



**ASIA AFRICA PARLIAMENTARY
CONFERENCE TO COMMEMORATE THE
60TH YEARS OF ASIAN AFRICAN
CONFERENCE**

SUMMARY REPORT of the CONFERENCE

The Asia Africa Parliamentary Conference to Commemorate 60th Years of Asian African Conference was held on the 23rd of April 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Conference was attended by 34 Parliamentary Delegations from Asian-African countries. Delegations from Algeria, Bahrain, Lao PDR, Libya, Sudan, Vanuatu, and Zimbabwe were led by the Speakers of Parliaments, and delegations from Kenya, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Syria, Timor Leste and Vietnam were led by the Vice Speakers of Parliaments. The Conference was held to further strengthen the role of parliaments in the South-South cooperation and to contribute to the promotion of world peace and prosperity. List of Participants is attached as **Annex 1**.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

The Opening Session started at 9.30 am.

Hon. Dr. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf, the Chairperson of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, delivered report on the arrangement of the Conference. In her report, she highlighted that sixty years after the first Asian-African Conference and a decade following the signing of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP), the Indonesian House of Representatives has the initiative to strengthen the bridge between Asia and Africa. To ensure the success of this event, the Committee has taken preparatory activities, including discussion and meeting with Excellency Ambassadors from the Asian and African countries. Dr. Assegaf expressed her warm welcome to all delegates.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Setya Novanto delivered his opening remarks. H.E. Novanto cordially welcoming all delegates to the Asian-African Parliamentary Conference to Commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Asian-African Conference. The meeting will discuss a broad subject of sustainable development, which should be taken as a major consideration and priority for both continents. A new strategic partnership should be fostered to realize the aspirations of Asian and African people for a more peaceful and prosperous world. The partnership will also pave the way for supporting the Palestinian independence, as our common will. The meeting is expected to produce a joint declaration to strengthen South-South Cooperation through concrete collaboration in investment, infrastructure development, and trade. Communication should be built between Asia and Africa. H.E. Novanto emphasized the role of the Indonesian House of Representatives in multi-track diplomacy. He further expressed the proposal of the Indonesian Parliament on the importance of the establishment of Parliamentary Forum for Democracy and Asian-African Parliamentary Group.

The President of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Joko Widodo delivered his opening remarks. The President expressed his appreciation to the Indonesian House of Representatives for organizing this



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meeting. Indonesia is truly honored to host a number of international events in commemorating the 60th Anniversary of Asian-African Conference. Asian-African cooperation is particularly important to build peace, prosperity, and solidarity for Palestine. The President acknowledged the role of the Parliaments of Asian and African countries in putting the new Asian-African strategic partnership into reality. Further, he highlighted that parliaments are the moral compass to secure world peace and prosperity.

SESSION I - Working together for peace and prosperity: Parliamentary cooperation in promoting post-2015 Development Agenda

Session I was chaired by Hon. Dr. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf, the Chairperson of the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Committee of the Indonesian House of Representatives, also the Chairperson of the Indonesian Parliamentary Task Force for the post-2015 development agenda. In her opening remarks, she highlighted that the Asian-African conference left solidarity, friendship, and cooperation as its core principles. Asia and Africa are growing to be the important forces of the global economic growth with the combined GDP accounted for 17.4 trillion in 2013; Africa's spending is projected to be 1.3 trillion USD in 2030; and Asia's GDP is projected to account for half of world's GDP by 2050. This year marks an important step for Asian-African Parliaments to contribute in the formulation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Peace and stability are the essential enablers of sustainable development. Dr. Assegaf also highlighted that trans-national organized crimes, terrorism, corruption, trafficking and illicit trade, as well as climate change are some of the upcoming challenges of our time.

