

Statement of AIPA Secretary General
1st Plenary Session of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly
(21 November 2022, Phnom Penh)

- *Your Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG SAMRIN, President of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia;*
- *Excellency Heads of Delegations of AIPA Member Parliaments and Observer Parliaments;*
- *Heads of Delegations of Guests of the Host Parliament;*
- *Distinguished parliamentarians. Ladies and Gentlemen,*

First of all, please allow me to sincerely congratulate your Excellency, Samdech HENG SAMRIN, President of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly and the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for hosting this important event. I also wish to thank you for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement of the meetings.

*Distinguished parliamentarians,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

During the last three challenging years the AIPA Secretariat is proud that we have managed to adapt very quickly to the new situation and successfully implemented all AIPA official meetings and events virtually. We have achieved remarkable successes in strengthening cooperation and close relations among member parliaments with observer parliaments as well as with AIPA partners. AIPA's role in the regional and international community has been broadly developing than ever before. As the number of AIPA Observer parliaments are growing exceptionally, it also encourages close cooperation and understanding between the AIPA Member Parliaments and Observer Parliaments to discuss issues of international & regional concerns. AIPA Secretariat also has strengthened our close and effective partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat in supporting the role of parliaments in the implementation of goals and priorities of the ASEAN Community building process.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year the theme for the 43rd AIPA General Assembly is “*Advancing Together for Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient ASEAN*”, which encapsulates

the need of AIPA Member Parliaments and ASEAN Member States to intensify our coordination and to deepen our partnership with external stakeholders to realize ASEAN's vision.

The ASEAN-AIPA Leaders' Interface during the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and the AIPA-ASEAN Hearing during this AIPA General Assembly are the platforms to discuss strategic matters and shared concerns in the region as well as to strengthen the partnership between the legislative and executive bodies of ASEAN to contribute to the promotion of a sustainable, inclusive, prosperous and resilient ASEAN Community.

AIPA is committed to support the ASEAN efforts in the realization of ASEAN Community through legislative functions and parliamentary diplomacy. As the sole inter-parliamentary organization associated to ASEAN, AIPA plays its important role in making ASEAN relevant to its peoples. In this respect, AIPA Secretariat supports AIPA in facilitating this endeavor by taking initiative to explore and conceptualize joint programs and projects with various stakeholders to accelerate the common goals of AIPA, and ultimately, the achievement of ASEAN Community building.

In this context, I would like to joint our distinguished parliamentarians' statements that parliamentary diplomacy is becoming even more crucial in forming this multi-stakeholder approach to address emerging complex regional and global issues. I am confident that regular dialogues and consultations between ASEAN & AIPA as well as between AIPA member parliaments and observers and external partners to ensure our ASEAN unity and centrality will significantly contribute to the achievement of a more peaceful, resilient and prosperous ASEAN Community.

Ladies and gentlemen,

2022 is also my last year serving as the Secretary-General of AIPA. It has been my utmost pleasure to contribute my small part to the development of AIPA. On this occasion, please allow me to conclude my statement by conveying my deepest appreciation and gratitude to the President of AIPA for his leadership and all AIPA Member Parliaments for their support extended to me during the last 3 years. I also wish to convey my high appreciation to all AIPA partners and

stakeholders whose supports were dispensable for success of the AIPA Secretariat. To my colleagues at AIPA Secretariat and National Secretariats, I thank all of you for your kind cooperation and hard work to make all our endeavours for the year 2022 a success.

I wish the 43rd AIPA General Assembly a successful and productive meeting.
Thank you.