

Press Communiqué
**The Proceedings of the 9th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary
Assembly Were Opened Under the Theme of “Promoting Peace and
Sustainable Development in Asia”**
Siem Reap province, Kingdom of Cambodia
28 November to 2 December 2016

The 9th Plenary Session the Asian Parliamentary Assembly proceeded smoothly from 28th November to 2 December 2016 at Sokha Siem Reap hotel, which was held under the theme of “Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia” with the participation of the delegations from 23 APA member countries, successfully closed in the afternoon of 1 December 2016.

During the inaugural ceremony held in the afternoon of 28 November 2016, His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath NORODOM SIHAMONI, King of Cambodia, sent a royal message of congratulations to the plenary session, while the top leaders of the Kingdom of Cambodia, namely Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG SAMRIN, President of the National Assembly, 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, graced the event with their great presence and keynote addresses.

During the four-day APA plenary, several crucial meetings were conducted, for instance, the 2nd Executive Council Meeting, the election of H.E. Mr. Mohammad Reza Majidi APA secretary general replacing the former APA secretary general following his resignation, together with the selection of Turkey as the host of the next 10th and 11th APA plenary session, which are scheduled to take place in 2017-2018, while other four member countries: Bhutan, Pakistan, Bahrain and United Arab Emirates are set to assume the vice-presidency of the next APA.

The APA also opened its plenary session proceedings, which provided a great opportunity for honorable delegates from APA member parliaments to lively make their interventions surrounding the theme of “Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia”.

Meanwhile, the 9th plenary session also opened its four standing committee meetings: the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, the Standing Committee on Political Affairs, the Standing Committee on Staff and Financial

Regulations and the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development Affairs to discuss and adopt the resolutions drafted by each APA Standing Committee.

Therefore, the aforesaid Standing Committees passed 21 resolutions to be used as legal instruments for the promotion of peace and solidarity in Asia, which has been the APA goal in achieving Asian integration toward ensuring prosperity and sustainable development through the use of parliamentary mechanism. Finally, the APA 9th plenary session issued Siem Reap Declaration to reaffirm its stance and good will to national and international opinion.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, H.E. Dr. Nguon Nhel, Seconde Vice President of the National Assembly and the high representative of Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG SAMRIN, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, stated that the plenary has put forward some practical and good ideas for APA member parliaments to jointly take into consideration those ideas so as to synthesize our knowledge with high responsibility with the aim of mainstreaming them into national legislation of respective countries.

He added that the parliament of the Kingdom of Cambodia expressed its strong support for all initiatives which promote the settlement of issues through peaceful and non-violent environment so as to avert all kinds of armed confrontations, especially to bolster the role of parliaments in seeking peace and speeding up development in the region.

The 9th plenary session of the APA was successfully concluded, and delegates attending the event expressed their admiration to the parliament of the Kingdom of Cambodia for its dedication and unstinting efforts in hosting the APA plenary session for 2015-2016 term as a contribution to beefing up its performance so as to help build peace for Asian nations in consistent with the APA vision.

Phnom Penh, 2 December 2016
Secretariat-General of the National Assembly