Draft Conclusions of the 12th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP)

(Kathmandu, Nepal, February 26-28, 2010)

The 12th Meeting of the Standing Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Meeting") of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (hereinafter referred to as "the ICAPP") was held at Hotel Radisson in Kathmandu, Nepal under the auspice of the Communist party of Nepal (UML) (hereinafter referred to "the CPN(UML)) during February 26-28, 2010.

The Meeting was convened by H.E. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, H.E. Madhav Kumar Nepal, Prime Minister and Senior Leader of the CPN(UML), Hon. Jhala Nath Khanal, Chairman of the CPN(UML), and Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman and Secretary General of the ICAPP. The Meeting was attended in total by fifteen members of the Standing Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Members"). The Meeting was also attended by Hon. Gustavo Caravajal Moreno, Deputy Chairman of the Permanent Conference of Political Parties In Latin America and the Caribbean, or *Conferencia Permanente de los Partidos de America Latina y Caribe* (hereinafter referred to "the COPPPAL") and Hon. Dr. Hadi Nejad Hosseinian, Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (hereinafter referred to as "the APA"), as observers. The list of participants and the program of the Meeting are attached as ***Appendix I and Appendix II*** respectively.

During the Meeting, the Members discussed a wide range of issues pertaining to the following topics: (1) preparations for the 6th General Assembly of the ICAPP (hereinafter referred to as "the GA"), including current state of preparations, main theme and sub-themes, and political parties eligible for participation in the GA; (2) issues related to the Standing Committee, including new memberships, time and venue of future SC meetings, and a possibility of holding joint sessions with the Executive Council (EC) of the APA, and the Coordinating Body (CB) of the COPPPAL; (3) significance of the Meeting and political developments in the region; and (4) other related issues. The annotated agenda of the Meeting which had been prepared by the Secretariat and circulated among the Members prior to the Meeting is attached as ***Appendix III***.

New Members and Replacements of Members of the SC

As the first business of the Meeting, the Members welcomed three new Members of the Standing Committee. They were nominated by the three political parties which had been newly invited at the 5th GA held in Astanan last September to serve in the SC until the end of the 6th GA. They were Hon. Dr. Salah Ali Abdulrahman, Chair of the Advisory Body of Islamic National Menber Society, Kingdom of Bahrain, and Hon. Yukihisa Fujita, Member of the House of Councillors and Director General of the International Department, Democratic Party of Japan. The Secretariat reported that the New Azerbaijan Party has nominated Hon. Ahmadov Ali Javad, Member of Parliament and Deputy Chairman and Executive Secretary of the party as its representative in the SC, but he was unable to attend the Meeting due to an important national event.

The Meeting also welcomed Hon. Liu Jieyi, who replaced Hon. Liu Hongcai as Vice Minister, International Department of the Central Committee, Communist Party of China, and Hon. Nurlan Nigmatullin, who replaced Hon.Darkhan A. Kaletayev as First Deputy Chairman,

"Nur Otan" People's Democratic Party of Kazahkstan, as new members of the SC. In this regard, the Members extended their appreciation to the outgoing members of the SC for their contributions to promoting ICAPP objectives. The Members also noted with satisfaction that Hon. Hossein Kashefi Vahdati, the SC Member representing Iran Parties House had recently been elected President of the organization, and Hon. Theo L. Sambuaga, the SC Member representing GOLKAR Party of Indonesia had been elected Vice President of the party respectively.

The Meeting also welcomed as Special Participants, Hon. SOK An, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, and Member of the Standing committee of the Cambodia People's Party, Cambodia, and Hon. OOH Che-chang, Member of the National Assembly, and Spokesman and Deputy Floor Leader, Democratic Party, Korea.

In this regard, the Members also acknowledged the arrangements between the two main political parties in Japan, i.e. Democratic Party of Japan and Liberal Democratic Party, that as long as Japan retains membership in the ICAPP SC, the representative of the political party with the largest number of seats in the Parliament at the time would represent Japan at the SC as its member, while the political party with second largest number of seats in the Parliament would attend the SC meetings as an observer to coordinate among themselves to ensure maximum contributions by the political parties in Japan to the ICAPP activities. It was further noted that the similar arrangements had been reached between the two main political parties in the Republic of Korea, i.e. Grand National Party and Democratic Party, after the general elections in April 2008. The Meeting was informed that. Hon. Taro Kono, Member of Parliament, and Director General of the International Department, had been nominated as the representative of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan to attend the SC meetings as an observer, but he was not able to attend the Meeting due to the ongoing deliberations on the annual budget in the Japanese Diet.

