the APA Secretary-General, H. E. Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi. He said that Parliamentary diplomacy is an increasingly important dimension of international relations in our age. This year's Assembly, as the tenth anniversary of the foundation of APA, is taking place at a crucial juncture as the world in general and some regions of Asia in particular are faced with daunting challenges. It is my firm belief that only by undertaking joint efforts and enhancing multilateral cooperation in different fields we could meet the expectations and aspirations of our nations and manage to set out the right directions for long-term development of the APA.

The APA Secretariat remains strongly committed to this endeavor, and I shall be working closely with the APA Member Parliaments and other stakeholders towards promoting

freedom, securing peace, stability, social justice and development in the region and beyond which are among the most important goals of our organization.

He also emphasized that every step toward the APA's established goals and objectives in its Charter requires the devotion and commitment of its member nations. The tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals are paramount to achieving peace, justice, access to up-to date knowledge, cooperative exploitation of human and natural resources, and right to welfare facilities for the health and nutrition of its member populations. We must remain resilient and fully engaged in our contributions in order to witness a thriving association and region. Text of Speech is attached as **Annex-V**

12. Honorable Mian Reza Rabbani, Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan and the former APA President was the next speaker and reiterated his strong belief on the determination of Member Parliaments in steering APA initiatives towards realizing common objectives as per the APA Charter. He admired the cultural diversity in Asia and strongly condemned the foreign interfering in the Asian political affairs.

13. Honorable Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia was the next speaker at the inaugural session. He mentioned that the theme of "Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development " is indispensable as it is inspiring us to collectively respond to evolving situations in regions where civil war has broken out and terrorism network has spread, and it also contributes to the comprehensive understanding of the meaning and the value of peace as a necessity for sustainable development and enhancing cooperation in preventing and reducing armed conflicts as well as wars around the world. Text of Speech is attached as **Annex-VI**

14. The President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Honorable Say Chhum was the next speaker. He believes the peace is the most important factor for economic growth and prosperity of the people and the most important pillar for sustainable development. He referred to recent economic development in Cambodia with an average economic growth of 7 percent annually. Due to the fact that Cambodia has attained full peace, security, national unity and political stability, Cambodian people are now living without fears and enjoying all rights including the right to engage in politics. Text of Speech is attached as **Annex-VII**

15. Honorable Mr. Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia declared the APA 9th Plenary Session officially open. Then he said this historic gathering among parliaments from Asian countries has shown the world our common will in building a more harmonious Asian region and settling conflicts through peaceful means based on the principles of peaceful coexistence and mutual respects. In fact, ending wars is a huge and hard task facing us, but maintaining and ensuring peace, is a more serious duty to be fulfilled before we could achieve sustainable development. The text of speech of APA President is attached as **Annex- VIII**

PLENARY SESSION

16. The Plenary started its first session at 11:15 a.m. by adopting its Agenda. The Agenda and the program of work are attached as **Annexes IX and X**. Election of the Bureau of the 9th APA Plenary was held and Honorable Dr. NGOUN Nhel as the representative of Honorable Mr. Heng Samrin was elected as the Chairman and the Vice-Presidents of the four Standing Committees in 2017 are as follows:

- Senate of Pakistan as the Vice-President for the Political Affairs Standing Committee
- Parliament of Bhutan as the Vice-President for the Social & Cultural Standing Committee
- Parliament of Bahrain as Vice-President for the Economic Standing Committee
- Parliament of United Arab Emirate as Vice-President for Staff and Financial Regulations Standing Committee

17. Plenary sessions continued with General Debate and the Heads of Delegations from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Korea DPR, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam and the Secretary-General of PUIC presented their speeches on the theme of the 9th Plenary. The texts of available speeches are attached to this Report as **Annex XI**.

18. Honorable Dr. NGOUN Nhel, provided a brief review of meetings of the APA Standing Committees in 2016 which were conducted in Tehran, Amman and Islamabad. He briefed the meeting on the outcomes of the 1st Executive Council which was hosted by the National Assembly of Kingdom of Cambodia on 26-27 September 2016. He also informed the participants that the meeting of Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations was held at the sideline of 1st Executive Council meeting at Phnom Penh and discussed the APA budget and the related draft resolution.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

Mr. President ,
Distinguished Delegates ,
Ladies and Gentlemen

19. I have the honor to express my gratitude to Honorable Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, the President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for hosting the APA Plenary as the President. Cambodian parliament has been among the most active APA members in different APA meetings including the standing committees. I should also extend my sincere appreciation to the hardworking members of the organizing committee in Siem Reap, particularly Honorable NGUON Nhel, the Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, as well as all colleagues in the APA Permanent Secretariat in Tehran for the excellent job they have done to bring us

together here today. I am also thankful to all and every delegation of APA Member Parliaments participating in this important event. I would like also to welcome all distinguished representatives from important observer organizations .

Mr. President ,
Honorable Delegates

The APA agenda of work in social-cultural, economic and political areas are relevant and potent. It addresses the most pressing challenges before Asia. In line with such inspiring ideals, all efforts made and every initiative taken by the APA ought to be defined and pursued to the interest of all people living in this great continent .

The APA is now expected to address not only the pressing issues and challenges facing Asia alone, but also the most important issues and challenges at the global level. The fact of the matter is that there is no meaningful separating line between regional issues and global challenges when the world community comes to address environmental degradation, sustainable development, terrorism, democracy and human rights, to mention just a few. As the largest inter-parliamentary organization in Asia representing more than 60% of the world population, APA should play much vivid and active role in promoting and pursuing Sustainable Development Goals. The APA network of Parliaments and Parliamentarians can and should utilize its enormous capacities, hand-in-hand with Asian governments, to mobilize cross-Asian initiatives for more effective coordination in regional as well as global issues .

It should be recognized, of course, that the purpose of many APA resolutions is policy coordination among its members and declaration of united stance vis-à-vis certain regional and global issues. This is, in itself, a major indispensable achievement. However, there are important matters which require sufficient and sustained implementation. There is no need to go into details of this kind of resolutions since they will be discussed in the APA Standing Committees meetings. It suffices here to only re-emphasize that the credibility and efficacy of our organization totally depend on the practical commitment of the members to what they resolve on .

APA has been extremely successful in reaching unanimity on many important issues .

Mr. President ,
Distinguished Delegates ,

Before us today, there are one decision and 21 important draft resolutions on political; economic; environmental; social-cultural, as well as financial and administrative issues which have been tabled and discussed in full details in the respective APA Standing Committees and have been subsequently considered by the Executive Council meetings in Phnom Penh, in September this year, and in Siem Reap just yesterday. The draft resolutions include some old and some new subject matters and are to be considered for final adoption by this Plenary Session. I have outlined the topics of draft resolutions according to their respective Standing Committee in the following manner :

- The Standing Committee on Political Affairs held its meeting on 1-2 June 2016 in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The Committee considered and deliberated a range of important issues and recommended the following five draft resolutions:
 - ✓ Draft Resolution on Advancing Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in

Asia

- ✓ Draft Resolution on Mobilizing Interactions Between APA and Asian Governments
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Deploring Acts of Terrorism and Violent Extremism
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Significant Political Developments in Asia
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support For The Palestinian People
- The APA Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development held its meeting on 27 July 2016 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The Committee considered and deliberated a range of important issues and recommended the following six draft resolutions:
 - ✓ Draft Resolution on Asian Integrated Energy Market
 - ✓ Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues ,
 - ✓ Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth
 - ✓ Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication
 - ✓ Draft Resolution on The Role of APA Parliaments to Adopt Legislation in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
 - ✓ Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for all
- The Meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held its meeting in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 26-27 April 2016. The Committee considered and deliberated a range of important issues and recommended the following nine draft resolutions:
 - ✓ Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia
 - ✓ Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia
 - ✓ Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology,
 - ✓ Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia
 - ✓ Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption
 - ✓ Draft Resolution on Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians
 - ✓ Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter- Faith Dialogue and Harmony Among World Religions
 - ✓ Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia
 - ✓ Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug

Trafficking in Asia

- In the framework of APA Financial Regulations, the provisional budget of the Secretariat for 2017 was presented to the Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations and 1st Executive Council meetings, held on 26 -27 September 2016 in Phnom Penh for consideration. The participants considered the proposed budget in detail and different aspects of this document was reviewed. Finally the 1st Executive Council meeting decided to refer it to the next meeting of Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations in 2017 for further deliberation of Member Parliaments and inclusion the technical views of financial experts. The meeting also requested the APA Secretariat to add more transparency on the different figures of the budget.

The 1st Executive Council meeting then adopted the following draft resolution and recommended it to the 9th Plenary for approval.

- ✓ Draft Resolution on Planning APA Budget .

Mr. President ,
Distinguished Delegates

Notwithstanding all its great potentials and accomplishments, the remarkable role of the APA, as the Parliamentary voice of Asia, in influencing the turn of events in Asia is yet to be fully realized. The Organization needs to strengthen its relevance to current developments throughout Asia and beyond so it could further contribute to the prosperity, development, peace, and improvement of living conditions in the region. The APA is in need of mechanisms to pursue the realization of its resolutions. It is crucial to reiterate once again the necessity of fulfillment of the operative parts of all APA resolutions. To achieve this fundamental goal, it is highly advisable that each Member Parliament should establish an internal working group specially mandated to pursue the implementation of operative parts of the APA resolutions. APA secretariat welcomes all initiatives in this regard, and declares its readiness for all sorts of assistance and consultation. Such a crucial and practical approach would enable us to take positive steps towards realization of the objectives of our great Parliamentary Assembly .

The APA 9th Plenary, inspired by its inspiring theme: Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia, has a great deal of important subject matters on its agenda. Besides the speeches and remarks by dignitaries and parliamentary leaders of both the host and the guest countries during the general debate, we expect to have constructive discussions on various topics in our standing committees meetings. I am confident that by the end of this Plenary Session and as the result of thoughtful and vigorous debates and deliberations, we will have achieved yet another successful event and shall move forward in our right direction which is the direction of peace, prosperity, cooperation, and harmony among all Asian nations .

Thank you Mr. President .

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

20. The Meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural convened at 14:00 hours on 29 November 2016.

Delegations from Afghanistan, Kingdom of Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, kingdom of Cambodia, China, Cyprus, DPR Korea, Indonesia, I.R. Of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lao PDR, Lebanon, I.R. of Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, UAE and Vietnam attended this Meeting.

21. After the adoption of the Agenda, Hon. Chimi Dorji, Deputy Speaker of Bhutan Parliament and Vice Chairmen of the 9th Plenary presided over the meeting as the Chairman. Honorable Dr. Said Al-Shaikh from kingdom of Saudi Arabia was elected as the Vice-Chairman and Madam Khun Sudary from Cambodia as Rapporteur.

22. The chairman delivered his welcoming remarks. Hon. Chimi Dorji thanked all the attending delegations for their trust placed in his competence as Chairman. Furthermore, while introducing Bhutan as a cultural country, he invited all the APA Member State to attend the next Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs that is to be hold in Bhutan.

23. H.E. Dr. Khorram, presented the report of APA Secretary General. In his report he emphasized on two points:

a) He made a reference to the discussion in the second Executive Council about "Migrant Workers Resolution" and said that the draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia attracted a prolonged discussion in the Executive Council over the fact that some of the articles of the resolution refer to certain international conventions which are not consistent with the internal legal regulations of some APA members. He said we have to resolve this issue in such a way that everybody is satisfied and APA can continue its work in well balanced direction. Dr. Khorram informed the meeting that as a compromise, he had received an amendment including two paragraphs from the distinguished delegation of Saudi Arabia for adding to the resolution as footnotes. Then many interventions took place between delegations of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Pakistan and Indonesia without any satisfactory result. Dr. Khorram asked the distinguished delegate of Pakistan to contact the aforementioned delegations for better coordination and reaching to a satisfactory formula.

b) He emphasized that APA has attached a great importance to the role of women in the Asian Parliaments. In this regard, APA has established a Special Committee for Women Parliamentarians since 2009. APA would like to promote the role of women in the organization. He added this morning the committee was held with a satisfactory outcome including informative presentations and comments and some editorial corrections in the Women Parliamentarians resolution. Dr. Khorram re-emphasized that the inclusion of at least one woman in all APA delegations from each parliament where ever it is applicable, is necessary. The report of the Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians is attached as **Annex – XII**.

24. The Chairman opened the floor for any comments on the draft resolutions. There were some interventions in favor of the Women Parliamentarians resolution. The delegation of Russia proposed a sentence to be added at the end of the second paragraph of the resolution which was accepted by the other Member Parliaments. The delegation of Saudi Arabia proposed the word "women" be replaced by "all vulnerable factions of society, including women" in the same paragraph. This was accepted by the participants.

25. The remaining text of the nine resolutions was adopted without any additional views, comments or proposals by the participating APA Member Delegations in the Meeting. So the nine resolutions of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural were approved for adoption in the Plenary.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS

26. The Standing Committee on Political Affairs held its meeting at 9 a.m. on 1 December 2016 in Siem Reap – Kingdom of Cambodia. APA Delegations from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Korea DPR, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam participated in this meeting.

27. After the adoption of the Agenda, Honorable Mian Reza Rabbani, the Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan presided over the meeting as the Vice President for Political affairs. Honorable Mr. Nhem Thavy from Cambodia was elected as the Vice-Chairman and Honorable Nicolaos Tornaritis from Cyprus was elected as the Rapporteur. The chairman delivered his welcoming remarks and underscored the outcomes of the meeting of SCCAP which was held on 29 November and reiterated importance of participation by all member parliaments in the first meeting of this special committee in February 2017 in Islamabad. He also expressed hope for the productive results of the meeting. The report of SCCAP meeting is attached as **Annex - XIII**.

H.E. Dr. Ali Khorram, the APA Deputy Secretary- General presented the Report of the APA Secretary-General and briefly highlighted the great potentials of the APA in promoting parliamentary diplomacy and importance of engagement of all APA member parliaments in practicing effective ways and means for the implementation of the APA resolutions. He also appreciated the effective role and excellent cooperation made by the Jordanian Senate as the APA Vice President for political affairs in 2016.

28. The list of documents before the Meeting included:

- a) Draft Resolution on Building Prosperity in Asia Through Friendship and Cooperation,
- b) Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia,
- c) Draft Resolution on United Against Terrorism and Violent Extremism,
- d) Draft Resolution on Significant Political Developments in Asia,
- e) Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support For The Palestinian People

29. H.E. Dr. Ali Khorram reviewed background information on each item on the agenda of the meeting and elaborated on the achievements of APA pertaining to each one. He also emphasized the need for the further cooperation among APA Member Parliaments to be able to play an effective role in the realm of parliamentary diplomacy in Asia.

30. The participating delegates have engaged in a constructive debate on all draft resolutions. Beside to some technical or editorial amendment most of the discussions were directed to the Draft Resolution on United Against Terrorism and Violent Extremism. It was decided to refer this draft resolution to the next APA standing Committee on Political affairs in Islamabad for further consideration.

The meeting considered the complete text of other draft resolutions one by one and discussed the proposed amendments. After extensive deliberations by participants, some amendments which were accepted by the meeting will be reflected in the final version of the draft resolutions by the APA Secretariat. The Standing Committee then unanimously decided to recommend one Decision and four remaining draft resolutions to the Plenary for final consideration and adoption. The final version of these draft resolutions shall be attached to the report of 9th Plenary.

31. The APA secretariat has received a proposal entitled "JUSTA LAW" from the distinguished delegate of Saudi Arabia in the context of Draft Resolution on Deploring Acts of Terrorism and Violent Extremism. Considering the time constraint it was decided incorporating the text into "Siem Reap Declaration" if the host is available and then incorporates the consensus text in the resolution in the Political Standing Committee in Islamabad in 2017.

32. The Standing Committee expressed special appreciation to the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for excellent organization of the meeting and the hospitality extended to all participants. On behalf of all distinguished delegates, the Chair particularly thanked the APA Secretariat for outstanding service it has provided for smooth running of the meeting. Special thanks and appreciation were expressed also to the staff of the local organizing committee for their hard work and contributions to the meeting.

REPORT OF THE MEETINGS OF APA STANDING COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & STAFF AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

34. The Standing Committees on Staff and Financial Regulations and Economic and Sustainable Development held their joint meetings at 11.30 am on 1 December 2016 and adopted the agendas.

35. Honorable, Dr. Saeed Al Mutawa, from United Arab Emirates and Honorable Mr. Abbas Almadhi from Bahrain chaired these meetings. Honorable Mr. Stepan Zhriakov from Russian Federation was elected as the Vice-Chairperson and Honorable Dr. Ali Kazemi from Iran was elected as Rapporteur. His Excellency Dr. Ali Khorram, Deputy Secretary-General of APA opened the presentation over the draft resolution of Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations and also on six draft resolutions of Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development.

36. The document before the Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations was :
✓ Draft Resolution on Planning APA Budget

37. The meeting was informed that upon the request of participants in the 1st Executive Council the budget of APA will be considered in the next Standing Committee meeting which will be hosted by UAE in early 2017. There were proposals by the different delegations on necessity of further clarification on measures of assessed contribution, terms and modalities of contribution, framework voluntary contribution and some suggestions on studying the budgetary models of other International organizations.

38. Meeting appreciated the generosity of Islamic Parliament of Iran for its continuous financial support and requested all APA member parliaments not only to participate in Abu Dhabi Standing Committee meeting but to provide their views/comments to the APA Secretariat in advance. They were also requested to contribute actively to the success of Abu Dhabi meeting.

39. The documents before the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Developments were:

- ✓ Draft Resolution on Asian Integrated Energy Market
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues,
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication
- ✓ Draft Resolution on The Role of APA Parliaments to Adopt Legislation in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
- ✓ Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for all

40. The Standing Committee first reviewed the background information on the aforementioned Draft Resolutions. Dr. Khorram pointed out that the Standing Committee met on 26 - 27 July 2016 in Islamabad, Pakistan, considered the report of the Secretary General, and proposed the Draft Resolutions to the First Executive Council. He mentioned these Draft Resolutions were discussed and adopted in the First and Second Executive Councils. He also informed the meeting that the Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations took place at the side of 1st Executive Council and presented only one draft resolution which is on the budget of APA and should be considered in detail by the Standing Committee on 2017.

41. The Chairpersons opened the discussion and deliberation on the draft resolutions one by one. The participants proposed many amendments but the Chairman agreed to include only technical and editorial points and leave the others to be discussed in the Standing Committee meeting to be held in Bahrain in 2017.

42. The Honorable Chairmen of both Standing Committees agreed to fix the date and venue of these events at the earliest convenient time.

CLOSING SESSION

43. The closing session was convened at 5 p.m. in Sokha hotel in Siem Reap, and unanimously adopted 1 Decision and 19 Resolutions; APA Siem Reap Declaration **Annex-XIV**; and the Report of the 9th APA Plenary. The text of adopted one Decision and 19 Resolutions is attached as the **Annex - XV**

OTHER MATTERS

44. Communication with APA Secretariat Through Focal Points

APA Secretary- General referred to the lack of contact with some of Members , has requested all Member Parliaments in order to facilitate communication with the permanent Secretariat introduce their focal persons along with active email address, fax and phone numbers.

45. Date of APA Events; The APA Secretary-General requested the four distinguished Vice-President to fix the date and venue of the meeting of Standing Committees at their earliest to provide enough time to other member parliaments to arrange their international commitments in a way to spare time for APA events.

46. Legal comment made by Dr. Ali Khorram, APA Deputy Secretary-General on the date of assuming the Presidency by Grand National Assembly of Turkey:

- The Presidency of Cambodia shall continue until the inaugural ceremony of 10th APA Plenary in December 2017 in Turkey.
- Cambodia will hold the first Executive Council in Phnom Penh and will chair the second Executive Council in Turkey. Cambodia then hands over the Presidency in the first session of 10th Plenary to Turkey.
- Turkey will preside APA from 1 January 2018 and its Presidency will continue till the end of 2019.
- This clarification is made to facilitate communications with the APA President and coordination with the APA secretariat.

Annex- I List of participants



Asian Parliamentary Assembly 9th Plenary Session



27 November - 2 December 2016
Siem Reap, the Kingdom of Cambodia

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List of Participants

No.	Countries	Name of Delegates	Position
APA Member Parliaments			
1	Afghanistan	1 Hon. Mr. IR Fanullash - IRFAN	Secretary of the National Assembly (Head of Delegation)
		2 Hon. Mr. Ashequllash Wafa	Member of Parliament
		3 Hon. Mr. Gul Mohammad Pahlawan	Member of Parliament
		4 Hon. Mr. Kamal Safi	Member of Parliament
		5 Mr. Abdul Ahad Niazi	Commission Affairs Director
		6 Mr. Pamir Hassas	Protocol Officer
2	Bahrain	1 Hon. Mr. Ahmed Almulla	Chairman of the Council of Representatives (Head of Delegation)
		2 Hon. Mr. Abbas Almadhi	Head of Committee on Services – Council of Representatives
		3 Hon. Mr. Mohamed Alammadi	Head of Committee on Supporting Palestine – Council of Representatives
		4 Hon. Mr. Fuad Alhajee	Head of Committee on Public Utilities & Environment- Shura Council
		5 Hon. Dr. Mohamed Alkhozai	Member of Shura Council
		6 Hon. Dr. Abdulaziz Abul	Member of Shura Council
		7 Hon. Mr. Ahmed Qarata	Member of Council of Representatives
		8 Mr. Hamad Alkhalifa	Parliamentary Relations Development Specialist
		9 Mr. Mahmeed Almahmeed	Staff
3	Bangladesh	1 Hon. Mr. Md Golam Rabbani	Member of Parliament (Head of Delegation)

		2	Hon. Mr. Md. Aftab Uddin Sarkar	Member of Parliament
		3	Hon. Mr. Ali Azam	Member of Parliament
		4	Hon. Mr. Salah Uddin Ahmed Mukti	Member of Parliament
		5	Mr. Mofegur Rahman	Assistant Secretary
4	Bhutan	1	Hon. Mr. Chimi Dorji	Deputy Speaker (Head of Delegation)
		2	Hon. Mr. Nidup Zangpo	Member of Parliament
5	Cambodia	1	Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG SAMRIN	President of the National Assembly
		2	Hon. Dr. NGUON NHEL	2 nd Vice-President and Chairman of Organizing Committee
		3	Hon. Mr. CHHEANG VUN	MP, Head of Delegate
		4	Hon. Dr. PEN PANNHA	MP
		5	Hon. Post Dr. CHEAM YEAP	MP
		6	Hon. Mrs. KHUON SUDARY	MP
		7	Hon. Mrs. NIN SAPHON	MP
		8	Hon. Mr. YEM PONHEARITH	MP
		9	Hon. Mr. MANN CHHOEUN	Senator
		10	Hon. Mr. MAM BUNNEANG	Senator
		11	Hon. Mr. YANG SEM	Senator
		12	Hon. Mr. YOU SEANG HENG	Senator
		13	Hon. Mr. CHHIT KIM YEAT	Senator
		14	Hon. Mr. TEAV VANNOL	Senator
		15	Hon. Mr. CHAN NARETH	Senator
		16	Hon. Mrs. CHHOUK CHHIM	Senator
		17	Hon. Mr. SENG MARDI	Senator
		18	Hon. Mr. OK KONG	Senator
		19	Hon. Mr. SOK EY SAN	MP
		20	Hon. Mr. OU CHANRITH	MP
		21	Hon. Mrs. UN SOKUNTHEA	MP
		22	Hon. Mr. NHEM THAVY	MP
		23	Hon. Mr. SARY KOSAL	MP
		24	Hon. Mr. HUN MANY	MP
		25	Hon. Mr. SAR SOKHA	MP
		26	Hon. Mr. SUOS YARA	MP
		27	Hon. Mr. KEO PISETH	MP
		28	Hon. Mr. CHAY BORIN	MP
		29	Hon. Mrs. SUN SAPHEOUN	MP
		30	Hon. Mrs. BAN SREYMOM	MP
		31	Hon. Mr. SOK SOKAN	MP
		32	Hon. Mrs. NOURM SOPORN	MP
		33	Hon. Mrs. EIM PONNA	MP
		34	Hon. Mrs. LY SREY VYNA	MP
		35	Hon. Mr. UCH SEREY YUTH	MP

		36	Hon. Mr. PIN ROTANA	MP
		37	Hon. Mr. MEN KUON	MP
		38	Hon. Mr. TOK VANCHAN	MP
		39	Hon. Mrs. POT PEOU	MP
6	China	1	Hon. Mr. Wang Xiaochu	Vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress (Head of Delegation)
		2	Hon. Mr. Jiang Zhuangde	Member of the Environmental Protection and Resources Conservation Committee of the National People's Congress
		3	Ms. Wang Aihua	Director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the General Office of the Standing Committee
		4	Ms. Wu Dan	Staff of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the General Office of the Standing Committee
		5	Ms. Zhu Hongying	Staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
		6	Ms. Zheng Yi	Staff of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the General Office of the Standing Committee
7	Cyprus	1	Hon. Mr. Nicolaos TORNARITIS	Parliamentarians Leader (Head of Delegation)
		2	Hon. Mr. Christakis Tziovanis	Member of Parliament
		3	Ms. Christiana Solomonidou	Senior International Relations Officer
		4	Mr. Andreas Siupanis	Advisor
8	DPR Korea	1	H.E. Mr. PAK Myong Guk	Member of Supreme People's Assembly (Head of Delegation)
		2	Mr. Hyon Jong Ung	Member of SPA
		3	Mr. Ri Hyon Chol	Member of SPA
		4	Mr. Kim Nam Hyok	Member of SPA
		5	Mr. Jong Yong Ryong	Officer of Ministry of Foreign Affairs
		6	Mr. Kim Ju Yong	Secretary
9	Indonesia	1	HON. MR. JULIARI P. BATUBARA	MP (Head of Delegation)
		2	HON. MR.DAVE AKBARSYAH FIKARNO	MP
		3	HON. MR. SARTONO UTOMO	MP
		4	HON. MR. MOHAMAD ARIEF SUDITOMO	MP
		5	H.E. MR. PITONO PURNOMO	Ambassador
		6	MR. CHAIRIL PATRIA	Secretary
		7	MR. MOCHAMMAD ILYAS	Advisor
		8	MR. MOCHAMMAD IFAN	Assistant Secretary
		9	MR. BOWO HOETOMO	Assistant Secretary
		10	MR. AGUS ROYADIN	Journalist

		11	MRS. NITA JUWITA	Journalist
		12	MR. PANCA HENDARTO	MOFA Ministry of Foreign Affairs
		13	M. ICHWAN	Embassy
		14	APUL SIHOMBING	Embassy
10	Iran	1	Hon. Dr. SYYDEHFATEMEH ZOLGHADR	Member of Parliament (Head of Delegation)
		2	Hon. Dr. JALIL RAHIMIJHANABADI	Member of Parliament
		3	Hon. Dr. ALI KAZEMIBABAHEIDARI	Member of Parliament
		4	Hon. Ms. HAJAR CHENARANI	Member of Parliament
		5	Mr. SEYEDMORTEZA RAZAVIANI	Head of Int' Dept, Secretary
		6	Mr. SHAHRAM SALIMINAMIN	Advisor
		7	Mr. Mohammad Reza Sahraei	Advisor
		8	Alireza Yousefi	Advisor
		9	Mr. Mohammad Zaboli	Interpreter
11	Iraq	1	Hon. Mr. ABDULBARI ALZEBARY	Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee (Head of Delegation)
		2	Hon. Dr. LOUIS BANDAR	Member of Foreign Relations Committee
		3	Hon. Mr. RAZZAQ JASIM	Member of Foreign Relations Committee
		4	Mr. MUSTAFA ABBAS	Secretary
12	Jordan	1	H.E. Mr. NAIF AI-HADID	Senator (Head of Delegation)
		2	Mr. SHADI OBEIDAT	Head of Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Conferences
13	Kuwait	1	H.E. Mr. ALLAM ALI J.AL-AIKANDARI	Secretary-General of the National Assembly (Head of delegation)
		2	Mr. MESHAL M Y M AL ANEZI	Direct of International Parliamentary Organization
		3	Mr. JASEM A J S AL NUSIF	Head of Secretary General's Office Department
		4	Mr. METEB AL OSAIMI	Diplomat from Kuwait Embassy in Phnom Penh
		5	Mr. MOHAMMAD AL DAWEESH	Diplomat from Kuwait Embassy in Phnom Penh
		6	Mr. RORALFIN SIAT	Officer from Kuwait Embassy in Phnom Penh
		7	Mr. SALEM SA	Officer from Kuwait Embassy in Phnom Penh/Translator
14	Lao PDR	1	H.E. Madame Pany Yathotou	President of the National Assembly (Head of Delegation)
		2	Hon. Prof. Dr. Eksavan Vongvichit	Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee
		3	Hon. Dr. Vilayvong Bouddakham	Chairperson of the

			Planning, Finance and Auditing Committee
		4	Hon. Dr. Somphou Douangsavanh Chairperson of the Cultural and Social Affairs Committee
		5	Hon. Viengthavison Thephachanh Vice-Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee
		6	H.E. Prasith Sayasith Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Lao PDR to the Kingdom of Cambodia
		7	Mrs. Anousone Sayasith Ambassador's Spouse
		8	Mr. Phetla Thanthavongsa Director General of the Bilateral Inter-Parliamentary Relations Department
		9	Mrs. Kanthina Paninhuan Deputy Director General of the Secretariat Department, Secretary to the President
		10	Mr. Bounkeut Vongxayya Deputy Head of the Media Division, Media Department
		11	Mr. Soulichanh Xengvong Head of Protocol Division, Administration and Protocol Department
		12	Ms. Vatlana Boupha (MOFA)
		13	Mr. Pakaysith Phengkhammy Officer of the Bilateral Inter-Parliamentary Relations Department
		14	Mr. Phaylam Oudomkham Minister Counselor
15	Lebanon	1	Hon. Mr. NAWAR SAHILI MP (Head of Delegation)
		2	Hon. Mr. ANTOINE SAAD MP
16	Pakistan	1	Hon. Mr. Mian Raza Rabbani Chairman Senate of Pakistan (Head of Delegation)
		2	Hon. Ms. Nuzhat Sadiq Senator
		3	Hon. Mr. Taj Haider Senator
		4	Hon. Mr. Mushahid Hussain Sayed Senator
		5	Hon. Mr. Syed Shibli Faraz Senator
		6	Hon. Mr. Nawabzada Saifullah Magsi Senator
		7	Hon. Mr. Barrister Mohammad Ali Khan Saif Senator
		8	Hon. Mr. Muhammad Javed Abbasi Senator
		9	Hon. Mr. Mir Kabeer Ahmed Mohammad Shahi Senator
		10	Hon. Mr. Muhammad Kamal Malik Member of National Assembly
		11	Hon. Mr. Syed Waseem Hussian Member of National Assembly
		12	Hon. Mr Syed Javed Ali Shad Member of National Assembly
		13	Hon. Mr Amjad Ali Sher Pakistan Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia
		14	Mr. Amjed Pervez Malik Secretary Senate
		15	Mr. Muhammad Arshad Jan Pathan Joint Secretary
		16	Ch. Muhammad Arshad Nazar Personal Assistant to Chairman Senate

