Draft Conclusions of the 24th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, March 2, 2015)

The 24th Standing Committee Meeting (hereinafter referred to as "the Meeting") of the Standing Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the SC") of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (hereinafter referred to as "the ICAPP") was held in the Orchid Olive Room of One World Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia under the auspices of the governing United Malays National Organization (UMNO) of Malaysia on March 2, 2015.

The program, the list of participants and the annotated agenda of the Meeting are attached as ***Appendixes I, II*** and ***III***.

The Meeting was co-chaired by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Chairman of the SC and Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the SC and Secretary General of the ICAPP.

Issues relating to the ICAPP SC

Expansion of the SC Membership

It was reported that, at the meeting with the ICAPP Mission in Jakarta on October 27, 2014, the leaders of the *GOLKAR* Party of Indonesia had agreed to invite the Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle (*PDI-P: Partai Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan*) to participate in the activities of the SC of the ICAPP as a new member. The report of the ICAPP mission to Indonesia is attached as ***Appendix IV.***

The *GOLKAR* Party's decision was made in accordance with Paragraph 4 of Article 9 of the ICAPP Charter, as amended at the 8th General Assembly held in Colombo in September 2014, which reads, "The membership in the Standing Committee may be shared by up to two (2) principal political parties from each country, which is invited to the Standing Committee, with equal status and responsibility."

As a result, a total of 11 out of 23 countries in the SC of the ICAPP are represented by two principal political parties from their respective countries. These countries are Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Thus, a total of thirty-five (35) political parties, including the two former political parties of Thailand, activities of which have been suspended by the National Council of Peace and Order in May 2014, are currently represented in the SC.

New Members of the SC

The Secretariat reported that there have been four changes in the SC Membership since the 23rd SC Meeting held in Colombo in September 2014.

First, Hon. Yukihisa Fujita, Member of the House of Councilors and the new Director General of the International Department of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), has replaced Hon. Kaname Tajima, Member of the House of Representatives and former Director General

of the International Department, as the new representative of the DPJ to the SC as of October 17, 2014.

Second, Hon. Tran Dac Loi, Vice Chairman of the Commission for External Relations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), has replaced Hon. Vuong Thua Phong, who was appointed as the Vietnamese Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg and Head of the Vietnamese Mission to the EU in December 2014.

Third, Hon. Maithripala Sirisena, former Minister of Health and General Secretary of Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), who had attended the 22nd and 23rd SC Meetings of the ICAPP as the representative of the SLFP and also assumed the Chairmanship of the Organizing Committee of the 8th General Assembly of the ICAPP, was elected President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on January 8, 2015. The SLFP recently nominated Hon. Dilan Perera, Member of Parliament and Assistant Secretary of the SLFP, as its new representative to the SC.

Fourth, Hon. Chen Fengxiang, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC), was designated as of January 22, 2015 as the new representative of the Communist Party of China to the SC, replacing Hon. Ai Ping, former Vice Minister of the IDCPC, who is currently serving as Member of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Vice President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding.

Lastly, the Secretariat reported that a formal letter had been sent to H.E. Megawati Sukarnoputri, former President of Indonesia and President of the *PDI-P*, and Dr. Andreas Pareira, Member of Parliament and Chairman of the International Cooperation Board of the *PDI-P*, requesting the nomination of *PDI-P*'s representative to the SC. However, the *PDI-P* has not yet responded to this request.

Future Meetings of the SC

At the meeting with the ICAPP mission on October 27, 2014, the leaders of the *GOLKAR* Party of Indonesia also offered to co-host the 25th SC Meeting of the ICAPP with the *PDI-P* in Jakarta in late October, 2015. In this regard, Hon. Iris Indira Murti, Chairperson of the International Cooperation Board of the *GOLKAR* Party, who attended the Meeting on behalf of Hon. Theo Sambuaga, Vice President of the *GOLKAR* Party, confirmed her party's offer to co-host the 25th SC Meeting. She reported that a half-day Parliamentary Seminar on the theme of "The Roles of Political Parties in the Democratization Process and Establishment of a More Representative & Effective Parliament" will also be held back-to-back with the 25th SC Meeting.

