



**Address by H. E. Abdul Raouf Ibrahim
President of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People)
National Assembly of Afghanistan**

General debate on “Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in ASIA”

**Asian Parliamentary Assembly
The 8th Plenary Session
7-12 December 2015**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ!

In the name of God,
Hon. President of the 8th APA Plenary Session,
Distinguished delegates,

Good 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.

It's a matter of great pleasure and honor to be part of this crucial 8th APA Session with you all respected colleagues and focus on an issue which is so important to every individual human being and desires to have a peaceful life, indeed, in reality, Peace is the most valued phenomenon in the human communities.

Without peace, a prosperous life is inevitable, being together and living together, political development, economic and social welfare cannot be considered the only option to peace and stability in our human societies, it's a peaceful and a stabilized environment that can help in socio-economic development and in having a happy and prosperous life in our societies.

Distinguished delegates,

I'm representing a country and its people who have been a victim of the instability, insecurity for the last three decades because of external aggression and foreign

interventions in the domestic affairs of our country. In the mentioned period, you won't find a single case of a family that should have not lost their loved ones, their families and close friends. The people who spend their days and nights in hope of having peace, if you ask a person, whether young or old, even a small kid, they will express their strong desire for a sustainable and long lasting peace in their respective country.

Peace is what, where we can spend our time and our life without any serious concern, to be with our families and our loved ones, enjoy life, without facing any threats or risks go to schools, spend time with our friends without any concern and our mothers should not get concerned if we are late for home or go somewhere alone.

You are all well aware, that there are some countries and organizations, whose interests are directly or deliberately co-related to an insecure country or a neighborhood in the region, despite all the efforts and demands of the victim states, no one listens to their voices and don't care about what is happening.

The political leadership under H.E. Hamid Karzai, the former Afghan President and the current political leadership of the National Unity Government of Afghanistan, put their efforts all together to hold peace talks and negotiations with the opponent elements of the Afghan government, but unfortunately because of the lack of confidence from the other side, it hasn't been so productive and fruitful and had not have any tangible achievements, while only collaboration and flexibility from both sides, could help reach a concrete consensus and ensure peace and stability in Afghanistan, indeed it will further assist ensure peace and stability in the region and across the world.

Distinguished delegates,

The members of the parliaments are the true representative of their people, who know everything about their people's problems, pains, the challenges and obstacles they face on their way more than anyone else know, we have found all these problems and the challenges our people face and would like to have your kind attention to it.

If a house is on fire it directly affects the other house besides it, likewise instability, war and insecurity, could directly affect and could transfer from one country to the other, and could cause instability in the region, therefore, today's session titled "Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in ASIA" is an urgent need of our South Asia region.

Among the country's present in today's session, the leadership and the people of Afghanistan, has been a victim of war, insecurity, instability and sufferings from any other country, and needs to "Promote Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue" further in the current circumstances.

Distinguished parliamentarians,

I believe that if our friends, the respected participants of this session, whom are the representative of their people in their parliaments, could help us further promote peace, reconciliation and dialogue in our country by asking their respective senior governmental officials to honestly cooperate in Afghanistan's case.

We think a better approach would be to devise a comprehensive and concrete mechanism for the Dialogue, which shall be followed step by step and confirm who wants and promotes peace and are honest, and who wants peace in just talks but not in practice, this is where we can identify those elements who doesn't want peace and they are not honestly acting, and search their interests in the insecurity of other countries, so we can put pressure on those elements and make them sit for peace talks, otherwise, our hopes and wishes which is reaching a sustainable and long lasting peace will go in vain and the scope of the war and instability will further get wider and spread to the many other countries.

You are all well aware of the atrocities of the Daesh, particularly in Afghanistan and other countries of the world, a force that is as hostile as they are with human and humanity, committing war crimes and crimes against humanity, they are just a disgrace to the humanity, therefore, all the member states shall harmonize all their efforts in countering the Daesh atrocities, and eradicate their safe havens and condemn their terrorist acts against humanity, as it's the responsibility of all the nations as human beings.

If this fire transfers to other countries, it will further boost the terrorist groups and their supporters which will not only threat Afghanistan and our neighbors but also will set fire to the whole region and more nations will be facing serious insecurity challenges.

Therefore, peace, reconciliation and dialogue is an urgent need of our people and our region, and we have to jointly and socially act and focus together to defeat this new rising menace.

Thanking you all very much for the kind attention.