17	Palestine	1	Hon. Mr. ZUHAIR SANDUQA	Member of Parliament (Head of Delegation)
		2	Hon. NAYEF MOHANNA	Member of Parliament
		3	Hon. EMRAN ALKHATIB	Member of Parliament
18	Russia Federation	1	Hon. Mr. STEPAN ZHIRIAKOV	Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Agrarian & Food Policy and Environment Management (Head of Delegation)
		2	Hon. Dr. RAFAIL ZINUROV	Member of the Council of the Federation Committee for Foreign Affairs
		3	Hon. Mr. ALEXY CHEPA	Member of Parliament
		4	H.E. Mr. Dmitry TSVETKOV	Ambassador of Russia to Cambodia
		5	Mr. Alexey Meleshkin	Second Secretary of the Embassy of Russia
		6	Ms. YULIA GUSKOVA	Advisor
		7	Ms. OLGA FOLOMEEVA	Senior Counselor, International Relations Department/Secretary
		8	Ms. VERONINKA BELOUSOVA	Advisor/Interpreter
19	Saudi Arabia	1	H.E. Dr. SAID ABDULLA E. ALSHAIKH	Member of Majlis Ash-Shura (Head of Delegation)
		2	H.E. Mr. ATA HOMOUD ATA ALSUBAITY	Member of Majlis Ash-Shura
		3	Mr. KHALID MOHAMMED ALMANSOUR	Director General of the Parliamentary Group
		4	Mr. SAUD MOHAMMED ALBLIHI	Majlis Ash-Shura Speaker's office
		5	Mr. AHMED SALMAN ALSALMAN	Public Relations and protocol official of the council
		6	Mr. ABDULAZIZ ALI ALZAHIRANI	Parliamentary Group
		7	Mr. YOUSSEF RASHED ALHARBI	Private Secretary of the Speaker
		8	Mr. BANDER MOHAMMAD J ALAMMARI	Diplomats of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Vietnam
		9	Mr. TURKI SAAD H. ALMARWANI	Diplomats of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Vietnam
20	Thailand	1	Hon. ADM. Amorntep NA BANGCHANG	Member of the National Assembly, Head of the Thai NLA Delegation to the APA (Head of Delegation)
		2	H.E. Mr. Nuttavudh PHOTISARO	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Kingdom of Cambodia
		3	Hon. Gen. Nipat THONGLEK	Member of the National Assembly, Member of the Thai NLA Delegation to the APA
		4	Hon. Gen. Utis SUNTHORN	Member of the National Assembly, Member of the Thai NLA Delegation

			to the APA
		5	Hon. Mrs. Suwannee SIRIVEJCHAPUN Member of the National Assembly, Member of the Thai NLA Delegation to the APA
		6	Hon. Ms. Jintanant Chaya SUBHAMITR Member of the National Assembly, Member of the Thai NLA Delegation to the APA
		7	Ms. Krisanee MASRICHAN Director of Association of Parliaments and Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments Division
		8	Mr. Rutchabhoom BOONRAWD Embassy Counselor
		9	Ms. Charoenporn RAKSAPOLMAUNG Embassy's First Secretary
		10	Mr. Panya KOTTHEN Foreign Affairs Officer
		11	Mr. Russdy KHANTANIT Foreign Affairs Officer
		12	Ms. Natcha NILRAT Foreign Affairs Officer
		13	Ms. Pornthip SAKSIRIWATEKUL Accompanying Person
		14	LCDR. Ulailuk CHAISOTTEE Accompanying Person
21	Turkey	1	Hon. Mr. Ahmet AYDIN Deputy Speaker of Grand National Assembly (Head of Delegation)
		2	Hon. Mr. Burhan KAYATÜRK Head of Turkish Group of APA
		3	Hon. Mr. Burhanettin UYSAL Member of APA
		4	Hon. Mr. Kemalettin YILMAZTEKİN Member of APA
		5	Hon. Mr. Barış KARADENİZ Member of APA
		6	H.E. Mr. İlhan Kemal TUG Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Embassy of the Republic of Turkey to the Kingdom of Cambodia
		7	Mr. Tolga Sakir ATİK Deputy Director of Foreign Relations and Protocol Department
		8	Ms. Elif Esra ÖNAL Turkish APA Secretariat
		9	Mr. Murat HASTÜRK Turkish APA Secretariat
		10	Ms. Didem SONE Interpreter
		11	Mr. Mehmet TAMER Interpreter
		12	Ms. Hale Kuterdem Journalist
		13	Mr. Mustafa Kemal Ozturk Journalist
22	United Arab Emirates	1	Hon. Dr. Saeed Al Mutawa Member of Parliament of the Federal National Council (Head of Delegation)
		2	Hon. Ms. Azza Al Malik Member of Parliament
		3	Hon. Dr. Nedal Alteneiji Member of Parliament
		4	Mr. Sultan Al Shehhi Staff
		5	Ms. Salama Al Shehhi Staff
23	Viet Nam	1	H.E. Mdm. TONG Thi Phong Vice President the National Assembly (Head of Delegation)

		2	Hon. Mr. NGUYEN Van Giau	Chairman of Committee on Foreign Affairs
		3	Hon. Mr. PHAN Xuan Dzung	Chairman of Committee on Science, Technology and Environment
		4	Hon. Mr. DINH Cong Sy	Permanent Member of Committee on Foreign Affairs
		5	Hon. Mrs. DINH Thi Phuong Lan	Permanent Member of Council for Ethnic Minorities
		6	Hon. Mr. DON Tuan Phong	Member of National Assembly
		7	Mr. DANG Ngoc Huy	Assistant to Vice President of the National Assembly
		8	Mrs. NGUYEN Tuong Van	Deputy Director, Department of Foreign Affairs
		9	Mrs. TRAN Kim Chi	Head of Division, Department of Foreign Affairs
		10	Mrs. TRAN Thu Hang	Official, Department of Foreign Affairs
		11	Mr. DINH Ngoc Canh	Escorted Security Officer to the Vice President
		12	Mr. NGUYEN Duc Thuan	Official, Department of Protocol
Observer Organizations				
1	PUIC	1	H.E. Mahmut Erol Kilic	Secretary General (Head of Delegation)
		2	Mr. Aliasghar Mohammadi Sijani	Assistant Secretary General
2	AIPA	1	H.E. ISRA SUNTHORNVUT	Secretary General
APA Secretariat				
		1	Hon. Dr. MOHAMMAD REZA MAJIDI	Secretary General (Head of Delegation)
		2	H.E. Dr. ALI KHORRAM	Deputy Secretary General
		3	H.E. Dr. BIJAN MOSHIRVAZIRI	Deputy Secretary General
		4	H.E. Mr. ASGHAR AZERIKHAH	Deputy Secretary General
		5	H.E. Mr. FARHAD KARIMIAN	Deputy Secretary General
		6	Mr. SEYED SABER ABDOLLAHI	Technical Officer
		7	Mr. SAEED SOHRABINIA	Technical Officer

Annex-II

Intervention by Iranian delegation

Mr. Chairman,
Dear Colleagues,

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to you and your colleagues for the outstanding organization of this important meeting. I would also like to convey the regrets of H.E Dr. Larijani, the Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran for not participating in this meeting. As you are aware, two unfortunate incidents have occurred for Iran during the last week, the terrorist attack against pilgrimages by DAESH in Iraq, which left several hundreds of innocent people including Iranians martyred and injured, as well as the train accident, which caused more than one hundred deaths and injuries. Both accidents have deeply shocked the Iranian people and others, and a public mourning is ongoing. Despite planning for this trip, H.E Dr. Larijani could not participate in the meeting due to the status quo and requirements to address the situation.

I would also like to express, on a behalf of myself and my Iranian colleagues, the readiness of the delegation of the Islamic Parliament of Iran to cooperate with your Excellency and all colleagues in order to help conduct a successful and fruitful meeting.

Thank you

Annex-III

**Welcome Speech by Honorable Dr. Nguon Nhel, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the Ninth Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, Second Executive Council Meeting
Siem Reap, 28 November 2016**

First of all, on behalf of **Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG SAMRIN**, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, it gives me great pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to all honorable speakers, vice speakers, delegation heads and members of delegations from APA member parliaments for taking part in this important gathering of the Second Executive Council Meeting ahead of the Ninth Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly here in Siem Reap.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I would like to express my deepest thanks to honorable members for expending your valuable time to attend this meeting today at the invitation of the APA President. Your presence is a reflection of your willingness and strong commitment to achieve the common APA objectives.

As you are aware, the parliament of the Kingdom of Cambodia successfully organized the Eighth Plenary Session of APA from 7-12 December 2015 and First Executive Council Meeting of 2016 in Phnom Penh from 26-27 September.

Honorable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen

The First Executive Council Meeting has submitted to the Ninth Plenary Session 20 resolutions drafted by the four standing committees.

The Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs has drafted nine resolutions on culture, technology, health, migrant workers, corruption, women parliamentarians and religion as well as the smuggling of cultural items and the trafficking of illicit drugs.

The Standing Committee on Political Affairs has drafted four resolutions on principles of friendship and cooperation in Asia, interactions between APA and Asian Governments, terrorism and violent extremism as well as significant political developments in Asia.

The Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development has drafted six resolutions. These deal with economic growth, the Sustainable Development Goals, an Asian Integrated Energy Market, environmental issues, poverty eradication as well as water and sanitation.

From the Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations, we have one resolution on the APA budget.

But much work remains to be done: Palestine has proposed a *Resolution on the Irreversible Support for the Palestinian Nation* and Pakistan has requested the

establishment of a *working group consisting of five sub-regions*. We also have to consider Turkey's election to the APA presidency after Cambodia and the Vice-Chairs of the Ninth Plenary.

Honorable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen

I firmly believe our Plenary Session will proceed smoothly in fraternal, friendly and cooperative atmosphere with a wide range of issues discussed based on the common spirit of Asian nations.

With much effort and time, and in the spirit of cooperation and friendship among parliaments in Asia, we have been able to prepare all documents to be submitted to the plenary. I wish to encourage representatives from APA member parliaments to air their views and share their experience as a basis for achieving the supreme common aspirations of Asian nations.

Thank you very much.

Annex-IV

The Royal Massage



ROYAL MESSAGE

from

***His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath
NORODOM SIHAMONI, King of Cambodia***

***9th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
November 27 to December 2, 2016
Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia***

On behalf of the Senate, National Assembly and Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I wish to extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin, President of the National Assembly and President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), and all distinguished delegates participating in the annual APA gathering at the 9th Plenary Session of the assembly in the beautiful and historic city of Siem Reap.

*I have observed that the theme for the plenary session, “**Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia**”, firmly expresses a friendly, fraternal and cooperative environment for consultations and discussions on political, economic and socio-cultural issues based on the common spirit of Asian nations.*

I know that APA has in the past made enormous efforts for humanity to fully acquire the natural right to live in peace. I am convinced that APA is now pursuing and will pursue again this goal to liberate many of our brothers and sisters from all suffering in fratricidal killings that have no justification.

I sincerely appreciate the great achievements of APA, which represents the voice of Asian people, to benefit our nations by strengthening legislative processes, policies and strategic goals that fully complement international standards.

I am confident that the 9th Plenary Session will produce fruitful results, with the aim of contributing to Asia’s goals. May I wish this noble event a successful outcome in promoting peace and development in the region.

NORODOM SIHAMONI

Phnom Penh, November 16, 2016

Annex- V

Statement by His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi ,

APA Secretary-General in Inaugural

Honorable Samdech HENG Samrin

Honorable Samdech SAY Chhum

Honorable Samdech HUN Sen

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Please allow me to begin by thanking you Mr. President for the outstanding accomplishments of our Assembly under your supervision and smooth and continuous conduct of the meetings held in Kingdom of Cambodia.

My thanks also go to the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for its generous hospitality and for the seamless conduct of the Honorable Dr. Nguon Nhel, in organizing this very important event.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to H.E. Dr. Nejad-Hosseinian and the Secretariat whom I have also the pleasure of working with for their diligent work and tireless efforts since commence of the Secretariat's foundation.

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

This year's Assembly, as the tenth anniversary of the foundation of APA, is taking place at a crucial juncture as the world in general and some regions of Asia in particular are faced with daunting challenges. It is my firm belief that only by undertaking joint efforts and enhancing multilateral cooperation in different fields we could meet the expectations and aspirations of our nations and manage to set out the right directions for long-term development of the APA.

The APA Secretariat remains strongly committed to this endeavor, and I shall be working closely with the APA Member Parliaments and other stakeholders towards promoting freedom, securing peace, stability, social justice and development in the region and beyond which are among the most important goals of our organization.

Mr President,

Distinguished delegates,

Every step toward the APA's established goals and objectives in its Charter requires the devotion and commitment of its member nations. The tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals are paramount to achieving peace, justice, access to up-to date knowledge, cooperative exploitation of human and natural resources, and right to welfare facilities for the health and nutrition of its member populations. We must remain

resilient and fully engaged in our contributions in order to witness a thriving association and region.

We need all hands on deck to tackle the greatest obstacles to human and sustainable development.

Undoubtedly, the role of the APA in matters of contributing to the integration of Asian nations to realize its potential will set a clear example and precedent for other regions of the world.

Devotion to spiritual and moral values, which in itself forms the basis of all genuine democracy, is part and parcel of our old Asian civilizations. Surely, unity among APA Member States could be considered as the prerequisite for realization of ideas conducive to economic and social progress.

*Mr President,
Distinguished delegates,*

Parliamentary Diplomacy is an important perspective and alternative form of diplomacy, even if not widely studied yet, developed lately by the increasing role of Parliaments and their enrollment in foreign affairs and international relations issues.

Nevertheless, these facts, Parliaments represent a complex and diversified issues relating with the role they play in foreign issues. These competences give the Parliaments an important power in the process of diplomacy or foreign affairs.

Parliamentary Diplomacy could therefore, play a key role among Member States because it is considered as the main instruments to develop and promote the international relations between countries.

Lastly, I wish to express my utmost gratitude to you and other Member States for the trust that shall be placed in my experience and competence as I commence my job in the APA Secretariat. Needless to emphasize that I am fully committed to actualizing the mission and the vision of the APA. I am certain that together, we will be able to bring together the Member Parliaments into closer association and eventual integration into an Asian Parliament.

Thank you all for your kind attention.

Annex- VI

Selected Impromptu Comments at the Opening of the 9th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) by Honorable Samdech Techo Hun Sen Prime Minister of Kingdom of Cambodia:

It Is Time to Assess Color Revolution

A moment ago, HE President of the Senate of Pakistan raised a number of recently emerging issues. I would like to take this opportune moment to seek your opinion if it is time for an assessment of the so-called color revolution. As of now, where have those who initiated and those who aided and abetted the color revolution gone into hiding? Places where there happened to be war to overthrow (someone or regimes) by military means and/or color revolution, disguised under democracy and human rights, are now suffering severe devastation.

What have the people of Iraq benefitted from the removal of Saddam Hussein, or Ben Ali for Tunisians, or Muammar Gaddafi for Libyans, Hosni Mubarak for Egyptians. Who would take responsibility for the war against the regime of President Assad in Syria or that of Yemen? Who are responsible? Was it worth it to have tens of thousands lives killed just for the sake of removing one leader or government? It is now time to see if color revolution is acceptable. What should the International Criminal Court (ICC) do to those war chieftains? Bring them to justice or give them Nobel Peace Prize? Aside from daily reported deaths in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen, etc., how many refugees have had to cross the sea to get themselves to Europe?

Europe has been hash on those people too. What responsibility should Europe take to help those people? These issues are for us to ponder on to prevent recurrence of such actions by individuals or countries.

Take the case of Cambodia for instance, in detests of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, (certain elements) conducted a coup to remove him, the action of which brought about war, destruction and deaths. In between 1970 and 1975, tens of thousands of Cambodians died. In between 1975 and 1979, over three million Cambodians died. We were able to put an end to war in 1998. We Cambodians have tasted wars.

We need to have a door opening to peace. However, we are not narrow-minded nationalists. That we have a meeting here today, a big family of Parliamentary Assembly in Asia, we should see that it is our responsibility to bring this issue to attention. For the moment of speaking, I think fighting rages in Mosul and other parts of Syria. People fled their homes in Libya, Syria, Yemen and others for Europe, who has its door shut. I am calling on countries in Europe to open their doors for refugees, give them appropriate shelters, works, etc. because they are the ones with responsibility for supporting the color revolution related US policy.

An International Conference on Anti-Terrorism

I think it is also time for us to figure out why terrorism does not subside? It has evolved from a small Taliban group in Afghanistan to Al Qaeda, and now to ISIS or IS. Where did they come from? We should discuss this too. In the ASEAN-US summit in last February in

the US, I raised this issue asking should we have an international conference on counter-terrorism. However, no one answered my question. Now, from here, I am appealing for an international conference on fight against terrorism, which should embody reasons why there arise terrorism? Why some countries have become targets of terrorist acts? Why some hated not only some individual leaders but also their allies? In order to defend peace we must prevent peace destroyer from taking their beings. To keep peace, there must be no war-makers. We may not blame the countries in wars but those who colluded and interfered to make and support wars.

Speak Out for a Peaceful, Reconciliatory, Cooperative and Sustainable World

Well, I seemed to have gone far beyond our subject matter but I think that maintaining peace is encompassing everything – development and peace has dialectical relation. Without peace, there would certainly be no development. Without development, it is impossible to keep peace.

Alleviating poverty is therefore an important reason in our efforts to prevent war and to keep lasting peace. In this moment, people of different nationalities are fleeing the Middle East to Europe and they are not legal settlers yet. I just heard days now that Turkey threatens to open the gates and send refugees to Europe. If that is true, I think it is a good point because it is indeed Europe's responsibility for supporting the US policy in waging color revolution in the Middle East. They are obliged to provide descent shelters and works and not leave them deserted in the sea or keep them in dense camps like rats.

I have spoken the truth. I hope our foreign friends who have concerned themselves with wars in the Middle East and formerly the sufferings of Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos, must step out and accept responsibility. There would not be smoke, if there were no fire. Nowadays we seem to have sit fanning the smoke and do not extinguish the fire. Countries with ability to make war are not weak. We just blamed what has happened and what brought them up? Look into the case of Cambodia, why war came to our country. As to who had caused war, we have not actually spoken openly about it. Some did not dare to spit it out because they need those countries' helps. For justice, no matter who that would be, (I) must dare speak out for a peaceful, reconciliatory, cooperative and sustainable world.

North Korea Nuke Issue, US Campaign Topics, US-Russia Reconciliatory

Well, also from this forum, I am expressing my deep concern on the North Korean nuclear issue. We have news, true or not there is no way to certify, that the leader of North Korea said he would fire missiles to welcome President-elect Donald Trump at his inaugural presidential ceremony. If it is true, it seems that firing missiles is just like making fireworks at any given ceremony. I may want to stress about the various topics campaigned in the presidential election this year in the US. They are worth having a look and studying. They had brought to light many issues – ISIS existence is whose mistake or responsibility, included.

I have no interest in interfering in the US affairs. Whoever wins the elections will become the president. It is a normal procedure. In Cambodia, 99% of onlookers bet that Donald Trump would lose. I could probably be only one person who said Trump would win. Well,

winning or losing is problem of the American people. We would have to work with whoever wins the elections. I did not criticize Hillary Clinton as some people did. I see that it is now time that the US and Russia seeks reconciliatory term as the two countries' tense relation has caused regional and world concerns. I do not give my consent to so and so wins the elections. My comment rests on analysis of the relation of the two nuclear great powers – Russia and the US. According to what Donald Trump promised during the election campaign, I hope that the two nuclear great powers will move for rapprochement. I also understand that my voice would not cause dissatisfaction from outgoing President Barack Obama or conceded Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

Annex -VII

SPEECH

by

Samdech Vibolsena Pheakdei SAY CHHUM,
President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia, at the 9th Plenary Session of the
Asian Parliamentary Assembly

28 November 2016

- **Samdech Akak Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG SAMRIN, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia**
- **Samdech Akak Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia**
- **His Excellency Dr. NGOUN NHIL, Second Vice President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chair of the Organizing Committee of the 9th APA Plenary Session**
- **His Excellency Mr. Secretary General of APA**
- **Excellencies, Lok Chum Teav, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished National and International Guests!**

I have the honor and great pleasure to participate in the opening of the 9th Plenary Session of APA in Siem Reap Province where some of the world-renowned temples and one the Seven Wonders of the World is located. On behalf of the Cambodian people, the Senate of Cambodia and myself, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to neighboring and distant foreign friends and distinguished guests, who are attending the 9th Plenary Session of APA today.

The 9th Plenary Session of APA and its theme of “ **Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development** ” provides an important forum for representatives from assemblies within the Asian region to exchange views and experiences that contribute towards the enhancement of cooperation for peace, stability, progress, prosperity and sustainable development in the region.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Cambodia, geographically located in the Southeast Asian region, experienced the Cold War along with civil wars and internal conflicts lasting for decades. The genocidal Khmer Rouge regime completely destroyed the country’s social infrastructures, and, in particular, human resources were severely diminished. After the collapse of the Khmer Rouge Regime in 1979, civil war was still not concluded in Cambodia, and the intervention of the United Nations and international communities (1991-1993), therefore, played a vital role in promoting peace and national unity in Cambodia.

Cambodia has since then striven by itself to overcome obstacles through dialogue and perpetual negotiation for national reconciliation. For instance, at the end of 1998, under the win-win policy of **Samdech Akak Moha Sena Pakdei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge organization was demolished politically and militarily, and its armed forces were integrated into the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces with the assurance of their safety, their jobs and occupations, and of private ownership for people who lived in the Khmer Rouge Zone.

The experiences outlined above compel me to emphasize how much value Cambodia places on the importance of negotiation, national unity and reconciliation within the internal national framework, which is preferable to external intervention or interference. These key factors have helped Cambodia to conclude armed conflicts with no bloodshed and have brought national unity, sovereignty, territory and peace for our people and country.

As a member of the United Nations, Cambodia has contributed actively to peace and humanitarian causes in the world through the dispatch of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces. They have participated in UN Peacekeeping Missions in the fields of civil engineering, medical services, military monitoring, demining and the clearance of unexploded ammunition. Moreover, we have contributed to global endeavors to counter global warming.

Peace, political stability and full security have created the conditions that up until today have nurtured strong confidence, particularly evident in the presence of a growing number of local and international private investors who are investing in Cambodia and providing opportunities for rapid development in all sectors. Figures show that Cambodia has maintained an annual economic growth rate of 7% for a decade, and has reduced its poverty rate from 53.2% in 2004 to 13.5% in 2014. Indeed, Cambodia has been recognized as the 4th most successful nation in the world for poverty reduction. For sustainable development, Cambodia has become a member of ASEAN, the WTO, and regional and global integration frameworks by connecting its national infrastructure into the region and promoting exchange of culture, tourism and people, by cooperating in the preservation of the natural environment, and in facilitating trade and investment in the region.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

As we have already acknowledged, all countries in the Asian region have shown strong commitment to the cause of peace, stability, harmony, prosperity and development for the people and the region, and towards the establishment of the “**Asian Association**” in the future.

At the same time, however, the many challenges facing the Asian region have been acknowledged. These include the gap in economic development, the uncertainties faced by the regional economy in the context of globalization, weak infrastructure, poverty, climate change, the refugee crisis, terrorism, war, and so on. We are all much concerned about the spread of violence and armed conflict in some countries within the region that may threaten the peace, stability and development of their regional neighbors and of the wider world.

These factors require us to enhance our cooperation to open a new page in our relationships to sustain peace and true cooperation: in this way we can continue to build the Asian region as a place of friendship, peace, cooperation and comprehensive development. Through this process, the world’s superpowers will be encouraged to set aside ambitions to utilize the pretext of democracy and human rights in attempts to topple legitimate governments through illegal means, and to respect the rights of people to make their own decisions and to preserve the sovereignty of each country. In this way they would act in full accordance with article 2, Chapter 6 of the UN Charter, UN Resolution 26/25 dated 24 October 1970, and relevant international laws. We fully intend to comply with the three pillars of UN – with their emphasis on peace and security, development and human rights - and condemn political interventionism to achieve regime change by attempting to topple legitimate governments in violation of international laws.

The policy inherent in the arms race is the root cause of tension, war and power struggles to influence the region, and is a big concern in its potential to promote instability in our region.

In accordance with the stated ideals and on behalf of the Senate of Cambodia, I would like to fully support the resolution of the heads of state and governments, which emerged from discussions at the 2nd Summit of Asian Dialogue Cooperation on 9-10 October 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand. This outlined the priorities in the six pillars of cooperation in association with the UN's agenda of 2030 for collective growth and sustainable development in the Asian region: (1) the inter-relationship of food, water and energy security; (2) connectivity; (3) science, technology and innovation; (4) education and human resource development; (5) culture and tourism; and (6) promoting approaches to inclusive and sustainable development.

In order to achieve these visions, we should enhance our comprehensive cooperation within the framework of the initiatives “**One belt, one road**”, and the “**Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank**” of China, as well as the Japanese initiative on “**Partnership for Quality Infrastructure**” in the Asian region. These provide financial resources to support the connectivity of infrastructure in our region there by contributing to peace, stability and close cooperation, and to the enhancement of trade and investment to help to reduce the development gap between coastal and land areas.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

All parliaments have respected and valuable roles in promoting peace and sustainable development in our Asian region. Parliaments play key roles in monitoring national strategic development programs, poverty reduction strategies, and in the implementation of national policy and the international obligations of government. In cases of crisis and conflict, parliaments perform a fundamental role in providing a platform for dialogue and national reconciliation. Parliaments also have vital roles in leadership through law-making and as defenders of the rule of law and of human rights including those of ethnic groups and women.

The diplomatic role of parliaments is fundamental in the prevention of conflict and in building peace in the region. As the representatives of the people, parliamentarians are empowered to participate in the process through peaceful means to reach agreement between states. Moreover, parliamentarians participate in the parliamentary regional forums and fulfill a significant role in preventing or resolving disputes through their mission to discover reality in regions where conflict exists, and through inter-parliamentary dialogue. Parliamentary bilateral relations are of key importance when inter-governmental relations are in trouble or are deadlocked.

Finally, I hope that the 9th Plenary Session will achieve fruitful outcomes along with good recommendations as foundations and mechanisms for overcoming the challenges mentioned above.

I would like to wish Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished national and international guests' good health, happiness and great success.

Thank You!

Annex - VIII

Speech delivered by

Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG SAMRIN

President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia

9th Asian Parliamentary Assembly

28 November 2016, Sokha Hotel, Siem Reap

- *Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei SAY CHHUM, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia*
 - *Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia*
 - *Honorable Heads and Members of the APA Delegations, Observers and Partner Organizations*
 - *National and International Distinguished Guests*
 - *Ladies and Gentlemen*
- 1- The National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia has had the great honor during its two-year term of office of receiving the unstinting and strong support from APA member countries, observers and partner organizations for hosting the 8th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in Phnom Penh and the 9th Plenary Session in Siem Reap, the city of wonder and home to the world-famous cultural heritage of Asia.
 - 2- I would like to take this terrific opportunity to express my deepest compliments and most profound gratitude to **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath NORODOM SIHAMONI**, King of Cambodia, who is delighted to send a most meaningful royal message to the 9th Plenary Session of APA.
 - 3- On behalf of the Cambodian parliament and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), I would like to extend my warmest welcome to **Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei SAY CHHUM**, President of the Senate, **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, as well as honorable APA delegates for gracing the 9th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly with your great presence here today. We are delighted with the esteemed presence of the top leaders of the Kingdom of Cambodia in this event, which is a testimony and reflection of the firm support and common vision of the APA in promoting peace, stability, development and prosperity for Asian nations.
 - 4- I would like to highly evaluate the profoundly meaningful addresses delivered by **Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei SAY CHHUM**, President of the Senate, **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and **Honorable Dr. Nguon Nhel**, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 9th APA plenary session, as well as the representative of the APA secretary general, which have unequivocally reflected your strong will, determination and active contribution towards accomplishing our common aspirations.

Samdech, Honorable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen

- 5- This historic gathering among parliaments from Asian countries today has shown the world our common will in building a more harmonious Asian region and settling conflicts through peaceful means based on the principles of peaceful coexistence and mutual respects.
- 6- Our Asian vision will not be achieved by the parliament of the Kingdom of Cambodia alone without closer cooperation among APA member parliaments at both bilateral and multilateral levels. The Cambodian parliament is honored to continue further cooperation with parliaments from countries in the region and the world so as to jointly build a peaceful society and attain sustainable development aimed at bringing prosperity and dignity to the people.
- 7- In actual fact, ending wars is a huge and hard task facing us, but maintaining and ensuring peace, particularly strengthening the culture of peace, is a more serious difficult duty to be fulfilled before we could achieve complete sustainable development. To this end, we commit ourselves to redoubling our utmost concerted efforts to preserve these to which peace and development strike root.
- 8- In this emerging context of global development, the expansion of world powers' influences and protracted wars which are breaking out in some countries have claimed so many lives and resulted in huge amounts of property damage, exacerbating refugee crises and terrorism that pose a grave threat to regional and global security and stability.
- 9- In addition, our world is currently facing many colossal issues, including the uncertainty of global economic growth, climate change and growing natural disasters which are the major hindrances to stability, security and peace, especially hamper development in all countries in the region and the world.
- 10- These have stressed the need to further strengthening international cooperation at all levels aimed at addressing the issues facing us with the goal of ensuring sustainable development, stability, security, peace and harmony in our societies.
- 11- Therefore, our efforts to bolster international cooperation among countries and nations are indispensable which require legislatures in each country to effectively fulfill their core roles with the strong sense of responsibility in establishing legal frameworks and giving ratification to some instruments voicing support to governments' policies in the maintenance of peace and speeding up development.
- 12- In this sense, the 9th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly offers a great opportunity for us to discuss some more issues, exchange views and synthesize our conception, especially to materialize a long-term vision with conscience in order to use as a road-map for future broader and in-depth cooperation.
- 13- To achieve the APA vision, we need to further strengthen and deepen our cooperation at both bilateral and multilateral levels, including the full and effective implementation of agreements, MOUs and other legal instruments in place, mainly the implementation of the resolutions passed by APA plenary sessions.

Honorable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen

- 14-** In the context of globalization, all countries inevitably experience the arising of risky impacts and eventualities, especially countries which have shared geographies and economies. Key to tackling these challenges is only made through multinational legislative cooperation which is used as an effective central means for the promotion of peace and development in the region.
- 15-** I firmly hope our plenary session will proceed smoothly in an atmosphere of friendship, fraternity and good cooperation, while a whole host of issues will be raised for discussions and consultations based on the common spirit of our Asian nations.
- 16-** Lastly, I wish to encourage the representatives from APA member parliaments who are present here to further share views and good experience that build on realizing the ultimate aspiration of our nations in Asia.

I hereby would like to declare the 9th plenary session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly open.

Thank you very much.

