



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
THE 8<sup>th</sup> PLENARY SESSION OF  
"PROMOTING PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND  
DIALOGUE IN ASIA"  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia | 7-12 December 2015

**STATEMENT BY HEAD OF DELEGATION  
HON. MR. AGUS HERMANTO  
(Deputy Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives)  
General Debate of Plenary Meeting**

*Your Excellencies, Mr. President, Speakers and Deputy Speakers of APA Member Parliaments,*

*Your Excellencies, Head of Delegates and Honorable Delegates of Asian Parliamentary Assembly, Distinguished Guests,*

***AssalamualaikumWr. Wb.***

***May the peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be upon you.***

*Allow me to begin my statement by conveying my appreciation to the Parliament of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the warm welcome and hospitality in this auspicious occasion.*

*In the upcoming days, I look forward to working with your honorable parliamentarians of APA members in the eighth Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in Phnom Penh.*

*We gather here today under one goal to build a shared future for our people. Today, let me share Indonesia's thoughts of our challenges and beyond.*

***Distinguished delegates,***

*Let's start by addressing the challenge to our future. The recent act of terrors in Paris and Beirut shows us that terrorism remains a threat to the peace and stability of our people. The growing threat of terrorism calls for nations to work with each other to address this threat.*

*As we grieve with the victims and their families, we have to bolster our cooperation in addressing this threat. From our experience, the promotion of tolerance and interfaith dialogue provide the avenue to counter the spread of radicalism. It promotes differences and dialogue within our people.*

*Differences and dialogue are parts of our daily life as legislators in our respective country. Being legislators, we believe that these differences and dialogue are not barriers, but instead a valuable asset to produce a greater good for the many.*



*Reflecting from that, I believe that the promotion of deradicalization and interfaith dialogue will be able to address the growing challenges of terrorism. Let's address this challenge together to maintain our shared peace and stability in the region.*

***Distinguished Delegates,***

*Now, allow me to talk about our future. We tend to vision the future as a distant thing while today our shared future is closer than we think.*

*From the rising global climate, natural disaster, unpredictable weather, and the rising sea level. We have witnessed that to build our shared future, we have to start today.*

The sixteenth goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represents our commitment, as part of the international community, to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, *which is essential for our shared future.*

*I am confident that this significant milestone will elevate our efforts in pursuing the assurance of regional economic growth and our future.*

***Distinguished members of APA,***

Furthermore, we shall not forget the vision of connecting Asia's parliaments as one union under the umbrella of Asian Parliament which has been discussed last year in Lahore.

Indonesia wholeheartedly welcomes this idea.

However, we have to view the Asian Parliament as a process, as the preparation involved a lot of homework, especially in orchestrating the initiative amongst our diverse members.

*Diversity is nothing new to us. We are of different cultures, beliefs, political systems, and perspectives. Nonetheless, it is not a barrier to work hand-in-hand altogether to build our shared future*

*I believe that cultural diversity and heritage in the region can be a unifying force amongst us that eventually will integrate us further. Our constructive partnership is fundamental for our regional unity, for an Asian Parliament.*



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
THE 8<sup>th</sup> PLENARY SESSION OF  
"PROMOTING PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND  
DIALOGUE IN ASIA"

Phnom Penh, Cambodia | 7-12 December 2015

**Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

*To conclude, this meeting is a milestone for us Asian legislators to discuss and have a further dialogue to strengthen our cooperation and addressing our common challenges. Let these upcoming days deliberate a fruitful and meaningful outcome as we expect.*

*We are delighted to provide our contribution for the success of your hosting of APA Plenary Session this year.*

**Thank you.**

**Wassalamu'alaikum Mr. ME.**