Ms. Iris Indira Murti also reported that the *GOLKAR* Party and the *PDI-P* are willing to co-host the 1st Trilateral Meeting among the ICAPP, the CAPP and the COPPPAL on the sidelines of the 25th SC Meeting. The 1st Trilateral Meeting was further discussed later on during the Meeting.

SC Members welcomed the *GOLKAR* Party's offer with gratitude. More detailed information on the meetings, including the tentative program and agenda, will be provided in due course.

Hon. Hassan Ghafouri Fard, former Vice President of Iran and Member of the Central Committee of the Islamic *Motalefeh* Party of Iran, offered to host a SC Meeting in Tehran in 2016. SC Members from countries that have not yet hosted SC Meetings were requested to consider hosting one of the future SC Meetings.

In this regard, some SC members requested Hon. Vijay Jolly, Senior Leader and Advisor for Global Political Affairs of the *Bharatiya Janata* Party (BJP), to recommend to the leaders of the BJP to consider hosting one of the SC Meetings in New Delhi in the near future. Mr. Jolly responded that he would duly convey the request to the leaders of the BJP.

Preparations for the 9th General Assembly

Hon. Dato Seri Shahidan Bin Kassim, Minister in the Office of Prime Minister and Member of Supreme Council of the UMNO, confirmed his earlier offer to host the 9th General Assembly (GA) of the ICAPP in Kuala Lumpur in September or October 2016.

SC Members welcomed the offer with gratitude. Detailed information on the 9th GA, including dates, program and the main theme of the conference, will be provided in due course.

ICAPP Work Program for 2015

SC Members confirmed the following work program of the ICAPP for 2015, which had been prepared and circulated in advance by the Secretariat. (See ***Appendix V***)

- 24th SC Meeting (Kuala Lumpur, February 28-March 3)
- 2nd ICAPP Workshop on Human Trafficking (Phnom Penh, April 28-30)
- ICAPP Special Conference (Vladivostok, May 21-24)
- 2nd Meeting of the ICAPP-COPPPAL Business Council (Cambodia, _____)
- 4th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing (_____, July or August)
- 3rd Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing (Baku, September 18-19)
- 25th SC Meeting (Jakarta, late October)
- 1st Trilateral Meeting among ICAPP, COPPPAL and CAPP (Jakarta, late October)
- 1st ICAPP-APA Joint Session (Phnom Penh, early December)

With regards to the work program, some SC Members expressed that their main interest in the ICAPP is vested in forming a dialogue between political parties within the region, instead of unrealistically expanding the breadth of the works of the ICAPP. They further suggested that the ICAPP should concentrate its activities within Asia, considering its limited authority and financial capacity.

ICAPP Special Conference

Hon. Dr. Andrey A. Klimov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs of the Council of Federation (Senate) and Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs of the United Russia Party (URP), confirmed his party's offer to host an ICAPP Special

Conference on the theme of "Russia for Asia: New Business Opportunities" in Vladivostok during May 21-24, 2015. A brief memorandum on the proposal to host the conference by the URP is attached as ***Appendix VI***.

The conference will be co-sponsored by the Eurasian Dialogue of the Russian Parliamentary European Club, and the Business Forum of the Government of the Primorskiy Region. The conference will also be attended by Deputies of the Russian Parliament, senior officials of the federal government and regional authorities as well as business leaders and experts from the Russian Federation.

SC Members welcomed the offer with gratitude. More detailed information on the conference, including the tentative program, will be provided in due course.

SC Members also agreed to request the Communist Party of China (CPC) to consider hosting a special conference in the near future under the theme of "Reviving the Silk Road," as suggested by the Bureau Members of the SC. Mr. Zhang Xuyi, Deputy Director General of the Bureau I of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC), who attended the Meeting on behalf of Hon. Chen Fengxiang, Vice Minister of the IDCPC, responded that he would report to the leaders of the CPC on the request of the SC and inform the results as soon as possible via the Secretariat.

ICAPP Women's Wing

Participation in the ICAPP SC

The ICAPP Women's Wing submitted the two following recommendations to the ICAPP SC after its 2nd annual meeting held in Colombo on the sidelines of the 8th GA in September 2014: (See ***Appendix VII***)

- To encourage both male and female politicians alike to actively participate in all meetings, including workshops, of the ICAPP Women's Wing, as men are often in responsible positions to take decisions on policies affecting women.
- To request the ICAPP SC to invite representatives of the ICAPP Women's Wing to attend their future meetings for expanded coordination of the Women's Wing activities with those of the SC.

