Press Release
on the Outcome of the 12th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee
Kathmandu, February 28, 2010

The 12th Meeting of the Standing Committee (SC) of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) was held in Kathmandu under the auspice of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML) during Feruary 26-28, 2010. The program and the list of participants are attached as ***Appendixes 1 and 2.***

The following understanding and agreements were made at the meeting:

First, the Members adopted unanimously a special statement in which they expressed strong support and solidarity to efforts of the people and the government of Nepal under the able leadership of Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal to successfully conclude the peace process and the constitution-making process in Nepal. The statement is attached as ***Appendix 3.***

Second, the Members reconfirmed their commitment to the principle of negotiated settlement of political differences through expanded dialogue among political parties, both domestically and internationally. In this respect, they took note with satisfaction of the recent resumption of talks between high-level government officials of India and Pakistan following the continued efforts by the ICAPP to promote party-to-party dialogue between the two countries. Similarly, they agreed to continue their efforts and to promote dialogue among the major political parties to resolve regional disputes by peaceful means.

Third, the Members welcomed the offer by the FUNCINPEC Party and the Cambodia People's Party to co-host the 6th General Assembly of the ICAPP in Phnom Pehn, Cambodia in late November or early December 2010 under the main theme of "Asia's Quest for Better Tomorrow," with special emphasis on economy, energy and environment. They also agreed to the procedures and the tentative program for the GA. The exact dates will be decided in due course after checking on necessary logistics.

Fourth, the Members welcomed the initiative by the Communist Party of China to host a Special Workshop on Poverty Reduction and Alleviation under Globalization" in early July 2010. The program of the workshop will include field trips in the western China and meetings in Beijing. The CPC will soon prepare a concept paper on the workshop which will include the scope of participants and the way to link the outcome of the workshop with other regional and global activities to fight poverty, such as the United Nations' Millenium Development Goals(MDGs).

Fifth, it was agreed to hold the 13th and 14th Meetings of the SC on the margins of the workshop in China and the 6th GA in Cambodia. The Members also welcomed the offers made by Malaysia and Korea to host the 15th and 16th Meetings of the SC in 2011. Russia and Bahrain have also expressed their willingness to host the SC Meetings in the future.

Sixth, the Members agreed to set up a joint working group between the ICAPP Standing Committee and the Executive Council of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) to coordinate their activities for Asian integration. They agreed that the group will be composed of five

representatives from each side and requested the Secretary Generals of the ICAPP and the APA to work on the agenda of the joint working group with a view to holding the first session in Jakarta in August 2010 or in Damascus in November 2010.

Seventh, the Members agreed to hold the 2nd Joint Session with the Coordinating Body of the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean (*COPPPAL*) on the margins of the 6th GA to be held in Cambodia.

Eighth, the Members agreed to continue their efforts in Africa in cooperation with the COPPPAL to reach out to the political parties and help them establish an organization among themselves. In this respect, they requested to the Secretary General to establish contacts with major political parties in Africa and coordinate efforts with them to organize an institution among themselves with a view to convening the first trilateral meeting among political parties in Asia, Latin America and Africa in near future.

Appendix 1: Program of the Meeting
Appendix 2: List of Participants
Appendix 3: Statement on the Peace Process of Nepal