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APPF-Draft (terrorism)

MALAYSIAN DELEGATION URGES UN TO HOLD WORLD CONVERENCE ON TERRORISM

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 13 (Bernama) -- The United Nations (UN) was today urged to convene an immediate world conference of leaders to articulate the most comprehensive definition of terrorism as well as to identify and address the root cause of terrorism.

The call was made by the Malaysian delegation at the 11th Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum's (APPF) annual meeting, here.

Delegate Datuk Ruhanie Ahmad, when presenting its draft resolution on terrorism under the Political and Security issues at the meeting's plenary session, also called on the UN to lead and coordinate the global war on terrorism in a more impartial, objective and effective manner.

He said the APPF must condemn any unilateral, unjustified and unprovoked military actions on any state on the pretext of war against terrorism.

Ruhanie reaffirmed the call by the international community that the UN is the most appropriate body to provide the proper leadership for the war on terrorism, relevant to its ultimate role in the maintenance of world peace and global security.

The terrorism issue drew overwhelming participation from delegates from countries such as Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, the Phillipines, Chile, Thailand, Canada and Malaysia.

The Australian delegation, led by Jeannie Ferris, expressed condolence to victims of terrorist attacks, wherever they occurred, and called upon the Asia-Pacific parliaments to strengthen the ability of member states to fight terrorism.

While condemning terrorist attacks, she also stressed the need for cooperation among member states and multilateral organisation to halt terrorist financing.

Indonesia, in response, said that the people accused of being responsible for the Bali attacks were expected to be tried next month.

Its head of delegation, Drs A.M. Fatwa, said that like Australia, the Indonesians also suffered from the Bali attacks and understood the damage caused by terrorism to the people and economy to the member states.

He said the delegates also reaffirmed the necessity to combat the threat of terrorist acts by all means, in accordance with the charter of the United Nation, to deny terrorists and their supporters access to international financial system and to suppress the flow of finances to terrorist networks.

The three-day APPF meeting was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

Tomorrow, it is expected to discuss transnational, economic and investment issues.

-- BERNAMA

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