With the consent of the SC Members, Hon. Dr. Park In-sook, Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Women's Wing, was invited to the 24th SC Meeting as a special participant on behalf of the other Bureau Members of the ICAPP Women's Wing.

2nd ICAPP Workshop on Human Trafficking

At the Meeting, Dr. Park made a report on the recent activities and future plans of the ICAPP Women's Wing. She especially asked for active interest and participation from both women and men politicians in the upcoming Workshop on Human Trafficking, for "women's affairs are the issues of not only women, but also men" and "women's affairs comprise a social issue that affects all people and societies regardless of gender or age."

The 2nd ICAPP Workshop on Human Trafficking had originally been planned to be hosted in New Delhi in January 2015 by the BJP of India. This plan, however, was cancelled due to some internal difficulties of the BJP.

In turn, the Cambodian People's Party offered to co-host the 2nd ICAPP Workshop on Human Trafficking with the *Funcinpec* Party in Phnom Penh, Cambodia during April 28-30, 2015. Accordingly, formal invitations have been sent out to about 50 political parties in 26 countries in the region so far. The concept paper and tentative program of the workshop are attached as ***Appendixes VIII and IX***.

In this regard, the Secretariat reported that the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (*TIKA*) have agreed to provide financial support for the budget of the workshop, as they have done so for the 1st Workshop on Human Trafficking held in Kathmandu in January 2014.

SC Members welcomed the offer of the CPP and the *Funcinpec* to co-host the workshop. They also expressed their gratitude to KOICA and *TIKA* for their financial contributions.

3rd Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing

Dr. Park In-sook also reported that the 3rd Annual Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing will be held in Baku during September 18-19, 2015 under the auspices of the *Yeni* (New) Azerbaijan Party (YAP). More detailed information on the meeting will be provided in due course.

SC Members welcomed the offer by the YAP with gratitude.

ICAPP Youth Wing

The Secretariat reported that no political party has offered to host the 4th Annual Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing at this time and thus, requested SC Members to consider hosting the meeting in the summer of 2015.

In this regard, Hon. Sous Yara, Vice Chairman of the ICAPP Youth Wing and Member of Parliament of Cambodia, reported that the ICAPP Youth Wing is planning to organize a series of workshops on topics such as "election security" as reported in the 22nd SC Meeting held in Vladivostok in May 2014. He further suggested the possibility of the 4th Annual Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing being held in conjunction with such workshops.

ICAPP Program for Disasters Assistance (IPDA)

As proposed by the UMNO, the 3rd Meeting of the Steering Committee of the ICAPP Medical Emergency Forum (IMEF) was held in Kuala Lumpur on March 1, prior to the 24th SC Meeting, in light of the epic flooding of December 2014, which affected around 200,000 people in the eastern states of the Malay Peninsula. All SC Members were invited to attend the meeting.

The participants at the IMEF meeting discussed new Terms of Reference (TOR) on the basis of the proposals prepared by the Secretariat in cooperation with the UMNO. First of all, they agreed to recommend changing the name of the group from the IMEF to the *ICAPP Program for Disasters Assistance (IPDA)* to correctly represent the intended direction and scope of the group's activities.

The participants in the meeting also adopted the new TOR for the IPDA, concerning its mandates, structure, and core activities. The TOR was revised to reflect the breadth of the IPDA activities, which include not only rescue and relief operations in the initial aftermath of natural disasters, but also long-term and wide-range assistance for rehabilitation and reconstruction to the affected regions and their residents.

With regards to the composition of leadership, it was agreed that the Chairman of the IPDA and four members of the ICAPP SC, i.e. Chairman, Co-Chairman, Vice Chairman and Special Rapporteur of the SC, will be *ex officio* members of the IPDA Steering Committee. Other SC members who wish to make contributions to the work of the IPDA will also be invited to join the Steering Committee. In addition, it was agreed that the meetings of the Steering Committee will be held, in principle, on the sidelines of the SC Meetings. Separate meetings may be convened, however, in countries affected by disasters to more efficiently coordinate relief and rehabilitation activities.