Annex-IX

Agenda of all meetings in Siem Reap



**Asian Parliamentary Assembly
The 9th Plenary Session**



***“PROMOTING PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA”***

Second Executive Council Meeting

28 November 2016 at 9:00-12:00

Venue: Ballroom II

Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Welcome Remarks by **Honorable Dr. Nguon Nhel**, Chairman of the Executive Council Meeting
4. Report of the 1st Executive Council Meeting by Secretary General of APA
5. Consideration and Recommendations of the Draft Resolutions and Decision to the Plenary Session for adoption
6. Consideration of the Nomination of the Next President of APA
7. Consideration of the Nomination for the Vice Presidents of APA in 2017
8. Consideration of the Draft Agenda of the 9th APA Plenary
9. Any other matter



Asian Parliamentary Assembly The 9th Plenary Session



***“PROMOTING PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA”***

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

28 November 2016 at 16:00-18:00

Venue: Ballroom I & II

Order of Business

1. National Anthem
2. Royal Message
3. Cultural Performance
4. Welcome Address by **Hon. Dr. NGUON Nhel**, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chairman of the Organizing Committee
5. Address by **H.E. Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi**, APA Secretary-General
6. Address by **H.E. Mian Raza Rabbani**, Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan
7. Address by **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
8. Address by **Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei SAY Chhum**, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia
9. Opening Address by **Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin**, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of APA
10. Photo Session



**Asian Parliamentary Assembly
The 9th Plenary Session**



***“PROMOTING PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA”***

The 9th Plenary Session

Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda of the 9th APA Plenary Session
2. Election of the Bureau of the 9th Plenary: Four Vice- Presidents and Rapporteur
3. Statement of the Chairperson and Report of Executive Council Meeting
4. Report of APA Secretary-General on the works of APA
5. General Debate : “Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia”
6. Presentation of the Reports by Rapporteurs, Adoption of the Draft Resolutions of the Standing Committees and Decision
7. Announcement of the Next President of APA
8. Presentation of the SIEM REAP Declaration by Hon. Mr. HUN Many, Member of Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media of the National Assembly
9. Adoption of the oral report of the 9th Plenary Session
10. Closing Session by Hon. Dr. NGUON Nhel, Second Vice-President and Representative of President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of APA



Asian Parliamentary Assembly
The 9th Plenary Session



Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians

29 November 2016 at 11:00-13:00

Venue: Ballroom II

Draft Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Election of the Bureau
- 3- Opening Remarks by **Hon. Ms. KHUON Sudary**, Chairperson of the Meeting
- 4- Report of the Secretary General of APA by H.E. Dr. Ali Khorram
- 5- Deliberations and Recommendations of the Draft Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians
- 6- Any other matter



**Asian Parliamentary Assembly
The 9th Plenary Session**



**Standing Committee Meeting on
Social and Cultural Affairs**

29 November 2016 at 14:00-16:00

Venue: Ballroom II

Draft Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Election of the Bureau
- 3- Opening Remarks by Chairperson from Bhutan
- 4- Report of the Secretary-General of APA by H.E. Dr. Ali Khorram
- 5- Deliberations and Recommendations of the Draft Resolutions to the Plenary Session for Adoption:
 - Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia
 - Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology
 - Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia
 - Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia
 - Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption
 - Draft Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians
 - Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony Among World Religions
 - Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia
 - Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia
- 6- Any other matter



Asian Parliamentary Assembly
The 9th Plenary Session
**Special Committee Meeting on
Creation of Asian Parliament**

29 November 2016 at 16:30-18:30

Venue: Ballroom II

Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Election of the Bureau
- 3- Opening Remarks and the Report of the Chairperson from Pakistan
- 4- Report of Secretary General of APA by H.E. Dr. Ali Khorram
- 5- Consideration and Recommendations of Proposal for forming 5 sub-regional groups by Pakistan Parliament
- 6- Deliberations on the Report of the Chairperson
- 7- Any other matter



Asian Parliamentary Assembly The 9th Plenary Session



Standing Committee Meeting on Political Affairs

1 December 2016 at 9:00-11:00

Venue: Ballroom II

Draft Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Election of the Bureau
- 3- Opening Remarks by Chairperson from Pakistan
- 4- Report of the Secretary-General of APA by H.E. Dr. Ali Khorram
- 5- Deliberations and Recommendations of the Draft Resolutions to the Plenary Session for Adoption:
 - Draft Resolution on Building Prosperity in Asia Through Friendship and Cooperation
 - Draft Resolution Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia
 - Draft Resolution on United Against Terrorism and Violent Extremism
 - Draft Resolution on Significant Political Developments in Asia
 - Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments Unwavering Supporting for Palestinian People
- 6- Any other matter



**Asian Parliamentary Assembly
The 9th Plenary Session**



**Standing Committee Meeting on
Staff and Financial Regulations**

01 December 2016 at 12:30-13:00

Venue: Ballroom II

Draft Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Election of the Bureau
- 3- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 4- Report of the Secretary-General of APA by H.E. Dr. Ali Khorram
- 5- Deliberations and Recommendations of the Draft Resolution on Planning
APA Budget
- 6- Any other matter



**Asian Parliamentary Assembly
The 9th Plenary Session**



**Standing Committee Meetings on Economic
and Sustainable Development in Asia**

1 December 2016 at 11:30-12:30

Venue: Ballroom II

Draft Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Election of the Bureau
- 3- Opening Remarks by Chairperson from Bahrain
- 4- Report of the Secretary General of APA by H.E. Dr. Ali Khorram
- 5- Deliberations and Recommendations on the Draft Resolutions to the Plenary Session for Adoption:
 - Draft Resolution on Asian Integrated Energy Market
 - Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues
 - Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth
 - Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication
 - Draft Resolution on The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal
 - Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All
- 6- Any other matter

Annex – X
Program of Work



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
THE 9TH PLENARY SESSION



**“PROMOTING PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA”**

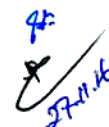
PROGRAM OF WORKS

27 NOVEMBER - 02 DECEMBER 2016

**SOKHA SIEM REAP RESORT AND CONVENTION CENTER
SIEM REAP, THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

Handwritten signature and date: 27/11/16

DAY ONE	
SUNDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2016	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Delegates arrive at Siem Reap International Airport ➤ Delegates proceed to the Sokha Siem Reap Resort and Convention Center and Check in at Banteay Srei Building at Lobby Level of the HOTEL ➤ Registration of Delegates at Banteay Srei Building at Lobby Level
11:30 - 14:00	Lunch <i>Venue: Mohori Restaurant</i>
18:00	Dinner <i>Venue: Mohori Restaurant</i>
DAY TWO	
MONDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2016	
06:30 - 08:00	Breakfast <i>Venue: Mohori Restaurant</i>
09:00 - 12:00	<p>The 2nd APA Executive Council Meeting <i>Venue: Ballroom II</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of Agenda • Election of the Bureau • Welcome Remarks by Honorable Dr. Nguon Nhel Chairman of the Executive Council Meeting • Report of the 1st Executive Council Meeting by Secretary General of APA • Consideration and Recommendation of The Draft Resolutions to Plenary Session for adoption • Consideration of the Nomination of the Next President of APA • Consideration of the Nomination for the Vice Presidents of APA in 2017



 27-11-16

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the Draft Agenda of the 9th APA Plenary Session • Any other matter
12:00 - 14:00	<p>Lunch <i>Venue: Mohori Restaurant</i></p>
15:00 - 15:45	<p>❖ <i>Courtesy Call on Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of APA by Heads of APA Delegation, and Secretary General of APA</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Romdol Room</i></p>
16:00 - 18:00	<p>➤ INAUGURAL CEREMONY</p> <p><i>Venue: Ballroom I & II</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Anthem • Royal Message • Cultural Performance • Welcome Address by Hon. Dr. NGUON Nhel, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chairman of the Organizing Committee • Address by H.E. Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi, APA Secretary-General • Address by H.E. Mian Raza Rabbani, Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan • Address by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia • Address by Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei SAY Chhum, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia • Opening Address by Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of APA • Photo Session

19:00 - 21:00	<p>Official Dinner Hosted by <i>Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin</i>, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of APA</p> <p><i>Venue: Ballroom III</i></p> <p>Dress Code: Lounge Suit/National Dress</p>
DAY THREE	
TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2016	
06:30 - 08:00	<p>Breakfast</p> <p><i>Venue: Mohori Restaurant</i></p>
09:00 - 10:30	<p>➤ PLENARY SESSION</p> <p><i>Venue: Ballroom I</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of Agenda of the 9th APA Plenary Session • Election of the Bureau of the 9th Plenary: • Four Vice- Presidents and Rapporteur • Statement of the Chairperson and Report of the Executive Council Meeting • Report of APA Secretary-General on the works of APA • <i>General Debate: “Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia”</i>
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 13:00	<p>➤ PLENARY SESSION (Continued)</p> <p><i>Venue: Ballroom I</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>General Debate: “Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia”</i>
11:00 - 13:00	<p>➤ MEETING OF APA WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS</p> <p><i>Venue: Ballroom II</i></p>
13:00 - 14:00	<p>Lunch</p> <p><i>Venue: Mohori Restaurant</i></p>

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 27/11/16

14:00 - 16:00	<p>➤ PLENARY SESSION (Continued) <i>Venue: Ballroom I</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>General Debate: “Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia”</i>
14:00 - 16:00	<p>➤ MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS <i>Venue: Ballroom II</i></p>
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee Break
16:30 - 18:30	<p>➤ PLENARY SESSION (Continued) <i>Venue: Ballroom I</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>General Debate “Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia”</i>
16:30 - 18:30	<p>➤ MEETING OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CREATION OF ASIAN PARLIAMENT (SCCAP) <i>Venue: Ballroom II</i></p>
19:00 - 21:00	<p>Dinner <i>Venue: Mohori Restaurant</i></p>
DAY FOUR	
WEDNESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2016	
Morning	
06:00	Breakfast at the Hotel
07:30	Leaving the Hotel for Banteay Srei Temple
08:30	Visiting Banteay Srei Temple
10:30	Returning to the Hotel
12:00	Lunch
Afternoon	
13:30	Leaving the Hotel for Bayon Temple



 27-11-16

14:00	Visiting Bayon Temple
15:00	Leaving Bayon Temple for Angkor Wat Temple
15:30	Visiting Angkor Wat Temple
17:00	Returning to the Hotel
DAY FIVE	
THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2016	
06:30 - 08:00	Breakfast <i>Venue: Mohori Restaurant</i>
09:00 - 11:00	➤ PLENARY SESSION (Continued) <i>Venue: Ballroom I</i> • <i>General Debate “Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia”</i>
09:00 - 11:00	➤ MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS <i>Venue: Ballroom II</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30- 13:00	➤ PLENARY SESSION (Continued) <i>Venue: Ballroom I</i> • <i>General Debate “Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia”</i>
11:30 - 13:00	➤ THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON ECONOMIC AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND APA STAFF AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS <i>Venue: Ballroom II</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch <i>Venue: Mohori Restaurant</i>

AP
27/11/16

14:00- 16:00	<p>➤ MEETING OF DRAFTING COMMITTEE ON SIEM REAP DECLARATION</p> <p><i>Venue: Romdol Room</i></p>
16:00 - 17:00	<p>PREPARATION OF REPORTS</p> <p><i>Venue: Bokor Room (APA Secretariat)</i></p>
17:00- 18:30	<p>➤ PLENARY SESSION (Closing Ceremony)</p> <p><i>Venue: Ballroom I</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the Reports by Rapporteurs, Adoption of the Draft Resolutions of the Standing Committees and Decision • Announcement of the Next President of APA • Presentation of the SIEM REAP Declaration By Hon. Mr. HUN Many, Member of Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media of the National Assembly • Adoption of the oral report of the 9th Plenary Session • Closing Session by Hon. Dr. NGUON Nhel, Second Vice-President and Representative of President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of APA
18:30 – 18:45	<p><i>Press Conference</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Ballroom I</i></p>
19:00 - 21:00	<p>❖ SOLIDARITY DINNER Hosted by Hon. Dr. NGUON Nhel, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chairman of the Organizing Committee</p> <p><i>Venue: Ballroom III</i></p> <p><i>Dress Code: Lounge Suit/National Dress</i></p>

Handwritten signature and date: 27/11/16

Annex – XI
Texts of available Speeches by the Heads of Delegations

Speech by the Head of Delegation from Afghanistan

Wolesi Jirga
National Assembly of Afghanistan

Address by Hon. Irfanullah Irfan, Secretary of the Wolesi Jirga
(House of People) National Assembly of Afghanistan

Asian Parliamentary Assembly
The 9th Plenary Session
“Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia”

Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia

27 November 02 December 2016

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Excellency President of the Plenary Session,
Hon. Parliamentarians, distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning/Afternoon,

At the outset, allow me please to convey the warm greetings and best wishes of the members of the National Assembly of Afghanistan to you all distinguished participants and hope that our meetings could be a great tool to ensure the multi-lateral cooperation between our governments to realize the goals and objectives we have set forth, promoting peace and sustainable development. Asia is the largest continent with most of the countries with different Socio-economic development level, peace and sustainable development is considered a serious need for all our countries.

Distinguished delegates,

Peace is needed for all the countries; however, peace is most important for those countries that have been deprived of this great blessing, because conflict and insecurity jeopardizes their peace and safety.

Distinguished Participants,

As you all know that I represent a country that has been facing thirty years of war and external interference which has taken the peace and safety of our people, the infrastructure and public facilities have been destroyed, unfortunately, the current growth and development and implementation of the fundamental programs have either been blocked or dulled.

What is going to be emphasized on, in this plenary session is to promote peace, and peace is a gift that human societies could achieve all their goals through, whether its planning, implementation or opening the pores of progress, economic, social, cultural and technological growth.

Without any doubt achieving peace and promoting peace requires honest efforts, attention and sincere cooperation of all the participating countries in a particular geography and I believe that if one of the countries facing insecurity, unrest and war, it can have a direct impact on other countries, challenging the security and mental peace of the people across the region where the psychological unrest is not only logical, but also, experience of few years has proved it, that the terrorists don't focus only on a single country, they don't spare a single nationality, country or ethnic group but through threats, intimidation, murder and destruction, mobilizing and using the resources of the nations want to broaden their existence and inhuman activities to achieve their goals.

The terrorists are extremists, whom are not subjected to any specific religion or name, that's why the terrorists from different nations and countries with common aim promoting extremism and violence and destruction of human and public facilities have come together and work as a united force to achieve their ominous goals, they don't have mercy on civilians nor the holy places, the terrorists have not only attacked the public facilities but also have targeted the holy places several times, just few days before the terrorists carried out a suicide attack on a Mosque in the capital Kabul in a ceremony commemorating the fortieth of (Imam Hussain) which killed at least 30 people and left more than 80 seriously injured.

Therefore, we have to take concrete steps to eliminate the safe havens, funding sources and equipping the terrorists as well as those countries interfering in the domestic affairs of others to repel their ominous plans and programs and strengthen our close economic and security cooperation to save our countries from the vicious of terrorism, extremism and violence.

I would like to quote "*Allama Mohammad Iqbal Lahori's Poem about Afghanistan, that says: "Asia is a body of water and clay, of which the Afghan nation forms the heart, the whole of Asia is corrupt, if the heart is corrupt, it's decline is the decline of Asia, its rise is the rise of Asia.*"

Therefore, Afghanistan that has become a target of conspiracy and plot of the strangers needs to be saved, I believe that sustainable development in Asia without ensuring peace in the areas where peace is being challenged is impossible and peace will not prevail.

Distinguished delegates,

We have so many opportunities for development; cooperation is the only way that can assist us on the way to development and progress, our countries have rich natural resources such as water resources, mines agricultural land, industry and trade and energy transfer. Afghanistan is a good approach that can connect Central Asia with South Asia and the rest of the geography for trade development and energy transfer. We have very good work force in Afghanistan that could help our countries in the sustainable development sector.

I promise on behalf of the Afghan Parliament to implement all the decisions of the Plenary Session and will be committed to it and will not hesitate to extend our further assistance and cooperation for the realization of these decisions.

Distinguished Participants,

Although, you know more about the current situation in my country, but I briefed you, the terrorists, Al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and Daesh that belong to other countries, taking advantage of the long and insecure borders of our country infiltrate in Afghanistan to kill innocent civilians and destabilize our country. They are also trying to benefit from greater insecurity promoting the cultivation and drug trafficking and illegally exploiting the mines and other natural resources to financially support their needs and requirements and challenge the peace and stability of our country and continue the killing of our armed forces.

While thanking the host country, the government and the people of the kingdom of Cambodia for the kind hospitality extended to all of us in the beautiful cultural city of Siem Reap, I would like to kindly request the distinguished participants to further cooperate with us in countering terrorism, international mafia and drug trafficking to end the killing of the our people and ensure and promote peace and sustainable development in South Asia.

I thank you very much for the kind attention.

Speech by the Head of Delegation from Bahrain

Statement

of

**HE Mr. Ahmed bin Ibrahim Almulla
Speaker of the Council of Representatives**

**Head of the Inter-parliamentary Group Delegation
to the 2nd Executive Council Meeting and the 9th Plenary Session of the
APA**

Siem Reap – Kingdom of Cambodia

28th November – 1st December 2016

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful,

All praise is due to Allah, and Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon Our Master, the messenger of Allah, and his family and companions,

Your Excellency, Mr. Heng Samrin, President of the APA, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia,

Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalmu Alaikom wa Rahmatu Allah wa Barakatuh
(peace be upon you and Allah's Mercy and Blessings)

I am honored to be participating with you today, on behalf of the Inter-parliamentary Group of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in the Second Executive Council Meeting, and the Ninth Plenary Session of the APA. Allow me to extend my thanks and appreciation to the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, for the excellent organization and the generous hospitality. I would also like to thank the members of the Secretariat of the APA, for their distinguished efforts, towards promoting the cooperation between Asian parliaments. I wish to our meeting all success, to serve the interests of the countries and peoples of the continent of Asia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Sustainable Development Goals, set by the UN and endorsed by 193 member states to reflect the international community's common vision towards humanity, are distinguished for their comprehensiveness.

My country, the Kingdom of Bahrain, has recognized the importance of sustainable development in the realization of development and growth, and so it has taken major steps to establish the principles of sustainable development. The vision of the Kingdom of Bahrain 2030, which was launched in 2008, is based on three fundamental principles: sustainability, fairness and competitiveness. His Majesty, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, has stressed in many occasions that development and security are inseparable. Moreover, the Kingdom of Bahrain has taken the initiative to host the Green Climate Fund to serve West Asia, at the COP 21 climate change conference, in 2015.

The Kingdom of Bahrain is considered one of the first countries to base action plans of ministries and concerned authorities, as included in the Government Action Plan, on sustainable development goals, with an aim to achieve these goals, through the use of national indicators to set the targets of government institutions and bodies and their services to citizens, residents and society.

In culmination of these Bahraini efforts, His Majesty, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has been recently granted the United Nations Industrial Development Organization's award, in appreciation for His Majesty's vision towards the economic empowerment of women and youth, through a number of strategies and development projects that contributed to the realization of the principles of sustainable development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the basis of national legislative and oversight role, we observed, during the discussions of the Government Action Plan 2014-2018, that the plan should include priorities that would help to realize the sustainable development goals.

In addition, during their 10th meeting in Bahrain last week, the speakers of the GCC parliaments took into consideration all the challenges faced by the countries and peoples of the region and the world. The outcome document of the meeting included the selection of two topics: The Concerns of Food and Water Security, and Security and the Youth, to be the two GCC common topics in 2017, in addition to adopting a common vision to tackle the issue of terrorism and terrorist organizations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The realization of the sustainable development goals is not possible without the achievement of security and peace in the world. Before we advance humanity, we should provide people with a safe environment, through which they can play a creative and innovative role in their societies and be able to build and develop.

Moreover, our responsibility as parliamentarians, has been is doubled now. And this makes us face a historical challenge to stop wars and spread peace, through the enactment of laws, legislations, and international treaties and conventions. It is a joint responsibility, for governments, parliamentarians, organizations and peoples. And it requires the mobilization of all efforts to tackle major challenges faced by our contemporary world, taking into consideration the full respect of national sovereignty, religious, moral and cultural values of countries, as well as human rights.

We shall not forget, at this important forum, to reiterate our assertion that the Palestinian Cause, and the right of the State of Palestine to end the Israeli occupation and live a safe decent life, is the leading concern of the Islamic and Arab nations.

I would also like to call on the APA to oppose laws that impinge on the sovereignty of states or contradict with international treaties and conventions, and to establish a clear stance to reject all forms of external interferences in the internal affairs of states, as well as attempts to incite sedition, undermine the security and stability of the region, and support terrorist groups.

Lastly,

I wish the APA all success in this meeting, and all success to the Asian cooperation towards a better world, where security, stability and peace prevail.

Assalmu Alaikom wa Rahmatu Allah wa Barakatuh
(peace be upon you and Allah's Mercy and Blessings)

Speech by the Head of Delegation from Bangladesh

Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development

Hon. President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
Hon. Members of Delegation
Friends from Media
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Excellency,

Bangladesh has a success story in achieving many of the goals like reducing headcount poverty and poverty gap ratio, reducing the prevalence of underweight children, attaining gender parity at primary and secondary education, under-five mortality rate reduction. In addition, Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in, increasing enrolment at primary schools, lowering the infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio, improving immunization coverage and reducing the incidence of communicable diseases. On the other hand, areas in need of greater attention are hunger-poverty reduction and employment generation, increases in primary school completion and adult literacy rates, ensuring quality education at all levels, creation of decent wage employment for women, increase in the skilled coverage of Information and Communication Technology and now Bangladesh is a role model of development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bangladesh has made commendable progress in respect of eradication of poverty and hunger. It has sustained a GDP growth rate of 6 percent or above in recent years that has played a positive role in eradicating poverty. The robust growth has been accompanied in corresponding improvements in several social indicators such as increased life expectancy and lower fertility rate despite having one of the world's highest population densities. I believe, good governance is essential for implementing Sustainable Development Goals in all countries. Sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication, and employment creation. Each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development, and the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized. All countries should promote sustainable development at the national level by enacting and enforcing clear and effective laws that strengthen institutions supporting sustainable development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bangladesh Government has been trying to ensure the inclusive development goals encapsulating people of all walks. The “Perspective Plan of Bangladesh (2010-2021): Making Vision 2021 a Reality” is a strategic articulation of the development vision, mission, and goals of the Government in achieving a prosperous Bangladesh grounded in political and economic freedoms a reality in 2021. The seventh five year plan has set the strategies for sustainable inclusive development goals and strategies. The 7th FYP, spanning fiscal years 2016-2020, begins with the country having entered the ranks of a middle income country. The first year of the 7th Plan also coincides with the launch of the UN post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A sustainable development pathway that is resilient to disaster and climate change entails sustainable use of natural resources and successfully manages the inevitable urbanization transition. Accelerated poverty reduction is a key objective of the 7th FYP.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The APA Parliamentarians should take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support for structural and macroeconomic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing market access for developing countries. International financial architecture needs to be slightly reformed and sustained with greater transparency and the effective participation of developing countries in decision-making processes. A universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe that democracy, peace and prosperity are interlinked. We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. Through unrest, disillusionment, apathy or political disengagement, young people are demonstrating their aspiration to democratic, peaceful and prosperous societies. I firmly believe that it is important to involve youth as key stakeholders and decision-makers. There can be no strong democracy, no lasting peace and no sustainable prosperity without the contribution of women, young people, policy makers, and the civil society who represent a major segment of the population all over the world. APA is aimed at promoting

peace, democracy, and gender equality in Asian countries. So, I earnestly urge all Member Parliaments to enhance their helpful hands to promote tolerance and empathy among Asian nations with a view to diminish distrust, misunderstanding, and conflict among religious communities.

Thank You All.

Speech by the Head of Delegation from Bhutan

**Statement by Hon'ble Chimi Dorji, Dy. Speaker of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Bhutan at the 9th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly ("Promoting the Peace & Sustainable Development in Asia")
27th November 2016**

His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrie HENG Samrin, President of APA,

His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi, Secretary General of APA,
Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to take this privilege to convey the warm greetings and good wishes of His Majesty the King and people of Bhutan. I am equally privileged to participate in this important meeting which signifies our legitimate concerns for the future. Peace and sustainable development are in fact inalienable from each other and more importantly these are underlying factors for global harmony.

In my country, peace and sustainable development are elaborately emphasized through the philosophy of Gross National Happiness. This philosophy of ours is nothing but development guided by human values. Today, as I am bestowed with this wonderful opportunity, I would like to urge my fellow parliamentarians to be mindful of our role in ensuring peace and sustainable development because it is the political institutions which shape economic and social institutions.

Bhutan has had significant progress on achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) especially in enhancing sustainable access to sanitation and safe drinking

water. MDGs were instrumental in Bhutan's graduation from being a least developed country and have helped prioritize poverty alleviation.

There is one thing in common which we Asians share both in spirit and fortitude. It is the commonality of our culture, a culture which holds the basic human values like loving kindness and collective happiness. The fundamental purpose of development is peace and this notion should navigate our approach to sustainable development.

Asian Parliamentary Assembly over the years has provided an excellent platform for sharing great ideas and experiences. In order to further our noble endeavor to foster bonds between our parliaments, we must prioritize and continue to render our cooperation and support to fulfill our common goals.

Economic and social developments can only be sustained if we work along the principle of judicious utilization of resources. In other words, I would like to underline and say-a balanced development. These are where our values play a pivotal role. I am confident that each country which we represent here today has a rich history which narrates how our forefathers have built our nations for generations beyond theirs'. This simply reflects that idea of sustainability was born yesteryear and we can't afford its implementation to be delayed any further.

Our world is increasingly become materialistic with consumerism dominating most of the societies. We have exploited our planet far beyond one could imagine and thus we have already started bearing the brunt of our ignorance. Most of the emerging economies of the world are based in Asia and this makes us more vulnerable to unsustainable developmental practices.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which was adopted by the United Nations last year has been very timely. The governments of the world have pledged their role in achieving the SDGs and now it is the lawmakers who should shoulder the responsibility at par with the government machineries.

I strongly feel that the parliaments can do our share of efforts in achieving SDGs by aligning these goals with our functions. Our laws, policies and resolutions all must orient itself to achieving SDGs and ensure that parliamentary oversight power guarantees its timely implementation.

At a time when our world is continuously inflicted with the agony of conflicts and climate change, universal brotherhood has become more important than ever as it requires our collective effort to secure international peace. We, as parliamentarians must be on the forefront of cementing international ties and promoting peace through parliamentary diplomacy. We must remember that together, we are accountable to more than 4 billion Asians who have elected us with a single objective to uphold peace for a better living.

In this context, Asian parliamentarians have greater reason to reach consensus for regional and world peace because of our diversity. We must ensure that we see unity in our diversity. And having such perspective will harmonize our endeavors for a peaceful region and world at large. But more importantly, our national parliaments must act and legislate inclusive of all segments of society without which peace would be a distant dream.

Social consciousness must influence governance and state functions, absence of which will turn any other effort to ensure peace futile. At the same time, it is good

governance with democratic principles which will guarantee peace not only for today but times to come.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

A responsible development is characterized by the right balance between equitable and sustainable livelihood ecological conservation, good governance and a thriving culture. This in reality will undoubtedly promote contentment which will ultimately lead to peace and harmony.

I personally believe that it takes a very simple perspective to achieve peace and sustainable development and that is by recognizing the principle of interdependence. However, it is our approach that has to be reformed transcending individual interest.

On our return to our respective countries, whatever we discuss and resolve in this meeting must be translated in to reality. We may be faced with challenges in implementing the consensus we have reached and therefore it is imperative that we reinforce our commitment through legislations.

Before I conclude, on behalf of the Parliament of Bhutan, I would like to recommit our pledge for continued peace and sustainable development for our region and the world at large.

THANK YOU!

Speech by the Head of Delegation from Cambodia

Intervention

Hon Chheang Vun, Chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media, National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, at the Ninth Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, Siem Reap, November 28 - December 1, 2016

Respect to:

- **Honorable Dr. Nguon Nhel, Chairman of the 9th Plenary Session of APA**
- **Honorable Heads and Members of APA delegation of APA Member of Parliament**
- **His Excellency Secretary General of APA**
- **Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is a great honor and pleasure to lead the Cambodian delegation today in the overall debate on the occasion of the Ninth Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

Please allow me to express my appreciation to the Honorable Dr. Nguon Nhel, chair of the organizing committee, who has smoothly arranged this event. Our theme is to promote sustainable peace and development. It reflects a strong commitment to our determined role in collaborating and cooperating in building a culture of peace and contributing to national, regional and global development.

Honorable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen

Peace is required by families, nations, regions and the world. It does not exist alone so building and keeping the peace are at our own risk.

Peace will prevail if we have tolerance, mutual understanding and no prejudice, coming together for political, social and economic stability with no internal interference and with respect for the privileges of member states. Moreover, peace acquired results in national unity and reconciliation, stepping towards unity and reconciliation with neighbors, the region and the world.

In New York last year, the United Nations highlighted that ensuring peace was a major goal in the Post-2015 Development Agenda to build sustainable societies and create prosperity and equity for all people by 2030. This reflects the

paramount need of both the nations and people of Asia, who are hungry for sustainable peace and development.

Cambodia is very proud of achieving remarkable progress in maintaining full peace, political stability, security, better public order and rapid economic growth over the past two decades. This is the result of efforts by our wise leaders, particularly Samdech Techo Hun Sen, prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, with the help of our neighbors and development partners.

How did we get to where we are today? Before achieving national reconciliation, peace and development, Cambodia experienced four decades of internal conflict with civil war followed by a genocidal regime in which our society fell under unfriendly influence from outside as part of the confrontation between Cold War superpowers. Cambodians were not only the victims of war but also suffered from illegal economic sanctions by some countries.

On Friday we commemorate the thirty-eighth anniversary of the founding of the National Salvation Front on December 2, 1978. The front has been active in protecting and building the country since then. However, the loss, suffering and great tragedy of the Cambodian people still linger. The unforgettable memories and lessons remind us all of the spirit of national unity, patriotism and common obligation in building and maintaining peace, which we achieved only with difficulty and countless sacrifices.

Maintaining peace has come with ensuring diversity of opportunity for the people, the pillars for restoring and developing the national economy. With strong political leadership, Cambodia has also been participating in world peace-keeping efforts. Participating in this parliamentary forum today is real evidence of the spirit of peace in which a regional legislative body holds sway over armed confrontation between member states. While maintaining peace, ensuring and applying democracy in conformity with the circumstances and real environment of society are important ingredients for contributing to sustainable development.

Achieving the sustainable development agenda requires close partnerships between the public and private sectors as well as development partners and civil society. These partnerships should be based on non-interference and common values, visions and goals that allow us to study and understand each other clearly

in order to unite and cooperate with one another to address local and global challenges in a spirit of responsibility and efficiency aimed at maintaining harmony for all.

Honorable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen

Cambodia has integrated its economy into regional and international frameworks in a responsible manner. With strong commitment, the government has developed the economy remarkably over the past two decades. Cambodia is among only eight countries liberated from war to achieve rapid economic growth. In terms of improved social indicators, we rank first in the Asia-Pacific region. We also achieved the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations ahead of the deadline set for 2015. Having recently graduated from the class of least-developed countries, Cambodia is now a low-income developing country and we aim to be a country with medium average income by 2030.

Cambodia has been embracing national reconciliation towards real peace — free from violence and armed conflicts. Through assemblies like ours, we are optimistic that peace will prevail in Asia and the rest of the world. Cambodia will continue to actively take part in extending and maintaining and long-lasting peace. Without national reconciliation, there will be no peace — and without peace, there will be no development. In this sense, Cambodia will endorse every initiative leading to national reconciliation and regional peace for ensuring sustainable development.

I hope that peace and sustainable development will continue to be our goal, particularly among top world leaders.

Finally, on behalf of Cambodian delegation, I would like to express by sincere appreciation for your discussions and participation.

Thank you.

Speech by the Head of Delegation from China

Keynote Speech at the 9th APA Plenary

by H.E. Wang Xiaochu

**Vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the
National People's Congress of China**

Mr. chairman,

Dear colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dear colleagues,

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

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

Thank you all.

Speech by the Head of Delegation from Cyprus – 1

9th APA PLENARY SESSION

Siem Reap-Cambodia, 27 November – 2 December 2016

GENERAL DEBATE – 29 November

"Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia"

Mr. Nicos Tornaritis, MP (Cyprus)

Esteemed Chairperson,
Honourable colleagues,

Asia is the largest, most populated continent in the world; abound with natural resources and a forceful young human capital, Asia has unique advantages and the potential to become the global driving force of economic and political stability and prosperity. This is a vision that I know is shared by all of us and inspires us to further intensify and consolidate our efforts towards achieving the goals of peace and sustainable development, as set out in the APA Charter.

As Parliamentarians, we have an obligation to help achieve these goals and work for the prevalence of lasting peace, the promotion of international reconciliation and the overall safeguarding of democracy. At the same time we also have an obligation to ensure that the fundamental rights of the people of Asia are respected. In this regard, the link between the promotion of peace and sustainable development is more pertinent than ever before. As conflicts and uncertainty are flaring across the globe, we must seek to secure those conditions that will allow the people of Asia to develop and progress, thus fostering stability, prosperity and ultimately peace. The message is clear: sustainable development is both a key to combating environmental degradation and climate change, and a forceful medium for nurturing stability and prosperity.

The Paris Agreement aiming to enhance the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change entered into force a few weeks ago. It can be rightly described as the world's first comprehensive agreement on climate change, and is a major global achievement that we must all work dedicatedly to implement.

The involvement of the APA, acting in synergy with other inter-parliamentary and inter-governmental organisations in these efforts, is crucial. Parliaments have a critical part to play in ensuring the overall implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Post-2015 agenda, through the passing of laws, the adoption of budgets and the holding of

governments to account in implementing the commitments they have made while ensuring the efficient use of limited resources.

Inclusiveness and participation are of the utmost importance in these efforts. We must ensure, in our role as representatives of the people that civil society, the business community and all other stakeholders have a direct role to play. We must work to ensure that the link between economic growth and sustainable development is achieved, through harnessing the human capital and resources of each country, in the context of its own local circumstances and fully respecting its particular environmental conditions. These are the primary aims as set out in the pertinent resolutions before us for approval, during this (9th) Plenary Session.

A truly transformative (Post-2015) development agenda cannot of course be realized without full enjoyment of human rights, adherence to the rule of law and good governance. These fundamental principles constitute the backbone of peace and stability within and among countries and they are prerequisites for worldwide sustainable development.

In the context of peace efforts, the President of the Republic of Cyprus and the Leader of the T/C community have recently held a round of intensified negotiations in Switzerland regarding the Cyprus problem, in the hope to reunite the island and end the 42-year old division, bringing about once again lasting peace and security for both communities, thus reinstating all human rights violations that have taken place since the 1974 invasion of Cyprus. However, it was not made possible to reach consensus on the core territorial issue. The President of the Republic will not spare any efforts to resume a meaningful dialogue that will lead to an overall lasting settlement, in accordance with pertinent UN Resolutions and international human rights.

