



**Statement by
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Head of Delegation of the Kingdom of Cambodia**

(Monday 21st November 2021)

- **Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin**, President of the 43rd ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly
- Honorable Speakers, Vice-speakers, and Members of Parliament
- Heads and Members of Observer Delegations
- Heads and Members of Guests of the Host Parliament
- Secretary General of AIPA
- Representative of the ASEAN Secretariat
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies, and Gentlemen

Good afternoon!

1. First of all, please allow me to extend my warmest greetings to friends and colleagues here. Welcome to Cambodia, the Kingdom of Wonder. I trust you have a pleasant stay in Phnom Penh.
2. Our region and the world are at an inflection point. Complexity, ambiguity, uncertainty, and volatility characterize the nature of the evolving regional and international order. Within such a context, we need to have strategic foresight and work together to shape the future.
3. The theme of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly: **Advancing Together for Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient ASEAN**, reflects the need to shore up the sense of “togetherness” and collective efforts towards building a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient ASEAN, particularly in the post-Covid-19 socio-economic recovery.
4. In addition to the sharpening geopolitical competition and economic fragmentation, our region is facing multiple complex challenges including climate change, environmental degradation, epidemic diseases, natural disaster, inequality, and the water-energy-food security nexus. We need to pull our ideational and financial resources to address these issues and challenges together.
5. Furthermore, the world is facing instability and growing multiple threats to peace that we have not seen in decades. We need peace as an important foundation for development. Peace and development must go hand in hand. It is therefore necessary to maintain peace and strive to promote sustainable development so our people can live in prosperity and progress.
6. We are compelled to be united and embrace open and inclusive multilateralism to address regional and global issues, while promoting rules-based international order to maintain peace and stability. We need to respect international law especially the United Nations Charter.

Honorable Speakers, Members of Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen!

7. AIPA has demonstrated that its legislative role has an important dimension in enhancing many facets of ASEAN cooperation and community-building efforts. Most importantly, it has served as an important platform to uplift the role of parliamentarians in representing the collective voice of the ASEAN people.
8. In this regard, I would like to re-iterate the Message of the President of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly during the Interface Meeting with ASEAN Leaders on 10 November 2022 stated that “Never in our recent history have international solidarity and multilateralism been so needed. Only by acting together can we hope to mobilize an action-oriented multi-stakeholder partnership to develop solutions and advance together.”
9. International issues and challenges are unfolding with no pause, becoming more and more complex, multidimensional, and intertwined, ruining the most in need and less as a whole; developed and developing countries; people in the North and the South. Therefore, cannot be tackled in isolation. Against this backdrop, parliamentary diplomacy is becoming even more crucial in forming this multi-stakeholder approach to address emerging complex regional and global issues, based on our common values of the AIPA as enshrined in its statute, inter-alia to promote the principles of human rights, democracy, peace, security, and prosperity in ASEAN.”
10. Therefore, we must ensure that our ASEAN Community remains sustainable, inclusive, and resilient. Hence, we need to act together in the spirit of ASEAN unity to address all our common challenges through parliamentary partnership and cooperation, as a united force to find common grounds and interests. Through AIPA, I strongly believe that we will be able to foster greater synergy with our respective governments to further promote sustainable development without leaving no one behind, and to build resilient societies ready to cope with present and future challenges.
11. Parliamentary diplomacy and cooperation need to be further enhanced in order to maintain peace and stability, strive to realise sustainable development goals through strategic budgeting and oversight, and ensure that our people can live in prosperity and progress.
12. The Cambodian Parliament has actively participated with the parliaments of partner countries in discussing and approving decisions or legal norms and finding measures to address challenges within the regional and international framework. The Cambodian Parliament has been continuously strengthening and expanding parliamentary diplomatic relations through the participation and hosting of international parliamentary forums to contribute to the promotion of peace, stability, and development in the region and the world.
13. To conclude, I would like to emphasize that to deal with these challenges, all countries need to work closely, synergically, and constantly. AIPA Member Parliaments need to always stay ahead of the curve, prepare for different scenarios, and develop innovative and realistic solutions together. AIPA has great potential to realise the ASEAN vision 2025 and beyond.
14. Lastly, I would like to extend my best wishes to the President of the 43rd AIPA, Heads of Delegation of AIPA Member Parliaments, and distinguished guests for good health, prosperity, and greater success.

Thank you very much!