The participants also identified immediate actions to be taken by the IPDA as follows:

- Rehabilitation efforts for the victims of typhoons and floods in the Philippines and Malaysia.
- Relief and rehabilitation programs for victims of consequences caused by climate change. These victims include residents in the coastal regions of South and Southeast Asia, who were affected by calamities such as drought, receding water levels, desertification, etc.

Attached is the report made by Hon. Dato Seri Shahidan Bin Kassim, Chairman of the IPDA, and Hon. Datuk Raja Ropiaah Raja Abdullah, Secretary General of IPDA, to the SC. (See ***Appendix X***)

ICAPP-COPPPAL Business Council (ICBC)

At the 1st Meeting of the ICAPP-COPPPAL Business Council (ICBC), held in Mexico City during November 28-29, 2014, the participants adopted the Mexico City Statement and the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the ICBC and elected the Bureau of the ICBC. The report on the results of the 1st Meeting of the ICBC is attached as ***Appendix XI.***

In this regard, SC Members agreed to establish a Board of Governors in the ICBC composed of some SC Members and the Bureau Members of the ICBC. They also agreed to set up the Secretariat of the ICBC headed by a Secretary General, as recommended at the special meeting hosted by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Co-Chairman of the ICAPP SC, in Manila during February 8-9, 2015. The special meeting was attended by some SC Members, representatives of the COPPPAL and other members of the ICBC Bureau.

SC Members also agreed to appoint Hon. Sheila Copps, former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada as the Secretary General of ICBC, as nominated by Hon. Tan Sri Dr. Chen Lip Keong, Co-Chairman (ICAPP) of the ICBC. Ms. Copps attended the Meeting on behalf of Tan Sri Dr. Chen and made a brief report on potential plans for the ICBC during the next two years.

She also suggested that collaborative projects between the ICBC and the ICAPP Women's and Youth Wings could create synergies amongst the activities of all groups. In particular, she proposed to hold a joint meeting between the ICBC and the ICAPP Youth Wing in the future. She stated that young political leaders may show great interest in engaging with business leaders in areas of trade, investment, finance, science and technology, etc. and in new opportunities for intercontinental exchanges.

In this regard, Hon. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister, Member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and Vice Chairman of the SC, offered to consider hosting the 2nd Meeting of the ICBC in Cambodia during the first half of 2015. More detailed information on the meeting will be provided in due course.

Launching of the ICAPP Media Forum and the ICAPP Committee on Climate Change

SC Members were reminded that they had agreed to establish the ICAPP Media Forum and the ICAPP Committee on Climate Change at the 16th SC Meeting held in Seoul in October 2011 and at the 17th SC Meeting held in Baku in June 2012 respectively.

They were also reminded that they had agreed to nominate one journalist from each country to form a working group to discuss how to set up the Media Forum and to nominate two representatives, including one alternate representative, for the Committee on Climate Change. With regards to these agreements, the Secretariat reported that, so far, only two journalists from China and Nepal have been nominated for the Media Forum and no representative has been nominated for the Committee on Climate Change.

In this regard, SC Members agreed to nominate their representatives for the two groups, as they had previously agreed upon, and to submit the nominees' names and titles to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

ICAPP's Bid for Observer Status in the U.N. General Assembly

Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the SC and Secretary General of the ICAPP, made a report on the current state of the ICAPP's endeavors to obtain the observer status in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). First, Mr. Chung reported on the results of his visit to the United Nations on October 16-18, 2014. During this visit, he had meetings with Hon. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, and representatives of some Member States, including Argentina, Cuba and Venezuela, who had expressed their reservations on the ICAPP's bid to obtain observer status in the UNGA at the 68th session of the UNGA in October 2013.