Furthermore, our parliaments should foster national and international measures designed to promote the concept of a peace culture, volunteerism, combating all forms of violence and terrorism, and making accessible education for all. Along these guidelines, we should actively seek to reduce the trade in weapons, even small arms, eliminate trade in drugs, combat poverty, corruption and environmental degradation. The Post – 2015 Development Agenda, adopted last year by the UN General Assembly should be placed at the centre of our efforts. Needless to stress that parliaments have a critical part to play in ensuring the implementation of this agenda, through the passing of laws, adoption of appropriate budgeting and through government scrutiny to account in implementing the commitments they have made while ensuring the efficient use of limited resources.

Dear Colleagues,

In today's globalised, inter-connected world, every single one of our actions and decisions has a direct or indirect impact on millions of people. Through our presence here today and the resolutions we adopt, we send out a clear message: it is only through dialogue and coordinated actions that we can resolve conflicts and bring about stability, prosperity and hence sustainable development in Asia.

Thank you kindly for your attention.

November 2016

CS/LM

Speech by the Head of Delegation from Cyprus – 2

9th APA PLENARY SESSION

Siem Reap-Cambodia, 27 November – 2 December 2016

GENERAL DEBATE – 29 November 2016

“Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia”

Mr. Christakis Giovanis, MP (Cyprus)

Esteemed Chairperson,

Dear colleagues,

We live in an interconnected yet constantly changing global environment. The complexity of challenges and threats faced by countries in today's world deems essential the need for collective action. Issues of common concern that range from dealing with the effects of climate change to fostering sustainable development and from working for the elimination of poverty to combatting terrorism and promoting safety and security, issues that cannot be dealt with individually. The Asian continent is rich in resources and has a vast economic potential that through (concerted) collective action can be harnessed wisely for the benefit of its people.

Strengthening regional cooperation is a crucial step in efforts to further enhance the development of Asian economies. Improved governance and a focus on greater access and inclusion within the economies, with sustainable development placed at the heart of policy planning, can lead the economy and people of Asia to progress and prosperity, while minimizing collateral costs.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides an ideal starting point through which we can coordinate our actions so as to achieve the much sought after goal of peace, security and prosperity for the people of Asia. The (2030) Agenda, places a strong focus on working for peaceful, just and inclusive societies and directly acknowledges on a global level, the direct link between peace and sustainable development. Goal 16 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals adopted last year, clearly addresses this link as it proclaims the need to *“promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”*.

The message must be clearly read by all of us. We have a duty as legislators to work for the promotion of policies that consolidate the above goal. We must ensure through

our legislative and scrutinizing functions that our systems of government are based on sound institutional structures that ensure the fair administration of justice and respect of the rule of law. In these efforts the involvement of citizens is of the utmost importance. We should adopt a bottom-up approach whereby the people are given a voice in the decision-making processes that affect them. We should reach out to the people and nurture partnerships and cooperation between government and civil society, as it is imperative that local communities are engaged and actively involved in all processes.

Honourable colleagues,

In our efforts towards furthering interaction and enhancing collaboration, parliamentary diplomacy is of the utmost importance, as it makes it easier to draw from common experiences and challenges to foster necessary transformative policies and action. At the same time it is important to keep in mind the enriching diversity that characterizes Asia. In the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, we must take into consideration our individual complexities and particular needs and capacities. The aim should not be to enforce a blanket approach.

As we work together to set out a plan of action towards enhancing regional integration, our goal should be to harmonize efforts and adopt a common stance on the issues that affect all of us. This would indeed be a tangible first step in the right direction.

Thank you kindly for your attention.

November 2016
CS/LM

Speech by the Head of Delegation from DRP Korea

Speech by the head of the delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Mr. President

I believe the agenda of this Assembly correctly reflects the requirement of current reality where Asia is considered to be a continent with greatest potential for development, and yet the most volatile region of the world.

Peace and development are an aspiration of humanity, however, they fail to become the trend of the times due to the competition between the world powers for domination.

In particular, the arms build-up by the United States pursuant to its pivot to Asia-Pacific Strategy and its interference give rise to and intensify confrontation and dispute in many parts of Asia that result in ceaseless armed conflict.

The armed conflicts in countries such as Syria, Yemen and Iraq and the one between Palestine and Israel constitute urgent and pressing issues and, without addressing them, we cannot think of prosperity and development of Asia.

The great peoples of Asia with long-history and brilliant tradition and culture have made substantial contribution to the development of human civilization and are capable of hewing out their destiny without any assistance from the western powers.

It has always been the consistent stand of the government of the DPR Korea that Asia belongs to the Asian peoples and we should resolve disputes and conflicts in the region in a peaceful way through talks and negotiations among state parties, not relying on outside forces.

It has also urged to thoroughly reject the interference of outside forces that instigate mistrust and discord between the conflicting countries and nations.

The government of the DPR Korea holds that it is important for Asian countries to build up their own strength and to consolidate unity and cooperation to oppose aggression and war moves made by the imperialists under the signboard of promoting “democracy” and “anti-terrorism”, and takes this opportunity to extend support and solidarity to the peoples of Syria and Palestine fighting for the righteous cause for independence and territorial integrity.

Ensuring peace and stability in the Korean peninsula is of great significance in maintaining peace and achieving sustainable development in Asia.

If peace and stability are destroyed in the Korean peninsula which stands as the eastern gate to the Asian continent, the grave consequence will impact the whole Asian continent.

Peace is more precious than anything else for the DPR Korea which desires to build a powerful socialist country that guarantees eternal prosperity and happy life of the people with nothing to envy in the world as planned and put forward by the 7th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The DPRK takes peace as a prerequisite for the accomplishment of its Five-Year Strategy for National Economic Development which is aimed at laying the foundations for the sustainable development of the country's economy by reenergizing the overall national economy.

However, what we are witnessing in the Korean peninsula is the reckless and extremely dangerous joint military exercises conducted by the U.S. mobilizing all kinds of nuclear strike means and openly clamoring about the "removal of leadership" and "system collapse" of the DPR Korea.

The DPR Korea and the U.S. are technically in the state of war and nuclear forces stand in acute confrontation in the Korean peninsula. The escalation of tension in this part of the world will only lead to a nuclear war and the current situation is only inches away from the worst.

The nuclear holocaust in Hiroshima and Nagasaki is not history anymore.

The government of the DPR Korea, based on its mission of guarding the forefront of defending peace of Asia, has put forward several proposals to bring durable peace to the Korean peninsula and the region including the proposal for concluding a peace treaty, proposal for withdrawal of U.S. troops stationed in south Korea and the proposal for reunifying the country in federal formula, and made great efforts for their realization.

A resolution on withdrawing all foreign troops from south Korea and concluding a peace treaty between the DPR Korea and the U.S. was adopted at the 30th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1975. This is an expression of the support and sympathy of the international community towards the DPRK's proposals.

However, the U.S. doggedly ignores the DPRK's peace-oriented proposals and seriously threatens its sovereignty and right to existence and development by imposing unprecedented nuclear threat and "toughest sanctions and pressure" on it. This is because the strategic interests of the U.S. lie in continued tension in the Korean peninsula, not peace and sustainable development.

The U.S. has made an issue of the DPRK's peaceful launch of satellite as well as its strengthening of self-defensive deterrence at the United Nations. This is such an unjust illegal act as the offender filing a suit against the victim.

No article or provision of the UN Charter defines nuclear test and launch of satellite as a threat to international peace and stability.

Responding to the threat from the enemy with self-defense is a legitimate right of a sovereign state stipulated in the UN Charter.

Nothing can justify the frenzied moves of the U.S. and its followers to fabricate another UN “resolution on sanctions” against the DPRK aimed at blocking its channel of export and import which is directly related to the livelihood of its people.

The harder the U.S. tries to isolate and stifle the DPRK, the stronger the determination of our army and people will become to stay loyal to the Songun politics and implement the line of simultaneously developing national economy and nuclear forces at a maximum pace.

The U.S. may try all kinds of threat, economic sanctions and “human rights” racket against the DPR Korea, but they will never be able to check the advance of its people towards the building of an invincible socialist power.

There is a saying in the east that the predecessor’s failure serves as the successor’s lesson.

The new administration of the U.S. should learn a lesson from the failed hostile policy of the Obama administration towards the DPR Korea and act with discretion. They should face up to the trend of the times and the strategic position of the DPRK which has emerged as a nuclear weapons state and take a major decision to switch its policy.

Convinced that the replacement of Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty and the withdrawal of aggressive troops from south Korea are a substantive way of contributing to peace and prosperity in the Korean peninsula and Asia, the government of the DPR Korea commits itself to all sincere efforts for their realization.

I take this opportunity to appreciate APA member states for their understanding and support towards the people of the DPR Korea in the efforts to safeguard peace and stability in the Korean peninsula and realize the independent and peaceful reunification of the country. I also hereby reaffirm the stand of the DPR Korea to closely cooperate with Asian countries to make substantial contribution to peace and development of Asia in the future as well.

Thank you

Speech by the Head of Delegation from Indonesia

General Debate of the Plenary Session

29 November 2016

STATEMENT

BY THE DELEGATION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA,

HON. DAVE FIKARNO

Mr. President;

Excellencies;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalaamu'alaikum. Wr. Wb.

First of all, please allow me to extend our utmost appreciation to the Parliaments of the Kingdom of Cambodia's particularly to the organizing committee for excellent deliverance of this meeting and for the warm hospitality and generosity extended to me and my delegation since our arrival here. It is an honor and privilege for me to be here, among you, Asia's countries prominent figures in the 9th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in this beautiful and majestic city of Siem Reap, the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Since APA last inception in 2006, Indonesia sees the importance of our engagement in APA. It is a forum of sharing and exchanging, inter alia,

information, best practices, constructive thoughts in politics, economic, social and also cultural amongst Parliamentarians in Asian in addressing our common present and future challenges, based on the principles enshrined in the APA Chapter of national authority, sovereignty, peaceful co-existence and not-interfere in internal affairs.

As legislators of our respective peoples, all of us represent the shared aspirations of them: the desire to live peaceful and prosperous, as well as the freedom to maximize their prospective potentials as individuals and as citizens of our countries.

Mr. President

Distinguished Delegates,

No country is immune to radicalism and terrorism.

The attack in Pakistan and the act of terror in Jakarta early this year, as well as other hostilities events in other regions highlight the security problems we are facing today. What happened were clear examples that the threat of terrorism is present and that no country can be immune and safe from this peril. A peaceful and stable Asia and Pacific are in our dire need to make us thrive and develop for the sake of our children and the future generation.

It is without a doubt that legislative roles are both important and decisive, and affect wide-range of public life across Asia and Pacific. As Asian Parliamentarians, our people need our heartfelt efforts in providing sufficient legal instruments that aim to ensuring peace and stability in Asia.

The Asia and Pacific need collective effort to address radicalism and terrorism both domestically and in the regional level. The key to a peaceful and stable Asia is good relations among us through constructive dialog, encourage pluralism and avoid trust devisit, with the principles of high respect to territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Mr. President

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the world third biggest democracy and largest moslem population, Indonesia stands ready to be the driving force for peace. In maintaining peace, emerging countries should play a greater role in ensuring peace and sustainable prosperity. We should also respect rule of laws. Asian should manage conflicts i.e. the South China Sea and the Korean Peninsula amicably. Lastly, we have to ensure that Asia will never be the arena for power struggles of big countries.

Mr. President

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peaceful circumstances in the region are indispensable for ensuring sustainable development.

Allow me to draw your attention that the Parliament of Indonesia strongly welcomes the adoption by the UN document of *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, with the objective to promote efforts to end poverty, tackling inequality, encourage human rights and give attention to the linkages between social and economic progress and environmental protection.

I would like to point out that, the UN Document recognizes the role of parliaments in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation through legislation, budgeting and oversight functions, as well as global engagement for action and the national review process.

APA countries commitment to a strong and resilient economic growth is relevant to the 2030 Agenda. In this context, APA member countries should be able to create an conducive economic environment and inclusive global growth, through: (i) increasing market access to developing countries; (ii) establishing an international tax system that is fair and transparent; and (iii) better management of irregular financial flow; and (iv) encourage the development of infrastructure.

Mr. President

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Parliament of Indonesia has established a Task Force comprising of various political backgrounds. The main tasks are to intensively raise awareness among parliamentarians and committees in particular, to foster cooperation with the executive and civil society organizations (CSOs), and also to familiarize the issue to grassroots communities.

Currently, Indonesia is pursuing to integrate SDGs into our national and provincial development plans, through among others: (i) Involving private sector, Civil Society Organization, and philanthropic organization/foundation (ii) establish various domestic policies to ensure food security, access to education and health services; and (iii) increasing South-South Triangular Cooperation (KSST).

Mr. President

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, I remain convinced that all potential obstructions can be resolved amicably through comprehensive dialogue and mutual trust building, particularly through the APA. I am confident that the Asian nations will be able to effectively manage any obstructions by strengthening our collective capacity and political will to pursue the shared vision of a peace, politically stable of Asian region.

I believe that our cooperation in the region will result a fruitful deliberation and meaningful outcome as we expect.

I thank you.

Speech by the Head of Delegation from Iran

**Statement by Honorable Mrs. Dr. Syedeh Fatemeh Zoolghadr
Head of Parliamentary Delegation
Of the Islamic Republic of Iran
At the 9th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly
(27 November- 2 December 20016, Siem Reap)**

In the Name of the God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Your Excellency Mr. Heng Samrin,
Honorable President of the National Assembly of Kingdom of Cambodia,
Honorable Parliament Speakers,
Distinguished Colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen,

A good greeting to all of you.

At the outset, I would like to express my pleasure for being here among my colleagues from various Asian Parliaments.

I want to sincerely thank the good people, the government and the parliament of Cambodia for hosting the session and their warm hospitality.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to His Excellency Heng Samrin, the Honorable President of Cambodian Parliament for his noble chairmanship over APA and also excellent arrangement and chairing this session.

I am equally grateful to His Excellency Nejhad Hoseinian, former Secretary General of APA and I am confident that His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Reza

Majidi, the new Secretary General will be successful in accomplishing his tasks, due to his shining academic and diplomatic experiences and background.

Distinguished Colleagues,

Our session is held at a time that the ancient Asian continent is facing political and security challenges as well as various other difficulties regarding sustainable development.

Therefore, 'Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia' is a very suitable theme for this session and our discussion on such a subject, will be beneficial for all of us.

It goes without saying that peace and sustainable development are interrelated to each other and if one is missing, the other one will be negatively affected.

There won't be a favorable ground for sustainable development, if there is no peace and stability. And lack of development and progress will lead to instability and insecurity in many aspects of life and society.

Currently, Asia and the entire parts of the world are facing a lot of political, security and economic challenges and problems. Palestinian crisis is going on for more than 7 decades, and still Palestinians are deprived from their most basic and legitimate rights.

At the same time, crisis and tension is going on in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen and some other parts of Asia. As the result of this crisis, heavy material and human casualties have inflicted on nations.

Thousands of innocent people were killed or injured and several millions of people become homeless.

Social and economic infrastructure of crisis afflicted areas is also destroyed. In fact the condition is so bad that the people who live in these areas are in dire need of humanitarian assistances.

Continuation of current situation will pose a more serious danger to peace and security, and as a result all chances for reaching a sustainable development will be destroyed.

Negative consequences of tension, insecurity, lack of development and progress, may not be limited to political borders of afflicted countries and the destructive consequences of such a situation will overflow to neighboring countries and nearby regions and eventually to the whole world,

Mr. Chairman,

In order to address the situation, we need to have a correct understanding of the nature and the roots of the crisis and also have a clear image about the dimensions of the problem and its consequences.

Interference of foreign powers in domestic affairs of other countries may be the most important factor and reason for creation and continuation of such crisis.

Political and military interference of big powers, namely the United States in different regions and countries, are clear examples that show real roots and causes for a lot of challenges in the sensitive region of the Middle East.

Emergence and expansion of extremist and terrorist groups such as ISIS is only one of the results of policy of interference.

It is very clear that the United States or other powers resort to lame excuses of fighting against terrorism, prevention of weapons of mass destruction or promoting democracy in order to justify their military and non-military interferences.

In fact we see their peaceful gestures are in complete contradiction with their actions and they fully dis-respect and violate the most basic international laws, such as national sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries.

There is no need to tell you about United States silence over crimes committed by the Zionist regime against innocent Palestinians and its policy of double standard in combating terrorism.

In addition to foreign intervention and the unfair system in the international relations, there are other factors that create instability and insecurity. As some of examples, I can refer to:

- Weak political and economic infrastructure,
- Lack of constructive interaction and constant dialogue among conflicting sides,
- Lack of various common and collective mechanisms in different political, economic and security areas between regional countries in hot spots and
- Expansionist policies of certain countries.

Foreign powers try to abuse any differences or misunderstandings among countries and use provocative claims, in order to maintain their political influences and at the same time pave the way for their massive military presence and also continued interference in the foreign relations of other countries.

Dear Colleagues,

So far, a lot of efforts have been done at the global level, all aimed at materialization of sustainable developments and many ideas and plans such as millennium development goals and Agenda 2030 have been approved by the United Nations. Despite all of these efforts, there is still a long way to go.

Materialization of sustainable development requires peace and stability. And peace and stability requires correction of wrong policies and practices,

promotion of constructive dialogue among all countries and resorting to peaceful ways in order to settle the disputes.

In reality materialization of peace, security and stability are necessary requirements but they are not enough. Therefore, it is necessary for all countries to take effective measures at national and international level.

At national level, countries must have a practical, comprehensive plan and strategy for economic, social and political development based on their own national needs and objectives. At the foreign level, bilateral and multi-lateral relations and cooperation among countries should increase.

As far as political and economic matters are concerned, Asia, as a continent has got great potentialities and if such capacities are used through good political will and an enhanced cooperation among nations, not only it is possible for Asian countries to settle their differences and overcome challenges by themselves, but also Asia, will have a position globally and as the result, international peace, security and development will be increased.

It is necessary for Asian countries to take extensive measures at national and foreign level and in this regard, Asian parliaments can play a key role in approving national plans and regulations as well as promoting bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

We think that based on 5 objectives that are enshrined in our charter; APA is a good basis for promotion of cooperation and constructive interaction among member countries.

In Article 2 and 3 of APA charter, there is an emphasis on increased cooperation among member countries in various areas, including the use of available huge

natural and human resources, with the aim to bring about further progress for Asian countries.

In addition to strengthening of the existing political, economic and security mechanisms in Asia, we can think about new ideas, such as creation of a common economic and trade market among Asian countries. This is another area that our parliaments can play an important role by unifying the relevant rules and regulations for the smooth implementation of our common plans,

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished colleagues,

On behalf of the parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I am here to announce our full readiness to have an active and constructive cooperation with our colleagues in other parliaments in Asia in collective effort to find solution for problems and overcome the existing challenges and realization of the goals and objectives of the APA Charter.

I would like to make this point very clear that APA is a good framework for having such cooperation.

I am confident that H.E. Dr. Majidi, the new Secretary General of APA, and his good colleagues at the secretariat will fulfill their duties based on the given guidelines and regulations, and also by consultation with all member countries.

They can play an important role in achieving the objectives of APA by making necessary coordination among member countries and come up with new ideas for an enhanced cooperation.

I would like to conclude by expressing my hope that the deliberation and discussion of this session will be effective step in promotion of cooperation and further interaction among Asian countries in various political, economic and social eras.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Speech by the Head of Delegation from Iraq

Iraq

السيد الرئيس

السيدات و السادة

اسعدتم مساء

في البدء اتوجه بالشكر لمملكة كمبوديا لاستضافة الدورة التاسعة لجمعية البرلمان الاسيوية و لا يفوتني ان اشكر دقة التنظيم و حسن الضيافة

لهذا الاجتماع الموقر الذي يجمع ممثلي الشعب من اكبر قارة في العالم

و التي تملك الموارد البشرية الكافية لجعلها رائدة في خدمة الانسانية و ارساء قواعد التقدم العلمي و الفكري كما فعلت حضارات هذه القارة في الماضي

كلنا نتفق ايها الاخوة ان لا تقدم و لا تطور بلا سلام

و لا سلام دون تعاون بين المجتمعات وتفهم خصوصية الطرف الاخر

ايها الاعزاء

تعرضنا في العراق الى حرب شرسة من قبل مجاميع ارهابية و تحت مسميات مختلفة منذ اكثر من عقد

تارة تحت اسم القاعدة و اخرى باسم داعش

داعش الذي لا يؤمن بالانسانية و لا يؤمن بالحضارة

دمر الحضارة نسف المتاحف قتل النساء باح الاطفال و قتلهم و اخره ما فعله بالنساء الايزيديات و المسيحيات و لم يفرق داعش بين دين او قومية

ايها الاخوة الاعزاء هذه المجاميع لا تفرق بين طرف و اخر بل تستهدف الجميع

نحن نعتقد اننا في قارة اسيا بوسعنا الكثير

و ذلك بالتنسيق و التعاون

قواتنا الامنية الان تتقدم و انحسر تواجد الدواعش في بعض ازقة الموصل و ذلك بفضل تعاون العراقيين مع بعضهم و تماسكهم مع بعضهم البعض

ايها الاخوة و الاخوات العراق بحاجة اليكم كما انكم بحاجة اليه

العراق يحتاج الى زمن طويل لاعادة اعمار البنى التحتية و يحتاج الى مساعدة كل الاصدقاء في اعادة اعمار ما بعد داعش

نحن نعلم بان داعش لم يات من السماء

من اين اتى بهذا السلاح و انى له هذه الايدولوجية و كيف دخل الى العراق

هذه الاسئلة يجب ان تتردد على اذان الجميع

نحن اكتشفنا ما هو داعش و ما هي ماهيته و يجب ان نتعاون في القضاء عليه و ليس بالقضاء على الجامعات الارهابية فقط بل بالقضاء على الفكر الذي يستهدف الانسانية و الفكر الذي يدمر المجتمعات و يدمر الانسان و يدمر الفكر الذي تبنى عليه الانسانية

الدين الاسلامي الذي جاء بالحضارة

للانسانية و هذه الجامعات تدعي بانها من الاسلام و الاسلام منها براء

سنتخلص من داعش قريبا

الان لنضع ايدينا بايدي بعض و لنبي مناطقنا و لنتعاون في اعادة اعمار العراق الذي هو ركن اساسي في قارة اسيا و جزء مهم في هذه القارة

و هذا لا يحصل الا بتعاون ممثلي الشعوب الجالسون في هذه القاعة

فتلضع ايدايينا بادي بعض و لنبيذ كل الخلفات و راء ظهورنا و نبي حضارة جديدة و نخدم
الانسانية و العالم كما فعل اسلافنا في السابق

تقبلوا خالص احترامي و شكري

Speech by the Head of Delegation from Jordan - 1

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Statement

Honorable chief, honorable delegates

First of all, please allow me to thank the kingdom of Cambodia for its warm hospitality, especially the Cambodian parliament for its generous invitation to attend this meeting in order to contribute providing visions and ideas that we all hope that will play great roles in enhancing cooperation between our Asian parliaments in all fields, especially those related to upholding peace and reconciliation frameworks, adoption of dialogue, and refute of extremist political inside our Asian parliamentary community.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Asian continent has been playing positive roles within human civilization, not only in the regional level, but also in the global one. On the Asian soil, many civilizations have been existed and enlightened all the world, like the ancient Iraqi civilization, Indian, Chinese and Islamic ones. On the soil of Asia, prophets have been sent and divine messages have been delivered to all human kind.

From another hand, the strategic location of Asia was one of the most important causes of international focus on Asia. Many economic powers in Asia, like China, Turkey, Singapore, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, India, and Gulf States, increased such focus. Asia is considered to be strategic reservoir of many natural resources, especially oil. Such natural wealth has made of Asia an object of foreign colonialism and exploitation that has many social, political, cultural and economic agendas toward Asia. Those agendas were not in accordance with Asian nations' interests. Those foreign exploitative agendas turned many areas of Asia into hot spots of tensions, even the hottest spots all over the world!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Terrorism has no special religion; it is a complex phenomenon. All parliaments in Asia should encounter terrorism and condemn ethnic and sectarian extremism. Parliamentary cooperation is of the principle means in the context of upholding peace and security sphere in Asian region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Jordan, His Majesty King Abdullah The Second, may God protect Him; has a strong commitment to encounter terrorism and upholding peaceful spheres in the region and all over the world. Based on His Majesty commitment, Jordan has become a center of international peace and security upholding in the region and in the world. In this context, Jordan is committed to spread culture of peace, a culture that refuses and resists terrorism and extremist thought. The Message of Amman, which was launched in the 19th of November 2004, has the purpose of explaining the real enlightening mission of Islam. Amman message has stressed that terrorism is not attached determinately to any religion, and that it is pure prejudice to attach or to connect terrorism to Islam.

Amman message confirms that Islam is based on values of balance, justice, acceptance of the Other, co-existence among nations, and deep respect to the holiness of human lives. Amman message has articulated a national framework to both the executive and legislature bodies in Jordan. Base on Amman message, the modern national work of encountering terrorism and extremism has been launched and sustained in Jordan.

Regarding the governmental apparatus, the successive Jordanian governments have been committing themselves to join the international and regional conventions, to implement the international decisions issued by the Security Council in this regard, also ratified many international conventions and treaties in this context, among them:

- 1) The Arab Convention on Terrorism Combating of 1998,
- 2) The Islamic Convention on Terrorism Combating of 2000
- 3) The Arab Convention of Money Laundry and Terrorism Financing of 2012,
- 4) The International Convention on Combating Terrorism Financing of 2003,
- 5) The International Convention on Combating Nuclear Terrorism Acts of 2015,
- 6) The International Convention on Criminal Acts Committed On Air Crafts of 1963,
- 7) The International Convention on Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircrafts of 1970,
- 8) The International Convention on Suppression of Unlawful Acts Toward the Safety of Civil Aviation of 1971,
- 9) The International Convention of Suppression of Unlawful Acts Toward Marine Navigation of 1988,
- 10)The International Convention on Marking Plastic Explosives for The Purpose of Detection of 1991,
- 11)The International Convention On Suppression of Terrorism Financing of 1999.

The successive Jordanian governments have been proving their commitments to apply series of practical procedures in order to combating terrorism, in corporation with many of friends and with the Interpol, based on the principle of common interests. Many national institutions have been established to combating terrorism and extremism, like the national committee for combating money laundry and terrorism financing. The purpose of such establishment was to find out effective plans to combating terrorism by drying its headwaters and financial resources.

Regarding contributions of Jordanian legislative body in combating terrorism, represented by the Council of Jordanian People, it has issued many laws that combat and fight terrorism in all forms, direct and indirect. Among those laws were the law of terrorism prevention, law of money laundry and terrorism financing, the Jordanian Penal Law and the Jordanian Tariff Law.

We have adopted an integrated approach, where our main purpose was not to kill terrorists but to defeat their methods of thought and attitude, in other words, to

defeat the culture of terrorism. That integrated approach was the main cause behind our democracy continuous victory and terrorism annihilating loss in Jordan.

Ladies and Gentlemen, political development presents common interest among majority of countries that aim to adopt democratic model into their political structure. That adoption demands serious political will from governments and parliaments as well, in order to uphold public participation in making decisions that affect public affairs. Being aware of that, parliaments should cooperate with their national governments to enhance, develop and improve political participation patterns. In this regard, examples of Singapore and Japan constitute successful models that should be learnt.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Regarding the Israeli-Arab conflict, the Kingdom of Jordan, thanks to its wise leadership of King Abdullah, The Second, continues to play a central role in upholding peace talks between Palestinians and Israelis, in order to realize stability and security in the Middle East region, to realize an eternal and just peace, based on the principle of Land-for-Peace and the solution of the Two States. The King Abdullah, The Second, always asserts and calls for the necessity of restarting negotiations between the two sides, works to stop Israeli escalating aggressions and to put the Road Map into action. The Road Map implies establishment of an independent Palestinian state beside the state of Israel, in order to upholding chances of peace and stability in the region.

Jordan has never given up to realize its humanistic responsibilities and duties to accept and protect victims of wars and terrorism attacks. Jordan was a principle refuge to our brothers and sisters from Palestine, Iraq and Syria. The number of Syrian refugees today in Jordan is estimated to be 1 million 4 hundred thousands, whereas the Iraqis are about 29 thousands. In addition, there are a lot of Yamani and Libyans refugees on the soil of Jordan. Jordan continues to host such numerous numbers of refugees, although it put heavy pressures on Jordanian limited resources of infrastructure, education, health, transportation, ...etc.

Thank you very much, peace to be upon all of you

Nayif al-Hadid

Member of Jordanian Senate

أعمال الدورة التاسعة للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية

((تعزيز السلام والمصالحة والحوار في آسيا))

كلمة الوفد الأردني

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على سيدنا محمد وعلى سائر النبيين المرسلين وعلى
من تبعهم بإحسان إلى يوم الدين وبعد،

أصحاب السعادة السيدات والسادة،،،،

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته،،،،،

ويادئ ذي بدء،،،،، حارة ريس الجبل وول ره ا كضو -

أسمحوا لي بأن أتقدم بجزيل الشكر والعرفان لمملكة كمبوديا على استضافتها الكريمة
لأعمال الدورة التاسعة للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية؛ وكذلك لدعوتهم الكريمة لنا لحضور هذا
اللقاء والتجمع البرلماني البناء من أجل طرح وتبادل الرؤى والأفكار التي نأمل بأن تساهم في
تعزيز التعاون بين برلماننا الآسيوية في مختلف المجالات؛ لاسيما تلك التي تتعلق بتوطيد
أسباب السلام وأطر المصالحة وتبني الحوار ورفض الفكر السياسي القائم على منهج التطرف
والتعصب داخل منظومة دول آسيا.

السيدات و السادة،،،،،

لطالما كان للفازة الآسيوية أدواراً إيجابية تجاه الإنسانية جمعاء وليس فقط على مستوى
نطاقها الإقليمي؛ فعلى تراب آسيا عاشت العديد من الحضارات الإنسانية التي شغرت نوراً وضياءً
للعالم أجمع، كحضارة ما بين النهرين والحضارات الهندية والصينية والإسلامية، فعلى تراب آسيا
بُعث الأنبياء وأطلقت للبشرية جمعاء الرسالات السماوية، ولعل من أهم أسباب التركيز العالمي
المستمر نحو القارة الآسيوية هو موقعها الاستراتيجي المتميز بالإضافة إلى العديد من دولها
ذات الثقل الاقتصادي العالمي كـ(الصين، تركيا، سنغافورة، اليابان، ماليزيا، كوريا الجنوبية
والهند)، بالإضافة إلى دول الخليج العربي، كما أن دول آسيا تعد مخزون استراتيجي للعديد من
الموارد والثروات الطبيعية؛ ولاسيما النفط؛ وهو الأمر الذي جعل العديد من الدول الآسيوية محل
أطماع للقوى الخارجية والتي تحمل في الغالب الأعم أجندات ومخططات ((سياسية واجتماعية
وثقافية واقتصادية)) يراد تنفيذها بالمنطقة الآسيوية؛ الأمر الذي حول العديد من أجزاء المنطقة
ولأسف الشديد إلى مناطق ساخنة بل باتت من أكثر بؤر التوتر في العالم.

الحضور الكريم ،،،

ان الإرهاب لا دين له وهو ظاهرة معقدة، وعلى البرلمانات في القارة الآسيوية محاربة الارهاب ونبذ التعصب الطائفي والفكري، فالتعاون البرلماني يعتبر أحد أهم الأدوات الرئيسية في مجال تعزيز أجواء السلام والأمن في المنطقة الآسيوية.

أصحاب السعادة السيدات و السادة الحضور الكريم ،،،

نحن في الأردن ومن منطلق حرص جلالة الملك عبدالله الثاني حفظه الله ورعاه في مكافحة آفة الإرهاب وتعزيز أجواء السلام في المنطقة والعالم أجمع، بذل جلالتة جهود كبيرة في هذا المجال؛ وهو الأمر الذي جعل من الأردن مركزاً مؤثراً في تعزيز السلم والامن في المنطقة والعالم؛ وبهذا الاطار حرص الاردن ممثلاً بقيادته السياسية الحكيمة على تعميم ثقافة السلام الراضة والمضادة لثقافة الارهاب بفكره المتطرف والمتعصب من خلال رسالة عمان والتي أطلقها جلالة الملك عبدالله الثاني حفظه الله ورعاه في ليلة القدر بالتاسع من تشرين الثاني بالعام ٢٠٠٤ لبيان الصورة الحقيقية المشرقة للإسلام ؛ فمضامين رسالة عمان جاءت مؤكدة على أن الإرهاب لا دين له؛ فمن الظلم ربط الإرهاب بالدين الاسلامي الحنيف.

