



## Asian – African Parliamentary Declaration

### **“Towards stronger partnership for world peace and prosperity”**

1. We, parliamentarians from over 31 Asian African countries, gathered on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2015, in Jakarta, Indonesia to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> years of Asian African Conference to further strengthen the role of parliaments in the South-South cooperation and to contribute to the promotion of world peace and prosperity.
2. We recognize the importance of South-South cooperation, complementing North-South cooperation, in particular in the fields of sharing of knowledge and experience, training, technology transfer, financial and monetary cooperation and in-kind contributions; the need to enhance local capacity in developing countries by supporting local capabilities, institutions, expertise, human resources and national systems, where appropriate, in contribution to national development priorities.
3. We reiterate our commitment to the Ten Principles of Bandung Conference, in the spirit of solidarity, friendship and cooperation as its core principles, which continues to be a solid, relevant and effective foundation for nurturing stronger relations among governments and parliaments of the Asian-African countries and provide guidance in resolving global issues of common concern.
4. We recognize that Asian-African countries have attained significant political progress and economic transformation since the 1955 Conference. Yet, we observe the need to further improve cooperation in



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resolving the challenges faced by Asian-African countries, including intra and inter-state conflicts, poverty and social inequality and diseases.

5. We endeavour to develop stronger collaboration among parliaments of Asian-African countries as a means to further intensifying dialogue and seeking ways to support the governments of the two-continents in overcoming the challenges.
6. We encourage efforts and initiatives to enhance parliamentary cooperation among Asian-African countries in eradicating poverty and hunger, promoting gender equality, access to science, information and communication technologies, environment, culture, health, education and human development through multilateral multi-stakeholder and public-private partnerships;
7. We take note of the need for a stronger coherence among Asian and African countries at all levels, including among its parliaments, among others through better coordination between the Asian and African Groups in the UN and further exploration for new dimensions of cooperation within the South and between the South and the North.

**Peace and Prosperity**

8. We share a common hope with our Governments for stable peace and security, as well as for economic and social justice. We envision an equitable international order firmly rooted in the rule of law, the principles of resolving disputes and conflicts through dialogues and peaceful means in accordance with United Nations Charter as well as common but differentiated responsibility and joint commitment to global cooperation and solidarity.



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9. We are committed to aid our Governments in managing current challenges faced by Asian and African countries such as transnational organized crimes, traditional and non-traditional security matters including illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, maritime and aviation security, climate change, diseases, natural disasters, trafficking in persons and drugs, illegal fishing, wildlife trafficking, etc through the development and strengthening of relevant national legislations.
  
10. We recognize the growing links between transnational organized crime and acts of terrorism. We resolutely condemn acts of terrorism in all their forms and manifestation, including the destruction of cultural heritage and generating income from engaging directly or indirectly in the looting and smuggling of cultural heritage items from archaeological sites, museums, libraries, archives, and other sites committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, to name a few, the violence perpetrated by self proclaimed Daesh Islamic State (IS), Al-Nusra Front (ANF) movements as well as Boko Haram. We call upon parliaments and the international community to further strengthen their efforts in the fight against terrorism, extremism and radical groups, among others by drawing up legislations which can contribute to the mitigation of citizens joining such organizations, as well as to the exchange of relevant information among States as a common strategy.



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11. We stress the importance of the UN reform in attaining equitable global development for all regions, including Asia and Africa, as Asian-African countries make up more than half of UN member states. Furthermore, we highlight the need for the UN Security Council to reform in order to better reflect the current global political landscape and provide an effective, efficient and fair mechanism in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter in asserting international peace and security.
12. We affirm that the journey towards democracy should be undertaken in conformity with the aspiration of the people and their respective norms and cultures. While we believe in the universal value of democracy, we also believe that democracy should be home-grown and no single model of democracy can be imposed upon other countries.
13. We take note of much progress that has been made through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We support our governments in pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular to the matters relevant to poverty, education and gender empowerment, health related issues, peace and stability, democratic governance, climate change and environmental issues. We are determined to engage ourselves in the earliest possible time to SDGs from its formulation to its implementation by providing adequate parliamentary perspectives and intervention through legislation, budget allocation, program monitoring as well as by involving ourselves in the global development through SDGs. In this regards, we reiterate our commitments enshrined in Ha Noi



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Declaration of “Sustainable Development Goals: Turning words into action”, adopted by the 132<sup>nd</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union General Assembly in March 2015 in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

14. We recognize the urgency for supporting our respective governments in the promotion of economic cooperation in the Asian and African region on the basis of mutual interest and respect for national sovereignty. We are convinced that an inclusive, universal, open, rules based and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system helps foment global economic growth and sustainable economic development, creating jobs and welfare.

**Asia Africa Cooperation: The way forward**

15. We underscore the importance of the Declaration on the NAASP of 2005 as a framework to bridge and strengthen practical cooperation between Asia and Africa, and the need for supporting our respective governments in exploring concrete opportunities that could maximise the successful implementation of NAASP.
16. We recognize that Asian-African countries have the necessary resources that could be explored further for the benefit of our people, by expanding infrastructure projects and enhancing connectivity to boost trade, investment, bankable projects and assistances, economy, SMEs development, transfer-technology in Asia-Africa, including through South-South Cooperation.



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17. In light of the above, we acknowledge the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean in bridging Asia and Africa. We welcome the chairmanship of the Government of Indonesia in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) 2015-2017 and encourage our governments to support Indonesia in promoting concrete cooperation in the six priority areas of the IORA, namely: maritime safety and security; trade and investment facilitation; fisheries management; disaster risk management; academic and science and technology cooperation as well as tourism and cultural exchanges.
18. As Governments are preparing for the forthcoming Conference of the State Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP UNFCCC) 21 in Paris, in 2015, we reaffirm our shared commitment to catalyze their actions on climate change, to inspire them to further increase ambition before 2020 and to encourage them to support the 2015 agreement.
19. We underline the importance of bringing the two regions closer through cooperation and coordination as well as mutual support in various inter-parliamentary forums. We support the idea of establishing the Asian and African Parliamentary Group.

**Solidarity for Palestine**

20. We, in the spirit of the Asian-African solidarity, are deeply concerned by the illegal occupation of Israel in the Palestinian land which has lasted for more than five decades with no effective recognised international solution thus far. We reaffirm our full support to the just struggle of the



Palestinian people and welcome the 2012 UN General Assembly decision to accord the status of non-member Observer State to Palestine as a means of international recognition of the existence of Palestine and their rights for sovereignty over their own land

21. We also reaffirm that a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only be achieved based on the acknowledgement of independent, viable and democratic Palestinian State which lives side by side in peace and security with all of its neighbours. We are committed to provide support for Palestine through various means, including the existing platform of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP).
22. We condemn any efforts to change the identity and character of the city of Jerusalem by desecrating the Christian and Muslim holy places which would introduce religion as a new factor in the conflict between Palestinian and Israelis and call for stopping these violations.
23. We recognize that a comprehensive and lasting peace requires ending the Israeli occupation of Syrian Golan Heights, Lebanese Sheba Farms and the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967 in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative.
24. We urge the Israeli government to immediately release the terminally sick Palestinian prisoners and the Parliamentarians detained without trial.



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**Words of Appreciation**

30. We express appreciation to the Parliament, the People and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for the successful organization and warm hospitality extended to the participants of the Parliamentary Conference in Commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Asian African Conference and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership.



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