Mr. Chung reported that Secretary General Ban encouraged the ICAPP to continue its efforts to obtain observer status in the UNGA. He added that the representatives of the three Member States appreciated the ICAPP's efforts to coordinate its activities with them, while explaining that their governments' reservations towards the ICAPP's bid were purely on legal grounds. The report on Mr. Chung's visit to the U.N. is attached as ***Appendix XII.***

To continue the ICAPP's endeavors with regards to the application for the observer status in the UNGA, Mr. Chung also visited Cuba and Venezuela during November 30-December 4, 2014. Hon. Gustavo Carvajal Moreno, Deputy Chairman of the COPPPAL, accompanied Mr. Chung on these missions. The report of the visit to Cuba and Venezuela is attached as ***Appendix XIII.***

During his visit to Cuba, Mr. Chung had meetings with high level representatives of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC), including Hon. Dr. Jose Ramon Belaguer Cabrera, Member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee and Head of the International Department. In Venezuela, he had meetings with Hon. Yul Jabour, Chairman of the Permanent Commission for External Policies, Sovereignty and Integration of the National Assembly, representing the Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV), and Hon. Saul Ortega Campos, former Chairman of the Commission, representing the ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV).

Leaders of both ruling parties in Cuba and Venezuela welcomed and expressed their gratitude towards the visit by the joint ICAPP-COPPPAL mission. They also promised to ensure that their respective governments would make a positive decision in time for consensus at the next deliberations of the item in the UNGA.

SC Members expressed their appreciation and strong support for the Secretariat's efforts to obtain the observer status in the UNGA and agreed to recommend governments of all countries in the region to demonstrate more actively their solidarity and support for the ICAPP's initiative in the UNGA.

They, in particular, agreed to recommend to their respective governments to co-sponsor the draft resolution inviting the ICAPP as an observer to the work of the UNGA, and to include the item of granting observer status to the ICAPP in the provisional agenda for the 70th session of the UNGA, which is scheduled to start in September 2015. The draft resolution has been so far co-sponsored by Cambodia, Japan, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

In this regard, Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of the Senate Defense Committee and Secretary General of the PML-Q of Pakistan and Special Rapporteur of the SC, confirmed that the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the U.N. has agreed to co-sponsor the draft resolution.

Signing of the MOU to Provide Support for ICAPP Activities

The Secretariat reported that H.E. Mr. Dulat Bakishev, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Korea, signed the inter-governmental "Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Provide Support for ICAPP Activities" on behalf of the government of Kazakhstan. Thus, the MOU, which was first signed on July 26, 2013, now has nine signatories, including

Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The copy of the signed MOU is attached as ***Appendix XIV.***

In this regard, SC Members from the countries that have not yet signed the MOU agreed to recommend to their respective governments to sign the MOU in the near future. SC Members also reiterated their views that an increased number of signatories on the MOU would greatly reinforce the position of the ICAPP in its efforts to obtain the observer status in the UNGA.

5th Joint Session between the ICAPP and the COPPPAL (Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean)

The Secretariat made a report on the results of the 5th Joint Session between the ICAPP SC and the COPPPAL Coordinating Body, which was held in Mexico City during November 28-29, 2014.

Participants in the joint session, amongst other discussions, reaffirmed their commitment to promote inclusive democracy and to join hands in meeting global challenges. In this regard, they chose "poverty" and "climate change" as the two priority challenges to be jointly dealt with. They also agreed to further promote communication and collaboration between their Women's Wings and Youth Wings and to encourage them to come up with better strategies in managing common challenges in the areas of education, health, employment and social justice.

In addition, the ICAPP-COPPPAL Business Council (ICBC) was launched during the Joint Session, as reported earlier.

The Mexico City Declaration, which was adopted at the end of the 5th Joint Session between the ICAPP and the COPPPAL, is attached as ***Appendix XV***.

1st Trilateral Meeting among the ICAPP, the COPPPAL and the CAPP (Council of African Political Parties)

In the past, SC Members have been striving to further expand cooperation and coordination of activities with different political parties in other continents. Such efforts are reflected through the annual joint meetings initiated in 2009 between the ICAPP SC and the COPPPAL Coordinating Body.

Since the establishment of the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP) in April 2014, there have been discussions on the possible launching of a trilateral dialogue for political parties from Asia, Africa and Latin America. In this regard, it was proposed to first, convene a trilateral meeting among the representatives of the ICAPP SC, the COPPPAL Coordinating Body and the CAPP Executive Council, so that they may identify common challenges among the three continents and prepare an agenda prior to the launching of a tri-continental conference among political parties.