Keynote speech by Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the 6th President of the Republic of Indonesia and co-chair of the High Level Panel of Eminent Person on the Post-2015 development agenda. He emphasized that we are celebrating Bandung (the first Asian-African Conference) with better circumstances, but with new challenges, including from globalization. We still live in turbulent times. In the post-cold war, the world is still in the search of the right equilibrium. Today, Asia-Africa has evolved from continents of poverty into continents of opportunity. The 21st century has said to be the Asian Century, but with the new emerging economies in the African region, this is also the African Century. Extreme poverty has been pushed down to historic low of 20 percent. However, 700 million people in Africa are still living in poverty. The answer is economic growth. Community of nations will embark on the next global development agenda. We have to ensure that the agenda will also continue to change the lives of Asians and Africans. SBY has profoundly contributed to the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The major challenge for Asia and Africa today is the deepening of inter-regional and intra-regional cooperation. Indonesia in particular has taken an active role in building the capacity of Palestinians. Development and progress come from within. No amount of external aid and south-south cooperation can



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change a nation's destiny, because it can only be changed by its own people. Prof. Yudhoyono stressed that governance means openness and accountability, leadership and democracy, the rivers between development and underdevelopment. It is a critical time for Asia and Africa to spread peace. We must end conflicts in the Middle East. We must find a peaceful end for regional conflicts. Things may get worse, but we can make it better through brotherhood. Entrepreneurship, innovation, and technology should be at the heart of national development plan. More investments between Asian and African countries in terms of physical investment and human investment are also imperatives.

Statements by delegations

H.E. Mdm. Pany Yathotou, Speaker of the Parliament of Lao PDR

South-South cooperation will become increasingly important for the implementation of SDGs. Lao PDR will continue its policy base on economic development in parallel with social development and environmental preservation. As a legislative body, parliaments have the responsibility to support the implementation of development policies by the executives. H.E. Yathotou highlighted the importance of inter-parliamentary cooperation as an opportunity to exchange best practices between developing countries. Through the NAASP, Asian and African countries should put political solidarity, economic cooperation, and socio-cultural cooperation into a more productive outcome.

H.E. Mr. Uong Chu Luu, Vice Speaker of the Parliament of Vietnam

Following the success of the 132nd IPU General Assembly, Vietnam Delegation reiterate their commitment to ensure the successful establishment of SDGs as well as to maintain peace and stability in the region through peaceful conflict resolution. As one of the founding members of Bandung (Declaration), Vietnam is ready to deepen cooperation with Africa and has established trade relations with 53 African countries.

H.E. Dr. Al Fateh Izzeldin Al Mansour, Speaker of the Parliament of Sudan

During the first Asian-African Conference, many participating countries were still colonized. Sudan gained independence not long after the conference. Today, there are no longer foreign occupation in Asia and Africa, but in reality, new form of colonialism has brought conflicts to some African countries. Africa is



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also lagging behind other regions in economic and trade, but Africa today is different than 60 years ago. Through openness, Africa is ready for development and strengthening cooperation with Asia. H.E. Al Mansour also highlighted the importance of networking in terms of knowledge and technological innovation. Further, the link between Asia and Africa is expected to be able to minimize gaps between the two continents.

Hon. Mr. Al Tarawneh Maddallah, Head of Delegation of Jordan

Hon. Maddallah expressed his appreciation to Indonesia, as the host country. In 1955, Jordan as a participant of the Asian-African Conference, was still striving for independence. Today, Jordan is struggling to be able to provide capacity building for other countries. Jordan is in the process of development and is supporting the action plan formulated by Asian-African countries. Unity should be able to end conflicts. Terrorism and radicalization should be addressed appropriately. All Muslims should support the independence of Palestine.

