

**Asian Parliamentary Assembly  
The 8th Plenary Session**

**Second Executive Council Meeting  
8 December 2015  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

- **Honourable Speakers, Presiding Officers, Members and Representatives of APA Member Parliaments and Observer delegations.**
- **H.E. (Dr. Noon Nehl), Dr. NGUON Nhel, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of Cambodia and Chairman of Organizing Committee,**
- **Honourable Dr. Masood Islami,**  
Under-Secretary-General, Asian Parliamentary Assembly.
- **Excellencies, Dignitaries, Distinguished Guests.**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen!**  
**Assalam-o-Alaikum!**

It is indeed a pleasure, in capacity of the President APA, to welcome you all at this 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Council meeting in Cambodia that brings together regional leaders, legislators and visionaries par excellence.

I deeply acknowledge your determination in steering APA initiatives towards realizing common objectives as per the APA Charter and as also debated during various sub-forums and standing committee meetings since the 6<sup>th</sup> Plenary session held in Islamabad in 2013.

Together, you inspiringly represent pragmatism, rich diversity, pluralism and positivity that defines our great continent in this Asian Century.

*Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen!*

The present Executive Council meeting picks up the thread in continuation of our joint endeavors to tap the enormous potential of Asian continent for the betterment of our peoples, by forging strong and enduring inter and intra-regional partnerships.

I avidly look forward to listening to your views and suggestions as we discuss the proposed amendments and recommendations during this Executive Council meeting on the 18 Draft Resolutions to the Plenary.

Moreover, here I would also like to state, and at the same time solicit your support, in principle, that the Special Committee on the Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) was established during the 7<sup>th</sup> Plenary session in Lahore in December 2014 as an independent body, which had to work under the auspicious of the Senate of Pakistan. However, during the 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Council Meeting, held in Tehran in November 2015, it was proposed that the SCCAP may be linked to the Standing Committee on Political Affairs. I appreciate that this was not the primary objective of creating SCCAP. But, I suggest that the SCCAP may work and function independently, under the supervision of the Senate of Pakistan, as agreed, and it must submit its annual report to the Plenary, as the Pakistan delegation shall be submitting during this Plenary session.

I would also take this opportunity to explain that Pakistan was desirous of hosting four APA statutory meetings during September this year. These meetings included:

- Troika Plus Meeting
- 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Council Meeting
- Meeting of the Standing Committee on Social & Cultural Affairs
- Meeting of the Special Committee of Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP).

However, due to scanty confirmations (hardly 4), we had to postpone the meetings from September 2015 to October 2015 to be held in Geneva on the

sidelines of 133<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly. But the APA Secretariat Tehran volunteered to host two of the four meetings in Tehran. I, being President APA, agreed to the proposal and we had the 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Council Meeting in Tehran on November 2-3, this year.

*Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen!*

I am positive that deliberations and outcomes of this Executive Council meeting and our future endeavors will help us achieve all this and more.

**I Thank you!**