



Asian Parliamentary Assembly



For welcome address,

HON'BLE CHAIRMAN, Distinguished delegates

ASSALAMU ALAIKUM AND VERY GOOD MORNING

AT VERY OUTSET ON BEHALF OF BANGLADESH PARLIAMENT WE GREETINGS ALL MEMBERS OF ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA) AND DELEGATES, WE HAVE PROFOUND HONOUR & RESPECT OF ALL APA MEMBER COUNTRIES. LAST MONTH WE HAVE PARTICIPATED IN TEHRAN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE AND WE HAVE FEELING PROUD. WE HAVE SIMILAR CULTURE AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN APA COUNTRIES.

DR. SHIRIN SHARMIN CHAUDHURY, MP, HONORABLE SPEAKER OF BANGLADESH PARLIAMENT IS THE CHAIR PERSON OF COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (COPA), MR SABER HOSSAIN CHOWDHURY, MP OF BANGLADESH PARLIAMENT IS THE PRESIDENT OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU).

WE ARE VERY EAGER TO WORK WITH APA. WE SHOULD FOLLOW AND IMPLEMENT THE AGENDA OF APA.

THANK YOU FOR ALL.

MR. MD. MOZAMMEL HOSSAIN
TEAM LEADER OF BANGLADISH

MR. CHHABI BISWAS
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
BANGLADESH

Peace and Reconciliation

MR. CHHABI BISWAS
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
BANGLADESH

Conflicts not only take human lives, it destroys communities and distracts development goals, but also leaves a legacy of fear, hostility and trauma. Without effective, inclusive peace and reconciliation processes, countries are likely to revert back to violence.

The term 'reconciliation' generally refers to the process of developing conciliatory accommodation between antagonistic or formerly antagonistic persons or groups. In conflicts areas worldwide local people are building peace, stopping violence, saving lives, healing shattered communities. Peace comes from, unity, kinship and harmony with those around us. Peace is a feeling we are born with. The religious face of the world is changing. At a dramatic pace, more and more regions of the world are becoming environments of multi-culture and multi-faith.

At the root of this phenomenon are international patterns of migration. The worldwide movement of people and cultures has facilitated dialogue, discussion of followers of various religions. Inter-faith dialogue refers to cooperative and positive interaction between people of different religious traditions of both the individual and institutional level, with the aim of deriving a common ground in belief through a concentration on similarities between faiths, understanding of values, and commitment to the world. We have to work together toward global peace, harmony and unity through reconciliation.

People belong to different faiths, communities, class need to work together to safeguard the values of families, society, to reduce poverty and to work together to overcome all kinds of violence. Our nation is a multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual nation of 160 million people. All citizens practice their respective religions freely and peacefully, a right guaranteed by the constitution of Bangladesh. More than 100 years ago Swami Vivekananda noted with profound regret that we cannot think of any crime which has not been committed in the name of religion. After so many years we note with extreme sadness that religion is seen as a leading contributor to intolerance, human rights violations and violent extremism afflicting the world in 21st century. But we know, no religion teaches violence or encourages hatred towards others. We know that all religions have a common core in the teachings of their founders or the teachings of their scriptures, which is: 'love one another'. All religions must mutually cooperate for the purpose of the new culture of peace through reconciliation. The core philosophy of each religion is the philosophy of love, respect and non-violence.

Dialogue is the best way to dispel misgivings of the religions and to let everyone know that despite differences in respect of external rituals, the essence of religions is same- unity, peace and welfare of the people. Indeed, all religions teach unity and fraternity and exhort the adherents rise above narrow sectarianism and respect the views of others. Unity in diversity should be the core value of peace and it is possible through reconciliation.

Dialogue is the search for an understanding between people with a view to a common interpretation of their agreement or their disagreement. It implies a common language, honesty is the presentation of one's position and the desire to do one's utmost to understand the point of view of others. We need to learn, or relearn, to live together or collaborate with one another to build our nation, our modern world. We need to collaborate unity in diversity and promote peace, harmony and reconciliation.

Peace and unity is very much essential for sustainable development of the country. Bangladesh, under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, is progressing tremendously in the field of economy, agriculture, education, women empowerment. Peace and reconciliation in the country is the pre-condition to achieve the goals of sustainable development by 2030. A process of dialogue between all religions should be strengthened and the Parliamentarians can play vital role in this regard.