H.E. Dr. Fahmy Hasan, Vice Speaker of the Parliament of Syria

H.E. Hasan conveyed warm greetings from the Syrian people and parliament. Syrians are hoping for peace and stability as they are in the midst of terrorism which aims to destroy the government. H.E. Hasan expressed his concern that some nations have contributed to fund the terrorists groups in Syria. He acknowledged that peace is the most important element. Further, he was deeply concern with the Palestinian people. The fire of conflict has spread out to many other countries. Parliaments should not stay silent towards what is happening in Syria. We have to coordinate and collaborate to eliminate terrorism and the source/root cause of terrorism. Indonesia has been cooperating with Syria in creating peace in the region. Parliaments are mandated to create peace, security, and stability through its parliamentary function.

Hon. Mdm. Meutya Viada Hafid, Member of Delegation of Indonesia

Several decades after Bandung, Asian African countries have taken an active part in establishing and reaching the goals of MDGs to eliminate poverty and attain prosperity. However, attaining such lofty goal is not an easy task. The MDGs comes to an end this year, it is therefore timely to discuss the future of global development agenda beyond 2015. We need to ensure that the future of development agenda will carry forward the spirit of the current MDGs, such as poverty eradication, education, health, gender equality, and women empowerment. The process of the future development agenda shall continue to be an inclusive and



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transparent manner. It also needs to be focused on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development, economy, social, and environment. As the world's most populated region, Asia-Africa should benefit most from this new global agenda. As Asian and African countries hold more than half of the membership of the UN, Hon. Hafid encouraged Asian-African Parliaments to gather the aspirations to strengthen the work of the UN including the UN Security Council.

H.E. Adriano do Nascimento, Vice Speaker of the Parliament of Timor Leste

H.E. Adriano expressed his appreciation to the visit of former Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to Timor Leste prior to the end of his presidential term. The principles of the Bandung spirit are still relevant today. H.E. Adriano emphasized that there is "no size fits all," but in general, the parliaments are mandated to monitor the implementation of sound policies for sustainable development. Parliaments should also enable the formulation of the necessary legislation in supporting the global development agenda.

Hon. Mr. Kil Jeong Woo, Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea

This year, we will be welcoming the new global agenda for sustainable development. We have to ensure that the new agenda accommodates the importance of accountability in the process. Parliaments should ensure that the national legislation is in line with SDGs. All 17 goals should be translated into national legislation. Parliaments should promote the coherence of related policies by amending laws appropriately; monitoring the implementation process; providing feedback through budgeting and legislating powers. Parliaments should enhance their own capabilities to be able to evaluate the efforts exercised by governments. Inter-parliamentary exchange is particularly important to represent the strong political will of parliaments towards the success of SDGs.

Hon. Mr. Irmohizam Bin Ibrahim, Head of Delegation of Malaysia

The Asian-African Parliamentary Conference marked the shift of development paradigm in Asia and Africa towards the Post-2015 framework. Elected parliaments should bridge the relationship between the government and citizens. In Asia-Pacific region, economic growth is in a major transition due to growing inequality and multiple emerging threats. In the face of this global turbulence, countries cannot implement the principle of "grow first and clean later," as greenhouse gas emissions have continues to cause climate change. Development in Asia and Africa should be more inclusive. Parliaments should persuade



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governments to tackle the upcoming challenges. Hon. Ibrahim deliberately expressed his support to the establishment of Asia-Africa Parliamentary Forum.

Hon. Mr. Md. Abdul Wadud, Head of Delegation of Bangladesh

Peace, prosperity, and solidarity are always a priority for Bangladesh. The country has a set of target towards becoming a developing and developed country by 2021 and 2041 respectively. According to the UNDP, Bangladesh has moved one step further in development. However, with the unmet MDGs goals, Bangladesh is still facing a major challenge in sustainable development.

