

**Asian Parliamentary Assembly, 15th Plenary Session**  
**BAKU DECLARATION,**  
**20 February 2025.**

We, Members of Parliaments of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) who attended the 15th Plenary Session of APA in Baku from 17 February to 21 February 2025, upon the invitation of H.E. Sahiba GAFAROVA, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan and President of APA:

**Representing** the Asian nations, which are bound by deeply-rooted ties of history, geography, culture, economy, politics and civilization;

**Commending** the amity and the friendly relations among the Asian Nations, while recognizing the need to reinforce all kind of international cooperation that is indispensable for realizing the objectives of the APA, i.e., the promotion of freedom, justice, strengthening progress and prosperity of its members and making better use of the region's vast human and natural resources in the interests of the member countries;

**Recalling** the principles of the Charter of the United Nations in their entirety and interconnection with each other, including those of sovereign equality, political independence and territorial integrity of all States, refraining from use of force or the threat of use of force in international relations and non-interference in the internal affairs of States;

**Underlining** the absolute value of multilateralism in fostering a more prosperous, peaceful and sustainable world and expressing their determination to promote multilateral cooperation;

**Emphasizing** the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in maintaining peace, security and stability in the world and in enhancing trust, cooperation and solidarity among nations;

**Concerned over** the ongoing conflicts, security challenges and the threats of terrorism in parts of Asia and the suffering of people affected by these conflicts, especially displaced people;

**Welcoming** the announcement of a deal to secure a ceasefire and the release of prisoners and hostages in Gaza and **stressing** the importance of full implementation of the deal, firstly, to ease sufferings caused by the conflict and expand the delivery of sustained humanitarian relief;

**Stressing** the centrality of promoting the rule of law, justice and good governance for realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms and **underscoring** in this regard the legislative authority of Parliaments;

**Promoting** tolerance, mutual understanding and respect for core human values by rejecting any form of discrimination, racism, xenophobia or Islamophobia;

**Encouraging** the importance of the effective inclusion of women and youth in social, cultural, economic and political affairs and decision-making in Asia as appropriate;

**Expressing** our will to boost regional cooperation in political, economic, commercial, social, environmental, healthcare, cultural and educational fields, including by strengthening inter-parliamentary dialogue in Asia;

**Reiterating** the significance of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in the areas of health, education, housing, food security, nutrition, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability;

**Noting** that a healthy environment is a prerequisite and key enabler for sustainable development and social welfare, and that the adverse impacts of climate change affect vulnerable countries the most, **highlighting** the need for enhancing the individual and collective capacity of Asian countries to address climate risks;

**Noting** the successful outcomes of the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of Parties (COP29) to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 11-22 November 2024 that will contribute significantly to addressing environmental and climate related global challenges;

**Commending** role of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening multilateral cooperation in Asia and underscoring commitment of the APA Member States to address all aspects of the critical issue of multilateral cooperation.

**Acknowledging** that effective parliamentary cooperation is essential for providing legislative support to enhance economic collaboration and interconnectivity in Asia;

Hereby:

**Reaffirm** our commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, the universally recognized norms and principles of international law and to the Charter of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly;

**Support** the strengthening of multilateralism and **advocate** for more efficient, inclusive and transparent global governance and an order based on international law;

**Reject** any unlawful political and economic pressure against any Member State, particularly those, whose nations are suffering from the negative consequences of unilateral coercive measures at political, economic and social levels;

**Mobilize** all efforts to promote peace in Asia through the peaceful resolution of disputes, by providing assistance to conflict affected populations and by encouraging the safe and dignified return of displaced persons;

**Recognize** the repeated appeals by the Western Azerbaijani Community to engage in dialogue for the return to their ancestral homes in Armenia, as enshrined in various international human rights instruments, and mobilize all efforts to ensure the safe and dignified return of these displaced Azerbaijanis.

**Urge** all parties to fully comply with international law, including international humanitarian law, and call for withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Palestinian territory;

**Request** the UN and the international community to substantially scale up the delivery of humanitarian relief to Gaza, to rebuild infrastructure and to rehabilitate the people of Gaza;

**Reject** categorically any foreign plans/initiatives regarding the future of Palestine and post-war Gaza, which are the absolute rights of the Palestinian people.

**Reiterate** strong support for the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine with its capital Al Quds and the right to return as mentioned in the UN General Assembly Resolution 194.

**Unite** efforts and **enhance** cooperation in a collective fight against terrorism, extremism, separatism, xenophobia, islamophobia, racism, crime in the sphere of ICT, transnational organised crime, trafficking in human being and illicit drug trafficking illicit trafficking in weapons, cultural property and other goods, illegal exploitation and trafficking of natural resources and money-laundering;

**Exhort** APA Member Parliaments to collaborate and take necessary measures to promote the development of ICT infrastructure through enabling policies, capacity building and building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

**Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to promote strong inter-parliamentary cooperation and meaningful engagement of women and youth in their working;

**Encourage** targeted activities to foster intercultural and interfaith dialogue and exchange in Asia, including through active engagement in Baku Process and Peace4culture Global Campaign;

**Encourage** enhanced dialogue and cooperation in the areas of culture, sport and tourism among the APA Member Countries;

**Underline** the importance of fostering economic relations and trade channels to strengthen regional interconnectivity and support regional transport and digital connectivity projects;

**Urge** Asian governments to improve the implementation of SDG's and to adopt policy approaches to develop a comprehensive and innovative growth strategies needed to sustain a resilient, balanced, sustainable and inclusive economic growth;

**Further urge** APA Member Parliaments to redouble efforts in supporting activities to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, ensure food security, access to healthcare and education, including by developing and implementing effective policies;

**Invite** APA member Parliaments to develop cross-sectoral collaboration for the advancement of health equity in Asia and adopt policies and measures to improve health care services and social protection systems;

**Call** for improving alternative energy resources, emphasizing the importance of renewable and low-emission energy and energy efficiency in achieving sustainable development and protecting the environment, including through involving investments in infrastructure and the use of environment-friendly, innovative technology;

**Invite** APA Member Parliaments to proceed with legislation and other legal actions deemed relevant for integrating climate policies into broader development policies and urge their respective governments to implement projects in line with the measures outlined their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the Paris Agreement as appropriate;

**Note** the adoption of the Baku Climate Unity Pact at the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in November 2024 and **commend** the COP29 Presidency's global initiatives aimed at enabling impactful climate action;

**Acclaim** with great satisfaction the expansion of the ranks of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and welcome the full membership of the Sultanate of Oman, as well as the granting of Observer status to the Republic of Belarus.

**Support** the crucial decision by the Plenary of the APA regarding equal payment and equal voting rights, recognize that the APA budget is essential for its effective functioning and a critical concern for all Member States, and call on all Member States to take the necessary measures to allocate the required funds.

**Welcome** the unanimous endorsement of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the 2026 term and the Islamic Republic of Iran for the 2027-2028 term as the APA President, and **emphasize** the significance of this momentous occasion in the historic city of Baku, reflecting confidence in their ability to advance the noble objectives of the APA through effective parliamentary diplomacy.

**Express** gratitude to Azerbaijan for its warm, gracious and efficient hospitality in hosting the Fifteenth Plenary session of the APA in Baku.