إن رسالة عمان تؤكد على أن الاسلام يرتكز على قيم الوسطية والاعتدال وقبول الآخر وتحت على التعايش ما بين الأمم والشعوب وتنادي بقضية الحياة الانسانية التي اعطاها الاسلام منزلتها السامية.

إن رسالة عمان قد شكلت إطار عمل وطني للسلطتين التنفيذية والتشريعية في الاردن؛ وبهذا الإطار بدأت المسيرة الوطنية العصرية في محاربة الارهاب والفكر المتطرف حيث أضاعت هذه الرسالة طريق محاربة الارهاب والتعصب والتطرف بالنسبة للجهازين الحكومي والتشريعي في المملكة الاردنية الهاشمية، وفيما يتعلق بالجهاز الحكومي فقد حرصت الحكومات الاردنية المتعاقبة على الانضمام إلى الاتفاقيات الدولية والاقليمية كما التزم بتنفيذ القرارات الدولية الصادرة عن مجلس الأمن في هذا الشأن، وصادق على جملة من الاتفاقيات والمعاهدات الدولية ذات العلاقة منها:

- ١.الاتفاقية العربية لمكافحة الإرهاب عام ١٩٩٨.
٢. معاهدة منظمة المؤتمر الإسلامي لمكافحة الإرهاب عام ٢٠٠٠.
- ٣.الاتفاقية العربية لمكافحة غسل الأموال وتمويل الارهاب ٢٠١٢ .

٤. الاتفاقية الدولية لمنع تمويل الارهاب ٢٠٠٣.
٥. الاتفاقية الدولية لمنع أعمال الارهاب النووي ٢٠١٥.
٦. الاتفاقية المتطقة بالجرالم وبعض الاعمال الاخرى المرتكبة على متن الطائرات لعام / ١٩٦٣.
٧. اتفاقية قمع الاستيلاء غير المشروع على الطائرات لعام / ١٩٧٠.
٨. اتفاقية قمع الاعمال غير المشروعة الموجهة ضد سلامة الطيران المدني لعام/ ١٩٧١.
٩. اتفاقية قمع الاعمال غير المشروعة الموجهة ضد سلامة الملاحة البحرية لعام/ ١٩٨٨.
١٠. اتفاقية تمييز المتفجرات البلاستيكية بغرض كشفها لعام / ١٩٩١.
١١. الاتفاقية الدولية لمنع تمويل الارهاب لعام / ١٩٩٩ .

لقد حرصت الحكومات الأردنية المتعاقبة على اتخاذ سلسلة من الإجراءات التنفيذية بما يخدم مكافحة الإرهاب مع العديد من الدول الصديقة ومع (الانتربول)، وعلى قاعدة المصالح المشتركة ، كما تم إنشاء عدد من الجهات الوطنية في مجال محاربة الارهاب ومكافحة التطرف ك((اللجنة الوطنية لمكافحة غسل الأموال وتمويل الإرهاب))؛ ويهدف النظام السياسي الاردني من تأسيس اللجنة الوطنية لمكافحة غسل الأموال وتمويل الإرهاب لكي تكون هنالك خطط فاعلة في مجال محاربة الارهاب بتجفيف منابع والمصادر المالية له.

وفيما يتعلق بإسهامات الجهاز التشريعي ممثلاً بمجلس الامة الاردني في محاربة الارهاب فقد أصدر المشرع الأردني العديد من القوانين والتشريعات تعنى بمكافحة ومحاربة الارهاب بكافة أشكاله (بشكل مباشر وغير مباشر) ك(قانون منع الارهاب ، وقانون مكافحة غسل الاموال وتمويل الارهاب) (قانون العقوبات الأردني، قانون الجمارك الأردني)، ما لا يدركه الإرهابيين هو أن أنصار النهج الحواري والتصالحي لم ولن تكن لديهم أي رغبة في قتل العنصر الارهابي، بل أن جل هدفهم هو هزيمة الارهاب ذاته كفكر وسلوك، ولعل هذا هو السبب في الانتصار المستمر للديمقراطية والخسارة المستمرة للإرهاب.

السيدات و السادة الحضور،،،،

تشكل التنمية السياسية هاجس وشاغل لدى غالبية الدول التي تصبو إلى تبني النهج الديمقراطي في بنائها السياسي وهذا يتطلب توفر الإرادة الجادة من قبل الحكومات والبرلمانات على تعزيز المشاركة الشعبية في صناعة القرار المؤثر في الشأن العام ، بحيث تعمل البرلمانات بالتعاون مع حكومات دولها جاهدة على تعزيز وتطوير وتحسين أشكال المشاركة السياسية في بلدانها ، وبهذا الاطار يشكل النموذج السنغافوري والنموذج الياباني إنموذجاً ناجحاً في هذا المجال تجدر الإشارة اليها.

اصحاب السعادة السيدات والسادة ،،

فيما يتعلق بالصراع العربي الاسرائيلي فان الاردن ويفضل القيادة الحكيمة لجلالة الملك عبد الله الثاني حفظه الله ورعاه يقوم بدور محوري في مجال مواصلة الجهود الدولية بتحريك مفاوضات السلام ما بين الجانبين الفلسطيني والاسرائيلي لتحقيق الاستقرار والامن بمنطقة الشرق الأوسط ؛ سلام دائم في المنطقة قائم على أساس الارض مقابل السلام وحل الدولتين؛ ولطالما ما أكد جلالته الملك عبدالله الثاني حفظه الله ورعاه إلى ضرورة تحريك المفاوضات ما بين الجانبين والعمل على وقف التصعيد الاسرائيلي وتنفيذ بنود خارطة الطريق التي تتضمن إقامة الدولة الفلسطينية المستقلة إلى جانب دولة إسرائيل لتعزيز فرص تحقيق السلام والاستقرار.

إن الأردن بقيادته الهاشمية لم يتخلى بأي يوم من الايام عن قيامه بواجباته ومسؤوليته الإنسانية، فالأردن قد فتح حدوده للعديد من البشر الذين ذاقوا نوالهم ويلات الحرب والارهاب، فكان الوجهة الرئيسية للأشقاء العرب من فلسطين والعراق وسوريا ويقدر تعداد اللاجئين السوريين في الأردن (١.٤٠٠.٠٠٠) أما تعداد اللاجئين العراقيين فيقدر بـ(٢٩.٠٠٠) بالإضافة إلى تواجد العديد من أشقاء عرب من اليمن و ليبيا على الارض الاردنية ، الامر الذي أضاف على الاردن أعباء ثقيلة على المقدرات الوطنية الاردنية بمختلف المجالات الحياتية(تعليمية، صحية، بنى تحتية، طاقة، مياه، سوق عمل) .

عزة أمة نبهت أربابنا المكرر سكري ونفديري لملكه لحيدري، مع
وجودها لمقد هذا الاجتماع السلام عليكم ورحمته وبركاته،
وتوفيقه خير نعمة يروح بسوديه
والإيمان بالله صخرة دور دولنا
في نكسنا يوم تقسمنا حذر أبناء
بنا حروب آسيا ودوله العالم .

عضو مجلس الاعيان

نايف الحديد

Speech by the Head of Delegation from Laos

Check against delivery

Speech by H.E. Pany Yathotou
President of the National Assembly of the Lao PDR
at the 9th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
“PROMOTING PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA”
Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia

- Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of the APA,
- Speakers, Heads of Delegation, Honourable Members of Parliament of the APA Member Parliaments, Secretary-General of APA,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the National Assembly of the Lao PDR, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and APA President for inviting the delegation of the Lao National Assembly and for the warm welcome extended to us during our participation in this 9th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, which is being held here in Siem Reap Province, the land of ancient cultural wonders, and world heritage. I also wish to express my congratulations to the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the excellent arrangements made for the effective inaugural of this Meeting today. I would like to take this opportunity to also extend my congratulations on the successful convening of the 9th Cambodia-Laos-Viet Nam (CLV) Development Triangle Area Summit hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia here in Siem Reap Province last week.

**Mr. President,
Honourable Members of Parliaments,**

The Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) is an important forum for consultation among parliaments of Asia on regional and international political, economic, and socio-cultural issues of common interest and concern with the aim of building an Asian continent that is politically stable and economically resilient, thereby contributing to the promotion of peace, cooperation and sustainable development.

In the spirit of these objectives, the 9th Plenary Session of the APA has chosen the topic: ***“Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia”***, which is very relevant and in line with the current needs of each country, the region and the world at large.

Mr. President,

Peace and development are both our goals and common aspirations of all mankind including the people in our Asian continent. However, the current regional and international environment continues to be confronted with various challenges. To name a few, terrorism and extremism remain a threat to regional and global peace and security. More than 800 million people across the world still live in extreme poverty, while epidemics, natural disasters and climate change have caused tremendous damage to social and economic development of various parts of the world. At the same time, the global economy is still fragile and growing at a slow pace.

Against this backdrop, the international community has, over the past years, made collective efforts to respond to and address those challenges on the basis of continuing to uphold the fundamental principles of the United Nations in addressing various issues of the region and the world through peaceful means, and by adopting various policies, measures and mechanisms within both bilateral and multilateral frameworks in order to work together to address, among others, the issues of climate change and natural disasters, which are a major hindrance to development and a risk to life and property of the people in the region, and no single country can handle the problem on its own. Recognizing the importance of this issue, the Lao PDR formally joined the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the National Assembly has ratified the said Paris Agreement. Moreover, the Lao Government has submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions and integrated climate change, natural disaster risk reduction and management into its National Socio-Economic Development Plan, and this is being implemented through annual work plans and projects of the different sectors and local authorities.

**Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

2016 is the first year of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, including the Sustainable Development Goals as set out by the United Nations. It is my view, therefore, that we need to deepen our understanding of the SDGs at the national, regional and international levels in order to integrate these goals into our respective national development plans, and to mobilize sufficient resources for the effective implementation of this Agenda.

Early this year, the Lao PDR held an election of the 8th Legislature of the National Assembly which subsequently approved, at its inaugural session, the Vision 2030, the 10-year Development Strategy (2016-2025) and the 8th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2016-2020), which include the goals of green growth and sustainable development, maintaining steady economic growth, achieving continuous reduction of poverty and graduating from the least developed country status, among others. In addition to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) over the past 5 years, the Lao PDR has implemented the Sustainable Development Goals, and has also adopted its national SDG 18: "Lives Safe from UXO", which was formally launched by the Prime Minister of the Lao PDR and the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on 7 September 2016 in Vientiane. The objective of this particular SDG is to ensure clearance of unexploded ordnance (UXO) contamination, reduction in casualties from UXO accidents and assistance to UXO survivors and victims to the highest extent possible. Moreover, as a landlocked country, the Lao PDR attaches great importance to being a good partner in effectively implementing the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. We very much hope that we will receive full support and assistance from our friendly countries in this endeavour.

As representatives of the rights and benefits of the people, the National Assembly of the Lao PDR has over the years considered and approved laws and policies that directly promote sustainable development in line with green growth as well as played the role of encouraging and monitoring of the implementation of laws, work plans and projects that have been approved towards concrete results and real benefit for the people.

Check against delivery

The Asian Parliamentary Assembly as representative of the people, has the important task of promoting peace, solidarity, and cooperation among members of the international community with the aim of developing peace and stability, and creating conditions that are conducive to sustainable socio-economic development for the region and the world as a whole.

It is my high hope that under the able leadership of Samdech President of APA and through contributions from APA Member Parliaments, we will be able to achieve our set objectives, thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of peace, stability, cooperation and sustainable development in the region and the world, and toward real benefit for the people in our Asian region.

Finally, I would like to extend my best wishes to the Bureau of our Plenary Session, Members of Parliament, and all distinguished guests attending this Meeting for good health and happiness, and I wish this Meeting great success.

Thank you.

Speech by the Head of Delegation from Lebanon

REPUBLIQUE LIBANAISE
ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

I would like at first to thank the Cambodian King, Government and Council for their efforts to arrange this Conference, as I would like to express the Lebanese parliament's joy with the holding of the 9th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in Cambodia in this Stressful moments for the whole world and especially for some of our Asian countries particularly with the escalation of tensions and unrest in several countries and with the increasing violence and destruction and global Takfiri terrorism striking ruthlessly everywhere. This terrorism therefore is threatening the whole world, our Asian countries in particular.

Our region has witnessed lately several attempts to destabilize a number of active states in the region's system. We are living the neighboring crises, monitoring its evolution, and would like to congratulate the Iraqi state for its victories against the Takfiri terrorism as it continues to liberate the rest of the Iraqi territories from the terrorist's rule.

As for Syria and Yemen, we call for political solutions and for the cease of war in both countries while we emphasize the need to fight the Takfiri terrorism.

We in Lebanon have accomplished the basic constitutional entitlement of electing a new president and are currently working on forming a new government which seeks to hold new parliamentary elections next spring.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I call upon you to support Lebanon's stability and to support it economically as it faces the crisis of a huge number of Syrian and Palestinian refugees almost equivalent to half the number of its own citizens which demands more health, educational, environmental, and energy services in addition to establishing an appropriate infrastructure due to the enormous increase of the number of people exceeding the current Lebanese infrastructure.

Dear Colleagues,

We draw your attention that Israel still occupies many parts of our land, conducts maneuvers, deploys weapons systems and threatens our country. And we choose to resist and conjoin the efforts of the Army, People, and the Resistance to protect our country from the Israeli threats as well as from the Takfiri terrorism on our eastern borders.

Therefore, we call upon your Esteemed Conference to:

- 1- Condemn the continued Israeli occupation of parts of our land and the continued Israeli violations of our sovereign borders and the sanctity of our airspace and territorial waters.
- 2- Support Lebanon in order to face the challenge of the huge number of refugees on its land through helping us get economical and financial aid in the international parliamentary and governmental forums to confront the Syrian refugee's crisis.

I and the name of the Lebanese Parliament assure our stance beside the Asian Countries.

We all must unite our efforts and potentials to stop the small wars and reconstruct countries.

We should also focus on the Palestinian cause and support the struggle of the Palestinian people to achieve their wish to return to their homeland, decide their own fate, and to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

In the end, we call upon the whole world to unite in order to confront the Takfiri terrorism which has become an enemy of humanity as a whole.

Thank you for your hospitality,

Prayers for the successes of your conference,

Salam Alaykom

Member of the Lebanese Parliament, NawarSahili

Speech by the Head of Delegation from Palestine

A Statement by the Head of the Palestinian Delegation, by Mr. Zuhayr Sanduqah
In the occasion of the 9th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia
28/11 - 2/12/2016

Before I give the speech on behalf of the Palestinian delegation, allow me to remind you that today, 29th of November is the International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People. So, if you believe that the endurance of Palestinians against occupation, its adherence to its national steady rights and its resistance against fascism and racism; if you believe that all of that deserve your appreciation by giving applause as you stand up, so I do extend my deep thanks to all of you.

Dear Mr. Chair, Dear Fellows,

First of all, allow me in the name of the Palestinian delegation to extend my thanks to our friends in Kingdom of Cambodia, the King, the government, the parliament and the people of Cambodia for their warm reception and generous hospitality and well organized meeting.

The selection of 'promoting peace and sustainable development in Asia' as a main discussion topic in the plenary session today is a very well suited selection, because it is not only suite for the Asian peoples in this moment of history, but to the peoples of all humanity.

The topic consists of two concepts, which are synergized together; sustainable development is the basis for building social peace. From the other hand, social peace is a basis for sustainable development.

Human being is the vital base for any effort seeks to attain peace and realize sustainable development. Human resources are considered to be the most invaluable resources. Being aware of such fact, we should reevaluate our education systems and curricula and give more attention to values of justice, equality, tolerance and balanced civil rights.

We should dismiss from our education curricula any ethnic or sectarian biased values and attitudes. To adopt ethnic, skin color, religious, or sectarian biased policies is the most effective prescription to spread antipathy, destruction and massacres. What we have been witnessing in our world today is the clearest evident that proves such statement. For sorrow, there are many indicators that confirm the proliferation of extremist rightist parties and movements in public spheres today, especially in the

Western world. Such proliferation alerts us that we may witness in the near future more wars, massacres, hunger, national disintegration, and isolation; all those phenomena are the result of powers and states that have very narrow interests and ideologies, I am sure you can recognize them easily.

From another hand, in order to accomplish a qualitative movement in our education systems, as bases for any human resources development, we should concentrate in providing our schools with modern technologies and electronic education mechanisms, integrating vocation education into all our educational programs, and upholding capabilities needed to face the future challenges.

Mr. Chair, Dear Fellows,

Asia, which has about 60% of world population, is not that Asia of near history. There are much significant advancement that has been achieved in many Asian countries in almost all fields, economic, technology, and knowledge. We can mention here some significant experiences like China, India and Japan, where the progress standards exceed those of many developed countries. Such facts lead us to ask for more cooperation and coordination among Asian countries in all fields, especially economy, science, investment, and communication technologies. In addition, we do urge all Asian countries to do their best in order to end all disputes and conflicts between our Member States based on peaceful mechanisms and international legitimacy.

Mr. Chair, Dear Fellows,

I do believe that I need not to explain in detail that my people are still under foreign occupation; an occupation which is colonial and substitution occupation (dismissing Palestinians and substitute them with Jews). The Israeli occupation started about seven decades ago, which has been making peace and sustainable development out of reach to my people. How can we attain peace with an occupation power that has international impunity backed by the strongest state in the world? Israel today acts as if its unlawful regulations are stronger than international law regulations and ratified conventions. Israel, the foreign occupation in Palestine, continues to commit serious violations against Palestinian people before and after the establishment of Israel. Israel continues to commit awful massacres, destructing hundreds of villages, root out more than half of the Palestinian people from their homeland, launches aggression against people of Gaza, destroying houses over their owners' heads, turning infrastructure, schools, hospitals, and farms into wreckages. Today, our children, women, teenagers, and adults face prisoning, torture, insulting and assassinations, and even burned alive by unlawful settlers' gangs and insane religious extremists.

All those Israeli aggressions are classified as war crimes anti humanity. After explaining that, let me raise a fundamental question: how can we achieve a sustainable

development as we live under such tough conditions of siege and frequent closing of cross points? We cannot move freely between our villages and cities. We do miss the geographical integrity of our land due to Jews settlements that stand as military bases there. Not only settlements, but Israel has been fragmenting that integrity by hundreds of bypassing roads and apartheid separating wall. Such conditions have been pushing our societies to live in cantons like those of South Africa in the time of Apartheid Regime, which was a warm friend of Israel.

Mr. Chair, Dear Fellows,

We are in urgent need for your help and support by making pressures on the Israeli occupation, and those who support it, in order to lift injustice and tyranny. We do need your support to attain justice, peace and sustainable development in our region. We do assert to all of you that we will not give up our struggle, we will not go down, we will not allow anybody to insult us or detracting our dignity, no matter how long the conflict, and no matter how great our sacrifices.

Honorable Chair, Honorable Delegates,

At the end of my speech, I would like to give my sincere appreciation to the speech of His Excellency the Cambodian Prime Minister yesterday in the opening session of this conference. Due to the importance and significance of that speech, I do recommend adopting it as one of the formal document of our conference.

Thank you very much for your attention, peace to be upon all of you.

Speech by the Head of Delegation from PUIC – 1

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Speech of H.E. Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIÇ

Secretary General

Of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC)

At the

9th APA Plenary Session

Siem-Reap-Kingdom of Cambodia

28 November-1 December, 2016

H.E. Mr. Samdech Moha Ponhea Chakeri HENG Samrin,
President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
And APA President,
Excellencies Speakers of APA Member Parliaments,
H.E. Mr. M.H. Nejad Hosseinian, P.S.F. MAJIDI
APA Secretary General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
May peace be upon you.

Allow me to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation for your kind invitation to our PUIC to attend and participate, as an observer, in the 9th APA Session which is being held in Siem Reap, the beautiful Cultural Capital of the friendly Kingdom of Cambodia. We are further pleased that the theme of your discussion and the exchange of views addresses an important matter of concern to all the states of the world, i.e. "Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia."

Perhaps promoting peace, or let us say finding peace, in the first place, whose primacy of its realization shall remain an invaluable wish, before being a living reality for the entire humanity. No wonder that the United Nations Organization has identified its primary goal as the realization of world peace and security. If peace is achieved, development shall be easy to attain and realize.

As you know, peace has pillars that ensure its firm establishment and deep-rootedness, the most important of which is justice that is protected by strong institutions which guarantee justice for all. Furthermore, transparency shall flourish as well as accountability by which people shall

be equal before the law; no one shall feel injustice or humiliation. Human rights shall thrive and society shall be devoid of animosities and hostilities which lead to social restlessness and the emergence of fanatical instincts which in turn lead to the prevalence of anarchy and devastation.

We, therefore, hail your initiative to promote peace in Asia, and make it the key to achieve sustainable development. As peace is an indivisible whole, its assurance and durability requires that all states, especially neighboring ones, shall also enjoy it. Failure of peace in any part shall threaten the remaining parts. We recognize that the mushrooming of terrorist actions in today's world, without any geographical restrictions or political boundaries for their propagation emphasize that cooperation and coordination among all states to establish the foundations of peace is an obligation. This necessitates thanking you also for the call to realize it in your promising continent.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is needless to recall that peace is a primary necessity for development. We, therefore, maintain that establishing the linkage between the two concepts in your important conference is an indication of a deep understanding and far-sightedness for their need of each other.

In 1983, the UN decided to establish the World Commission on Environment and Development, in which it defined sustainable development as meeting the needs of the present.

The First Conference on Environment and development was held in Rio De Janeiro in 1992. Twenty years later, Rio+ 20 Conference decided the Future We Want. Agreement was reached on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS). In 2015 the UN passed the Agenda of Sustainable Development of 2030, a package of 17 goals, including elimination of poverty and hunger; improving health services and the quality of education, clean water; availability of energy; and justice for all. They also encourage

cooperation in the framework of organizations and the international community to energize and achieve these goals.

We may add other objectives of Sustainable Development that have been decided by the Paris meeting on Climate Change in December 2015, and emphasized by the Marrakech Conference in November 2016 that make cooperation among states and continents more obligatory for saving Planet Earth from perils and renders it more compatible for realizing Sustainable Development, namely:

1. Climate Action: to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting development in renewable energy.
2. Life on Land: protect, restore and promote Sustainable Development by managing forests, combating desertification, halting land degradation, and halting biodiversity loss.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our mutual participation in PUIC-APA Parliamentary events, as well as the exchange of our experiences and researches shall be of help to both of us in promoting and achieving our sublime objectives and satisfying the aspirations and hopes of our peoples in a life blessed with peace and prosperous livelihood.

I wish your conference success and triumph.

Thanking you for your listening

Speech by the Head of Delegation from PUIC – 2



**DISCOURS DE S.E. PROF. DR. MAHMUD EROL KILIÇ,
SECRETAIRE GENERAL DE L'UNION PARLEMENTAIRE DES
ETATS MEMBRES DE L'OIC (UPCI) A LA 9^e SESSION
PLENIERE DE L'ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE ASIATIQUE**

SIEM REAP – ROYAUME DE CAMBODGE

28 NOVEMBRE - 1^{er} DECEMBRE 2016

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S.E.M. Samdech Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG,
Président de l'Assemblée Nationale du Royaume de Cambodge,
Excellences les Présidents des Parlements membres de l'APA,
S.E.M. Nejad Hosseinian, Secrétaire Général de l'APA,
Mesdames et Messieurs

« Que la paix soit sur vous »

Permettez-moi de vous présenter mes sincères remerciements et appréciation pour votre invitation aimable adressée à notre Union pour participer, en tant qu'observateur, à la 9^e Session de l'APA qui se tient à Siem-Reap, la belle capitale culturelle du Royaume frère de Cambodge. Nous sommes par ailleurs heureux que vos discussions et échanges de vue se concentrent sur une question importante qui préoccupent tous les Etats du monde à savoir *« la promotion de la paix et du développement durable en Asie »*.

Il se peut que la promotion de la paix et en premier lieu, la primauté de sa réalisation reste un souhait inestimable avant d'être une réalité de la vie pour l'humanité toute entière. Pas étonnant que l'Organisation des Nations Unies ait fixé comme objectif principal la réalisation de la paix et de la sécurité dans le monde. Si on parvient à la paix, il serait facile d'atteindre et réaliser le développement.

Comme vous le savez, la paix a des piliers qui assurent sa ferme instauration et son enracinement profond dont le plus important est la justice qui sera à son tour protégée par des institutions fortes qui garantissent la justice pour tous. En outre, la transparence et la responsabilité devraient s'épanouir pour permettre au peuple d'être égal devant la loi, personne ne doit sentir l'injustice ou l'humiliation. Les droits humains doivent prospérer et la société doit être dépourvue d'animosité et d'hostilité qui mènent au chaos et, à l'émergence des instincts fanatiques qui à son tour conduit à insécurité et à la prévalence d'anarchie et dévastation.

Nous saluons par ailleurs votre initiative pour promouvoir la paix en Asie, et faire de cette initiative la clé pour atteindre le développement ; comme la paix est un ensemble indivisible, son assurance et sa fiabilité requièrent que tous les Etats, en particulier les Etats voisins, s'en réjouissent. La défaite pour parvenir à la paix sera une menace pour les autres parties. Nous constatons la prolifération d'actes terroristes dans le monde d'aujourd'hui, sans aucune restriction géographique ou frontières politique à sa propagation, soulignant que la coopération et la coordination de tous les Etats pour instaurer les fondements de la paix est une obligation. Nous devons vous remercier également pour sa réalisation.

Monsieur le Président,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Nul besoin pour rappeler que la paix est une nécessité préalable au développement, nous maintenons par ailleurs que créer un lien entre les deux concepts lors de votre conférence importante est une preuve de votre profonde compréhension et clairvoyance en ce qui concerne le besoin d'un de l'autre.

En 1983, les Nations Unies ont décidé de créer un Commission sur l'Environnement et le Développement par lequel le développement durable est défini comme rencontrer

La première Conférence sur l'Environnement et le développement a eu lieu à Rio de Janeiro, en 1992. Vingt ans après ; la Conférence de Rio+20 a décidé du Futur que nous désirons. Un Accord a été conclu sur les objectifs du Développement durable. En 2015 les Nations Unies ont voté pour l'agenda du développement durable de 2030, un lot de 17 objectifs comprenant entre autres, l'élimination de la pauvreté et de la faim, l'amélioration des services pour la santé et de la qualité de l'éducation, l'eau propre, la disponibilité d'énergie et la justice pour tous. Ils ont également encouragé la coopération dans le cadre des organisations et des communautés internationales pour dynamiser et atteindre ces objectifs.

Nous devons y ajouter d'autres objectifs au développement durable qui rende la coopération entre les Etats et continents plus compatible pour la réalisation du développement durable, en particulier :

1. Action climatique : combattre le changement climatique et ses impacts en régulant les émissions, et en favorisant la promotion du développement en ce qui concerne l'énergie renouvelable.
2. Vie sur terre : protéger, restaurer et promouvoir le développement durable par la gestion des forêts, lutter contre la désertification, stopper la dégradation des territoires et la perte de biodiversité.

Monsieur le Président,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Nos participations mutuelles aux événements de l'UPCI et de l'APA, ainsi que les échanges de nos expériences et recherches nous aideront à promouvoir et atteindre nos objectifs sublimes et à satisfaire les aspirations et les espoirs de nos peuples dans une vie bénie de paix et de moyens de subsistance prospères.

Je souhaite que votre conférence soit couronnée de succès et de triomphes.

Je vous remercie pour m'avoir écouté.

Speech by the Head of Delegation from Russian Federation

**Speech by H.E. StepanZhiriakov,
Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Agrarian and Food Policies and Environmental
Management
of the Council of the Federation
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation**

**at the Asian Parliamentary Assembly 9th Plenary Session
“Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia”**

Siem-Reap, Cambodia, 27 November – 1 December 2016

Your Excellency Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation it is my pleasure and privilege to greet the participants of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly 9th Plenary Session.

First of all, let me express our sincere gratitude to the leadership and people of the Kingdom of Cambodia for their warm welcome and brilliant organization of our Assembly.

Developing cooperation with Asian countries on a wide range of matters both in a bilateral and multilateral formats, as well as inclusion into regional integration are among the top priorities of Russian foreign policy.

Global environment is becoming more and more complicated, challenges to security and stability are getting more dramatic and multidimensional. Relations between countries have accumulated a lot of controversies. The epoch of unipolar world is irrevocably becoming a thing of the past. A new balance of powers is being built on the backdrop of enhanced competition (regrettably, often unfair and aggressive), emulation of values, new hotbeds of conflicts and deepening dividing lines. All this entails instability in global processes at all the levels.

Strive of certain countries to “preempt” a “right to exclusiveness” in global affairs by, among other things, interfering into the internal affairs of other countries infringing therefore on the rule of international law, imposing their own prescriptions of inner transformations on other peoples without considering their traditions or national particularities promotes deteriorating international situation and builds up tension.

ISIS terrorism and expansion is a key challenge to the international stability today. Unless it is neutralized no one will feel safe and secure in the world.

Russia is strongly committed to combatting terrorism in all its forms. We are convinced that alone it is impossible to defeat this evil. President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin has put forward an initiative to form a large-scale international coalition embracing all stakeholders willing to suppress extremists. These consolidated efforts have to be of a comprehensive, multidimensional, legal and legitimate character. They have to be taken under coordination of the United Nations Security Council. However we would not be able to effectively confront terrorists if we break them down into “modest” and “radical”, “ours” and “theirs”, “good” and “bad” or, furthermore, if we try to manipulate extreme groupings to attain our own political goals.

Special attention should be devoted to neutralizing terrorist fighters, counteracting replenishment of terrorism through illegal drug trafficking, trade of natural resources and cultural heritage items. We

are advocating maximum use of multilateral mechanisms at hand to exercise pressure on countries that do not realize legally binding decisions of the UNSC on shutting down channels of financial support to ISIS.

Effective response to current global challenges should be sought in shaping inclusive multilateral mechanisms of security, elaborating uniform "rules of the game" thriving on the principles of equality and indivisibility of security, non-use of force or threat of force, restraint from implementing or supporting any actions aimed at toppling legitimate governments.

I would underscore that Russian approaches are shared by the majority of responsible parties of international interaction.

The logic of "indivisibility" is applied not only to the sphere of security, but also to the global economic space.

We are committed to successful implementation of Agenda 2030 at all the levels. We consider new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) a powerful consolidating factor that would allow to unite efforts of global community to fight new challenges to development.

I would like to confirm that Russia and APA member parliaments make a common choice of sustainable and systematic development, equitable international dialogue, strengthened global security system, respect to international law and the key role of the UN.

We deem it necessary to fully take into account priorities of nations and their differences capacity-wise. We are against imposing ready-made prescriptions and uniform standards on anybody.

We are promoting a comprehensive and non-politized approach to the implementation of SDGs. We believe it is counter-productive to "rank" the goals and tasks according to their priority.

A key factor to timely attain SDGs and a paramount element of renewed global partnership in our view is for all parties to realize their political responsibilities in the sphere of financial and technical assistance, including official development assistance (ODA), which remains the main source of foreign finance for many developing countries.

Both a broad international cooperation and respective programs within the countries are necessary to reach these goals.

Russia is ready to remain active vis-a-vis its international obligations.

Guided by the principles of solidarity, our country will continue making a significant contribution to building up economic, intellectual, informational, scientific and technological potential of the partner countries with a view to promote sustainable development.

For this purpose an Interdepartmental Working Group under the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation on Climate Change and Sustainable Development has been established. It incorporates representatives of both houses of parliament, executive authorities, business and academia. The Council of the Federation, for its part, has held parliamentary hearings that resulted in specific practical recommendations on how to better implement Agenda 2030 in Russia.

I believe that it is the countries of Asia that are capable of making a decisive contribution to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, to elaborate a fair and forward-looking alternative to the model of a "unipolar world". We are convinced that this alternative will be underpinned by the principles of equality, rule of international law, respect to cultural and civilizational diversity.

All the necessary prerequisites are in place. Asian economy leading globally in growth rates, intensifying regional cooperation and accelerating integration are continuously fostering Asia's strategic position in the global development.

I would like to highlight once again that we see the top priority for parliaments in promoting integration of Sustainable Development Goals into national strategies with due consideration of national particularities and priorities.