Hon. Mr. Kaseem Hachem, Member of Delegation of Lebanon

Sixty years after the 1955 Asian-African conference, countries in Asia and Africa were still trying to find the middle ground to realize the vision of the great leaders of Asia and Africa of stability and peace. Today however, some countries are using other countries as proxies, providing disadvantages and hampering world peace and prosperity. In the Middle East, conflicts stem from injustice. With the spirit of Bandung, the issue of Palestine should be a priority for countries in Asia and Africa. Without giving the right for Palestine, the world will not be a just place. We have to deliver peace and security for Palestine. Palestinians are still being victimized, occupied, and attacked by the Israelis. Some countries have policies that could be controversial, such as Arab spring, and creates tension and conflict, as well as emerging new threats like in Syria and Yemen. Our priority should be in Palestine and security for other Middle East countries. The problem should be resolved without any military intervention. Lebanon's experience after 19 years of war made them realize that dialogue is the best way to resolve tension and conflict.

Hon. Mr. Ibrahim Fati, Member of Delegation of Libya

Hon. Fati stated that this conference reiterated commitment for development and cooperation. Libya supported the creation of stability in the two continents through democratic measure by giving people their rights for self determination without any discrimination. There's a need to anticipate the ever changing situations. Hon. Fati extended his appreciation for Indonesia and is willing to extend cooperation on the war against terrorism. Further, he highlighted the stability of the current socio-economic situation in Libya. Global institutions including the NGOs are invited to support the development in Libya. With regard to Palestine, Hon. Fati strongly stated that Israel's occupation in Palestine is actually illegitimate.



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Hon. Mr. Abdullah M.I. Abdullah, the Head of Delegation of Palestine

Hon. Abdullah expressed his appreciation for Indonesia for organizing the conference, the first of its kind. Hon. Abdullah also concerned over the condition of many Palestinians who are still struggling for their independence. Thousands of Palestinians, including Parliamentarians, are being captive in Israeli jails. Through the Asian-African cooperation which promotes freedom and sovereignty, Palestinians are not alone. For the past decades, Asian and African countries, through strong political solidarity, have been supporting Palestinians to regain their freedom.

Hon. Mr. Mohamad Hassan Asafari, the Member of Delegation of Iran

Human beings will not be able to develop, unless they have the opportunity to do their wills and to take actions for their benefits. Therefore, we have to implement the teachings of the Holy Quran. We have to enact freedom and liberty, which has been adopted in the principles of democracy. People should have the liberty to think. Without proper thinking, humans are threatened by the growing number of challenges, including terrorism. Parliamentarians have to assist governments to utilize the use of natural resources for the benefit of our own nations. Each nation cannot stand quiet over those who are willing to take their sovereignty. Terrorism is a great threat towards peace and stability. Iran proposes for all nations to prioritize peace keeping and peaceful relations. All nations should not be ignorant towards the threats of terrorism. Without having to create conflicts, we have to support efforts to free those who are oppressed. We have to oppose any form of terrorism. We have to refrain from the use of military force in resolving conflicts. Each community has its own local wisdom; therefore, it is unwise to force one towards others.

Hon. Mr. Abbas Isa Al Mahdi, Member of Delegation of Bahrain

Hon. Al Mahdi delivered a remarks prepared by the Speaker of the Parliament of Bahrain. Bahrain considers Indonesia as a good friend of Bahrain. Indonesia plays a significant role in the changes of the world's political dynamics. Indonesia has crafted a global dimension in the South-South cooperation. Countries in Asia-Africa have strong historical ties. Both continents have similarities in terms of economic, demography, and geographical condition. In the 21st century, Asian and African region are challenged by the growing number of conflicts. The meeting however, has provided a forum for Asians and Africans to bond cooperation towards sustainable development. Bahrain has a particular interest in protecting human rights and human development. Bahrain opposes any form of foreign intervention into domestic issues. Bahrain deliberately supports the independence of Palestine with Jerusalem as the capital. Without peace in Palestine, the Asian-African countries would never be in peace.