In this regard, at the meeting with the ICAPP mission on October 27, 2014, the leaders of the *GOLKAR* Party of Indonesia expressed their willingness to co-host with the *PDI-P* the 1st

trilateral meeting among the ICAPP SC, the COPPPAL Coordinating Body and the CAPP Executive Council back-to-back with the 25th SC Meeting in late October 2015.

The participants of the 5th ICAPP-COPPPAL Joint Session, held in Mexico City last November, welcomed the offer by the *GOLKAR* Party and the *PDI-P* of Indonesia to co-host the 1st trilateral meeting among the representatives of the ICAPP SC, the COPPPAL Coordinating Body and the CAPP Executive Council.

Hon. Amira Elfadil Mohammed, Deputy Head of the Foreign Affairs Sector of the National Congress of Sudan and former Minister of Welfare and Social Security of Sudan, who attended the Meeting as an observer representing the CAPP, also welcomed the offer to hold the 1st trilateral meeting between the ICAPP, CAPP and COPPPAL in Indonesia.

In turn, SC Members welcomed the *GOLKAR* Party's offer, with gratitude, to convene the trilateral dialogue on the sidelines of the 25th SC Meeting in Jakarta. They, however, reiterated their views that the COPPPAL and the CAPP need to be more inclusive with region-wide participation of principal political parties. They also stressed the need to start planning specific joint efforts in areas of common interest and to gradually work together for further institutionalization of the trilateral cooperation.

In this regard, some SC Members have also expressed their views that the ICAPP activities need to be more focused on interactions amongst political parties within the region. They have emphasized that their primary interest in participating in ICAPP activities is Asia-specific with their main objective being increased interconnectivity with other Asian partners.

1st Joint Session between the ICAPP and the APA (Asian Parliamentary Assembly)

At the 9th SC meeting held in Islamabad in March 2008, SC Members first agreed to hold a joint session between the ICAPP SC and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Executive Council to explore ways to promote cooperation between the two organizations. However, due to lack of communication and coordination between the Secretariats of the ICAPP and the APA, a joint meeting was hitherto not convened.

In this regard, Hon. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister, Member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), and Vice Chairman of the SC, offered to host the 1st Joint Session between the SC of the ICAPP and the Executive Council of the APA in Phnom Penh in early December 2015, on the sidelines of the APA Plenary Meeting. More detailed information on the meeting will be provided in due course.

The APA is now represented by parliaments of 41 countries in the region and 17 observers.

Proposal to hold a Joint Meeting with the European People's Party (EPP)

The Secretariat reported that it had recently received a proposal from the *Yeni* (New) Azerbaijan Party to hold a joint meeting between the ICAPP SC and the European People's Party (EPP) in Baku, Azerbaijan in either late 2015 or early 2016.

In this regard, Mr. Cesar Rossello, Coordinator for Asia Pacific and Latin America of Centrist Democrats International and European People's Party, who attended the Meeting as an observer, stressed the importance of cooperation between Asia and Europe in various fields. He further mentioned that the EPP, recognizing the growing interdependence between the two continents, is searching ways to increase its dialogue with Asian political parties.

SC Members recognized that the EPP is the largest group of political parties represented in the European Parliament with 78 member parties from 39 countries. At the same time, they stressed the need to invite two or three other groups of political parties in Europe in the dialogue, since the ICAPP represents all political parties across a diverse ideological spectrum. They also noted that a specific agenda for the intercontinental dialogue should be prepared in advance.

In this regard, the following six groups of political parties in Europe have been identified as potential partners in the intercontinental dialogue:

- Group of Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament
- European Conservatives and Reformists Group
- Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
- Confederal Group of the European United Left and Nordic Green Left
- Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
- Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy Group

Sending ICAPP Mission to Monitor General Elections in Sudan

The Secretariat reported that it had recently received an official invitation from the CAPP to send an ICAPP mission to Sudan to monitor general elections to be conducted during April 13-15, 2015. Local accommodation in Sudan for the ICAPP mission will be provided by the CAPP. SC Members who wish to participate in monitoring the elections in Sudan are requested to inform the Secretariat. The invitation letter from the CAPP is attached as ***Appendix XVI***.