Preparations for the 6th General Assembly of the ICAPP

Endorsement of the Change of Time and Venue

Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Secretary General of the Pakistan Muslim League, reported in his capacity as Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 6th GA that preparations for the 6th GA were well under way to be convened in Karachi during Nov. 5-7, 2010, as agreed upon at the 5th GA in Astana. He further reported, however, that some members of the SC had expressed their concerns about the overall security situation after the recent terrorist attacks in Karachi, and, although the Pakistani authorities would be able to ensure security for all participants in the GA, the Pakistan Muslim League and the other two political parties which had agreed to co-host the event were ready to follow the consensus of the SC and to withdraw the bid to host the 6th GA in Karachi, Pakistan.

In this respect, Hon. Keo Puth Reasmey, President of of the FUNCINPEC Party, and Hon. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister and Member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party, offered to co-host the 6th GA in Phnom Penh, Cambodia either in late November or early December 2010. The Members welcomed and unanimously endorsed this proposal. The exact dates for the GA will be decided in due course after checking on necessary logistics.

Main Theme for the 6th GA

The Members agreed to ***Asia's Quest for a Better Tomorrow,*** as the main theme for the 6th GA as proposed by Pakistan and accepted by Cambodia. They further agreed to economy, environment and energy as three pillars for the main theme.

In this regard, the Members agreed that the 6th GA should continue to include programs to further promote women's participation in politics and the roles of young political leaders in the societies.

Procedures and the Tentative Program for the 6th GA

The Members agreed to the procedures and the tentative program for the 6th GA, as prepared by the Secretariat, which are attached as ***Appendixes 4 and 5***.

List of Political Parties to be Invited to the 6th GA

According to the survey by the Secretariat, there were 263 political parties in 51 countries and 1 territory in the region as of the end of January 2010 which met the criteria for eligibility to be invited to the ICAPP activities including the GA, as stipulated in Article 2 of the ICAPP Charter and decisions taken at the 5th SC Meeting in Seoul in June 2006 and the 8th SC Meeting in Tehran in November 2008. The list of the political parties is attached as ***Appendix 6.***

Finalization of the Astana Declaration

The Astana Declaration had been adopted at the end of the 5th GA held in Astana, Kazakhstan during September 25-26, 2009. There have, however, been some political parties which later claimed that they had not fully participated in the consensus at the time of adoption of the declaration and requested for minor changes in the text. The Members decided unanimously to maintain the Astana Declaration as had been adopted in Astana on September 26, 2009, which is attached as ***Appendix 7***

Issues relating to the Standing Committee

Time and Venue for future Standing Committee Meetings

At the Meeting, it was agreed to hold the 13th SC Meeting on the margins of the workshop to be held in China in July 2010 and the 14th SC Meeting during the 6th GA to be held in Cambodia in late 2010. The Members also welcomed the offers made by Malaysia and Korea to host the 15th and 16th Meetings of the SC in 2011, respectively. Russia and Bahrain have also expressed their willingness to host the SC Meetings in the future.

Preparations for the Special Workshop in China

Hon. Liu Jieyi, Vice Minister, International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC), reported that the CPC will host, as previously announced, a "Special Workshop on Poverty Reduction and Alleviation under Globalization" for the duration of 5 to 6 days in early July 2010. He reported that the first part of the Special Workshop would include field trips to different parts in Yunnan Province, located in southwestern China, to witness how the provincial authorities had fought against poverty, and the remainder of the program would include presentations on Chinese experiences and follow-up discussions among the

participants both in Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan Province, and Beijing. He further noted that the workshop would conspire to share experiences, enhance actual cooperation and coordination, and contribute to other regional and international initiatives to fight poverty. He said that the CPC would soon prepare a concept paper on the workshop, including the scope of participants and the way to link the outcomes of the workshop with other similar initiatives to fight poverty, in particular the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals.

A suggestion was made to rename this workshop as "ICAPP Summit on Poverty Reduction" to give it a higher stature.

Joint Initiative by ICAPP and COPPPAL to Reach Out to Africa

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

Second Joint Session with ICAPP and COPPPAL

The Members warmly welcomed the delegation of the COPPPAL, headed by Hon. Gustavo Caravajal Moreno, Co-Chairman of the COPPPAL.

The Members agreed to hold the 2nd Joint Session between the ICAPP SC and the Coordinating Body (CB) of the COPPPAL on the margins of the 6th GA to be held in Cambodia and requested the Secretary General to prepare an agenda for the session in collaboration with the COPPPAL Secretariat. The Members were also invited to participate in the annual Plenary Meeting of the COPPPAL to be held either in Mexico or Brazil during the latter part of 2010.