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SESSION II - New Asian African Strategic Partnership (NAASP): The way forward

Session II was chaired by H.E. Mr. Fadli Zon, the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. In his remarks, H.E. Fadli Zon highlighted that the NAASP is expected to strengthening cooperation efforts in a broad subject. However, a decade after the initiation of the NAASP, the geopolitical landscape of both continents has changed. Africa has now emerged as an African Union. South-South cooperation offers self reliance among countries in the global south to tackle the common challenges of the 21st century. It promotes "horizontal partnership" and positioned as the collaborative learning model to share innovative solution. South-South cooperation aims to advance equitable national development agendas with due consideration to the local conditions.

Hon. Mr. Md. Abdul Wadud, Head of Delegation of Bangladesh

NAASP bridge the partnership between two continents and serve as the blueprint for future cooperation, focuses on three pillars: economic, social culture cooperation. In a changing geopolitical landscape, NAASP called to adjust to the challenges of today. The issue of stability and prosperity are both important to Asian and African people. Indonesia is one of the nations that have been successful in maintaining both stability and prosperity. Bangladesh has been active in maintaining peace and security in Africa through its peacekeeping missions. Currently there are 12 missions are deployed in many African nations. Strengthening diplomatic and opening Residents Missions with Africa is still needed.

Hon. Irmohizam bin Ibrahim, Head of Delegation of Malaysia

Malaysia is of the view that MDGs framework help to finish development gap. Pulling together knowledge requires multifaceted approaches, and full and meaningful engagement of all stakeholders including youth and women. Human development continues to be the shared responsibility and Post-2015 development agenda calls for improved quality of education. Education and training development in Malaysia has consistently been given adequate budget in the national budget. The Post-2015 development agenda should integrate existing international commitment and deliver on equity, social inclusion and continue to be open and transparent. UN is seen as the legitimate body and should continue to provide guidance on post 2015 development agenda. The biggest challenge is to seek consensus and produce development goals that will guide progress at regional, national and international level.



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Hon. Adriano do Nascimento, Vice Speaker of Timor Leste

The Asian-African parliamentary Conference is the side event of the Asian African Conference Commemoration, therefore it is important for us to define this event in the Asian-African context. Timor Leste welcome and support the idea to establish Asian – African Centre, as well as the initiative for a formal establishment of the Asian – African Parliamentarian group. Countries in Asia - Africa have similarities in the level of development therefore they have the opportunity for helping government to address common challenges, transnational crimes, and especially good governance, which is a perennial issue in Timor Leste.

Timor Leste has been benefited from NAASP therefore they see the importance on building and maintaining this kind of cooperation.

Hon. Ms. Fatima Khamees, Member of Delegation of Syria

Syria is condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism in Syria has taken many collateral damages and casualties, and it has been proliferated to surrounding area. A lot of efforts have been taken to the threat of terrorism and to return the stability into Syria. Syria in the olden days has managed to secure development for its people, among all to maintain free education for its citizen based on Constitution. Seeking support from countries in Asia and Africa to develop and rehabilitate social and political stability, so the parliament could return the 'voice' to the people.

Hon. Mr. Christopher Doye Nakulen, Vice Speaker of Parliament of Kenya

This forum is important as the platform for exchanging ideas between Parliaments in Asia and Africa. Kenya sees the importance in strengthening the Asian and African cooperation to ensure the leaders of both continents to deliver the promises of development to the people of Asia and Africa. In recent years, many African countries has been the target of terrorism, therefore, concerted efforts by the governments in Asia and Africa to fight the terrorism is required to seek home ground solution to fight the challenges in our backyard.

Regional economic cooperation to enhancing investment, infrastructure development, human resource development will strengthening the nexus between two continents, and Parliament of Kenya will support that cooperation through inter-parliamentary forums.



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Hon. Hamdani, Members of Delegation of Indonesia

Effective political commitment is required to deepening and expanding Asian-African partnership. Cooperation between the two continents will benefit the people from both sides and that better cohesiveness between the regions will strengthen the leverage of developing countries in multilateral fora. Parliamentarians should provide contribution to put the NAASP into reality by providing support through the promotion of democracy and good governance, and legislating relevant laws and regulations in realizing the goals of the NAASP.

