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**Statement by Viet Nam's Head of Delegation at the
8th Plenary of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
Phnom Penh, December 9th, 2015**

"Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia"

*Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin, President
of the National Assembly, Kingdom of Cambodia,*

Excellencies Speakers, Heads of Delegations and deputies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Vietnamese National Assembly delegation, I would like to convey the warmest greetings from H. E. Mr. Nguyen Sinh Hung, President of the National Assembly of Viet Nam as well as the great sentiments and friendship of the Vietnamese people to Excellency Mr. President and all distinguished participants to the 8th APA Plenary, held in Phnom Penh, capital city of the beautiful and hospitable Kingdom of Cambodia.

Excellency Mr. President,

Honorable delegates,

The 8th APA Plenary takes place at a time when the world and the region are experiencing fast-changing developments. The economy is gearing up the recovery pace especially the big economies in Asia such as China, India, Korea, Japan are developing dynamically. Many initiatives to expand economic links in more diverse and substantial forms have become new driving forces for development in Asia.

Although cooperation remains a prevailing trend in international relations, security issues both traditional and non-traditional such as violence, terrorism, racial and religious conflicts, territorial disputes, pandemics, natural disasters, climate change etc require all parties to cooperate closely, respect international law, conduct peaceful dialogues, and act with cautiousness and responsibility. Vietnam's stance is to resolve all disputes by peaceful means, abide by the international law and spare no efforts to cooperate with all parties for peace, stability and development.

Distinguished delegates,

Asia is a long-time continent, rich in history, diverse in culture and religion. Peace in Asia is attached with peace on earth. Striving for a sustained peace in Asia is to maintain a long-term peace for the human kind. Therefore, on the foundation of such precious values, in the capacity of the people's representatives, we, the Asian deputies/parliamentarians need to enhance mutual understanding, dialogue and consolidate common grounds, bringing into full play our roles as bridges to connect friendship among the peoples of Asia and between Asia and the rest of the world towards a continent of peace and prosperity.

Over the past more than 15 years of existence and development, APA today and the AAPP (Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace) before, with its mission to promote peace in Asia, has been exerting its all-out efforts to preserve peace in the region, build up and steadily cement the trust between nations through dialogues and cooperation on the regional, inter-regional and global scale. It is needed for APA to boost up preventive diplomacy measures, particularly prevent and manage potential conflicts, abide by the international law, set up and share conduct standards especially basic principles to govern the relations between nations as well as resolve disputes peacefully.

In that spirit, I highly appreciate the theme of this Plenary which is “Promoting peace, reconciliation and dialogue in Asia”. This is a valuable opportunity for us to exchange our views and experiences, outline action plans, initiatives to bring about peace, reconciliation and dialogue for the sake of stability and prosperity in Asia. Viet Nam is in agreement with the agenda which reflects the role and the interest of APA in such fields as security, politics, economy, society and culture in order to strengthen friendship and cooperation, promote interaction between APA and Asian Governments for economic development, poverty reduction as well as the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)... To follow up the success of the 132nd General Assembly of the IPU (Inter-Parliamentary Union), held in March this year in Viet Nam, themed “the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, Turning words into action”, I would like to reaffirm our commitments that we have made in the process of implementing the SDGs after 2015. We, the people’s representatives, should encourage the Governments’ engagement to realise the committed goals, and assure to approve appropriate bills and budget, conduct effectively our supervision missions, protect the peoples’ interests and expand the relations with partners in the region and in the world as a whole.

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

With the policy of international integration implemented in an active and responsible manner, Viet Nam continuously enhances national reforms and strengthens solidarity, friendship and cooperation with other countries, actively works with other countries to develop a peaceful and stable region. The National Assembly of Viet Nam has amended and issued new policies and legal documents in accordance with international commitments. As a founding member since 1999, together with other APA members, the National Assembly of Viet Nam stands ready to work with other APA Parliaments to make practical and effective contributions to the joint efforts, building up an Asian continent of peace, independence, democracy and social progress towards the stability and sustainable development of our nations.

I am confident that, under the chairmanship of Mr. President, with the close cooperation of parliamentarians and thorough preparation of the National

Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the 8th APA Plenary will be crowned with success.

Thank you.

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