

**STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF BRUNEI
DARUSSALAM AT THE 43RD AIPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
20TH - 25TH NOVEMBER 2022**

BISMILLAH-HIR-RAHMANNIR RAHIM,

**His Excellency,
President the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of AIPA,**

Excellency Speakers of Parliament,

Honorable Secretary-General of AIPA,

Honorable Parliamentarians of AIPA Member Parliaments,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Good Morning.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to His Excellency President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of AIPA for his excellent leadership, and to the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, for their dedication and unwavering commitment in hosting the 43rd AIPA General Assembly this year. It is a pleasure for my delegation and I to be here in this beautiful city of Phnom Penh to attend the 43rd AIPA General Assembly in-person.

2. The theme of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly this year, “*Advancing Together for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient ASEAN*”, is very timely and relevant in our current reality as it emphasises the importance of unity and centrality in ensuring that ASEAN is able to overcome and respond adeptly to the challenges ahead. Indeed, the theme also highlights the importance of working closely together in our desire to achieve peace, stability, security and sustainable development in the region.

Mr. President,

3. The global impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on health, education and the economy have been unprecedented. Despite this, however, the pandemic has also brought with it a valuable lesson in terms of responding collectively to challenges in times of great adversity. Today, other pressing issues also demand our attention. Climate change, disaster management as well as food and energy security are just some of the challenges which require parliamentary involvement and collaboration, specifically in planning and enforcing strategic and pre-emptive solutions befitting to the needs of our peoples.

4. Hence, the annual AIPA General Assembly is a pertinent platform for parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, to discuss current issues and challenges and make available creative solutions which are often trans-institutional in nature. This is an opportune time for us to share experiences and lessons learned and simultaneously work together to address regional and global challenges for the benefit of our peoples in the region.

5. I am pleased to note that this year's AIPA General Assembly will discuss important issues related to the development of the ASEAN Community. Issues such as women empowerment, youth engagement, digital transformation, healthcare and climate change are just some of the areas that Brunei Darussalam also wish to respond to effectively and learn from our fellow AIPA Member Parliaments through partnerships and diplomacy.

6. As AIPA celebrates its 45th Anniversary this year, it is also noteworthy to acknowledge its achievements and contributions to the ASEAN community-building process over the past 45 years. Moving forward, it is essential that AIPA maintains its outward-looking approach by engaging and enhancing cooperation, built on the foundation of mutual trust, with AIPA Observers and partners. Indeed, parliamentary diplomacy plays an important role in strengthening trust and developing open, constructive and collaborative relations between AIPA Member Parliaments, Observers and partners.

7. Before I conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to Honourable Madam Nguyen Tuong Van, Secretary-General of AIPA for her valuable contributions over the past 3 years. I also wish to announce Ms. Siti Rozaimeriyanty as the

incoming Secretary-General of AIPA nominated by Brunei Darussalam, whose nomination we hope will be approved by this General Assembly.

8. Finally, in the spirit of friendship, unity and cooperation, I would like to wish the 43rd AIPA General Assembly much success. I hope our discussions in the next few days will further strengthen our inter-parliamentary relations as we advance together towards our goal for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient ASEAN Community.

Thank you.

Wabillahi Taufique Walhidayah Wassalammualikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.