Several points for highlight are including: (1) Asian and African countries need to further expand their partnership by exchanging best practices and experiences; (2) to develop capacity and increase productivity, it is important to build networking among Asian and African institutions and to undertake collaborative research for economic development; (3) both regions should increase the role of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as the engine of growth and employment generator; (4) more foreign investments between the two regions should be encouraged; and (5) Asian and African countries should establish a mechanism to monitor the concrete progress of the implementation of Asian-African cooperation.

H.E. Mr. Andranarivo Harimampianina, Vice Speaker of the Parliament of Madagascar

H.E. Harimampianina is deeply concern over the recent situation in the Middle East. He called upon Asian-African Parliaments to solicit the South-South cooperation and walk together to make south-south cooperation realistic for Asian and African countries.

Hon. Mr. Mahdi Ibrahim, Member of Delegation of Sudan

Hon. Ibrahim stated that the NAASP is a cooperation based on the official right and opportunity for us to utilize the resources that have been provided sixty years ago. Through the mechanism, many benefits can be gained. Many governments supported the expected objectives of the NAASP. We have witnessed inequalities and injustice. In line with the Bandung spirit, we are against oppression, occupation, and the use of violence. With the persistent inequality, Sudan is not able to provide its citizens with the basic social protection such as medicines. Hon. Ibrahim urged more Members of Parliaments to strongly condemn international political actions that disrespect international agreements. Many developed countries are not able to provide the necessary assistance against illicit transactions and fraud. Sudan is questioning the real reason behind European/American embargo against Sudan. Many countries have suffered from political



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turmoil. We should put an end to the violation of international agreements and should firstly put into consideration the prosperity of the people and the cause of international actions towards national stability.

Hon. Kil Jeong-Woo, Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea

The NAASP was a resurrection of the Bandung Spirit and a catalyst for enhancing connectivity and integration in Asia and Africa. In preparation for the next 60 years, Republic of Korea is of the view that: (1) a foundation for co-prosperity must be established by increasing connectivity in the region. The Republic of Korea will step up its efforts to strengthen cooperation with Asian and African Countries by fully making the use of the existing mechanisms, such as the Korea-Africa Forum and the Korea-ASEAN Cooperation Fund; (2) in order for Asia and Africa to sustain its current growth, it is necessary to establish good governance, effective institutions and sound development strategies. The Republic of Korea can be a perfect cooperation partner based on its unique experiences of economic development.

As a conclusion, Session II of the meeting agreed to further discuss the possibility of the establishment of the Asia-Africa Parliamentary Group (AAPG). H.E. Fadli Zon deliberately informed the Conference that Indonesia is ready to be the host secretariat and is willing to host the next meeting on the establishment of the AAPG.

SESSION III – Special Discussion on Palestine

Session III was chaired by H.E. Mr. Fahri Hamzah, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. In his opening remarks, H.E. Hamzah stated that the 1955 Asian-African Conference is a symbol of liberation against colonialism. Among the 1955 participants, Palestine is the only Asian-African country that has not gain full independence, the inalienable right of all nations. All forms of colonialism must be abolished as it is not in conformity with justice and humanity. In 2012, Indonesia has shown its commitment to secure Palestine's bid for enhanced status at the United Nations. We should provide a solid recognition and solidarity for Palestine. Israeli aggression towards Palestine is unacceptable and that their colonization through the demolition of Palestinians' houses is against international law and against the principles of the universal human rights.



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Statements of Delegations

Hon. Mr. Md. Abdul Wadud, Member of Delegation of Bangladesh

Palestine is the first qibla of Muslims. Palestine is the Holy Land where the Al Aqsa mosque is located. Palestine is the holy land for both Muslims and Christians. Thousands of Palestinians are behind bars. We should put an end to colonialism in Palestinian land. The last several years, we have talked about terrorism and Arab Spring, but Palestine is the most crucial problem. If we ignore the occupation of Palestine, we will be losing our common aspiration of a world free of foreign occupation. Hon. Wadud encouraged all participants to visit Palestine and establish relations with the Palestinians. We should support Palestine. The land of Palestine is not only belong to the Palestinians, but to all Muslims. Further, he encourages international institutions to provide support for Palestine.

