

Keynote Speech at the 8th Plenary Session of the APA

Mr. President,

Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to attend the 8th Plenary Session of the APA in Phnom Penh. First of all, On behalf of the Chinese delegation from the National People's Congress, I would like to thank Mr. Heng Samrin, Chairman of the National Assembly of Cambodia, and Mr. Mohammad Hadi Nejad Hosseinian, APA Secretary-General for their excellent preparations for the plenary session. With the joint efforts of Mr. President and all the colleagues, I believe this meeting will be a great success.

My fellow colleagues,

The international situation is undergoing profound changes. Geopolitical factors are more prominent than ever. Though the world economy is in recovery, the basis does not stand firmly. With the revolution of the international system intensified, ideologies worldwide turn to be more diverse. An increasing number of non-traditional security challenges, including terrorism, cyber security, energy safety, food security, climate

change and so on, require the international community to respond together. To our joy, regardless of the complicated transformation of the international configuration, Asia is largely stable with domestic political situations of most Asian countries being sound. Asian economy grows fast, with regional cooperation booming and the momentum for development being strong. It is the major trend to seek peace, stability and development. However, instability and uncertainties still exist. Some countries have increased military spending and deployment in the Asia-Pacific Region. Others lifted restrictions on military advancement, shadowing the peace of this region. Non-traditional security challenges, including terrorism, natural disasters, cross-border crimes and the like, are more severe. The recent explosion of the Russian passenger flight, as well as the terrorist attacks in Paris, reveal to us once again the cruel nature of terrorism and the uneasy fight against it. In terms of the economy, influenced by the global economic and financial trend, the economic growth in Asia faces some downward pressure. Countries have a growing burden for sustaining growth, restructuring economy and promoting people's livelihood. Faced with the changing global and regional environment, Asian countries follow the trend of our times closely, and jointly build

a better and preferential regional order for Asia and the globe. In such a context, we gather at Phnom Penh and discuss the topic, “promoting peace, reconciliation and dialogue in Asia”, which is of great significance to the regional peace and sustainable development.

My fellow colleagues,

During the past nine years since its establishment, with the joint efforts of all parties, the APA has become a very influential inter-parliamentary organization in this region. Since we are representing our people, it is our duty to urge and oversee governments to adhere to the path of peaceful development, to promote regional economic development and to deepen people-to-people exchanges in all areas. We should dedicate ourselves to Asian prosperity and progress, to bring more benefits to our people. Hereby, we would make the following proposals:

- 1, To build political mutual trust, and to maintain regional peace. We owe the fast development of Asia to the overall peace and stability in this region. All countries are benefited directly from regional peace, and should unswervingly maintain peace in this

region. During the general debate on the 70th UN General Assembly, President Xi Jinping proposed that we should build a new-model of international relations featuring cooperation and win-win results. Countries should also work to establish an equal, consultative and accommodating partnership with each other, and to uphold such basic international principles governing international relations, as the UN Charter. We should respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference with others' internal affairs, adhere to multilateralism, adopt a new idea of win-win results and mutual advancements and get rid of the zero-sum logic. Disputes and divergence should be solved through dialogues and consultations, which will lead us to a new path of international exchanges characterized by "dialogues rather than confrontations, partnership rather than alignment". It is our responsibility to create a secure international structure of equality, justice and sharing, and to abandon any form of Cold War mentality. By combining peaceful solutions to disputes with mandatory actions, we should build a new notion of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. We also channel efforts to fight against both traditional and non-traditional security threats. China advocates upholding

common values of human being, including peace, development, equality, democracy and freedom. We hope to build a community with common destiny with other Asian countries, so as to achieve peace, stability and prosperity in this region.

2, To intensify economic cooperation and to promote regional integration. The Asian economy is highly connected with the global one. When the global economy is sluggish in recovery and lack in demand, the Asian economy faces challenges brought by the infirm basis and transformation from old impetus to new ones. With this in mind, we should carry on enhancing macro-economic policy mediation, push forward structural reform, speed up the transformation of economic development model and adjust economic structure. We should improve the living standards for our people, facilitate trade and investment liberalization, constantly improve regional infrastructure network, and to enhance connectivity in this region. By the end of this year, the ASEAN community pillared by the political and security community, economic community and social and cultural community will be officially launched. This will be a landmark of the integration of ASEAN countries and a symbol that the regional cooperation enters a new stage. China

welcomes the establishment of the ASEAN community, wishes to see the integration of Asian countries, and would finish the free trade arrangements as soon as possible. With these efforts, we could fully unleash the dynamism of regional funds, technology, labor force and capital, make use of our respective advantages and improve trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, in order to inject new momentum into the economic development in Asia.

3, To deepen cultural exchanges, and to boost exchanges and mutual learning between different civilizations. In the long history, Asia has incubated many ancient civilizations, making great contributions to the human civilization. In today's Asia, cultural diversity has become more prominent. Various civilizations, nations and religions converge here, forming the colorful Asian family. Mencius, the Ancient Chinese thinker once said, "It is the nature of creations to be diverse." No one could judge a civilization to be more or less advanced, though different characteristics do exist. China firmly opposes to link terrorism with any specific religion, civilization or nation. We hold the view that religions and civilization diversity are common wealth of the human society. Countries should work

together to seek consensus. We propose to eliminate estrangements, miscomprehensions and divergence between religions and cultures on the basis of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation. With full respect for different countries and cultures, we will tighten the friendship ties with people from other countries by enabling civilizations to communicate and learn from each other.

My fellow colleagues,

As the second largest economy in the world, the development trend of China's economy draws a lot of attention from the world. Some of you asked me about China's economic development during this session. Here, I would like to give a brief introduction on China's economic development. This year, despite the fact that the world economic growth lacks momentum, China positively responds to all difficulties and challenges, strengthening macro-regulations and fueling reforms. The Chinese economy still operates within an appropriate range. A steady and relatively fast growth rate is maintained. In the first three quarters this year, China's economy grew by 6.9%, whose contribution rate to the world economy reached about 30%. This is a growth on such a big basis of 10 trillion US

dollars, as well as a growth from structural adjustment and development model transformation, which does not come easily.

As a member of the Asian family, China's development is closely connected with the Asian development as a whole. Two years ago, Chinese leaders put forward cooperative initiatives of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" and the "21st-Century Maritime Silk Road", which are warmly welcomed and actively participated by many Asian leaders. In the past two years, with the concerted efforts of 60 countries and international organizations along the route, these initiatives have gained a potent momentum and an initial effect. I believe that with your joint efforts, the "Road and Belt Initiative" will bring more concrete benefits and cooperative platforms for Asian countries, so as to achieve peace, cooperation and development in Asia, and to promote common prosperity in this region.

My fellow colleagues,

The APA, as an inter-parliamentary organization in Asia, upholds the principles and notions that are in accordance with the aim of the "Road and Belt Initiative" to promote "connectivity in five aspects", namely connectivity of policies,

infrastructure, trade, capital and people-to-people affections. The APA serves as an important platform for facilitating Asian connectivity and cooperation. We hope that all countries could link their development needs with strategies and planning, and achieve the goal that we could exchange production factors smoothly, make full use of industrial and capacity advantages to backup each other and draw on development experience from each other. Thereby, we can optimize Asian supply, industrial and value chains, pursuing a size economy and connected effect, and eventually revitalize Asian economy as a whole.

As we look forward, the development of Asia and the whole world is faced with unprecedented historical opportunities, together with more complicated risks and challenges. As a member of Asia, China is ready to work with all other Asian countries to establish a new model of comprehensive partnership, and to welcome a peaceful and prosperous future together.

Thank you all!