Cooperation with the APA

The Members acknowledged with appreciation the participation in the Meeting by Hon. Dr. Hadi Nejad Hosseinian, Secretary General of the APA, and considered ways to form partnership, synergy and cooperation for Asian integration between the ICAPP SC and the Executive Council (EC) of the APA. In this regard, they agreed that the main objective of the cooperation between the two organizations should be to enhance Asian integration. They also noted that this goal can be accomplished through jointly working together, in particular, through capacity building and legislation for good governance which would not only promote political freedom but also ensure integrity of the political system and accountability of political leaders.

They further agreed to closely work together to convene a joint session between the ICAPP SC and the APA EC. It was the general view among the Members, however, that, while they recognize the need for close coordination between the two organizations, a more realistic and gradual approach was desirable in consideration of the different composition of member entities and countries in the two organizations. In this regard, the Members agreed to set up a joint working group between the ICAPP SC and the APA EC to coordinate their activities and come up with an agenda for the joint session. They agreed that the group would 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

its first meeting during the next APA EC Meeting to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia in August 2010 or the 5th APA Plenary Meeting to be held in Damascus, Syria in November 2010.

Other ICAPP Activities

Programs to Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the ICAPP

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the ICAPP in 2010, a proposal was made to issue a special publication on the achievements and activities of the ICAPP during the past decade. The Members also agreed to consider other programs and activities to celebrate the 10th anniversary.

An Initiative for ICAPP Medical Emergency Forum(IMEF)

Hon. Dato Seri Shahadin Bin Kassim, Member of Supreme Council of the United Malay National Organization, and Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Secretary General of Pakistan Muslim League, jointly proposed to launch a new ICAPP humanitarian initiative, named the ICAPP Medical Emergency Forum(IMEF). The main purpose of the IMEF will be to lead and mobilize relief efforts in Asia, which has become increasingly prone in recent years to frequent natural disasters, such as tsunamis and earthquakes, in collaboration with NGOs and other volunteers. It was further proposed to form a steering committee to coordinate and oversee the activities of the IMEF which would be consisted of several members of the SC, including the Co-Chairmen and members from Malaysia and Pakistan. It was agreed to further consider this proposal at the next SC meeting, with a view to taking an appropriate action.

Other Issues

Political Situation in Nepal

H.E. Madhav Kumar Nepal, Prime Minister and Senior Leader of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML) and Hon. Jhala Nath Khanal, Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML), shared their thoughts with the Members about the on-going peace process in Nepal. They both stressed with pride and satisfaction that the historic People's Movement of 2006 has successfully led to the abolition of the 240 year-old monarchy and the establishment of a democratic republican political order in their country in 2008. In particular, Prime Minister Nepal emphasized that the current government of Nepal is doing its utmost to enlist active cooperation of all political parties and organizations in institutionalizing multiparty inclusive democracy, rule of law and federalism in a spirit of unity, consensus and dialogue, and in drafting the new democratic constitution within the stipulated timeframe.

The Members expressed their strong support and solidarity to efforts of the people and the government of Nepal under the leadership of Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal to successfully conclude the peace process and the constitution-making process in Nepal and adopted unanimously a special statement which is attached as ***Appendix 8.***

New Challenges for the ICAPP

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, including the issues on the Korean Peninsula, by peaceful means.

Some Members briefly commented, in their statements, on the political and economic developments in their respective countries, emphasizing the need for political solidarity among political parties to secure sustainable democracy throughout the region and the need for collective efforts to deal with new challenges faced by developing countries, in particular, in the face of the recent global economic plights, among others. In this regard, the Members once again agreed to continue their efforts to develop the ICAPP into a more institutionalized organization with clearly focused mandate to more effectively cope with the newly arising challenges and take more concrete actions in concerted manner.

As the Meeting came to conclusion, the Members extended their deep gratitude to the Communist Party of Nepal (UML) and the Government of Nepal for their warm hospitality. The Members expressed their special appreciation to Hon. Dr. Rajan Bhatarai, Special Advisor to Prime Minster on Foreign Affairs, and his staff for their excellent preparations and hard work for the successful SC meeting.

Appendixes:

1. *List of Participants in the 12th SC Meeting*
2. *Program of the 12th SC Meeting*
3. *The Annotated Agenda of the 12th SC Meeting*
4. *Procedures for the 6th GA*
5. *Tentative Program for the 6th GA*
6. *List of Political Parties to be Invited to the 6th GA*
7. *Astana Declaration*
8. *Statement on Nepal*