Hon. Mr. Irmohizam Bin Ibrahim, Member of Delegation of Malaysia

Malaysia has strong bilateral relations with Palestine. Hon. Ibrahim reiterated that Malaysia will continue to support Palestinians for self determination towards the independence of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital. He encouraged more exchanges of visits at all levels to increase mutual understanding and explore new areas of future cooperation and collaboration. Malaysia looks forward to work more closely with Palestine. As of January 2014, there were 879 Palestinian students in Malaysia. Malaysia has provided scholarships and contribution towards the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Palestinian society. Hon. Ibrahim reaffirmed commitment to support the government and the people of Palestinian in their noble cause towards freedom and independence. Collaboration between Fatah and Hamas should be seen as a way forward to the independence of Palestine. Malaysia sees the two state solutions as the only possible solution to enable the people in the region live side by side peacefully. He further called upon unconditional lifting of the blockade of Gaza to enable access for foreign humanitarian assistance. Resumption of peace talks between Palestine and Israel is the only way to ensure long term peace in the region. Malaysia supports efforts by the international community and organizations to find a just, lasting, comprehensive, and peaceful settlement to end Palestine-Israel conflict.

Hon. Ms. Dwi Aroem Hadiatie, Member of Delegation of Indonesia

Hon. Dwi Arum reaffirmed the relevance and the importance of the conference and the need to reinvigorate the relationship between Asia and Africa. Historically, the conference was a symbol of support towards



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freedom and independence. One of the goals of the 1955 Conference was to support Asian-African nations to fight against any form of imperialism. But yet, we are still witnessing the unsolved and prolonged conflict between Palestine and Israel. Indonesia has always supported the Palestinian cause in international forums such as the Organization for Islamic Cooperation. In 2014, Indonesia has pledged 1 million USD in humanitarian aid for the Palestinians. We should help in ensuring the commitment of all relevant parties to pursue all means towards an independent State of Palestine, including diplomatic negotiations, resumption of dialogues, and adoption of cease-fire. Indonesia supported the accession of Palestine into various international treaties and international organizations as a way to recognize their sovereignty.

Hon. Mr. Kaseem Hachem, Member of Delegation of Lebanon

Hon. Hachem stated that to defend Palestinian, we cannot stop at humanitarian assistance, but we have to support their independence. We need to implement a more binding strategy to end Israel-Palestine conflict. The UNSC cannot provide a concrete resolution. In Lebanon, several areas are still being illegally occupied by Israel. To eliminate the Zionist which is backed by America, we need to settle our plan for an independent Palestine, free from foreign occupation.

Hon. Mr. Abu Bakar Alrabiaa, Member of Delegation of Sudan

Bandung Conference in 1955 was participated by a number of countries which were still under foreign occupation. Today, Palestine is the only country which has not yet gains its independence. An independent Palestinian state should be established in order for Israelis and Palestinians to live peacefully.

H.E. Adriano do Nascimento, Vice Speaker of the Parliament of Timor Leste

H.E. Adriano expressed Timor Leste's solidarity towards the struggle of the Palestinians to gain independence. He reaffirmed the right of every nation for self determination. To facilitate the aspiration of Palestinians, it is important for us to raise our voices. It is the right for the Palestinians and the people of Western Sahara to reach their destination, freedom and independence.



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Hon. Mr. Sammeer Jawhara, Member of Delegation of Syria

Sixty years ago, the Bandung conference aimed for self determination and the right of every country to gain independence. Palestine at that time was a tragedy. But it seems that the tragedy has continued further. Under the current Israeli occupation, the Palestinian cannot live in peace. The people of Syria and Lebanon also suffered from Israeli occupation until 1967. Gamal Abdul Nasser once said that "what has been taken by violence should be taken back by force." All processes that have been implemented were not enough. Syrians are supporting the liberation of Palestine.