Dear colleagues,

Friends,

We are facing common global challenges that are easier to tackle if we join our efforts. Under the current conditions it is crucial to strengthen comprehensive strategic partnership between Asian nations. Therefore, we are interested in closer contacts at an international arena and in activating bilateral cooperation. Russia is open for constructive interaction with all the nations with a view to solidify peace on the continent.

For us, parliamentarians, it is absolutely obvious that in the present-day international context, the role of inter-parliamentary interaction is growing. This interaction should become the center of gravity for various political forces able to unite elites and to put together rational and comprehensive approaches based on a broad consensus.

We are sure that a multi-stakeholder dialogue of trust between our countries is one of the key elements of effective partnership in promoting peace, stability and development in the region.

In conclusion, I would like to once again express our acknowledgment to the organizers of the 9th Plenary Session of APA and to emphasize that Russia is ready to further actively participate in the processes aimed at ensuring security and sustainable development in the Asian region. Together we can achieve a lot. A key to success is to center our relations on equal and mutually beneficial cooperation, consideration and respect for each other's interests.

Allow me to wish all respected partners fruitful and interesting work in the course of our Assembly.

Thank you for attention!

Speech by the Head of Delegation from Thailand

Draft Intervention

by

Honorable ADM. Amorntep Na Bangchang
Leader of the Thai National Legislative Assembly Delegation
At the 9th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
“Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia”
27th November - 2th December 2016
Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia

His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin,
President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia,
President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,
Secretary General of the APA,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honor to address this 9th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly which is being held in Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia. It is also my great honor to be here with all of your honorable. We are touched by the warm hospitality which the host has accorded to us since our arrival in Cambodia. I recognize very well that the ultimate objective of this conference is to find means to encourage for promoting peace and sustainable development which ensures a better world for everyone.

I would like to extend my special thanks to His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for your remarkable role as the Chairperson of this Plenary Session and also express my appreciation to Secretary-General of the APA for his great work to the organization.

**Mr. Chairperson,
Honorable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Almost a decade, the APA has set its goals to be one of the inter-parliamentary organizations to make the concretion and solidarity in Asia under the conceptual ideas of peace and security creation. Through many years, we have assembled to share our views and experiences on important subjects for finding the best practice, particularly peace and sustainable development among Asian countries.

Under the world situations, we must face the fact that in many parts of the world still suffer from new forms of wars and conflicts, ethnic or violence, violence against women both in conflict and in daily life. Recently, a terror threat becomes a major issue of our concern.

In order to promote peace and sustainable development to the continent, the inter-parliamentary cooperation plays a vital role in such mission. The APA could serve as a way to further strengthen and become a forum for multilateral and bilateral dialogue and consultation on the establishment of effective principles for dialogue and cooperation, featuring decision-making by consensus, non-interference, incremental progress and moving at a pace comfortable to all member countries. Mutual understanding can be gradually built up by cooperative activities as well as the transparent and sincere parliamentary diplomacy of the relevant parties should be promoted by the members of APA in all aspects. I see the APA forum as an excellent venue for sharing our experience in promoting peace and sustainable development. Furthermore, APA has been a forum where parliamentarians from Asian member states foster their partnership and cooperation to consolidate the positions of Asia in the world as a global player and to contribute parliamentary dimension to achieve the goals of Asia.

Externally, APA has underscored the importance of further deepening and broadening cooperation with our dialogue partners. Thailand shall enhance this external relation and shall encourage support from friends of Asia in fulfilling the goals of the Asian Charter.

Promoting Peace

As a peace-loving nation, Thailand fully supports the concept of promoting peace, which is a long-term process to lay concrete foundation for sustainable political, economic and social development, particularly in post-conflict situations.

As I have mentioned, the way of parliamentary diplomacy for peace and sustainable development has to be constructed under the negotiation and discussion processes carried out according to the procedure in international organizations. And the main objective of parliamentary diplomacy is to increase mutual understanding and to maintain friendship among the Asian countries, as well as, to increase the democratic legitimacy of inter-governmental institutions.

Thailand strongly believes that sustainable peace and development can only be achieved through political will and parliamentary dimension that will lead us to solidarity by way of trust and confidence in Asia. Driven by the objective of security and well-being for the people in Asia, the APA member countries, as the legislative branch, can work closely with each other by exchanging their experiences and point of views on how to promote peace and sustainable development via the channel of parliamentary diplomacy like this forum.

Sustainable Development

To create sustainable development, under the view of that human resources are the key ingredient in the development process, Thailand has therefore supported a people-centred development strategy. Development should be created from within, making maximal use of local resources, both human and natural resources, and ensuring local ownership and strength. Local communities should be empowered, so they could stand on their own feet. Civil society organizations should also be engaged in the process.

Thailand has pledged itself to pursue strong foundations for sustainable development. We believe that democracy and development have a natural link. We have applied the late His Majesty, King Bhumibol's guiding principles of the philosophy of sufficiency economy for our national economic and development plans for many years. The philosophy of sufficiency economy means that one is not motivated by acquisitiveness but by the desire to live with contentment within one's, the community's and the nation's means. Sufficiency economy will contribute, at the individual level, to one's wellbeing and, at the local and national level, to sustainable development. It is our aim, to enact laws facilitating and enhancing the capabilities of Thai people to live such lives.

**Mr. Chairperson,
Honorable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Thai Delegation, I believe that promoting peace and development processes are overlapping and mutually reinforcing. Development in the political, economic and social tracks should be implemented simultaneously, in order to leverage economic opportunity and create social atmosphere conducive to long-term peace for people, particularly vulnerable groups, such as women, youth and children as well.

While public infrastructure and utilities are being developed, access to services should also be improved, particularly for the marginalized groups. More importantly, the root causes of conflict should be addressed systematically through the equitable development process.

Thailand believes in conflict prevention as a more effective means to ensure sustainable peace. In this regard, a regional monitoring mechanism should be put in place so that action should be taken before any probable conflict would erupt. Politically, in order to promote peace and sustainable, both the government and the parliament must focus on accountability, good governance and promotion of public participation, while at the same time sincerely respect civil and human rights and the rule of law.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Thai Delegation, I affirm that this is the best opportunity for all of the APA Members to carefully and seriously think about how to create our own channel for promoting cooperation in peace and sustainable development. I, therefore encourage all APA members to adhere to the aims and objectives of the APA and also lend support to the efforts of the relevant parties on this issue and to achieve peace and sustainable development in Asia.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Speech by the Head of Delegation from Turkey

Honorable Speakers,

Honorable Secretary-General,

Honorable Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to express my pleasure to address you today in the Kingdom of Cambodia. I wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for the Kingdom of Cambodia and the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for their warm hospitality.

The world is going through a period of major transformation and change whose effects are being deeply felt. On the one hand, several crises threaten global stability in a range of regions from the Middle East to Africa, while on the other hand, several issues such as poverty, unfair distribution of wealth, racism and islamophobia, climate and environmental issues, cross-border terrorism and refugee crisis require solutions.

The wave of transformation that defines the challenges we are faced with is not limited to politics. We are experiencing a period in which new centers of economic activity emerge and the centre of gravity of the global economy is shifting from the West to the East, to Asian economies.

Against this background, I believe that, the APA provides significant contributions to stability, prosperity and development in Asia in its role as the biggest inter-parliamentary organization in Asia. As a significant institution which applies parliamentary diplomacy, an indispensable element of the contemporary world, the APA's work in a wide range of areas including in socio-cultural, political and economic areas is of significance in Asia and beyond.

Dear Guests,

Turkey is located in a region that is a crisis hot spot. The whole world has recently focused on this region. We are also inevitably affected by upheavals taking place in our region and increasing in violence and magnitude every other day.

As the fifth year of the civil war in Syria is coming to an end, we continue to host in Turkey our Syrian brothers and sisters who had no other choice but to leave their homes and homeland. We do so under our policy of open door in a period in which the West is building walls of shame. Turkey currently hosts more than two million seven hundred thousand refugees and according to the figures of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, it is the country hosting the highest number of refugees in the world.

Turkey has received without any hesitation and with open arms its brothers and sisters in their difficult days. This has entailed for us a financial burden of over 25 billion USD including the contributions of humanitarian assistance organizations. We continue to bear, alone, this burden under our humanitarian and international obligations with only a minor contribution of international community.

The acts of terrorist organizations that exploited the ongoing chaos in the region to extend their influence and power have reached a dimension that directly threatens our national security. The terrorist attacks perpetrated in Turkey by DAESH that claimed the lives of hundreds of Turkish citizens show clearly the magnitude of the threat we are facing. To the acts of DAESH, have been recently added PKK's intensifying cowardly attacks. In this context, we are pressing ahead with extensive operations launched against terrorist groups in Syria and Irak that threaten public order and security of our citizens.

On the other hand, as you know, on 15 July, our democracy in Turkey faced a coup attempt staged by Gülenist Terrorist Organization (FETO).

On that night, terrorists disguised as soldiers departed from barracks and tried to take control of state and media institutions as well as strategic points in city centres including in particular İstanbul and capital city of Ankara and to change the legitimate government. In terms of its magnitude, this was an attempt at invading the country.

These treacherous terrorists who were members of an illegal gang and most of whom were bearing military uniforms attempted to put an end to Turkey's democratic and legal integrity and to put in place a military junta administration despite the popular will. On that dark night when our democracy faced an attack, unfortunately, 248 Turkish citizens fell martyr and 2,193 were injured.

At those moments when the attacks were continuing full-fledged, our parliamentarians across the board came to the parliament although it was not a working day, and they held a meeting that lasted all night long. While we were in meeting at the Plenary Hall that night, our Parliamentary building was bombed, wounding some parliamentarians and staff members. The next day, upon the the call of the Speaker of the Turkish Parliament for an extraordinary meeting, all the political parties represented in our Parliament convened once again and issued a joint declaration proclaiming to the whole world their commitment to democracy and their opposition to all sorts of coups. The people took to the streets upon the call of President Erdogan and thus prevented the coup.

Let me give you a warning. FETO poses a threat against national security not only for Turkey but for all the 170 countries where it is active. The tactics they used in Turkey are also used by them in other countries. The organisation's main strategy is to infiltrate state institutions, primarily intelligence, security and judiciary institutions, to influence the society and to take control of economic resources under the guise of education, dialogue, tolerance and civil society activity. This organization, which lacks values and morals, staged conspiracy plots against leading figures of the Turkish society, by deeming any instrument legitimate to achieve its vile objectives from wiretapping to secret filming to stealing exam

questions and attempted to stage a coup when they felt they were at their strongest. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to call all our friends to swiftly take all actions against Gülenist Terrorist Organization to protect their security and future of their countries to cooperate with Turkey in this direction. We request that our call is put on record as such.

Our country has suffered a lot from terrorism and will continue to fight against all forms of terrorism, no matter what the name – DAESH, PKK, PYD or FETO; I assure you that Turkey has an undisputable determination to fight against terrorism. We are also expecting our allies to fight all sorts of terrorism without making any distinction between them and through a principled approach. An organisation perpetrating a suicide attack in Ankara, Istanbul, Lahore, Kabul, Aleppo, Gaza is a terrorist organisation. So are the others perpetrating a suicide attack in Brussels and Paris. We must be able to say "Je suis Lahore, Aleppo, Kabul, Istanbul, Ankara, Gaza just as we say "Je suis Paris, je suis Brussels" and act in an equally sensitive manner regardless of the location of such terrorist attacks.

It is necessary to fight all of them and their sister organizations with the same degree of determination. International community must adopt that principle and act accordingly. Terrorism has no religion, ethnicity or nationality. We must put up a joint fight against all terrorist organizations regardless of their location or target of their acts.

Dear guests,

It took a long time, many hardships and efforts of many states for the world to reach its current level of democracy and universal values such as human rights and rule of law on which it built a new civilization. All these values involved a centuries-long struggle and cost many lives. The world will continue to pay other costs in order to strengthen and expand these values. This means that we have to defend all together democracy, human rights and rule of law for future generations, just as people before us worked together to make these universal values. I believe that the APA will continue to play a key role in defending and protecting these values.

To support the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in this role, Turkey will continue to deal with regional and global developments through a human-centred approach and to take a leading role in peace-building actions based on stability and development, as it has done before.

We are saddened and affected by the cases of instability, conflicts and humanitarian emergencies that take place in most of our close neighbour countries with which we have close historical, cultural and social links. It will remain a priority for Turkey to make all the efforts possible to solve such cases and to heal the wounds.

Dear Guests,

To conclude, I wish you a successful and fruitful 9th Plenary of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and congratulate primarily the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and all those who have contributed to the successful conduct of the meeting.

We take pride in the Turkish Parliament's taking over the Presidency of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly for 2017-2018; and thank you for your strong support. On this occasion, I would like to express that we will be pleased to host you in our country during our term as President of the APA.

I would like to renew our call regarding the Gulenist Terrorist Organization and call upon all our friends in Asia to swiftly take all necessary measures against the Gulenist Terrorist Organization for their own security and cooperate with Turkey in this direction. It is my hope that cooperation with the APA members in our struggle against the Gulenist Terrorist Organization will be reflected in the closing declaration of this Conference.

I would like to conclude my speech with a video regarding the bloody coup attempt staged by the Gulenist Terrorist Organization.

Thank you for your attention.

Thank you.

Speech by the Head of Delegation from Viet Nam

As delivered 29.11.2016

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

Excellency Mr Chairman,

Excellencies Speakers, Heads of Delegations and deputies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

Mr Chairman,

Honorable delegates,

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

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

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

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

Excellency Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

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

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

1. Strengthening the organizations and activities of the APA towards efficiency and practicality, meeting the interests and concerns of the member parliaments.
2. Reforming the agenda, further boosting solutions especially to prevent potential conflicts, comply with international law, to build and share standards of conduct including basic principles to govern relations between nations as well as the peaceful settlement of disputes.
3. Enhancing the relationship and interaction between APA Member Parliaments and APA Member Governments to encourage the implementation of the recommendations outlined in APA's documents and resolutions.
4. Maximizing the voice and participation of the people in the national development processes. This is a prerequisite for ensuring democracy, bringing about peace and stability for countries and regions all over the world.

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

Annex- XII



Asian Parliamentary Assembly Report of the Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians 29 November 2016 Siem Reap- Cambodia

1 - Dr. Khorram, the Deputy Secretary General of APA brought the Meeting in order at 11:00 on Tuesday, 29 of November 2016.

2 - After the adoption of the Agenda, Dr. Khorram opened the election of Bureau as the second item of the Agenda. He mentioned as a customary procedure the host chairs the meeting so by acclamation we support the chairmanship of Hon. Khun Sudary. Following the election of the bureau Dr. Khorram asked the floor to support Ms. Nezhat Seddiqi from Pakistan and Mdm. Chenarani from Iran as Vice Chair and Rapporteur of the Meeting and invited them to come to the podium and resumes their duties.

3- Hon. Khun Sudary, on behalf of H.E. Hengs Samrin, the President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia welcomed the delegations and mentioned while emphasizing that discrimination and injustice still exist between men and women reiterated the crucial role of women parliamentarian in scientific, political, socio-cultural and economic affairs. In addition, she expressed her support for all the Draft Resolutions, in particular the Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians. She also supported the implementation of the relevant UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the issue on women migrant workers in Asia.

4 - Mdm. Nezhat Seddiqi, the Vice Chair from Pakistan, brought up the issue of armed conflict and its devastating effects on women and children. Meanwhile, she informed the Meeting about the decisions and the actions taken by Pakistan's government regarding equality of women and men and also the issue of human rights in the Country. Fighting terrorism and extremism, issues such as women parliamentarian, extradition of poverty and sustainable development were among other issues she elaborated on.

5 - Dr. Khorram, the Deputy Secretary General of APA expressed that in the last meeting in Phnom Penh in 2015, the meeting emphasized on the equality of women and men and the importance of their role in promoting peace and cooperation in Asia. It was expressed that no positive action was possible without collaboration of men and women. The participants in Phnom Penh drew the attention of the committee to the hardship of women life in rural areas of Asia including difficulties that women face in the Middle East especially in Iraq, Syria

and Afghanistan regarding economic and political matters. They pointed out that women need to exchange views and learn from each other. Dr. Khorram said in Phnom Penh it was emphasized that the inclusion of at least one woman in all APA delegations from each parliament is necessary. Another noticeable proposal was inclusion and effective participation of women in all peace building processes.

7) Then Dr. Khorram presented the Draft Resolution on Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians and asked the floor to make any comment on the resolution.

8 - A Member Parliament of Kingdom of Cambodia indicated that, women parliamentarians are the voice of the female electorate and responsible for ensuring that female gender empowerment is included in national legal framework, as well as, over-sighting the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women. She also mentioned that the female representation at their National Assembly has increased more than tripled in two decades.

9 - A member parliament of Kingdom of Bahrain pledged that there will be a female parliament member included in their delegation from the next Meeting. He also offered some proposals regarding correction of the text prepared on the Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians.

10 - An UAE member parliament emphasized on the need to support women in the war zones, access of women to medical care, cooperation and support of international communities regarding women and the necessity of changing their views from aggression to respect regarding women. She also supported the UN Resolutions on women and children.

11 - A member of Vietnam National Assembly indicated that, in order to bring fairness and equality to women and to maximize the capacity of women's contribution to peace and sustainable development of the mankind, we all have the responsibility to adhere and fully implement legal documents i.e. The Charter of the UN, CEDAW, Beijing Declaration, ... Etc. promoting the advancement of women, gender equality and strengthening international cooperation were among other issues included in her statement.

12 - Dr. Zolghadr, head of the Iranian delegation reiterated the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in resolving the regional problems and emphasized on the role of women in sustainable development.

13 - At the end of the Session, for concluding the Meeting and the Resolution, Dr. Khorram invited H.E. Senator Rabbani, head of the Senate of Pakistan to mediate between different views and offer some corrections in the text of the Draft Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians. He made comments on the three paragraphs accordingly and the Resolution was concluded.

14- The Meeting was adjourned at 13:00

Annex - XIII



Report of the Meeting of Special Committee for Creation of Asian Parliament

29 November 2016

Siem Reap – Kingdom of Cambodia

1. The Special Committee for Creation of Asian Parliament held its meeting at 4.30 p.m. on 29 November 2016 in Siem Reap – Kingdom of Cambodia. APA Delegations from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Korea, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam and United Arab Emirate participated in this meeting.

2. After the adoption of the Agenda, Honorable Mian Reza Rabbani, the Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan presided over the meeting as the APA Vice President for Political affairs. Honorable Senator CHHIT Kim Yet from kingdom of Cambodia was elected as the Vice-Chairman. The chairman delivered his welcoming remarks. The Agenda is attached as Annex – I.

3. H.E. Dr. Ali Khorram, the APA Deputy Secretary- General presented a brief background information on the Special Committee for Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) and referred to the last meeting of this committee on 2nd June 2016 in which all participating delegations expressed their general support for promotion of the notion of Asian Parliament in the light of the great potentials exist in Asia. He added the said meeting underlined the formidable challenges and crucial prerequisites facing the creation of an Asian Parliament. He expressed necessity of further elaboration on how to realize this ideal vision considering the existing cultural diversity, political differences and verity of religions and ideologies in Asia.

H. E. Dr. Ali Khorram, the APA Deputy Secretary-General reiterate that SCCAP as a subsidiary body of the APA is working under the auspicious of Standing Committee on Political Affairs and shall arrange its meetings under the chairmanship of APA Vice President for political affairs. He emphasized that SCCAP may have additional meetings where and when the APA Vice Presidents deems necessary or appropriate, and shall submit its reports to the APA Standing Committee of Political Affairs. He also emphasized on the

importance of SCCAP as a permanent item on APA agenda, therefore, requires the extensive attention by all Member Parliaments towards its realization.

4. The Chairman has presented a report to brief the meeting about their plan and emphasized on the steps is needed to be taken to generate a meaningful progress. He proposed to form 5 sub-regional groups within APA to discuss the idea of Asian Parliament. Each one of these sub- groups may formulate its own proposals for transmission to the SCCAP.

These sub-groups should have the opportunity to meet on the sidelines of four Standing Committee meetings, two Executive Council meetings and may also have additional meetings. Honorable Senator Rabbani informed the meeting that Pakistan will host the First SCCAP meeting during the February 2017 to deliberate on the modalities and requisites of Asian Parliament, study various existing models of regional parliamentary platforms to find out desired model of Asian Parliament. He explained the ways and means of following the idea in four steps SCCAP shall take during 2017 to present its proposals to the 1st Executive Council meeting and 10th Plenary for adoption. The presented report of Senate of Pakistan is attached for further information.

5. The majority of participating delegates deliberated actively and provided their comments and views. Many of delegates welcomed the idea of creation an Asian Parliament while emphasized that it is a long term project, needs to be accepted by the governments and people of each and all Asian countries. Delegates from Indonesia, Jordan, Russia and Turkey were more optimistic and hoped that in compare with European Parliament creation of Asian Parliament may realize in a shorter period. This report is attached as Annex-II.

6. Before the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairman said he personally does not believe the Asian Parliament is going to be created in 2017 or 2018 because it requires a lot of time, a lot of consultations and there are many complicated questions to be decided upon. He mentioned we must be able to build a consensus among all APA Member Parliaments and put together a feasibility report on how to build an Asian Parliament otherwise we will not have the approval of all Parliaments . He emphasized on necessity of a combined cooperation by all sub-regional groups to work together, study the different aspects of the project and consideration of those reports by the SCCAP, Standing Committee on Political Affairs, 1st and 2nd Executive Council meetings and referring the outcome to the Plenary for final approval is a must.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.30 p.m.

**Annex to the Report of the Special Committee on Creation of
Asian Parliament (SCCAP)
Presented by Senate of Pakistan**

Evolution of SCCAP

Creation of an Asian Parliament had been resonating in the discussions and Agenda items of APA Meetings and Plenary sessions in one way or another. It was when the Senate of Pakistan assumed the APA Presidency for the term 2013 – 2015, the need of creating a special committee, that could take further the task of establishing an Asian Parliament, was discussed in detail and the concept was reflected in the '*Islamabad Declaration*' and the Report of the 6th APA Plenary held in Islamabad in December 2013.

2. During early 2014, the APA General Secretariat, Tehran prepared a document titled, '*Foundations of an Asian Parliament.*' The document is a well thought-out report that discusses various opportunities and commonalities amongst the Asian States and highlights basic structure of many regional parliamentary forums. The document concludes by raising a question for Asian leadership to decide whether we want to establish an altogether new organization or gradually transform the existing structure of the APA into an Asian Parliament. APA General Secretariat, Tehran disseminated the document, at multiple occasions, seeking feedback from the APA Member States, however, the responses were not received, as expected.

3. In December 2014, 7th APA Plenary held in Lahore, approved establishment of the '**Special Committee on Creation of an Asian Parliament (SCCAP).**' The SCCAP was to work on a single agenda of developing consensus within Member Parliaments to formulate a road map for the Asian Parliament. The decision was formally included in '*Lahore Declaration*' and in the Report of the 7th APA Plenary.

4. Pakistan pursued the SCCAP agenda and soon after the of 7th Plenary, erstwhile Chairman Senate of Pakistan/ President APA met the President of European Parliament and discussed the prospects of Asian Parliament. During 2015, Pakistan/ President APA wrote letters to all Presiding Officers of APA Member and Observer Parliaments and sought input on the proposed workings of the SCCAP. The communication was meant to take all APA Member Parliaments onboard and develop outline document of the future Asian Parliament. Except from Sri Lanka and New Zealand, no responses were received. During 2015, the Senate of Pakistan also adopted a Resolution and recognized that the proposed Asian Parliament shall be an institutionalized voice of Asian century. The Asian Parliaments were urged to adopt similar resolutions in their respective parliaments and request their respective executives to take concrete steps and move at a fast pace for establishment of an Asian Parliament. Unfortunately, the Senate of Pakistan, until it handed over the APA presidency to the Kingdom of Cambodia at the 8th APA Plenary session in Phnom Penh in December 2015, did not receive feedback from any APA Member Parliament.

5. To formulize the reporting line of the SCCAP, the 8th APA Plenary superseded its earlier decisions of 7th APA Plenary that established the SCCAP to be based in Islamabad, and adopted that the SCCAP shall report to the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs. Jordan, elected Vice President of the Political Affairs Committee, hosted a meeting of SCCAP in June 2016 on the sidelines of Standing Committee meeting. It was emphasized, during the meeting, that creation of Asian Parliament was a long term project

and requires study of various aspects related to its creation. The participating States also pledged to raise the matter in their respective parliaments and shall send their feedback on the APA Secretariat's document '*Foundations of an Asian Parliament.*' APA Secretariat Tehran shall apprise of any further development in the process.

6. The Senate of Pakistan is grateful to all APA Members and especially the President APA for electing Pakistan as the Vice President of APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs for the year 2017. Being Chair of the Political Affairs Committee, the Senate of Pakistan shall host independent meetings of the SCCAP before it may submit concrete proposals to the Political Affairs Committee.

Asian Parliament – Way Forward

7. As the first step, and to generate a meaningful discussion on the matter, Mian Raza Rabbani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan during the Meeting of APA Standing Committee on Economic & Sustainable Development Affairs held in Islamabad on 26th July, 2016, presented a proposal to APA Parliaments to form 5 to 7 sub-regional geo-political groups within APA. These sub-groups are being formed with the sole purpose of facilitating the discussion on creation of the Asian Parliament. It has been experienced that in larger meetings, discussions leading to concrete proposals were difficult to attain, therefore singular purpose of these sub-groups would be that each sub-group may formulate its own proposals for transmission to the SCCAP.

8. The sub-groups shall meet on the sidelines of the meetings of the four APA Standing Committees, two Executive Council Meetings and also additional meetings, as convenient to them, during the year. The Members of each sub-group may wish to elect/appoint its representative to coordinate its meetings and follow up on the agenda of their respective sub-groups. The sub-groups shall provide consensus based input of their region to the SCCAP.

9. The Senate of Pakistan will host the First Meeting of SCCAP during February 2017. The SCCAP meeting will deliberate on the modalities and requisites of Asian Parliament like its composition, bureau, membership, defining its power, whether advisory or legislative and mode of election. The SCCAP shall also discuss various existing models of regional parliamentary platforms and shall propose the desired model of the Asian Parliament. As part of generating consensus amongst APA States on integration of Asia, poverty alleviation, human rights, environment and other issues of common interest shall be on the agenda of SCCAP during 2017. An initial working plan for the Asian Parliament shall be reached in the following manner:

- a. First meeting of the SCCAP shall discuss the issues referred above and would generate a report, laying recommendations and follow up plan until the second SCCAP meeting takes place.
- b. Second meeting of the SCCAP shall be held after an interval of at least two to three months. The meeting, in addition to its own agenda, will take account of the progress made by Member States after the first meeting of the SCCAP.
- c. Report of the second meeting of SCCAP shall be based on the feedback and input received from Member States. These two reports shall be presented to

the Standing Committee on Political Affairs for inclusion in its agenda for discussion.

- d. The Political Affairs Committee shall, for the third time, deliberate on the findings of two SCCAP reports and will develop an initial road map of the Asian Parliament. The road map shall be proposed to the Executive Council meeting, which will eventually forward the same to the Plenary for adoption.

10. Keeping in view membership of APA Member States at various international fora, a provisional grouping of Member Parliaments may be categorized as follows:

- i. **South Asia:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka;
- ii. **South East Asia:** Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Palau, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam;
- iii. **East Asia:** China, South Korea, North Korea, Kiribati, Mongolia and Tonga;
- iv. **Central Asia:** Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan;
- v. **Middle East:** Bahrain, Cyprus, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, UAE and Yemen.

11. The above grouping of APA Member countries Parliament is suggestive and Members may join any of the above mentioned sub-regional group based on their geographical identity and proximity. APA Secretariat and Member Parliaments are welcome to propose any addition/deletion on the above proposal.

Asian Parliament: What is to be done?

12. As stated in Paragraph 2 of this Report, the document '*Foundations of an Asian Parliament*' raised a basic question, whether we want to establish a new organization or we can find best ways to gradually transform the existing APA into an Asian Parliament. The SCCAP shall take-on this question during its first meeting in February 2017. In case, Member States decide to establish a new parliamentary organization, the SCCAP shall continue to explore various modules of parliamentary forums and shall develop a strategy to achieve it. However, if the Members decide to work on the possibility of using the existing platform of APA till a final decision is taken, in this case, the Senate of Pakistan has some proposals to further institutionalize the APA and strengthen the APA Secretariat by transforming its structure in line with those of other international parliamentary associations including the CPA and the IPU.

13. The proposals shall be on the agenda of SCCAP and shall be formalized with consensus. The APA Charter and Rules of Procedure shall be thoroughly consulted in either scenario and SCCAP may recommend amendments, if so required. This will only strengthen the APA so that it may play a pro-active role as one of the largest international parliamentary association with 42 Member Parliaments and 16 Observer Parliaments representing 4 billion* of people.

14. Some proposals in APA organizational structures may include:
- a. Constitution of an Executive Committee of APA. The APA Executive Committee shall be constituted with elected members for three years term to carry out functions related to membership of APA, agenda settings, budget, administration and execution of decisions taken by APA Plenary.
 - b. The existing provision about election of APA President may be fully operationalized.
 - c. An ‘APA Young Parliamentarian Group’ may be created. This Group will not only encourage young parliamentarians to join Asian Parliaments, but shall put forward youth’s perspective to the workings of the APA, in general, and SCCAP in particular.
 - d. The 7th APA Plenary adopted a Resolution, ‘*Special Committee on APA Women Parliamentarian*’ wherein, it was proposed that APA States must include women MPs as part of their delegation. The proposal may be given legal effect so that the ‘APA Women Parliamentarian’ forum could become active and contribute to the workings of SCCAP during the course of Asian Parliament.

15. Whether a new organization is established or the APA is converted into Asian Parliament, the foremost requirement is the political will of APA Member States. The will of the Asian Parliaments shall determine how long it will take to achieve the dream of an Asian Parliament. Requesting Member parliaments to ensure their participation at all SCCAP meetings during 2017 and contribute substantially in the discussions of the SCCAP meetings, the Senate of Pakistan once again urge fellow parliamentarians to come prepared on the agenda items of SCCAP and besides giving concrete input, on the proposals given in this Report, may share other ideas and proposals.

* Reference "*Foundations of An Asian Parliament*" document by APA Secretariat Tehran

Annex – XIV

Siem Reap Declaration



Asian Parliamentary Assembly
Ninth Plenary Session
28 November – 1 December 2016
Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia



SIEM REAP DECLARATION

We, Members of Parliament from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam, attended the Ninth Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) in Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia, from 28 November to 1 December 2016, at the invitation of Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and current APA President.

Recognizing that peoples in Asia have brilliant civilizations, philosophies, religions, diverse cultures, arts, ideologies, and have made great achievements in the fields of socio-economic development, science and technology, among others, to meet the demands of societies. We are also concerned of the existence and proliferation of means of mass destruction;

Reiterating the importance of united efforts, especially by APA members toward the prevention of the destruction as well as the preservation of cultural heritage;

Concerned by the increasing tensions in parts of Asia, particularly the threat of terrorism, and the suffering of people affected by ongoing conflicts, especially displaced people, and further concerned by the dire situation of millions of women and young people in all war-torn areas. We, therefore, stress the importance of maintaining world peace, security, stability and development;

Emphasizing that violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, should not be associated with any culture, civilization, religion or ethnicity and should be neither tolerated nor condoned. The resolving of issues through radicalization, violent extremism, terrorism causes great hardship and breeds even more violence, settlement of the issues should be by dialogue and negotiation;

Underlining our commitment to building societies based on the rule of law with Asian Parliaments not only representing Asian people, but also enacting legislation and promoting dialogues, reconciliation and a culture of peace;

1

Agreeing, in principle, that the vision of an Asian Parliament shall meet the goals and aspirations of Asia in the 21st century. SCCAP, chaired by Pakistan, has been entrusted with the task of taking this vision forward by consensus through consultation.

Welcoming the entry into force of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Agreement on Climate Change on 4 November 2016 and the *Marrakech Action Proclamation for Our Climate and Sustainable Development* adopted at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Morocco that concluded on 18 November 2016;

Deeply concerned that one billion people across Asia could face severe water shortages by 2050, highlighting the need for Asian governments to focus national policies on water and sanitation issues;

Noting that sustainable development and poverty eradication are a shared commitment for Parliaments of Asia, and we should all strive for a balanced and more equitable distribution of resources;

Expressing our utmost concern at the passing of the JASTA Law by the US Congress in September 2016, which is in direct violation of the UN Convention on Jurisdictional Immunity of States and their Property. APA urges its members to call upon the US Government and Congress to retreat from this law.