Future of the ICAPP

Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the SC and Secretary General, reported that there have been suggestions from some SC Members to include "future of the ICAPP" on the agenda at the 24th SC Meeting, so that there may be frank and earnest discussions on how to develop the ICAPP into a more transparent, healthy, and sustainable organization.

During the Meeting, several issues were identified for the discussion on the future of the ICAPP, including the budget for the Secretariat and structural improvement of the ICAPP.

First, Mr. Chung Eui-yong reported that he has been negotiating with the Korean government with regards to the annual funding for the ICAPP Secretariat, in accordance with the international practice that the host nation of the secretariat of an international organization provides for most of the administrative and other expenses. In this regard, the Korean government has taken the position that its budget cannot be allocated to the ICAPP, unless

the ICAPP is recognized as a *de facto* inter-governmental organization by means such as obtaining the observer status in the UNGA.

In this regard, some SC Members pointed out that the budget of the ICAPP Secretariat should not solely rely on the financial support of one government and that its financial resources must be diverse. Mr. Chung responded that, with the expansion of the size and activities of the ICAPP, the required budget for the operation of the Secretariat has also grown significantly. He added that, in his view, the ICAPP has reached a point where financial contributions from political parties alone are not sufficient to sustain the operations of the Secretariat.

Mr. Chung also reported that some SC Members have proposed the introduction of more transparent procedures in electing the Bureau Members of the SC as well as the Secretary General, reasoning that clearer terms of office can help the organization become more sustainable. With regards to this proposal, Mr. Chung said he would be willing to step down from the position of Secretary General at the 9th GA in order to help the ICAPP evolve into a more sustainable organization with new leadership.

Mr. Chung further reported that there has also been a proposal to make the SC more representative and inclusive by ensuring participation of principal political parties in the region in accordance with the spirit of the new Paragraph 4 of Article 9 of the ICAPP Charter, as amended at the 8th GA in September 2014. Some SC Members also stressed the need for stricter adherence to the ICAPP's main principles such as consensus-building and non-intervention in domestic affairs.

Some SC Members stated that parts of the ICAPP work programs appeared to be superfluous, over-extensive and over-ambitious. They commented that the ICAPP was reaching beyond its authority and available funds, deviating from its original objective of facilitating dialogue among various political parties. Furthermore, they added that such evolvement may result in loss of credibility in the organization and decline of participation caused by failures to deliver anticipated outcomes.

In this regard, SC Members agreed to form a Task Force, comprised of a small group of SC Members, to have in-depth and more focused discussions on all the relevant issues to improve the operation and management of the ICAPP. The Task force will submit its recommendations to the SC and continue its discussions until the beginning of the 9th GA, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur in September or October 2016, so that final recommendations, including necessary amendments of the ICAPP Charter, can be submitted to the GA for endorsement.

Attached are the ICAPP Charter as amended at the 8th GA last September and the major understandings, which have been reached at the SC meetings. (See ***Appendixes XVII and XVIII***)

Appendixes:

- ***I.*** ***Program of the 24th SC Meeting***
- ***II.*** ***List of Participants in the 24th SC Meeting***
- ***III.*** ***Annotated Agenda of the 24th SC Meeting***
- ***IV.*** ***Report on the ICAPP Mission to Indonesia***
- ***V.*** ***ICAPP Work Program for 2015***
- ***VI.*** ***Proposal from the URP for the ICAPP Special Conference***
- ***VII.*** ***Letter from the ICAPP Women's Wing***
- ***VIII.*** ***Concept Paper on the 2nd ICAPP Workshop on Human Trafficking***
- ***IX.*** ***Tentative Program for the 2nd ICAPP Workshop on Human Trafficking***
- ***X.*** ***Report on the IPDA***
- ***XI.*** ***Report on the Results of the 1st Meeting of the ICBC***
- ***XII.*** ***Report on the ICAPP Mission to Nicaragua and the U.N.***
- ***XIII.*** ***Report on the ICAPP-COPPPAL Joint Mission to Cuba and Venezuela***
- ***XIV.*** ***Copy of the signed MOU***
- ***XV.*** ***Mexico City Declaration***
- ***XVI.*** ***Invitation from the CAPP***
- ***XVII.*** ***ICAPP Charter***
- ***XVIII.*** ***Major Understandings reached at the SC Meetings***