Hon. Mr. Sayed Naser Soodani, Head of Delegation of Iran

Unity is the most important element towards world's peace. The issue of Palestine is real, and it has become a challenge for us all. We need to reaffirm our political stance with regard to Palestine. Without unity among Muslims, it would be difficult for us to maintain peace in the Islamic world. The current situation in the Middle East is an example of the lack of unity and the presence of foreign intervention. We should be able to weaken Israel's force and to ensure that the land of Palestine belongs to Palestinians. Joint Declaration should be meant to strengthen Palestine's position. Words cannot provide the necessary support, therefore we need to work together and unite. The Palestinians have the inalienable right to occupy their land. We need to put a major attention towards the people who are still suffers from foreign occupation.

As a conclusion, Hon. Fahri Hamzah highlighted several points:

Indonesia's position sixty years ago and today towards the issue of Palestine remains the same. As the initiator of the Asian-African Conference, Indonesia supports the independence of Palestine. The issue of Palestine is not only a concern of the Arab world, but it is a challenge for the global context of humanity. The issue of Palestine represents the persistent injustice and inequality. Hon. Hamzah stated his appreciation towards the contributions and supports of all delegates towards Palestine.

Further, we should support the lifting of blockage in Gaza. Each country should be able to open cooperation with Palestinian community, including establishing a secure connection and transportation to and from Gaza. Hon. Hamzah reiterated that "what has been taken should be taken back." Foreign occupation should be fought in every way necessary.



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CLOSING SESSION

The Asian-African Parliamentary Conference adopted the Asian-African Parliamentary Declaration "Towards Stronger Partnership for World Peace and Prosperity."

H.E. Fadli Zon in his remarks stated that the declaration echoed the vision of the Asian and African nations demanding a more secure and prosperous world. A strong aspiration on the UN and its Security Council reform has been amplified throughout the discussion of this meeting. Asian-African Parliaments through the declaration sent a bold message on the importance of parliaments to be involved in the global arena of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. As the Sustainable Development Goals are looming on the horizon, parliaments should be prepared and should provide the necessary support through the parliamentary functions. Further, the declaration provided guidance on the future work of Asian and African countries. It laid down the need to develop a future partnership among Asian and African Parliaments. With regard to the issue of Palestine, this Declaration sent a strong message and reaffirmed the commitment of Asian-African Parliaments to support Palestinian independence.

The Draft Declaration had been previously discussed in the Drafting Committee and had been through a number of amendments to accommodate the views and interests of all delegates. All Delegations, with Iran as an exception, agreed to the final declaration. The Iranian Delegation stated their objection on the "two-state solution" which considered as the only viable solution to the peaceful settlement of Israel-Palestine conflict. The Declaration is signed by 32 Heads of Delegations.

The full text of the Asian-African Parliamentary Declaration is attached as **Annex 2**.

H.E. Mr. Setya Novanto, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia delivered his closing remarks. H.E. Novanto expressed his appreciation to all participants. He stated that the newly agreed Declaration serves as a guidance to fulfill the aspirations of the Bandung Conference. The Declaration also strengthens the aspirations of the leaders from the two continents. With regard to fostering Asian-African cooperation, the meeting agreed to establish the Asian-African Parliamentary Group (AAPG). Indonesia is willing to host the Secretariat of the AAPG. Through the Asian-African Parliamentary Conference, Asian-African Parliaments has sent a message on the importance of the UN reform and to provide solutions in tackling the challenges of the 21st century. He further conveyed his regards to all delegates for their active participation during the Asian-African Parliamentary Conference for the Commemoration of the 60th Year of the Asian-African Conference.

The Conference ended at 6 pm.



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