Rejecting all US unilateral and extra-territorial laws and judicial verdicts against other states especially APA members which are in contradiction to international law, United Nations Charter and violate sovereignty and independence of states;

DO HEREBY EXPRESS OUR COMMITMENT TO:

Emphasize the need to promote peace, reconciliation and dialogue in Asia, hereby promoting democracy, the rule of law and the role of Parliaments.

Urge APA and all other stakeholders to support the reconciliation process with Taliban and other militant/armed groups in Afghanistan;

Promote the peaceful settlement of disputes and renounce the threat or use of force, in accordance with international law, to contribute to achieving world peace, security and stability, and to saving future generations from the scourge of war and conflicts. We denounce the policies of regime change aimed at overthrowing legitimate Governments, in contravention of international law. We stress that to achieve lasting peace, a holistic approach to address the root causes of conflicts is needed to realize the three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, development and human rights;

Promote lasting peace, security and stability in Asia, with all lingering disputes including Kashmir resolved as per the UN Charter, international law and UN Security Council Resolutions;

Express our support to the Palestinian people on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People;

Denounce the interfering activities of any country which have, under the pretext of defending human rights and democracy, led to wars in several sub-regions of the world, causing incalculable deaths, extreme suffering and misery as well as millions of refugees.

Hold parties responsible for overthrowing legitimate governments for the consequences of their actions including human suffering and the forced displacement of people, noting that Asian people have been particularly affected by forced regime changes since the mid-20th century, and that those who support such changes have the responsibility of providing shelter, food and jobs to refugees and other displaced people;

Reaffirm our determination to continue opposing any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity or territorial integrity of a State as well as the non-interference in the internal affairs of States;

Declare our full solidarity with the people and democratically elected government of Turkey in its fight against the Fethullah Gulen Terrorist Organization in order to uphold democracy, justice, security and stability in the country, calling on member countries of APA to take necessary measures against the Terrorist Organization;

Combat all forms of terrorism through international cooperation and law and enhance moderation agenda and deradicalization initiatives, involving every level of society including youth and the private sector, while addressing and combating the root causes of radicalism, violent extremism and terrorism;

Congratulate and support the Iraqi government in its war against terrorism and its determination to liberate its land from terrorist groups;

Express concern about the territorial unity of Syria and condemn the killing of innocent people especially children;

Support the call for deeper discussions and an international conference on the root causes of terrorism and the implications of regime change policies, including the assessment of human suffering caused by this policy implementation;

Recognize that we have an urgent duty to respond to the alarming and unprecedented warming of the global climate, and we call for further climate action and support, taking into account the reaffirmation of the \$100 billion mobilization goal of developed country parties as stated in the *Marrakech Action Proclamation* as well as the special needs and circumstances of developing countries, least-developed countries and those particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change;

Stress the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals and agree to work toward fully implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, bearing in mind the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

Reiterate that ending poverty and hunger is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We further underline the importance of developed countries fulfilling their commitments regarding the provision of finance, transfer of appropriate technology and capacity building to developing countries, to ensure the global realization of Sustainable Development Goals;

Thank Cambodia for its warm, gracious and efficient hospitality in hosting the Ninth Plenary Session in Siem Reap and for chairing the APA over the past two years. We look forward to Turkey hosting the Tenth Plenary Session in 2017.

Done in Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia, this First Day of December in the Year of Two Thousand and Sixteen.

Annex - XV

Text of adopted Decision and Resolutions by the 9th APA Plenary



APA 2016 Resolutions

Decision on the Deliberations in the Executive Councils & Plenary

Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia
Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology
Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia
Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia
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**APA/ Decision/2016/01
1December 2016**

**APA Decision
on
The Deliberations in Executive Councils & Plenary**

Any technical comments or editorial corrections in the draft resolutions during Executive Council meetings or Plenary session are permitted and may be incorporated into the text, however, further substantial discussion on paragraphs should be forwarded to the relevant Standing Committees.

Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

9 Resolutions



Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia

APA/ Res/2016/01
1 December 2016

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions, APA/Res/2013/05; APA/Res/2010/05; APA/Res/2009/05; APA/Res/2008/17; and APA/Res/2007/02; on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia;

Recognizing the significant role of parliaments both in safeguarding their respective national cultural heritage and in harmonizing Asian approach in respect of cultural diversity;

Emphasizing that cultural diversity is dependent on protection of cultural heritage, and the existence of common grounds among Asian ancient civilizations provide solid grounds for co-existence and co-operation among nations in the region;

Recognizing that tolerance is one of the fundamental values of humanity, which entails promotion of cultural diversity, culture of peace, and dialogue among civilizations;

Recognizing the increasing importance of culture, as an integral part of development plans of all nations in Asia and beyond;

Promoting greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures and religions by means of concrete projects in the priority areas of youth, education, and media, in collaboration with governments, international and regional organizations, in line with the outcome of the first World Cultural Forum, in Bali, Indonesia in November 2013 and document entitled “Bali Declaration on the Alliance of Civilizations”, held in Bali, Indonesia, in 29 and 30 August 2014;

Reiterating that multicultural dynamism in Asia provides as an indispensable asset for making a strong Asian community based on mutual respect and recognition of all Asian cultures and civilizations;

Noting the opportunities offered by globalization for greater interaction among cultures and civilizations, as well as challenges brought about by its trends to preserving and celebrating the rich intellectual and cultural diversity in Asia;

Considering the smuggling of cultural objects from Asia a threat to the richness of Asian cultural heritage, and underline the important role of parliaments to both raise public awareness about this challenge and to strengthen, where necessary;

Deploring the un-repairable damage brought to cultural and religious heritage by terrorism and organized crimes, especially damages to Muslim and Christian historical sites and holy shrines and mosques by indiscriminate bombing and shelling in Syria and Iraq by ISIS and other terrorist groups;

Expressing grave concerns regarding theft, damage, or destruction to any place of worship of any religion, any cultural, religious, or historical heritage in Asia especially to Muslim, Christian and Buddhist historical sites by any person, group, or organization;

1. **Determine** to encourage and promote further intercultural dialogue and inter-religious exchanges throughout Asia;
2. **Resolve** to appreciate and promote the benefits of diversity in Asian nations, and encourage values such as justice, human rights, non-discrimination, democracy and respect within and among communities and nations;
3. **Reject** all manifestations of discrimination that are based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance;
4. **Remain Committed** to the protection of the rights of indigenous and ethnic communities so as to ensure the fulfillment of indigenous community rights in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
5. **Urge** relevant governmental agencies to further facilitate consular services as appropriate for citizens of Asian countries to allow for greater people-to-people interaction;
6. **Decide** to remain cognizant of damages to Muslim and Christian holy places and historical sites, by ISIS terrorist organization in Iraq and Syria;
7. **Urge** Member Parliaments to consider ratifying the International Convention for the Safeguarding of World Natural and Cultural Heritage and the International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
8. **Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to consider drafting common legislations on the basis of principles endorsed by APA, as annexed to APA/Res/2013/05, with a view to developing a model legislation to combat smuggling of cultural objects in Asia;
9. **Call Upon** all Member Parliaments to promote tolerance and empathy among Asian nations with a view to diminish distrust, misunderstanding, and conflict among religious communities;
10. **Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to support establishing an award to be presented annually to outstanding Asian artists; authors, poets, film makers, painters, etc, who best convey the APA's commitment to cultural diversity in Asia;
11. **Condemn** all forms of contemptuous actions against religions, holy books, religious places and personalities and religious rituals;

12. **Request** the APA Secretary General to uphold cooperation between APA and international and regional organizations such as UNESCO, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations(UNAOC), ISESCO and relevant Asian NGOs active in promoting cultural diversity and dialogue among civilizations;
13. **Request** the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on their efforts to implement this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology

**APA/ Res/2016/02
1 December 2016**

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling para.5 of article 3 of the Charter of the APA;

Recalling APA Resolution, APA/ Res/ 2014/11, and APA/Res/2014/13;

Underlining that Asian integration can be achieved through further dialogue, interaction, and communication among Asian people, parliamentarians, government officials, academic and educational institutions, and media for the promotion of peace, liberty, equality, human rights, and welfare in Asia;

Concerned with negative impact of globalization on widening the gap between the rich and poor in Asia, and the further marginalization of developing countries in the world;

Recognizing the fact that today Asia encompasses the biggest market in the world, the highest number of population; the largest amount of foreign currency reserves; and dynamic economic growth;

Emphasizing the principle of free flow of information, easy communication, and access to new technologies at the national, regional and global levels;

Underlining the fundamental role of information technology as an indispensable factor in all areas of national; regional, and global development;

Stressing the view that global networking provides opportunities for APA Member Parliaments to share experiences and engage in fruitful dialogue on significant issues in Asia and facilitates further cooperation and coordination, on the way of Asian integration process;

Underlining that the Asian Virtual Parliament will pave the way for sharing information, harmonizing legislation and raising people's awareness about the activities of the legislative body and ensure a more profound feedback between society, power and individuals, and thus contribute to strengthening peace in Asia;

Emphasizing that, the role of parties, civil society, non- governmental organizations (NGOs) and other democratic structures in public sphere, provide opportunities in Asian countries for exchange of views, interactions and synergy to promote regional and global cooperation in order to reinforce the long term process for Asian Integration.

14. **Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to volunteer for providing knowledge and know-how, technical assistance, financial support, human resources; and other form of assistance in creating a “Virtual Asian Parliament” based on the report by the APA Secretary General on the subject matter in order to enhance collaboration and interaction among parliaments and parliamentarians in Asia and as a prelude to establishing a model Asian parliament;
15. **Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to support vocational and knowledge-based education in Asia in order to enhance people’s life-skills and competitiveness in coping with the challenges of globalization;
16. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to share best practices and exchange experiences with a view to inspiring a common approach toward Asian integration through holding special workshops and forums among Asian Parliaments;
17. **Underline** the necessity to work out the legal status of the materials and documents which will be circulated in Virtual Parliaments;
18. **Request** the secretariat to conduct a pilot project of VAP and share the result with the APA member parliaments;
19. **Request** the Secretary-General to seek possible technical and financial assistance from Member Parliaments and other institutions to facilitate the implementation of this resolution and prepare a report with comprehensive approach to accelerate the process of Asian Integration.



Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia

APA/ Res/2016/03
1 December 2016

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions, APA/Res/2013/07; APA/Res/2010/02; and APA/Res/2009/06;

Recalling the advises in the report of the Secretary-General on Achieving Health Equity in Asia, SG/Rep/2011/02 Dated 22 August 2011, submitted to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 13-14 September, 2011;

Stressing the view that global net-working provides opportunities for Member Parliaments to engage in fruitful dialogue and exchange of best practices on health equity;

Reaffirming the significant role of parliaments both in advocating and promoting national policies and legislative measures for achieving health equity;

Welcoming the Sustainable Development Goals adopted on 25 September 2015 and reaffirming its pivotal role in enhancement of the health equity;

Welcoming the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, adopted on 19 September 2011, reaffirming the political will to effectively implement the commitments contained therein;

Recalling United Nation General Assembly resolution 66/288 on “The future we want”, which recognized health as a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development;

Recalling the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health endorsed by the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly in resolution WHA65.8 in May 2012;

Recalling the importance of placing equity and human centered policies in the core of health agenda and noting central role of enabling Universal Health Coverage to provide equitable access to quality health services without financial hardship;

Recognizing that health inequities arise from social determinants of health, that is, the societal conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and that these determinants include experiences in their early years, education, economic status, employment and decent work, housing and environment, and effective systems of preventing and treating ill health;

Emphasizing the need to comprehensively deal with social and health related problems emanating from the drug abuse and low quality drugs;

Expressing concern about the existing socio-economic inequalities and their impact on the poor and disadvantaged groups, as well as the remote geographical areas;

Expressing concern on deteriorating health effects of wars and armed conflicts by hindering provision and quality of health service and causing deprivation from a fundamental human rights health, due to the inequalities in access and utilization of qualified health services.

1. **Welcome** the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/Rep/ 2014/02 dated 10 August, 2014;
2. **Underline** the report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health for addressing the impact of socio-economic inequalities on health at global, regional and national levels;
3. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to incorporate the issue of Social Determinants of Health (SDH) more intensively in other APA themes and activities;
20. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to strengthen collaboration among themselves with a view to formulating a coherent approach with regard to social determinants of health in Asia, especially education, housing, and employment;
21. **Invite** the APA Member Parliaments to promote health equity in Asia through sharing experiences and best practices, and actively advocate the inclusion of social determinants of health in national policies and programs;
22. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt policies and measures to improve service provision, and health financing system as well as health insurance plans for a more equitable resource distribution;
23. **Call on** Member Parliaments of APA to encourage their respective governments in order to establish networking among major governmental and non-governmental institutions dealing with health issues in Asia, and expand cooperation with academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups and the media in order to identify the main social determinants of health;
24. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to persuade their respective governments to create and implement more updated tactical policies, activities, and programs to ensure a success in the SDGs achievements with regard to health policies;
25. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to take necessary actions and to encourage their respective governments to ensure child nutrition needs in order to create better generation;
26. **Determine** to take active part on the discussion of post-2030 development agenda by delivering Asian views in the international arena to drive the global agenda;

27. **Encourage** the APA Member Parliaments to actively participate in the process of arriving at common objectives which could form the basis of national legislations promoting health equity in Asia, with due attention to social protection policies for health care, long term disability, and protection during unemployment and old age;
28. **Request** Member Parliaments to inform the Secretary-General on the progress made on the implementation of this resolution in their respective countries in order to share them with all Member Parliaments.



Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia

APA/ Res/2016/04
1 December 2016

Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly representing signatory state parties to the relevant international conventions and agreements;

Acknowledging that the development of migrant workers and the protection of their rights are in line with the principles of human rights and contribute to the development and promotion of friendly relations among countries;

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international instruments to which the States members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly are parties;

Noting that the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 97 on Migration for Employment, ILO Convention 143 on Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provision), established a broad legal framework for the protection of migrant workers;

Emphasizing the importance of ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers;

Acknowledging the significance of ILO Conventions concerning the protection of the rights of migrant workers as well as UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime – 2000 in promoting human rights of Asian migrant workers without prejudice to their sex, race, language, religion, nationality, or ethnic origin;

Welcoming the adoption of ILO Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers at the 100th International Labour Organization (ILO) Conference in Geneva, 2011 as a global recognition on the existence of domestic workers where many of them are migrants;

Underlining the importance of establishing a national legal framework as well as a broad legal framework for the protection of migrant workers and noting the legal and illegal status of different cases;

Deeply concerned with the precarious conditions faced by migrant workers such as human rights abuse, harassment and violence, discrimination, low pay and low status jobs, unpaid jobs, ignored labour and overwork;

Underlining the challenges that women migrant workers are facing such as forced confinement, low paying, non-payment, excessive working hours, physical limitations, and sexual harassment and abuse which can be the target of vulnerability like human trafficking and prostitution;

Recognizing that unsettled status of immigrants prevents the establishment of conditions for full scale and comprehensive protection of their right by governments of sending and receiving countries;

Emphasizing that adaptation of labour immigrants to local conditions and working activity in destination states as well as integration into recipient society are important factors which contribute to more effective exercise of the rights of labour immigrants;

Acknowledging the contribution of migrant workers to the society and economy of both receiving and sending states and their input to the development and prosperity of the region;

Bearing in mind the importance of friendly relationships and cooperation among governments, parliaments and the peoples of Asia insolving the problems relating to Asian migrant workers; and in particular, providing repatriation assistance services such as coordination with families, airport assistance, domestic transport, temporary shelter, medical and rehabilitation services;

Recognizing the significant role of parliaments both in strengthening social and human rights policies, and in harmonizing an Asian approach for respecting fundamental human rights, and protecting the rights of migrant workers in Asia;

Confirming that providing enough measures on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers in Asia is part of a shared responsibility among Asian Countries toward a common vision for security and prosperity which focused on the improvement of the quality of life of its people;

Concerned with the mass exodus of people who have tried to flee from their homelands in Asia to some European countries, due to lack or deficiency of security, food, health service, accommodation, employment and so forth; many of whom are young migrant workers;

29. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to consider accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families to stress Asian commitment on the protection of the rights of migrant workers and humanitarian issues in Asia;
30. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to enhance and harmonize their actions towards a better protection of migrant workers, especially women and children;

31. **Request** APA sending countries to provide migrant workers with adequate skills and knowledge in order to be able to fulfill their task and understand the culture, prevailing laws and regulation in the receiving countries;
32. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to ensure that their domestic laws shall be fair and just, equally applicable to both migrant workers and citizens who violate the laws;
33. **Encourage** the promotion of bilateral and regional cooperation among countries in all areas and issues of migrant workers to maximize the potential benefits and minimize the negative impacts of migration;
34. **Urge** the respective States of the APA Member Parliaments to conduct bilateral, or regional agreements including Mandatory Consular Notification Agreement under the spirit of Vienna Convention on Consular Relations; whereby the sending countries are well informed on the legal problems faced by their migrant workers;
35. **Emphasize** the importance of involving civil society, non-government organizations, and increasing their opportunity for participation and interaction with stakeholders to develop better policies and supervise the implementation of regulations on migrant workers issues;
36. **Recommend** APA Member Parliaments to provide adequate information on regulation, legislation and policies related to migrant workers in their respective countries, and to share information and best practices as well as opportunities and challenges encountered by Asian countries in relation to the protection and promotion of migrant workers' rights and welfare;
37. **Encourage** all relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations especially EU countries to provide support to refugees and migrants suffering from uncertain situations behind the European borders.
38. **Request** the Secretary-General to coordinate with APA Member Parliaments on the progress to implement this resolution and submit a report thereon to the meeting of the Standing committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption

APA/ Res/2016/05
1 December 2016

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2013/09, December 2013; APA/Res/2010/01; APA/Res/2009/03; APA/Res/2008/18; as well as the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05/Annex;

Taking note of the importance of the UN Convention against Corruption adopted by the General Assembly on October 31, 2003 and other anti-corruption conventions and relevant binding legal instruments;

Recognizing that fighting corruption at all levels is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication and sustainable development;

Reaffirming the importance of respect for human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and democracy in the fight against corruption;

Recognizing the important role of parliaments to promote transparency, participation, accountability and integrity as some of the principles of anti-corruption strategy;

Acknowledging that the fight against all forms of corruption requires comprehensive anti-corruption frameworks and strong institutions at all levels;

Expressing concern about the laundering and transfer of stolen assets and proceeds of corruption, and stressing the need to address this concern in accordance with the UN Convention against Corruption;

1. **Condemn** corruption at all levels and in all its forms, including bribery; money laundering; and abuse of power;
2. **Express** determination to prevent and combat corrupt practices in all forms and collaborate on facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to their legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
3. **Welcome** the significant number of Member States that have already ratified or acceded to the Convention, and in this regard urges all APA Member Parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption as a matter of priority, and urges

all States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures ensuring its full and effective implementation;

4. **Decide** to set up a working group under the auspices of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs to further consider the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05/ Annex with a view to taking effective measures for enhancing synergy and interactions among Asian Parliamentarians in fighting corruption.
5. **Decide** to improve and expand working relations with important Asian organizations such as ARPAC, SEAPAC, SAPAC, and GOPAC Chapter in order to enhance synergy and areas for cooperation and joint initiatives;
6. **Urges** States parties to United Nations Convention against Corruption that have not already done so to designate a central authority that shall have the responsibility and power to receive requests for mutual legal assistance and either to execute them or to transmit them to the competent authorities for execution;
7. **Request** the Secretary-General to prepare in consultation with interested APA Delegations, particularly APA delegates with interest and experience in anti-corruption efforts, the required draft documents for consideration by the working group set up in this respect;
8. **Request** also the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians

APA/ Res/2016/06
1 December 2016

We, members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the APA Plenary Resolution (APA/Res/2010/06, 30 November, 2010) on the establishment of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians;

Mindful of the fact that despite all efforts made for the promotion of women's rights, imbalance still persists between women and men both in the extent of power at decision-making and in mechanisms to promote the advancement of women;

Aware of the importance of promoting the participation of women in scientific, social, political, cultural and economic affairs, and peace dialogue;

Reaffirming that inclusion of women in positions of power and elected bodies, and also their involvement in the decision making process, strengthens the development of democratic principles in public life and increases the economic development;

Recognizing that the main obstacles women face in entering Parliaments in Asia include political, socio-economic, cultural, and extremism;

Mindful of the necessity to put on the agenda of APA meetings matters of importance to women such as combating violence against women, empowerment of women in society, participation of women in political life, and prevention of all kind of harassments, sexual violence against women and girls, including in situation of armed conflicts;

Stressing our resolve to participate and contribute actively in the deliberation of issues relating to women's empowerment and women's participation in APA meetings;

Underlining the need to facilitate networking between women parliamentarians of Asia;

1. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to ensure the inclusion and effective participation of women in social, cultural, economic, political, and sustainable development affairs in Asia, at national, regional, and international levels.
2. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to adopt legislative regulations to facilitate women's representations in Asian Parliaments;
3. **Recommend** the inclusion of at least one woman parliamentarian in APA delegations;
4. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to recognize the concerns of women, and to effectively implement the relevant provisions of United Nations 2030 Agenda

for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which promote gender equality and empowerment, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment, and building accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

5. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize that gender equality and empowerment of women must be established as a standing-alone goal and must be achieved simultaneously with gender mainstreaming across all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG);
6. **Determine** to enhance the activities of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarian through more effective exchange of views and close interaction;
7. **Require** the Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians to expand the scope of its activities under the auspices of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs and to take appropriate measures to facilitate networking among women parliamentarians in Asia;
8. **Request** the APA Secretariat to assign one part of the website of the Assembly to facilitate networking among women parliamentarians of Asia covering updated information on the activities of the APA Women Parliamentarians;
9. **Express** concern at the dire situation of millions of women in all war-torn and conflict-ridden such as Syria, Iraq, and Kashmir who are in danger of violence, killing, rape, and captivity;
10. **Request** the Secretary-General seek the views of Member parliaments on this resolution and submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



Resolution on Promoting Inter- Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions

APA/ Res/2016/07
1 December 2016

We the members of Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling with appreciation various global, regional and sub-regional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony including the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/65/PV.34, and also resolution 57/6 of 4 November 2002 concerning the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, the International Conference on Environment, Peace and the Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures, held in Tehran on 9 and 10 May 2005, the Asia-Europe Meeting Interfaith Dialogue on the theme "Building Interfaith Harmony within the International Community", held in Bali, Indonesia, on 21 and 22 July 2005, the High Level Conference on International and Inter-Religious Dialogue, held in Saint Petersburg, Russia on 3 and 4 July 2014, and the sixth global Forum of the United Nations alliance of Civilizations, held in Bali, Indonesia on 29 and 30 August 2014;

Mindful of the fact that, Inter-Faith Harmony between the different religions of the world in general and Asia in particular is of utmost importance for the survival of mankind and the promotion of the culture of peace, security and tolerance;

Recognizing the essential role of dialogue among different faiths and religions in enhancing mutual collaboration, harmony and cooperation among nations of the world;

Expressing the need to explore ways and means to intensify Inter- Faith Harmony and resultant cooperation to strengthen the international peace and security to make the world a better place to live;

Admitting that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding;

1. **Urge** all parliaments to support and spread the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill, as such mutual understanding constitutes important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;
2. **Maintain** that a regular dialogue between the parliaments of APA could become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international ongoing conflicts based on religious differences and discrepancies;
3. **Denounce** stereotyping of any religious, national or ethnic group and condemn any intentional and unintentional activity that leads towards the division between the followers of different faiths;

4. **Urge** all Member Parliaments to harmonize their efforts in promulgating laws and legislations in Asia for improved standards of cooperation between the nations to enhance the patience for the religious beliefs of others;
5. **Declare** that terrorism, extremism and violence have no religion nor any borders, as these are common enemy of all humanity;
6. **Consider** Islamophobia, Christianophobia, Anti-Semitism and any other form of xenophobia based on belief, faith or ethnic adherence contrary to the merits of inter-faith dialogue which has no place in the community of civilized nations;
7. **Deplore**, in the strongest terms, all atrocities and acts of violence, committed by extremist and terrorist groups under the guise of Islam which hold no authentic reference to Islamic principles and no legitimacy among Muslims all around the world, and call upon all states to refrain from providing any support to such groups;
8. **Condemn** the misuse and distortion of religious beliefs, by leaders of extremist groups and their followers, which inflame intra-faith as well as inter-faith hatred and hold them accountable for instigation of ill-judgment, violence, and brutality against other faithful people;
9. **Call Upon** the international community to be cognizant of humanitarian situations in Asia that involve violations of rights of religious communities;
10. **Urge** all Member Parliaments to intensify their efforts in utilizing parliamentary diplomacy for the development of international and regional frameworks to promote best practices which leads towards the inter faith harmony and collaboration;
11. **Request** the Secretary-General to seek the views as well as measures taken by APA Member Parliaments to implement this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia

APA/ Res/2016/08
1 December 2016

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA/Resolution/2013/05 of 9 December 2013 on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia;

Expressing support for the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 prohibiting the smuggling of cultural items by terrorist groups, including from Iraq and Syria;

Expressing deep concern about the growing problem of smuggling of cultural items in Asia;

Affirming the important role of parliaments to develop a national strategy including a legal framework to combat smuggling of cultural items;

Considering the smuggling of cultural objects from Asia a threat to the richness of Asian cultural heritage;

Recognizing the role of parliaments to enhance public awareness about the threat to national identity and heritage of states from which cultural items are smuggled abroad;

Recognizing also the need to enhance national capacities, including parliamentary capacity to reinforce national strategy to combat smuggling of cultural items;

1. **Urge** all APA Member Parliaments to utilize their legislative powers to prevent and punish the smuggling of cultural objects in Asia and facilitate concerted efforts to return the stolen items back to their original locations without any cost to the original owner country;
2. **Call on** all APA member parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the International Convention for the Safeguarding of World Natural and Cultural Heritage, and the International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
3. **Request** all APA Member Parliaments to consider and contribute to drafting of a common legislation on protecting and safeguarding cultural objects and combating all forms and aspects of trafficking cultural property and related offences to be enacted on the basis of the principles prepared by APA Secretariat and annexed to this resolution, and in accordance with their own internal legislative procedures;

4. **Request** the Secretary-general to follow up preparation of a common legislation on combating the smuggling of cultural items in Asia by APA Member Parliaments and submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.

Annex

Principles for Drafting Common Legislation by Asian Parliaments Concerning the Smuggling of Cultural Items

1. Lawful exchange of cultural and historical properties enriches cultural and social existence of nations; strengthens mutual respect and leads to amity and friendship among them;
2. Movable cultural heritage of every nation is considered as fundamental elements of culture and civilization of that nation, and an integral part of regional and human culture and civilization and thus necessitates regional cooperation to fight theft and smuggling of cultural properties.
3. Protection and safeguarding of historical cultural properties from the perils of unlawful excavations, theft and smuggling, is inter alia the duty of the governments.
4. Clandestine excavations in archeological sites, theft, illicit import and export of cultural properties constitutes as one of the main reasons for the cultural impoverishment of the countries of the origin of these objects.
5. Establishment and strengthening of a proper system of management to protect immovable cultural heritage and reinforce coordination and cooperation among concerned institutions for combating theft and smuggling of cultural properties.
6. Documentation, preparation and completion of an inventory of national cultural properties.
7. Proper supervision over archeological excavations, standardization of the means to protect cultural items at the site of discovery.
8. Taking educational steps to enhance public awareness on the necessity of protecting cultural objects.
9. Encouraging and developing the educational, scientific and technical institutions required for protecting cultural items, expanding museums, supporting cooperation and exchanging cultural objects among museums in Asian countries.
10. Issuing special permit for those cultural objects the export of which is authorized; and thwarting illicit import and export of cultural items with no permit, and restitution thereof to the country of origin.
11. Promoting international cooperation to combat smuggling of cultural items with the countries of origin on restitution of cultural properties as well as extradition of those charged with theft and smuggling of cultural items.
12. Stress on the inalienable right of every country concerning classification and declaring as non-transferable certain cultural properties and preventing entry into the national territory of those items.



Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia

APA/ Res/2016/09
1 December 2016

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the report of the Standing Committee meeting on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 13-14 September 2011;

Mindful of the fact that illicit drug trafficking and its negative impact on health, safety, public order, governance, economic development and social health constitutes a prime concern in Asia and deserves a comprehensive consideration by the APA;

Stressing the need to continue to take concentrated measures within the framework of the Paris Pact in order to strengthen cross-border cooperation and information exchanged with a view to countering illicit cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs in Asia;

Emphasizing that the danger of illicit drug trafficking is so pervasive that may undermine international peace and security, and there is an urgent need to mobilize efforts of all countries to curb the production of opium and heroin in Afghanistan and to dismantle networks of illicit drug trafficking from that country;

Recognizing that production and illicit trafficking of narcotics drugs can be utilized for financing of other organized crimes, including terrorism;

Expressing the need to explore ways and means to intensify regional coordination among legislators to combat drug trafficking and make anti-drugs policy a priority in programs of co-operation with, and of assistance to, the Asian countries which are affected by illicit drug trafficking;

Recognizing the interconnected challenges facing Asian countries, including continued illegal cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs that pose a serious threat to the region;

Expressing the need to increase international and regional support for the capacity building of law-enforcement agencies in Afghanistan, and to intensify training programs for Afghan law-enforcement staff;

Stressing the need to enhance joint operations with the relevant Afghan law-enforcement agencies focusing on clandestine heroin-producing laboratories and organized criminal groups involved in the drugs trade, and to combine them with increased efforts aimed at

integrated rural development, building infrastructure and supporting farmers engaged in alternative production;

Recognizing the need for more cooperation with a result-oriented approach between the law enforcement agencies of the Member States including customs and border authorities in order to better tackle smuggling of narcotics and psychotropic substances within the region and beyond;

Call upon Asian Parliaments to adopt laws on extradition of convicted persons on terrorism and illicit drug trafficking to their original countries for fair trial on the bases of their laws and regulations;

Supporting regional and international efforts to improve law enforcement and combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and curtailing drug related financial activities;

Emphasizing the need to assist Afghanistan in developing its economy and diversifying agriculture so as to reduce dependence on revenues from the illicit drugs trafficking, in line with the Lima Declaration and International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development (November 2012);

Stressing the need to take adequate measures in preventing, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts;

Expressing the need for more active and efficient international cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking in Asia;

Attaching great importance to the efforts made by international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN), and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) to combat the threats of international terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activity;

1. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to coordinate among themselves to review relevant legislation to address different aspects of combating illicit drug trafficking;
2. **Stress** the need to exchange information and best practices within APA Member Parliaments on combating illicit drug trafficking;
3. **Reiterate** the need to coordinate and improve law enforcement activities to combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and curtailing the flow of illicit drug more effectively;
4. **Underline** the importance of effectively using international financial assistance for the creation of alternative economic opportunities in order to ensure a sustainable anti-drug policy;
5. **Call upon** APA Asian Parliaments to enable civil society as an effective partner of parliaments and to enhance the role of mass media in combating drug trafficking in Asia;
6. **Encourage** all APA member Parliaments to support their respective governments in order to coordinate with international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN) to combat the threats of international terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activity;

7. **Believe** that a regular dialogue on supporting joint actions of Asian governments against abovementioned threats within APA could become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in the region;
8. **Express** our commitment to encourage and enhance cooperation with all relevant states and international and regional organizations, on matters of common interest in the spirit of this resolution on rendering assistance to combat illicit drug trafficking;
9. **Encourage** networking of the relevant national agencies or organizations in Asia dealing with transnational crimes to further enhance information exchange and dissemination;
10. **Request** the Secretary General to seek the views of all Member parliaments on ways and means for effective implementation of this resolution and prepare a report thereon to be considered by the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.

