



## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING** **APA WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS**



**09 December 2015**  
**Sokha Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

### **OPENING ADDRESS**

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BY

Honorable Khuon Sudary, MP

National Assembly, Kingdom of Cambodia

Honorables, Leaders of APA Delegations

Honorable APA Women Parliamentarians,

Distinguished Delegates,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. On behalf of Samdech Akka Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and APA President, it is my great honor and pleasure to extend my warmest welcome to all APA delegates to Cambodia, Kingdom of Wonder. Today, our capital city of Phnom Penh is proudly playing the host to this 8th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

2. Pursuant to the APA Plenary Resolution of 30 November 2010 on the establishment of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians, we are gathering here for the 2015 annual APA Plenary Session in order to enhance the participation and representation of women within APA, and to concentrate on areas of specific concerns, such as the role of women in scientific, political, cultural and economic matters, and the furtherance of peaceful dialogue on women's rights and equality to include the active participation in decision-making as well as development of mechanisms to promote the advancement and empowerment of women in every aspect of the societies.

3. You may recall that the same Plenary Resolution also highlighted the needs of placing on the agenda of APA meetings those matters of specific concerns to women and emphasized the

importance of women empowerment through networking between women parliamentarians in Asia.

4. These are ways that we, members of APA, can effectively promote ourselves and women's rights in general. We all notice that, despite all these efforts that have been made, gender imbalance and unequal opportunities still persist between women and men. It is vital that we continue to press on and make our voice heard.

5. May I suggest that we should be mindful, in our discussions today, of the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly that pertaining to women and gender equality such as fighting violence against women, empowerment of women in societies, women participation in politics, expanding women's economic opportunities, prevention of sexual violence, and providing greater educational access, job training skills and access to health services.

6. Yes, there are big challenges ahead of us. However, I am confident that in the spirit of solidarity, cooperation, trust, dialogue, networking among APA members, we can surely overcome all kinds of obstacles.

7. To close, I would like to wish all participants

- Honorables, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

- very successful deliberations

I thank you for your kind attention.