Standing Committee on Political Affairs

4 Resolutions



Resolution on Building Prosperity in Asia Through Friendship and Cooperation

APA/ Res/2016/10
1 December 2016

We the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Recalling relevant APA resolutions on Advancing the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2015/01—11 December 2015); Resolution on Measures and Methods of Materialization of Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2014/01— 3 December 2014); Resolution on Consolidation of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2013/01-- 9 December 2013); Resolution on Reinforcing the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2010/09— 30 November 2010); Resolution on Pursuing Implementation of the Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2008/09, 29 November 2008) and Resolution on the Friendship Pact in Asia; (APA/Res/2007/06, dated 19 November 2007); Text of the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2007/06/Annex, 19 November 2007);

Relying on deep-rooted ties of history, geography, culture, economy, politics, and civilization which bind Asian nations together;

Recognizing the amity and the friendly relations among the Asian Nations, Parliaments, and States as an indispensable asset which need to be further strengthened by all kinds of inter- governmental; inter-parliamentary as well as inter-national interaction and cooperation;

Deploring the current widespread war and violence in West Asia which undermine peace and security and entail massive killing and indiscriminate targeting of innocent people;

Offering in Good Faith all our capacities and capabilities in parliamentary diplomacy for mediation, reconciliation, and supporting dialogue with a view to promoting friendship and cooperation and contribute to peaceful resolution of conflicts in Asia;

Emphasizing the fundamental role of democracy and human rights in the promotion of friendship and cooperation in Asia and calling upon all Member Parliaments and their respective Governments to ensure equal and non-discriminatory access of their citizens to civil rights;

Reiterating the importance of the Declaration on the Principles of Friendly Relations in Asia as a proper framework for promoting peace and prosperity in Asia;

Encouraging further expansion of friendly relations including cultural, diplomatic, scientific, and commercial relations among all Asian States and further interaction among Asian Parliaments and Nations in pursuance of the purposes of the Declaration;

1. **Urge** collective and concerted efforts by all Asian States whose parliaments are APA Members to provide humanitarian assistance of all kinds to the vulnerable people in war- torn countries;
2. **Call Upon** all Asian States to direct their diplomatic efforts at reducing political tensions and utilize all ways and means within their power to avoid and the escalate controversies which have potential to undermine principles of friendship and cooperation in Asia;
3. **Urge** Asian Parliaments to disseminate information about the APA Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia by all available means including parliamentary and state publications, parliamentary friendship groups, public programs, etc.
4. **Decide** that every Member Parliament would motivate public and private media networks, websites and the like at local and national levels to engage in promoting and spreading the word about the content, importance and positive results of the adoption and implementation of the APA Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia;
5. **Encourage** Asian academic institutions, think-tanks and research centers, universities and educational institutions, as well as professional associations throughout Asia to take part in promoting and adhering to the tenets and guidelines enshrined in the APA Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia,
6. **Call upon** all APA Member Parliaments to inform the APA Secretariat of measures they have taken in promoting the APA Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia
7. **Request** the Secretary-General to continue its consultations and coordination with the APA Member Parliaments as well as interested Asian organizations and academic institutions for promoting further activities and joint initiatives pertaining to Friendship and Cooperation in Asia.



Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia

APA/ Res/2016/11
1 December 2016

We the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA),

Recalling APA resolutions on Mobilizing Interactions Between APA and Asian Governments (APA/Res/2015/02—11 December 2015); Engaging APA with Asian Governments and Inter-Governmental Organizations (APA/Res/2014/02); Asian Parliaments and Governments: Together for Solidarity and Prosperity in Asia (APA/Res/2013/02 –9 December 2013); Measures for Enhancing Cooperation Between APA and Asian Governments (APA/Res/2010/11, 30 November 2010) and resolution on Enhancing Cooperation Between Asian Parliamentary Assembly Member Parliaments and Their Governments for Implementation of APA Decisions (APA/Res/2008/10, 29 November 2008);

Emphasizing the need to foster closer coordination and cooperation between APA and Governments of APA Member Parliaments;

Encouraging Member Parliaments to consider endorsing and adopting common legislations on issues of mutual interest to both APA and Asian Governments;

- 1. Urge** all Member Parliaments to inform relevant high-ranking officials of their respective governments of the great potentials, activities, and achievements of the APA as the largest inter-parliamentary organization in Asia and report thereon to the Secretariat for circulation;
- 2. Decide** to form APA parliamentary groups comprising nominated delegates from volunteer Member Parliaments under the supervision of the APA Vice-President for Political Affairs, and in full coordination with the APA Secretariat, to hold contacts and meetings with relevant inter-parliamentary and inter-governmental organizations, with a view to converging points of view and considering possible joint initiatives pertaining to regional and global issues, including the creation of an Asian Parliament;
- 3. Encourage** Member Parliaments to seek the views of their respective Governments on the subject of Asian Parliament and to contribute to the work of the APA Special Committee on the Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) by providing their points of views and analyses of the subject matter;
- 4. Request** APA Member Parliaments to identify and describe their priority desirable topics for receiving training, as well their capabilities to offer training

and best practices, and share them with other Parliaments through the APA Secretariat, in order to organize training programs on exchanging best practices and learning from each other;

5. **Request** the Vice-President for Political Affairs to report to the Executive Council and the Plenary Sessions on his/her activities pertaining to the formation of working groups from interested Member Parliaments to focus on the implementation of APA decisions on political affairs;
6. **Request** the Secretary-General to expand the scope of its contacts and communications with inter-governmental as well as inter-parliamentary organizations who work on issues relevant to the items on the APA agenda in order to facilitate further interaction and joint efforts on common grounds with a view to enhancing cooperation between Asian Parliaments and Governments and report thereon to the next session of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs and the Executive Council.



Resolution on Significant Political Developments in Asia

APA/ Res/2016/12
1 December 2016

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Inspired by the principles and values enshrined in the Charter of the APA;

Reaffirming its commitment to the promotion of freedom, democracy, peace and security at regional and global levels;

Promoting, as an APA principal policy, the resort to political means and diplomatic solutions, including parliamentary diplomacy, for resolving internal and international conflicts, instead of violent and military course of actions;

Expressing the utmost concern on the passing JASTA Law by the US Congress in September 2016, which is in direct violation of the UN Convention on Jurisdictional Immunity of States and their Property.

Considering terrorism and violent extremism as serious common concerns for all Member Parliaments, threatening the security and well-being of human societies;

Being Concerned with the situation in Yemen, call for national and political solutions to the crisis and warns against the escalation of tensions by terrorist groups like al- Qaeda which could swirl the country into chronic violence and instability;

1. **Deplore** massive destruction and indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians in Syria and Iraq and urge the international community to help Syrian and Iraqi peoples to confront the menace of terrorism;
2. **Urge** the governmental authorities as well as all civilian opposition fronts and entities in Syria to expedite their engagement in constructive dialogue and mutual compromise with a view to achieving political solutions to their disputes; putting an end to internal armed conflicts; safeguarding independence, national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Syria; and guaranteeing civil rights and freedoms including fair and free elections;
3. **Call Upon** all relevant parties to establish effective mechanisms to ensure peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula, adhere to principles of international law including the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes, and avoid any action that might provoke tension and destabilize regional and international peace and security;

4. **Express** concerns on the growing potentials for conflict in Kashmir and urge the concerned states to observe utmost restraints and abide by the respective resolutions of the United Nations concerning the situation in Kashmir.
5. **Support** the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between the Islamic Republic of Iran and E3/EU+3 (Germany, England, France/European Union+ United States, China, Russia) as endorsed by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 and acknowledge the fulfillment of undertakings by the Islamic Republic of Iran under the plan as verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and urge other parties to fully implement their commitments under the JCPOA. which include the complete removal of all sanctions of the United Nations Security Council, as well as multilateral and national sanctions related to Iran's nuclear program and in upholding its rights under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT);
6. **Call Upon** the US Government and Congress to retrieve from JASTA Law.
7. **Decide** to offer APA Good Offices for peaceful settlement of disputes through mediation; conciliation; and negotiation in Asia utilizing its unparalleled capacities in parliamentary diplomacy, through its Troika-Plus mechanism or otherwise, whenever requested by parties.



Resolution on Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support For The Palestinian People

APA/ Res/2016/13
1 December 2016

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions on Supporting Palestinian State and Protecting Rights of Palestinian People, (APA/Res/2013/03, 9 December 2013); Violations of International Humanitarian Law in the Palestine and the War Crimes Committed By the Zionist Regime in Gaza (APA/Res/2009/01, 8 December 2009); and Humanitarian Crisis in Palestine Particularly in the Gaza Strip (APA/Res/2008/08, 29 November 2008);

Inspired by the Principles and objectives enshrined in the APA Charter and the relevant APA resolutions;

Committed to contribute to the promotion of peace and security at regional and global levels on the basis of justice and the rule of law;

Affirming the responsibility of the international community to support implementation of resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations Security Council; the UN General Assembly; the Human Rights Council; and the APA pertinent to the situation in Palestine, particularly Al-Quds Al-Sharif;

Supporting the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital;

Reaffirming the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Palestinian territories, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif;

Expressing serious concerns on Israel's lack of commitment to abide by resolutions and recommendations of the UN Security Council, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the APA regarding the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly in Al-Quds Al-Sharif;

Recognizing that Israel's severe violations of international humanitarian law and of the human rights of Palestinian people undermine international efforts towards achieving a just and lasting peace in the region;

1. **Urge** all Members of the APA to support and treat the State of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations

2. **Denounce** all violations of international law which threaten international peace and security including all acts of terrorism and organized crimes; and violations of human rights committed by the Israeli occupying forces in Palestine.
3. **Encourage** all members of the international community to put pressure on Israel to immediately release all the Palestinian prisoners including the Members of the Palestinian Parliament; dismantle all illegal settlements as well as the entire separating wall and put an end to confiscating Palestinian lands.
4. **Declare** all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, including expropriation of land and properties which tend to change the legal status of Jerusalem as invalid and bearing no legal effect on their original status.
5. **Condemn** Israel's continuation of building settlements defying applicable international law; disregarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian People including their right to resist and protest against foreign occupation of their lands; and hampering international efforts towards achieving a just and lasting peace in the region;
6. **Express** grave concerns on the suppression and injustice, as well as continuing violence practiced against people, particularly women and children, in the occupied Palestinian territories under the Israeli occupation including East Jerusalem, and in the Syrian Golan occupied by Israel;
7. **Call Upon** all members of the APA and the United Nations as well as all regional and international organizations concerned, particularly the United Nations Security Council and the International Criminal Court to address, under the UN Charter and the Rome Statute, the crimes against humanity and the war crimes committed by Israel in Palestine which threaten the international peace and security;
8. **Praise** the decision taken by the European Union not to purchase any products produced in the settlements based in the occupied territories and call on states of the APA Member Parliaments to act in a similar way;
9. **Demand** Israel to stop the systematic destruction of the Palestinian cultural heritage as well as the destruction of public and private properties, as laid down in the Fourth Geneva Convention;
10. **Reject** the unlawful resolutions adopted by the Israeli Knesset such as Judaisation of the Jerusalem and the Citizenship Loyalty Law, denying the State of Palestine and the rights of Palestinian People in the occupied territories;
11. **Call Upon** the international community to fulfill its pledges to rebuild infrastructure and rehabilitate people in Gaza which have been destroyed by Israeli forces.

**Standing Committee on
Economic and Sustainable
Development Affairs**

6 Resolutions



Resolution on Asian Integrated Energy Market

**APA/ Res/2016/14
1 December 2016**

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution on Integrated Energy Market in Asia (APA/Res/2015/05) adopted at the 8th APA Plenary in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 2015 and other relevant APA.

Welcoming the Report of the Secretary-General on the Asian Integrated Energy Market (AIEM), and the meeting of the Energy Sub-Committee held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 27 July 2016;

Considering the role of energy market integration between West and East Asia in the future due to high rate of energy consumption in the East and South of Asia.

Concerned about the political turbulence in the West Asia in recent years as a real obstacle for the realization of Asian Integrated Energy Market;

Recognizing that “Integrated Asian Energy Market” can help the Asian countries to maximize the interests of both producers and consumers and minimize the risks and costs of energy in Asia;

Welcoming the strong support of North-East, East and South-East Asia for “Integrated Asian Energy Market”

Emphasizing the need to develop multilateral co-operation among Asian countries and the work of APA to develop an Integrated Energy Market in Asia as efforts to provide a sustainable, green and clean energy as they are crucial for the climate change mitigation and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;

Reaffirming the importance of adoption and implementation of environmentally sound energy policies and projects throughout Asia;

Welcoming the decreasing trend of energy intensity in the most regions of the world, particularly in Asia;

Welcoming the Asian governments’ commitments to reduce carbon emissions affecting global warming and environment;

Supporting a wider use of Natural gas an economically efficient and ecologically clean fuel to promote sustainable development as well as to reduce the greenhouse emissions in accordance with the Paris Agreement on the climate change;

1. **Decide** to expand the mandate of the Advisory Group on Energy to link the demand and the supply for energy in Asia and to promote the sustainable use of energy, in line with the spirit enshrined in the UN Summit 2015 Declaration to secure our planet for present and future generations;
2. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to encourage the irrespective governments to expand bilateral and multilateral cooperation among Asian countries in the field of energy and its sustainability and to be linked such efforts with the existing international commitments such as the SDGs and the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change(UNFCCC);
3. **Call up** APA Member States in South and West Asia to respond positively and urgently to the appeal of “Integrated Asian Energy Market” in North-East, East and South-East Asia
4. **Urge** all Members of APA Parliaments to report to the Secretary-General on their national experiences in the field of increasing energy efficiency and their energy policies for the betterment of the information of the Advisory Group;
5. **Request** the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development Affairs.



Resolution on Environmental Issues

**APA/ Res/2016/15
1 December 2016**

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change, and Planting Billions of Trees Throughout Asia (APA/Res/2015/07) adopted at the 8th APA Plenary in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 2015, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other relevant APA resolutions;

Welcoming the Report of the Secretary-General on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia, contained in document SG/Rep/2016/03-2 dated 20 July 2016;

Recognizing the need to pursue the component so sustainable development namely the economic growth, social development and environmental protection in a balanced and mutually supportive manner;

Highlighting the link between sustainable development and other relevant ongoing processes such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and UN Convention Biological Diversity (UNCBD), UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the International Conference on Financing for Development among others;

Recognizing that climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet and thus requires the widest possible cooperation by all countries, and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions,

Underlining the necessity of a comprehensive and long-term strategy to combat desertification and marine life deterioration, thus improving the living conditions of the people living in arid, semi-arid and coastal areas;

Recognizing the significance of exchanging information on environmental issues among Asian countries and transfer of environmental technology, in particular scientific and technical assistance, from those states with high capabilities in the area of sustainable development to less developed states in Asia;

Recognizing the urgent need to enhance the provision of finance, technology and capacity-building support by developed country Parties, in a predictable manner, to enable enhanced pre-2020 action by developing country Parties,

Concerned about the negative environmental impact of unbridled energy consumption on a global scale and particularly in Asia;

Encouraging Asian parliaments of the countries which supported the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to speed up their acceptance of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, in order to provide further momentum for global climate action for the years leading up to 2020;

Supporting the global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of at least 50 percent by 2050 compared with the levels in 1990, in the context of equitable access to sustainable development, so as to limit global warming in this century to below 2°C or 1.5 °C.

Calling up on developed countries and international institutions to assist Asian developing countries, in their efforts to deal with negative consequences of environmental degradation effectively and *reiterating* the importance of devising a proper mechanism for technology transfer and financing environmentally sound technology from developed to developing countries;

Emphasizing that substantive involvement of APA in the latest state of affairs as regards the ongoing negotiations with in the context of UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol, exchange of views among Member Parliaments and striving for bringing as much coordination and collaboration as possible in relevant negotiating for a with a view to serving and improving the common regional interest of Asia is a compelling imperative;

Acknowledging the importance of enhancing the role of civil society, NGOs, policy think tanks, business and academia in the protection of environment through their inputs to the environmental policy formulation as well as implementation at the local, national and regional levels;

Emphasizing the importance of cooperation among Member Parliaments with regard to efforts to combat desertification;

Recognizing the success by Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development's (UNCSD) in raising global awareness and international collaboration in the economic and environmental fields and the promotion of transparency;

Recalling the role of United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) in strengthening and building national capacity to further the sustainable management of the environment and the implementation of programs that take into account environmental considerations without interfering with development;

Agreeing to uphold and promote regional and international cooperation in order to mobilize stronger and more ambitious climate action by all Parties and non-Party stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, cities and other sub-national authorities, local communities and indigenous peoples,

Stressing the central role of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in providing for collective international response to the challenge of the global climate change;

1. **Welcome** the adoption of Paris Agreement at the 21th session of the Conference of the Parties of UNFCCC in December 2015; –

2. **Invite** APA developed members to assess how loss and damage due to climate change affects the world particularly vulnerable developing countries in Asia;
3. **Call Upon** all Member Parliaments to facilitate coordinating organs such as the UNDP to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness in targeted development programs
4. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to facilitate the conclusion of an agreement among Asian States in order to collaborate, in a balanced manner, on holding the increase in global average temperature below 2 °C or 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels;
5. **Urge** APA Parliaments to support Sustainable Development Goals with regard to environmental issues by adopting appropriate legislation;
6. **Invite** the APA Member Parliaments to proceed with legislation and other legal actions deemed appropriate and facilitative to encouraging the governments to formulate and implement legislations, policies and measures with regard to the following:
 - Integrating climate policies in broader development policies with a view to making implementation and overcoming barriers easier;
 - Financing and encouraging R&D for low carbon or cleaner technologies with a view to stimulating technological advances, reduce costs, and enable progress toward stabilization;
 - Legalizing then necessity of observing the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) as a step towards bringing a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development namely: economic growth, social development and environmental protection;
 - Encouraging the maximum possible interaction, coordination, integrity and solidarity among Asian delegations involved in climate change negotiations with a view to providing for a collective wisdom by Asia as their common interests which in turn shall strengthen Asian regionalism and contribute to the cause of an Asian integration;
 - Interacting with and make collective attempts with other Asian States Parties for pushing the environmental priorities and urgencies of Asia within the agenda of financial and technological mechanisms of environment related instruments such as Global Environmental Facility(GEF), those operating within UNEP and the established technological and financial mechanisms in Durban in 2011;
7. **Invite** APA Member Parliaments to exchange experiences and best practices on environmental issues and provide, on a voluntary basis, the data and information concerning issues related to sustainable development, climate change and other environment related major issues to the Secretariat to be compiled in a data base for the reference and use by all Member Parliaments;

8. **Invite** *also* APA Member Parliaments, who are in a position to do so, to provide material and technical support to APA members in their efforts to combat climate change and desertification;
9. **Call on** parliamentarians from APA to urge their respective governments to publish Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) after Paris Summit;
10. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to support the objectives of the Paris Agreement to control and reduce the greenhouse gasses, early complete the system of law and policy in line with international commitment in response to climate change;
11. **Note** with concern that the estimated aggregate greenhouse gas emission levels in 2025 and 2030 resulting from the intended nationally determined contributions do not fall within least-cost 2°C scenarios but rather lead to a projected level of 55 giga tones in 2030;
12. **Note Also** that much greater emission reduction efforts will be required than those associated with the intended nationally determined contributions in order to hold the increase in the global average temperature to below 2° C above pre-industrial levels by reducing emissions to 40 giga tones or to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels
13. **Recommend** action be taken by the International Climate Fund (ICF) within existing framework to assist the Asian region and especially its developing nations with mitigating the effects of climate change and protecting natural resources in order to ensure a healthy environment for future generations focused on aiding developing countries to adapt to the increasing effects of climate change and the protection of natural resources;
14. **Call upon** APA to expand partnership with country and partner outside the region to exchange information on climate change, and natural disaster, mobilized financial resources to invest in project related to clean and energy saving technologies, and establish a research center in Asia to provide aid to the developing Asian countries in support for national policy programs with regards to sustainable Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
15. **Request** developed APA Member Parliaments to offer advice to the other members on how to acquire and effectively utilize the tools to combat economic shocks resulting from climate change, such as damage to property and infrastructure, lost productivity, mass migration, and coping costs through the preparation of sustainable policies pertaining to disaster preparation programs with special attention given to the needs of the rural population; rain water harvesting; green roofs; river embankment strengthening; food silos; early warning systems; and information and communication technology to facilitate information sharing.
16. **Request** the Secretary General to seek the views of APA Member Parliaments on the implementation of the present resolution and report there on to the next session of the Standing-Committee in 2017;



Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth

APA/ Res/2016/16
1 December 2016

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA resolution on the Ramification of International Financial Crisis for the Economies of Countries of APA Member Parliaments, APA/Res/2015/13 and other relevant APA resolutions;

Expressing concern with the repercussions of the sovereign defaults and financial markets volatility to the economic growth in APA countries;

Appreciating the measures that have already been taken by Asian Parliaments and their governments to contain the negative impacts of economic crisis in their economies, and expect them to take further steps to stimulate their respective economies;

Being Concerned that Britain's exit from the EU is likely to cause uncertainty in the world economy;

Noting that the economic growth in Asian Economies has not been shared equally in the society where by the Gini Coefficient, as reported by the Asian Development Bank, had grown significantly over the last decades and that regional cooperation which have already existed in Asia could serve as a platform for enhancing cooperation among sub regional economic organization that would improve welfare for all in Asia;

Noting that peace and stability in the region is an important contribute or to economic growth and that violence and political instability act as inhibitors for economic development and that maintaining regional collaboration on political stability is crucial;

Recognizing also the necessity to effectively reform the current global financial architecture so as to achieve a more balanced world economic and financial order;

1. **Call upon** Asian governments to take new policy approaches to develop a more comprehensive and innovative growth strategies needed to sustain a more resilient, balanced and sustain able economic growth that is necessary means to create decent jobs and reduce inequalities to promote the formation of a regional SME's network.
2. **Call upon** APA member parliaments to support the development of Asian-led multilateral bank sand its capacity to promote quit able economic growth, improve nation a land trans-boundary connectivity and to seek possible establishment of a regional stabilization fund in times of economic crisis;

3. **Encourage** APA member governments to create a protocol to enhance resilience to economic crisis which regulates the allocation for some budget reserves for economic crisis mitigation;
4. **Also encourage** governments in Asia to promote cross-border private investments while ensuring an institutional capacity and prudent regulatory frame work to enable countries to absorb large capital flows, while at the same time using bilateral swap arrangement to promote the role of local currency in financing cross-border trade;
5. **Recommend** APA member parliaments to promote the adoption of Basel III to improve supervision on financial sector governance;
6. **Encourage** parliaments in APA member countries to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development and focus on policies that alleviate poverty, including improving access to health, education and social protection to help close in come in equality;
7. **Call On** APA member parliaments to consider reviewing their respective legislations, where appropriate, to give more support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by giving access to low interest credit loan and to provide capacity building and regional networking to integrate SMEs into regional and global value chains;
8. **Encourage** parliaments to support financial inclusion for the poor in each respective country and to share best practices of financial inclusion in the region;
9. **Stress** the importance to invest in human development and to provide sufficient public funding for education and health for everyone, without gender bias, to face the future global and Asian economic demands;
10. **Request** the government in respective countries to channel more funds in joint research and development (R&D) activities as a means to spur innovation and viable economic growth strategies to sustain a more resilient economic growth;
11. **Also request** the government in respective Asian countries to promote the implementation of low carbon economy despite the global economy deceleration;
12. **Call up** the APA Member Parliaments to continuously promote the need for reform in global financial institutions and architecture, with the view for a balanced world economic and financial order;
13. **Call upon** APA member countries to strive to create an enabling institutional and business environment that can promote financial stability, financial inclusion, and efficient mobilization and utilization of the available resources;
14. **Cal Upon** APA member countries to facilitate investing their sovereign funds and encourage their private investors to invest in Asia rather than other parts of the world.



Resolution on Poverty Eradication

APA/ Res/2016/17
1 December 2016

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution on Alleviating Poverty in Asia (APA/Res/2015/08) adopted at the 8th APA Plenary in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 2015 and other relevant APA resolutions;

Underlining the significance of the role of Parliaments both in advocating and over sight of achievements of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially on Poverty Eradication;

Welcoming the High-level Plenary meeting of the U.N. General-Assembly on the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015 and its outcome; entitled as “Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development”, in particular referring to goal 2 of sustainable development to eradicate hunger, enhance food insecurity and improve nutrition by promoting sustainable agriculture

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized in the poverty eradication;

Noting that poverty alleviation is important to combat international terrorism, abuse of women & children and drug trafficking, arms smuggling, human trafficking, sea piracy and transnational crimes;

Mindful of the fact that the sustainable development recognizes that poverty eradication, fighting inequality, preserving the planet and creating inclusive economic growth are linked to each other and interdependent and that the SDGs balance all the three crucial sustainable development dimensions: the economic, the social and the environmental;

Reaffirming that poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development;

Supporting also a publicity campaign to raise awareness in the society about SDG utilizing the potentials of mass media;

Emphasizing that achieving food security requires efforts and coordination at both national and international level

Recognizing the important role of agriculture in meeting needs of increasing world population, underlining that sustainable agriculture practices and rural development

are key approaches to increase food security

We therefore,

1. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to work closely with their governments in the formulation and implementation of the measures which are outlined in the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development;
2. **Determine** to be more ambitious in our efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, ensure food security, access to healthcare and education;
3. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to redouble their efforts in supporting activities of poverty eradication and encourage their respective governments to facilitate the implementation of effective policies to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
4. **Urge** Member Parliaments to create awareness among general public about the importance of food and take possible steps to prevent its wastage.
1. **5. Invite** Member Parliaments to adopt necessary legislation to a) improve labour market regulations, b) support the informal sector and offering increased security to it, c) establish legal savings and loan associations that can help to reduce the reliance on moneylenders, d) promote modern agriculture which contributes essentially to reduction of poverty in urban and rural areas, e) empower the poor to improve their living conditions and participate in decision-making which affects their lives, f) help to upgrade the infrastructure and services in areas where the poor live and work and to provide better education for poor particularly for girls and g) improve disaster preparedness, disaster relief as well as post-disaster economic recovery;
5. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to support investment in climate resilient agriculture and to adopt a unified approach to combat hunger by promoting public and private investments, increased access to inputs, lands and technologies;
6. **Invite** APA Member Parliaments to take appropriate legislative measures for poverty alleviation including providing financial assistance to domestic producers through,
 - a) Government grants to support sustainable farming activities
 - b) Microfinance loans for small scale farmers
7. **Recommend** Member Parliaments to support and strengthen the capacities of government and communities to prepare for and respond to acute hunger arising from disasters through community based on social protection or safety nets;
8. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to take joint action to organize aid campaigns, on a voluntary basis upon the request of a Member Parliament, for assistance in

the context of alleviating poverty including to enhance domestic production of food by participating in agricultural technologies and training programs;

9. **Urge APA** Member States to give significance to development of sustainable agriculture practices while making national policies, to achieve Sustainable Development Goals;
10. **Call for** increased cooperation between developed and developing member countries for improving food security by means of multilateral information sharing, especially in an area of sustainable agricultural technology;
11. **Stressing** the significance of women participation and contribution in agriculture sector for improving productivity food security and eliminating poverty;
12. **Request** the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on their efforts to implement this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing-Committee in 2017.



Resolution on the Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

APA/ Res/2016/18
1 December 2016

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Acknowledging the outcome document for the United Nations Summit for the adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda entitled “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,” adopted in September 2015;

Referring to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Hanoi Declaration on The Sustainable Development Goals: Turning Words in to Action, adopted at its 132nd Assembly, held in Hanoi, Vietnam, March 2015; and other relevant inter-parliamentary organizations resolutions;

Being convinced that the SDGs are integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable, upholding the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, taking in to account different national capacities, levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities;

Underlining that strong political will and leadership of the parliament are essential for the achievement of the SDGs,

Emphasizing the need for a consensus between governments, parliaments and the people to recognize the importance of the development particularly in the areas of health, education, housing, food security, nutrition and environmental sustainability;

Welcoming the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals Commission in the Indonesian Parliament as a best practice to pursue the objectives at the national level;

1. **Endorse** the outcome document of the UN Summit for the adoption Post-2015 Development Agenda which adopted the SDGs as the new development framework for 2015- 2030. The list of the SDGs is annexed;
2. **Determine** to be actively involved in the formulation of national policies to support the main streaming and implementation of SDGs;
3. **Urge** the Asian Parliaments to contribute to the national efforts towards achieving the SDGs including through the establishment of the appropriate mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda at national level;
4. **Recommend** to Asian Governments to consider establishing an Asian

information centre in order to provide independent, scientific and reliable data and analytical information in reference to sustainable development indicators;

5. **Call up on** APA Members to provide adequate budgetary resources and adopt legislations which are relevant to support and monitor the successful implementation of the SDGs;
6. **Resolve** to strengthen the role of national parliaments in the advocacy of SDGs so that people understand that the SDGs are relevant to their lives;
7. **Request** the Standing Committees of APA to deliberate in a comprehensive manner issues of SDGs which are relevant to the work of their committees;
8. **Stress** the importance to develop data and indicators to setup a proper follow-up mechanism on the implementation of SDGs and the need to strengthen statistical capacities of all countries to support the progress;
9. **Request** all APA Member Parliaments to report their achievements in the implementation of the SDGs to the APA Secretariat in order to provide information for further discussion in the next Economic and Sustainable Development Standing Committee.

Sustainable Development Goals¹

- Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms every where
- Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promotes sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all a tall ages
- Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10 Reduce in equality within and among countries
- Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
- Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institution sat all levels
- Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

*acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, inter governmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change

¹ Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, finalized text for adoption (1 August), page 12, https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transforming_our_world, retrieved by 14August 2015.



Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All

APA/ Res/2016/19
1 December 2016

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recognizing the outcome document for the United Nations Summit for the adoption of Post- 2015 Development Agenda entitled “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,*” adopted in September 2015;

Recalling United Nations’ General Assembly resolution (A/64/292) adopted on 28th July 2010, which formally recognized water and sanitation as human rights and UN Human Rights Council resolution (A/HRC/RES/18/1) adopted on the 28 September 2011, recognizing that the right to water and sanitation are part of the right to an adequate standard of living;

Welcoming the SDG goal 6 on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, including universal and equitable access to drinking water, sustainable water resources management and wastewater treatment, providing a further anchor for sustainability in the water governance field;

Noting with interest relevant commitments and initiatives promoting the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, including the Abuja Declaration, adopted at the first Africa- South America Summit, in 2006, the Delhi Declaration, adopted at the third South Asian Conference on Sanitation, in 2008, the Sharm el-Sheikh Final Document, adopted at the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non- Aligned Countries, in 2009, and the Colombo Declaration, adopted at the fourth South Asian Conference on Sanitation, in 2011;

Deeply concerned that approximately one billion people across Asia could face severe water shortage by 2050;

Stress upon the need for Asian Governments to focus in national policies on water and sanitation issues and contribute towards international efforts in resolving these issues;

1. **Welcome** the inclusion of water and sanitation in Post-2015 Development Agenda and the acceptance of human right to safe drinking water and sanitation by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council;
2. **Consider** the role of Parliamentarian critical in the implementation of human rights approach to water and sanitation in Asia, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures in the implementation of their human rights obligations;

3. **Reaffirm** that APA Member States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full realization of SDGs including Goal 6, and must take steps, nationally and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the sanitation by all appropriate means;
4. **Request** Member Parliaments to urge their respective governments to cooperate with their regions to discuss the water scarcity challenge all over Asian countries and to study in depth the causes of the water scarcity and to provide appropriate solutions and strategies to overcome this challenge;
5. **Request** the APA Member States to ensure financing according to the available resources for the provision of affordable water and sanitation, and to develop indicators and data collection mechanisms to monitor progress and to identify shortcomings;
6. **Encourage** integrated water resource planning and management² for reducing widespread scarcity and pollution of freshwater resources in many regions and priority should be given to the fulfillment of basic needs and safeguarding of ecosystems in developing and using water resources;
7. **Urge** APA Parliamentarians to vigorously engage with executives on building inclusive frameworks between States for reduction of climate change impacts. These climate change impacts have severe consequences in the shape of water scarcity and flooding;
8. **Ask** APA Members to support advance technology transfers from developed countries to the developing countries of Asia and sharing of good practices for efficient allocation of water;
9. **Underline** the important role of the international cooperation provided by the United Nations, international development partners, as well as by donor agencies, in the achievement of the SDGs, and urges development partners to harmonize their strategies with the national initiatives and plans of APA Members related to safe drinking water and sanitation;
10. **Request** the Secretary-General to report, the achievement of APA Member Parliaments on this resolution, to the next Standing Committee on Sustainable Development.

² **Integrated water resources management (IWRM)** has been defined by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) as "a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems".