**ICAPP's Message to Member States of the United Nations**

The International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) was launched in Manila in September 2000 to promote exchanges and cooperation between political parties from different Asian countries and with various ideologies; to enhance mutual understanding and trust among Asian countries; to promote Asia's regional cooperation through the unique role and channel of political parties.

Since its inception, the ICAPP has grown steadily in both membership and influence. At first, few people thought that it would be possible to bring together competing governing, opposition and independent political parties in Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, West Asia, Middle East and Oceania. But the ICAPP meetings have been visionary, cordial, constructive and successful. Simply by bringing together Asia's political leaders in fraternal assemblies regularly, the ICAPP has become a positive force for mutual understanding among Asian countries and peoples. And now more than 359 political parties in 53 countries and 1 territory in the region with diverse political and ideological backgrounds are eligible to participate in ICAPP activities.

Seven General Assemblies of the ICAPP, which have been successfully held in Manila in 2000, Bangkok in 2002, Beijing in 2004, Seoul in 2006, Astana in 2009, Phnom Penh in 2010 and Baku 2012, brought together political leaders in the region to exchange opinions and communicate with each other, and helped strengthen unity among Asian countries and propel Asia along the road toward stability and prosperity.

The ICAPP Standing Committee, which is comprised of the leading political parties in 22 countries representing different sub-regions of Asia, has also been meeting regularly, more than twice a year since 2004, to organize ICAPP activities and programs in an effective and concerted way, in particular in close coordination with the activities of the U.N.

ICAPP special conferences and workshops have also been convened on key challenges in the region. The first special conference was held in Seoul in May 2008 on the topic of state subsidies for mainstream political parties as a means to prevent political corruption. Another special conference was held on the making of new democratic constitution in Kathmandu, Nepal, in June 2009. Since then, special conferences have been more focused on the issues targeted by U.N. Millennium Development Goals: on poverty alleviation in Kunming, China, in July 2010; on natural disasters and environmental protection in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in May 2011; on development and people's access in Nanning, China, in September 2011; on promoting green development and building a beautiful Asia together in Xi'an, China, in May 2013; and on women's leadership and empowerment in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in September 2013. Declarations adopted at the conferences were duly submitted to the U.N. for consideration in its deliberations on the issues.

Moreover, the ICAPP has taken up permanent peace and shared prosperity as its two main themes. These are the visions our political parties should attain for our peoples. In this regard, we launched within the ICAPP a mechanism for helping resolve regional disputes, taking advantage of our extensive network of governing and opposition parties throughout the region. Such efforts are being made to convene the first Peace Consultation on Nepal under the auspices of the ICAPP, which will be attended by leaders of all three major political parties of Nepal and will help them find a break-through in their long-delayed peace process.

The first political dialogue among ruling and opposition political parties of India and Pakistan has taken place in Manila in late November 2011. We hope a similar political dialogue can be arranged for political parties of both North and South Korea in near future.

In recent years, the ICAPP has also been trying to reach out to other regions in the world. The first joint session was successfully held in Buenos Aires in July 2009 with the COPPPAL, the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean. Since then, the ICAPP and COPPPAL have been holding joint sessions annually, the second meeting in Phnom Penh in 2010 and the third meeting in Mexico City in 2012. The fourth joint session will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan in October 2013.

In addition, the ICAPP and the COPPPAL have successfully coordinated their efforts to help political parties in Africa establish a similar organization. As the result, the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP) was finally launched in Khartoum, Sudan in April 2013. The first Conference of the CAPP held in Khartoum was attended by representatives of 35 political parties from five different regions in Africa. And the ICAPP is now leading the initiative to convene the first trilateral meeting of political parties in Asia, Africa and Latin America in 2014. We hope that the ICAPP, COPPPAL and CAPP will eventually develop into a global institution, encompassing all political parties in the world regardless of their ideological orientations.

In recognition of the ICAPP's role in bringing together all political parties to promote understanding and friendship among countries not only in Asia, but also in Latin America and Africa, several governments in the region, including Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Iran, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka have signed the inter-governmental "MOU on Cooperation to Support the Activities of the ICAPP" in July 2013. Now many more governments, including Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam, are in the process of completing their domestic procedures to join the MOU.

It is against these backdrops that the ICAPP has taken this strategic step of applying for observer status in the U.N. General Assembly. Once granted observer status, the ICAPP will forge closer cooperation between the United Nations and the political parties in Asia by (a) aggregating and channeling to the U.N. system the views of the peoples in all their diversity, as expressed in political debates and discussions at all dimensions, local, national, and continental; (b) building international consensus on U.N. action to meet key global challenges; and (c) providing support for political parties in emerging democracies – to increase their capacity to carry out at local and national level their lawmaking and oversight functions on matters subject to international cooperation at the United Nations. And the ICAPP will play a more active role not only in Asia's inevitable movement to build an Asian community, but in the global quest to build a peaceful, harmonious and prosperous world.

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## I. UN Document on Granting Observer Status for the ICAPP in the General Assembly

United Nations A/66/198

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 August 2011

Original: English

Sixty-sixth session

# Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session

# Observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties in the General Assembly

## Letter dated 10 August 2011 from the Permanent Representatives of Cambodia, Japan, Nepal, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We, the undersigned, have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties in the General Assembly".

The International Conference of Asian Political Parties was launched in Manila, in September 2000, to build bridges of political cooperation and to establish networks of mutual benefit among mainstream political parties in Asia, both ruling and in opposition. Over its first decade, the International Conference of Asian Political Parties has grown steadily in both membership and influence. As of May 2011, membership has reached more than 340 eligible political parties in 52 States and 1 territory in Asia. After establishing fraternal linkages and cooperation with the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2008, the International Conference of Asian Political Parties has also been undertaking efforts to reach out to the political parties in other continents, including in particular Africa.

So far the International Conference of Asian Political Parties has held six general assemblies — in Manila (2000), Bangkok (2002), Beijing (2004), Seoul (2006), Astana (2009) and Phnom Penh (2010). These assemblies have brought together the Asian continent's most prominent political leaders to search for ways of coexisting in a more peaceful, more democratic and more prosperous Asia. Its Standing Committee — made up of 18 leading political parties in 18 States — has met at least twice a year since 2004. The International Conference of Asian Political Parties has also organized special conferences on key continental issues since 2008 —

such as those of minimizing political corruption (Seoul, 2008), strengthening State capacity (Kathmandu, 2009), easing mass poverty (Kunming, 2010) and dealing with natural disasters (Kuala Lumpur, 2011).

From its inception, the International Conference of Asian Political Parties has been a staunch supporter of the United Nations and its activities. The first paragraph of the preamble to the organization's Charter, adopted in September 2006, declares the unequivocal commitment of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties to the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations. Representatives of the political parties that took part in the sixth general assembly in Phnom Penh in December 2010 unanimously adopted a declaration endorsing the bid for observer status in the General Assembly of the United Nations. The International Conference of Asian Political Parties is also coordinating with the joint initiatives of Governments of other States Members of the United Nations towards the same objective.

We believe that the International Conference of Asian Political Parties can play a major role in forging cooperation between the United Nations and the political parties of Asia, and those of Latin America and Africa in the future, the three continents of the emerging democracies, by aggregating and channelling to the United Nations system the views of the peoples in all their diversity, as expressed in political debates and discussions at all dimensions, local, national and continental, promoting people's awareness, approval and support of international agreements reached at the United Nations, and building international consensus on United Nations action to meet key global challenges. In addition, the International Conference of Asian Political Parties can provide support for political parties in the emerging democracies and increase their capacity to carry out at the local and national level their law-making and oversight functions on matters subject to international cooperation at the United Nations.

Attached are an explanatory memorandum (annex I) and a draft resolution regarding the item (annex II).

We have the honour to request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Kosal **Sea**
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Tsuneo **Nishida**
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Gyan Chandra **Acharya**
Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Libran N. **Cabactulan**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Kim **Sook**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

(*Signed*) **Le** Hoai Trung
Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
to the United Nations

# Annex I

## Explanatory memorandum

### Historical background

The International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) was launched by the leaders of 46 political parties of Asia in Manila in September 2000, to build bridges of political cooperation and to establish networks of mutual benefit among mainstream political parties in Asia, both ruling and in opposition. Over its first decade, ICAPP has grown steadily in both membership and influence. As at the end of May 2011, its membership has reached more than 340 eligible political parties in 52 States and 1 territory in Asia.

So far, six general assemblies of ICAPP have been successfully held, in Manila in 2000, Bangkok in 2002, Beijing in 2004, Seoul in 2006, Astana in 2009 and Phnom Penh in 2010, and they have brought together political leaders in the region to exchange opinions and communicate with each other, and helped to strengthen unity among Asian States and propel Asia along the road towards stability and prosperity.

The ICAPP Standing Committee, made up of 18 leading political parties in 18 States, has met at least twice a year since 2004. ICAPP has also been annually organizing special conferences on key continental issues since May 2008 — such as those on minimizing political corruption, strengthening State capacity, alleviating mass poverty and effectively handling natural disasters.

### Purpose

Article 1 of the ICAPP Charter, adopted at the fourth general assembly in September 2006, stipulates the objectives of ICAPP as follows:

(a) To promote exchanges and cooperation between political parties with various ideologies in Asia;

(b) To enhance mutual understanding and trust among the peoples and countries in the region;

(c) To promote regional cooperation through the unique role and channel of political parties;

(d) To create an environment for sustained peace and shared prosperity in the region.

### Organizational structure

*Membership*

Article 2 of the ICAPP Charter stipulates that ICAPP "shall be open to all political parties in Asia with democratically elected members in the parliaments of their respective countries, which are Member States of the United Nations". At the 5th meeting of the Standing Committee in June 2006, it was agreed to extend invitations to political parties in the Palestinian National Authority in an effort to render ICAPP activities more inclusive and representative of the diversities existing in the region. At the 8th meeting of the Standing Committee in November 2008, it was further agreed to apply two criteria to the political parties in Asia to be eligible

for invitation to the future ICAPP activities: (1) political parties which have more than 1 per cent of elected seats in their parliaments; (2) political parties which have won more than 1 per cent of popular votes in their latest parliamentary elections, as certified and recognized by their national election commissions.

According to these criteria, there are 341 political parties in 52 States and 1 territory in Asia that are eligible to participate in ICAPP activities as at the end of May 2011.

*General assembly*

According to article 4 of the ICAPP Charter, a general assembly is held once every two years on a rotational basis among the members, unless otherwise decided by the Standing Committee. In principle, it is held for three working days during the latter half of the year, and is composed of an opening session, plenary session and thematic committee meetings, special workshops on specific topics as approved by the Standing Committee and a closing session.

*Standing Committee*

According to articles 9 and 10 of the ICAPP Charter, a Standing Committee, composed of the representatives of 18 members from an equal number of countries, was established. The members of the Standing Committee serve for two years from the end of a general assembly until the end of the following general assembly. The Standing Committee makes decisions and lays out the procedures on issues regarding the organization of the ICAPP meetings, including the general assemblies and special conferences, as well as other issues regarding other ICAPP activities and programmes.

Currently, the Standing Committee is composed of the representatives of the 18 leading political parties from 18 States representing different subregions of Asia, namely, Central Asia, North-East Asia, South Asia, South-East Asia, West Asia and Oceania, and has been meeting more than twice a year since 2004.

*Secretariat*

The permanent secretariat of ICAPP was established in Seoul by a decision unanimously taken at the 10th meeting of the Standing Committee in March 2009, and as endorsed at the fifth general assembly in September 2009.

In accordance with article 12 of the ICAPP Charter, the secretariat executes such functions, among others, as (1) maintaining and updating the list of political parties and the official website; (2) providing necessary information and assistance to the ICAPP members; and (3) establishing contacts and promoting cooperation with other international or regional organizations.

**Financing**

Article 8 of the ICAPP Charter stipulates that the political parties hosting the general assembly shall bear the primary expenses of the general assemblies. The primary expenses include logistical arrangements, that is, conference facilities, domestic transportation and the like. The primary expenses shall not include, inter alia, international transportation to and from the location of the general assembly. For the purposes of holding the general assembly, the political parties hosting the

general assemblies may seek voluntary contributions from members of ICAPP and other organizations.

The ICAPP activities, namely the general assemblies, Standing Committee meetings and special conferences, are funded in principle by the political parties that host such events, which usually cover the costs of organizing conferences and minimum local accommodation for a limited number of representatives of political parties participating in the events.

At the 10th meeting of the Standing Committee in March 2009, it was agreed that the budget and personnel to implement the functions of the ICAPP secretariat shall be initially provided by the host country. It was further agreed that the Standing Committee will continue to discuss issues relating to the budget and personnel of the secretariat. Since 2010, the Korea Foundation in Seoul has provided funds to support a part of the secretariat activities. Other administrative budgets, including office maintenance and personnel costs, are covered by private donations.

**Activities**

*General assemblies*

So far, six ICAPP general assemblies have been held. The first was held in Manila in September 2000 with representatives of 46 political parties from 26 countries, the second in Bangkok in November 2002 with 77 parties from 35 countries, the third in Beijing in September 2004 with 81 parties from 35 countries, the fourth in Seoul in September 2006 with 92 parties from 36 countries, the fifth in Astana in September 2009 with 63 parties from 33 countries, and the sixth in Phnom Penh in December 2010 with 90 parties from 36 countries.

These assemblies have brought together the Asian continent's most prominent political leaders to search for ways of coexisting in a more peaceful, more democratic and more prosperous Asia.

*Special conferences*

Special conferences and workshops have also been convened for the ICAPP members on key challenges that the region is facing, such as prevention of political corruption, strengthening State capacity, alleviation of poverty and dealing with natural disasters. ICAPP is preparing to host another special conference on the issues relating to poverty alleviation in China in September 2011.

**Relations with other organizations**

Recently, ICAPP has been trying to reach out to other regions in the world. The first joint session with the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean was successfully held in Buenos Aires in July 2009. After establishing fraternal linkages and cooperation with the Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean, ICAPP has been undertaking efforts to reach out to the political parties in Africa, in coordination with the Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to organizing the first trilateral meeting of political parties in Asia, Africa and Latin America in the near future.

In this regard, ICAPP will play a key and continuing role not only in Asia's inevitable movement to build an Asian community but also in the global quest for a more peaceful and prosperous world.

**Character of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties**

Although ICAPP is not an intergovernmental organization per se, the following points with regard to its legal status should be taken into consideration by the States Members of the United Nations:

(a) ICAPP is unique in nature in that it is open to all political parties regardless of their political orientation;

(b) The political parties participating in ICAPP activities are either responsible for forming the Governments in their respective countries and making most of their policies, or eligible to form future Governments depending on the results of elections;

(c) ICAPP has also been channelling to the United Nations system the results of its political debates at all levels, local, national and continental, like submitting the Kunming Declaration on Poverty Alleviation, which was adopted at the special ICAPP conference in Kunming in July 2010, in time for the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals held two months later;

(d) In addition, in recent years, ICAPP has been in close cooperation with political parties in other regions, namely, Latin America and Africa, with a view to forming a global forum of political parties and, in the case of Latin America, ICAPP and the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean have been holding annual joint sessions to coordinate their activities to promote United Nations objectives.

**Reasons for seeking observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties**

From its inception, ICAPP has been a staunch supporter of the United Nations and its activities. The first paragraph of the preamble to the ICAPP Charter, adopted in September 2006, declares the unequivocal commitment of ICAPP to the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations. Representatives of the political parties that took part in the sixth general assembly in Phnom Penh in December 2010 unanimously adopted a declaration that endorsed the ICAPP bid for observer status in the General Assembly of the United Nations.

ICAPP will play a key and continuing role not only in Asia's inevitable movement to build an Asian community but also in the global quest for a more peaceful and prosperous world.

ICAPP can also play a major role in forging cooperation between the United Nations and the political parties not only of Asia but also of Latin America and Africa — the three continents of the emerging democracies — in the following areas:

(a) Aggregating and channelling to the United Nations system the views of our peoples in all their diversity, as expressed in political debates and discussions at all dimensions, local, national and continental;

(b) Promoting ordinary people's awareness, approval and support of international agreements reached at the United Nations and through United Nations programmes;

(c) Building international consensus on United Nations action to meet key global challenges;

(d) Providing support for political parties in the emerging democracies — to increase their capacity to carry out at the local and national level their law-making and oversight functions on matters subject to international cooperation at the United Nations.

In addition, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has been sending video messages to all major programmes of ICAPP, including the opening sessions of the fifth and sixth general assemblies, held in Astana and Phnom Penh, and the ICAPP special conference on poverty alleviation held in Kunming, and has provided valuable contributions and guidance to deliberations on the main themes of the conferences.

More detailed information on ICAPP, including the address of the secretariat, the officers and the members of the Standing Committees, can be found on its website, at www.theicapp.org.

# Annex II

## Draft resolution

## Observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties in the General Assembly

*The General Assembly*,

*Wishing* to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the International Conference of Asian Political Parties,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Conference of Asian Political Parties to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

## II. ICAPP Charter and Major Understandings

### 1. ICAPP Charter

*(as adopted at the 4th General Assembly on September 10, 2006, amended at the 5th General Assembly on September 26, 2009, and amended at the 7th General Assembly on November 23, 2012)*

### PREAMBLE

We, the leaders and representatives of political parties in Asia, gathered for the Fourth General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (hereinafter referred to as the "ICAPP") in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from September 7 to 10, 2006,

**UPHOLDING** the United Nations' Charter, and the principles of mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence;

**RECOGNIZING** the immense potential of Asia to become the political, economic, and social center of the global stage in the twenty first century if permanent peace and shared prosperity is achieved in the region

**REALIZING** that challenges in Asia can be more efficiently and effectively addressed if the political leaders of the region unite through sustained dialogue by building mutual confidence and fellowship, by seeking political consensus through consultation and sharing of experiences, and by developing common political strategies

**RECALLING** that a regularly held gathering of political leaders in the region is an effective tool in seeing the potential of Asia become a reality since it fosters such sustained dialogue

**HAVING HELD** the First General Assembly of the ICAPP in September 2000 in Manila, Republic of the Philippines, followed by the Second and Third General Assemblies in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand in November 2002 and Beijing, People's Republic of China in September 2004, respectively

**DO HEREBY PROCLAIM** that the Articles set forth in this Charter shall govern the objectives, institutional arrangements, and activities of the ICAPP.

### ARTICLES

### CHAPTER I. OBJECTIVES

Article 1

The objectives of the ICAPP shall be:

a. to promote exchanges and cooperation between political parties with various ideologies in Asia;
b. to enhance mutual understanding and trust among the peoples and countries in the region;

c. to promote regional cooperation through the unique role and channel of political parties and
d. to create an environment for sustained peace and shared prosperity in the region.

## CHAPTER II. MEMBERSHIP

### Article 2

1. The ICAPP shall be open to political parties in Asia with democratically elected members in the parliaments of their respective countries, which are Member States of the United Nations.

2. Under certain circumstances, the Standing Committee of the ICAPP (hereinafter referred to as the "Standing Committee") may decide to extend invitations to organizations or groups, which do not fulfill the criteria above, to participate in the activities of the ICAPP, as Observers, including attending the General Assembly of the ICAPP (hereinafter referred to as the "General Assembly"), in the interests of rendering the activities of the ICAPP more inclusive and representative of the diversities existing in Asia.

### Article 3

1. For the purposes of this Charter, the term "parliament" shall mean any national body performing legislative functions of that country. The term "political party" shall mean any political organization which has been legally formed and recognized in the respective countries.

## CHAPTER III. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### Article 4

1. In furtherance of the objectives of the ICAPP, as prescribed in Article 1 of this Charter, a General Assembly shall be held once every two (2) years on a rotational basis among its members, unless otherwise decided by the Standing Committee. It shall be held, in principle, for three (3) working days in the latter half of the year.

2. The General Assembly shall be, in principle, composed of the following program:
   a. Opening Ceremony;
   b. Plenary Session and Thematic Committee meetings;
   c. Special Workshops and other events upon the approval of the Standing Committee
   d. Standing Committee meetings; and
   e. Closing Ceremony

### Article 5

1. All members interested in hosting the following General Assembly shall submit written notification to the Standing Committee before the conclusion of the previous General Assembly.

2. The venue and the host(s) for the following General Assembly shall be determined by consensus at the Standing Committee meeting.

Article 6

1. The main theme and up to three (3) sub themes of the General Assembly, which are consistent with the objectives of the ICAPP, shall be proposed by the host(s) and approved by the Standing Committee.

2. The main theme of the General Assembly shall be discussed at the Plenary Session. The sub themes of the General Assembly shall be discussed at the Thematic Committee meetings.

3. Any member may submit proposals for the main theme and sub themes of the General Assembly to the Standing Committee. Such proposals must be made in writing before the conclusion of the previous General Assembly.

4. In addition to the Plenary Session and the Thematic Committee meetings held during the General Assembly, special workshops on specific issues, which are relevant to the ICAPP, may be held upon the approval of the Standing Committee.

Article 7

1. The Bureau of the General Assembly (hereinafter referred to as the "Bureau") shall be comprised of one (1) Chairperson and up to five (5) Vice Chairpersons for the Plenary Session, and (1) Chairperson and up to three (3) Vice Chairpersons for each Thematic Committee meeting. The list of candidates for the Bureau will be prepared by the Standing Committee and recommended to the General Assembly for its approval at the Opening Ceremony by consensus.

2. The Chairpersons of the Plenary Session and the Thematic Committee meetings shall prepare the list of speakers at the Plenary Sessions and Thematic Committee meetings in accordance with the order of application or request from the members.

3. In case that the General Assembly is co-hosted by two or more number of political parties of a country, the Bureau of the General Assembly may be comprised of Co-Chairpersons.

Article 8

1. The political party, or parties, hosting the General Assembly shall bear the primary expenses of the General Assembly.

2. The primary expenses include logistical arrangements for the General Assembly, i.e., conference facilities, domestic transportation, etc. The primary expenses shall not include, inter alia, international transportation to and from the location of the General Assembly.

3. For the purposes of holding the General Assembly, the political party, or parties, hosting the General Assembly may seek voluntary contributions from members of the ICAPP and other organizations.

## CHAPTER IV. STANDING COMMITTEE

Article 9

1. A Standing Committee, composed of the representatives of not exceeding twenty-two (22) political parties from an equal number of countries in the region, shall be established.

2. The Members of the Standing Committee, who will serve for two years from the end of a General Assembly until the end of the following General Assembly, shall be nominated at the Standing Committee held on the margins of the General Assembly and approved by the General Assembly.

3. Members of the Standing Committee shall actively participate in all ICAPP activities and programs. If a member, or his or her designated representative from the same political party, fails to attend the Standing Committee meetings for more than two (2) consecutive times, without providing reasonable cause of absence, the membership of the party in the Standing Committee may be revoked by the decision of the Standing Committee.

Article 10

1. The Standing Committee will make decisions on the venue, main theme, and sub themes of the General Assembly as provided in Article 6. Additionally, it shall lay out the procedures of the Plenary Session and Thematic Committee meetings and any other matters as outlined in this Charter.

2. For the purposes of performing its duties, as prescribed in the foregoing, the Standing Committee meeting shall be held at least once a year, including its meetings during the General Assembly.

Article 11

1. One (1) Chairperson and one (1) Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee shall be elected by consensus of the members of the Standing Committee during the General Assembly. The Chairperson shall serve for two (2) years or until the next General Assembly is held.

2. The Chairperson shall preside over the Standing Committee meetings, held pursuant to Article 10 of this Charter, and represent the ICAPP during the period between the General Assemblies.

3. In the event that the Chairperson is no longer able to serve his or her term before its completion, the Vice Chairperson will assume the position until the following Standing Committee meeting is held.

## CHAPTER V. SECRETARIAT

Article 12

The Secretariat of the ICAPP shall be established to execute the following functions, among others:

1. to maintain and update the list of the political parties in the region, a database for the ICAPP activities and the official website(www.theicapp.org);

2. to provide necessary information and assistance to the members of the ICAPP, in particular the members of the Standing Committee and the host of the General Assembly in assuming their roles in the ICAPP activities; and

3. to establish contacts and promote cooperation with other international or regional organizations of political parties, and other international or regional parliamentary organizations.

Article 13

1. The Secretariat shall comprise a Secretary General and such staff as the ICAPP activities may require. The Secretary General shall be appointed by the Standing Committee. The appointment shall be subject to confirmation at the General Assembly.
2. The Secretary General shall act in that capacity in all ICAPP meetings and perform such other functions as are entrusted by the General Assembly and/or the Standing Committee.

## CHAPTER VI: AMENDMENTS

Article 14

1. Proposals to amend this Charter shall be made in writing and submitted to the Chairperson of the Standing Committee at least three (3) months in advance prior to the commencement of the General Assembly.

2. The Chairperson of the Standing Committee shall, without delay, communicate such proposal(s) to the members of the Standing Committee who shall then review the proposals and present a joint report with recommendation(s) to the following General Assembly.

3. The proposal(s) shall be reviewed and adopted as amendment(s) to the Charter by the consensus of the General Assembly.

## CHAPTER VII: WORKING LANGUAGE

Article 15

1. The working language of the ICAPP shall be English.

2. During the General Assembly, however, if any member provides his or her own simultaneous interpreter(s) from his or her native language to English, the host(s) of the meeting will provide facilities for simultaneous interpretation.

## 2. Major Understandings

### A. Understanding reached at the 5th SC Meeting in Seoul (June 1-3, 2006)

- The Members agreed to extend invitations to political parties in the Palestinian National Authority in an effort to render the ICAPP activities more inclusive and representative of the diversities existing in the region.

**B. Understanding reached at the 8th SC Meeting in Tehran (November 22-23, 2008)**

- The Members agreed that the following two criteria would be applied to the political parties in Asia to be eligible for invitation to the future ICAPP activities, including the General Assemblies; (1) Political parties which have more than one percent of elected seats in their national parliaments; or (2) Political parties which have won more than one percent of popular votes in their latest national parliamentary elections, as certified and recognized by their national election commissions.

**C. Understandings reached at the 10th SC Meeting in Astana (March 27-28, 2009)**

- The budget and personnel to implement the functions of the ICAPP Secretariat shall be initially provided by the host country. Issues relating to the further budget and personnel of the Secretariat will continue to be discussed in the Standing Committee.

- The ICAPP Secretariat shall be established in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

**D. Understanding reached at the 11th SC Meeting in Astana (September 24-28, 2009)**

- The Members agreed that the decision not to invite certain eligible political parties to the ICAPP General Assembly can be made only by the consensus of the Standing Committee.

**E. Understandings reached at the 13th SC Meeting in Kunming (July 16, 2010)**

- The Members agreed that all representatives of the political parties at ICAPP Meetings should refrain from raising any issues directly related to bilateral conflicts or disputes among the countries in the region. It was highly recommended, however, to seek direct dialogue among political parties in the concerned countries to promote understanding and prevent such conflicts or disputes from getting further aggravated.

- The Members agreed to recommend to all members of the Standing committee to adopt the similar arrangement reached between the two main political parties in Japan and Korea that as long as they retain membership in the ICAPP SC, the representative of the political party with the largest number of seats in their respective Parliament at the time would represent Japan or Korea at the SC as its member, while the representative of the political party with second largest number of seats in the Parliament would attend the SC meetings as observers. They agreed that such formula in the SC membership will make the ICAPP activities more inclusive and credible.

## III. Inter-governmental Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Support the Activities of the ICAPP (July 26, 2013)

**Memorandum of Understanding**
**on Cooperation to Support the Activities**
**of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties**

The Participants to this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "MOU"),

Recognizing the unique role which the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (hereinafter referred to as the "ICAPP") is playing to create an environment for sustained peace and shared prosperity in Asia by promoting exchanges and cooperation between political parties with various ideologies and thus enhancing mutual understanding and trust among the peoples,

Realizing that challenges in Asia can be more efficiently and effectively addressed if the political leaders of the region unite through dialogue by building mutual confidence and fellowship, by seeking political consensus through consultation and sharing of experiences, and by developing common political strategies, and

Wishing that the increased capacity of the ICAPP to aggregate and channel the views of the peoples in all diversity, as expressed in political debates and discussions at all dimensions, local, national and regional, will contribute to forging closer understanding and cooperation between the governments and helping them move forward to build a more peaceful, harmonious and prosperous region,

Have reached the following understandings:

**Paragraph 1**

The Participants will provide appropriate support that is available and possible within their capacity, for the activities and programs of the ICAPP, which include its General Assembly, Standing Committee meetings, Special Thematic Conferences, and other activities of its subsidiary bodies, such as the ICAPP Women's Wing and the ICAPP Youth Wing, etc.

**Paragraph 2**

The Participants will also provide appropriate support that is available and possible within their capacity, for the activities of the ICAPP Secretariat.

**Paragraph 3**

This MOU is not intended to create any legally binding obligations.

**Paragraph 4**

Other Governments whose political parties are members of the ICAPP can participate in this MOU, by submitting their intention in writing to the ICAPP Secretariat.

**Paragraph 5**

The ICAPP Secretariat, acting as a Depository for the MOU, will immediately inform the other Participants when a new Participant joins. The Depository will also keep the list of the Participants in this MOU as Annex A.

**Paragraph 6**

All Signatories have equal status.

**Paragraph 7**

Any differences arising from the interpretation or implementation of this MOU will be resolved through consultations and/or negotiations between the Signatories.

**Paragraph 8**

This MOU will come into effect on the date of signature, and will come into effect upon the new Participant when a majority of the Participants notifies the ICAPP Secretariat (or Depository), in writing, of their intention to approve such submission of intention to participate in this MOU. This MOU will remain in effect for a period of five (5) years, and will be automatically extended for further periods of five (5) years, unless terminated by the Participant giving six (6) months prior notice in writing to the other Participants. The Participants may, upon mutual consent, introduce amendments and additions to this MOU, which will come into effect in the same manner as the MOU. Such amendments and additions will form an integral part of this MOU.

Signed in Seoul on the twenty-sixth day of July, 2013, in the English language.

For the Government of the Republic of Korea
H.E. Mr. Kim Kyou-hyun, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Kingdom of Cambodia
H.E. Mr. Chan Ky Sim, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

For the Government of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
H.E. Mr. Tissa Wijeratne, Ambassasador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

For the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh
Mr. Khandker Masudul Alam, Counsellor and Charge d'Affaires

For the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Mr. Ramzi Teymurov, Cahrge d'Affaires

For the Government of People's Republic of China
Mr. Feng Cuntai, Counsellor

冯寿台

Soltanahmade

For the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Mr. Kazem Soltanahmade, Counsellor

## IV. ICAPP Declarations

### 1. Declarations Adopted by General Assemblies

#### A. Declaration of the 7th General Assembly of the ICAPP (Baku, Azerbaijan, November 22-23, 2012)

We, the leaders and representatives of political parties from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam—gathered here in Baku, the capital city of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for the Seventh General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP). The Assembly was graciously hosted by the New Azerbaijan Party from November 22 to 23, 2012 under the main theme of "Security, Peace and Reconciliation in Asia."

The 7th General Assembly of ICAPP was held in Baku in the context of a rapidly transformed world. The global balance of economic, cultural and political power is shifting inexorably from the West to the East. ICAPP is a unique forum, bringing out the best of Asia's unity in diversity by leading the way forward in what is now generally accepted as the "Asian Century". Interfaith harmony and political pluralism remains a pillar of ICAPP's principles.

In just 12 years since its launch in Manila, the ICAPP now counts 336 member parties (governing and opposition) from 53 Asian states. The ICAPP has witnessed its institutionalisation as a unique, one-of-its-kind international organization that has demonstrated the capacity to cut through barriers of race, religion, ethnic origin, gender, age, politics and ideology. ICAPP has also manifested its ability to forge partnerships and broaden its base with an outreach that extends to Latin America and Africa. At the Joint Conference between the ICAPP and the COPPPAL held in Mexico last October, it was agreed, in another first, to convene an unprecedented conference of political parties of Asia, Latin America and Africa. In this context, we welcome the participation of the National Congress Party (NCP) from Sudan as an observer in ICAPP and support efforts to establish an Africa-wide body on the ICAPP Model.

ICAPP today embodies the Asian spirit of resilience evident in the dynamism and can-do vibrance of our societies, surmounting crises and overcoming economic difficulties with creativity and innovation.

The ICAPP now also has a Youth Wing and Women Wing to mobilize Asia's young, and women, and ICAPP Medical Emergency Forum (IMEF) to cope with natural disasters; a strong partner in Climate Change through its affiliate, the International Ecological Safety Cooperative Organization (IESCO), accredited by the U.N. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and similarly engaged by COPPPAL, representing the political parties of Latin America and the Caribbean; and another partner aimed at harnessing the growing power of public opinion by bringing together political parties and civil society organizations on one platform through the Centrist Asia-Pacific Democrats International (CAPDI).

We reaffirm our commitment to the principles—and the spirit—of the ICAPP Charter and of ICAPP's subsequent Declarations at its biennial assemblies: in Manila in 2000, Bangkok in 2002, Beijing in 2004, Seoul in 2006, Astana in 2009 and Phnom Penh in 2010.

We would like to reaffirm that peace is indivisible and reconciliation is the only way forward to win the battle for "hearts and minds" of communities, cultures and countries. We would like to emphasize that in today's world, the notion of security has to give primacy to human security. ICAPP places priority on a people-centred development approach that promotes good governance by combating corruption, rejecting coercion, and avoiding confrontation. ICAPP seeks a security paradigm that would secure the people from want, war and warming of the climate, all of which present serious threats to humankind.

We see grounds for optimism as we survey the Asian scenario. Amidst the turbulence and turmoil seen in the world, there are a number of hopeful signs in Asia which are pointers to the spirit of peace and reconciliation prevailing over division and discord.

We welcome the results of the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of China, ICAPP's biggest member, leading to the political transition to a fifth generation leadership that reflects success in building a peaceful, prosperous and stable society.

Peace and reconciliation as laudable goals of successful state policy are evident in the historic signing of the framework peace accord in the Philippines, thanks to the leadership of President Benigno Aquino III, leading to a final settlement of a decades-long conflict between the central authority in Manila and the Muslim fighters in the South. And this spirit is reflected also in the historic change in Myanmar with an opening up to the outside world. We would like to commend the role of ICAPP, which took a timely initiative in September 2012 to reach out to both the government and opposition in Myanmar.

We also applaud the political transitions in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya where elected governments are now in office.

We appreciate the positive signals emanating from one of the most turbulent regions in Asia which has seen recurring violence; Southwest Asia is making modest strides on peace and reconciliation. The establishment of a Trilateral Commission, including Pakistan, Afghanistan and the United States seeks to promote a peace process that includes talks with the Taliban so that a conducive environment facilitates the military exit of the foreign forces from Afghanistan in 2014. We welcome the resumption of talks for normal communication and commerce between Pakistan and India after a gap of almost four years, as well as dialogue on all outstanding issues including Kashimir, a process pushed and promoted by ICAPP at its various fora. In Nepal too, the political transition has ended a decade-long armed conflict, giving primacy of the ballot over the bullet.

The eventual peaceful resolution of the Preah Vihear Temple dispute between Cambodia and Thailand and at a broader, sustained level, the success stories of peace and reconciliation in both Cambodia and Timor Leste show that bitterness and bigotry can be replaced by rapprochement and reconciliation, given a leadership with vision and will. We call on the

ruling and opposition parties in Thailand to consider the resolutions for reconciliation and amnesty for the so-called "Yellow Shirts" and "Red Shirts" of Thailand to unite the country under the much-loved and much-respected King Bhumibol Adulyadej, respecting the rule of law and preserving democracy.

However, we express our concern at the lingering conflicts in Asia: the use of brazen force in Palestine (Gaza), the need for lasting peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, or threats to use force to resolve the nuclear issue with Iran. All the potentially dangerous flashpoints in Asia should be resolved peacefully through negotiations, upholding international law and United Nations resolutions. Political parties must play their role in defusing issues in Southern Thailand or the Rohingayas in Myanmar.

In this regard, we commend the establishment of the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC), initiated by the ICAPP and Saranrom Institute of Foreign Affairs Foundation (SIFAF) in Bangkok in August 2011, which seeks to assist and advise governments in helping to resolve conflicts in the region.

We realize that environmental degradation and poverty passed down from generation to generation are the gravest threats confronting humankind in our time. We support all efforts to promote Eco-safety to moderate the effects of climate change, which are ravaging parts of Asia with recurring frequency. We endorse ICAPP's initiative to gain observer status to the General Assembly, so as to coordinate its activities with relevant U.N. programs and institutions.

We reaffirm our resolve to establish an Asian Anti-Poverty Fund and an Asian Micro-Financing Fund—as called for by the Kunming Declaration of the ICAPP Conference on Poverty Alleviation held in the capital city of Yunnan Province, China, in July 2010. We reaffirm our will to enlarge the objective area of the proposed Fund into a Global Anti-Poverty Fund following consultations with our intra-regional political partners in Latin America and the Caribbean under COPPPAL and with the political parties in Africa.

We also take this opportunity to appeal for peace in Syria and we urge the government in Damascus as well as the opposition to work out an accord for national reconciliation that includes free and fair elections which can result in a government that has legitimacy through the ballot box. Since most international and regional efforts have failed, we propose the calling of "snap" elections under U.N. supervision that will finally determine the will of the Syrian people on the leaders they want to govern them and take note of the recent emergence of the Syrian national opposition. Otherwise, the conflict has a danger of spilling into the wider Middle East with disastrous consequences leading to sectarian and ethnic cleavages.

We share the vision presented by the U.N. Secretary General, H.E. Ban Ki Moon for a nuclear free world with nuclear disarmament being promoted as an achievable goal, equitably without any discrimination and double standards. We welcome the initiative taken by president of Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev at the 66$^{th}$ session of the U.N. General Assembly to develop a "Universal Declaration of Nuclear Free World" and appreciated his efforts in fighting against the proliferation of nuclear weapons and achieving global security under the framework of the U.N.

We also support resolving territorial disputes in parts of Asia based on the accepted principles of international law and the U.N. Charter, rather than resorting to the threat or the use of force. Political differences on such territorial disputes must not become impediments to normal economic and cultural interaction, based on mutual benefit.

As ICAPP grows and expands in the 21st century, we reaffirm our commitment to play a leadership role as the harbinger of new ideas and initiatives on issues. This will help to revive faith in the future and build on the hope for a better tomorrow for Asia's teeming millions so that they may thrive in peace and prosperity in a world without overlords and without underdogs.

The 7th General Assembly of ICAPP at Baku witnessed the expansion of the ICAPP family, with Youth and Women affiliates. No country can progress without a robust role of both.

We applaud the increasingly important role of the youth in Asia, who are the majority in most of its countries. The ICAPP Youth Wing will endeavour to galvanize the energies, creativity and dynamism of youth as a focal point through its website, and its activities and initiatives. In this regard, we welcome the proposal of the New Azerbaijan Party to host an ICAPP Youth forum in Baku in the summer of 2013.

We also welcome the launch of ICAPP Women Wing, and we feel that with such an inclusive approach, ICAPP today is more representative of all key segments of Asian society.

We thank the new President of Mexico H.E. Enrique Pena Nieto, the ruling party PRI and COPPPAL for endorsing ICAPP's call for Mexico and the U.N. to convene in Mexico a Global Summit in the battle against narcotics in the light of the increasing production and distribution of narcotics in almost all parts of the world.

ICAPP pays tribute to the late King Norodom Sihanouk for his outstanding contribution to Asian Unity and his steadfastness despite difficulties faced by him, his family and his country.

We express our profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Azerbaijan especially President Ilham Aliyev and the New Azerbaijan Party for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements to make the 7th General Assembly of ICAPP a resounding success.

The ICAPP would also like to express our gratitude to the representatives of political parties and institutions from various countries outside Asia who have participated in the 7th General Assembly as observers.

Adopted unanimously on this 23rd day of November, 2012 in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan.

## B. Declaration of the 6th General Assembly of the ICAPP (Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 2-3, 2010)

We—the leaders and representatives of 89 political parties from Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, East Timor, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Tonga, and Vietnam—gathered here in Phnom Penh, the capital city of the Kingdom of Cambodia, for the Sixth General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP). The Assembly was graciously hosted by the Cambodian People's Party, in collaboration with the FUNCINPEC Party, from December 1 to 4, 2010, under the main theme of "Asia's Quest for a Better Tomorrow."

Noting that our Assembly coincides not only with the tenth anniversary of ICAPP's founding but also with the 32nd anniversary of the establishment of a 'Salvation Front for the Liberation of the Cambodian Nation from the Genocidal Regime,' we declare as follows:

### ICAPP AS AN OPEN FORUM FOR ASIA'S POLITICAL PARTIES

We reaffirm that ICAPP is an open and unique forum for Asia's political parties, and that it has become the pivot of inter-party dialogue and cooperation, working to achieve our common goal of sustained peace and shared prosperity in Asia. ICAPP is leading the way forward in what is generally accepted as the 21st Asian Century.

We note with great satisfaction and pride that, during its first decade, ICAPP has promoted exchanges and cooperation between political parties subscribing to competing ideologies; enhanced mutual understanding and trust among our peoples and countries; and promoted regional cooperation.

We reaffirm our commitment to the principles—and the spirit—of the ICAPP Charter and of ICAPP's subsequent Declarations at its biennial assemblies: in Manila in 2000, Bangkok in 2002, Beijing in 2004, Seoul in 2006 and Astana in 2009.

We reiterate our commitment to the intent and spirit of the United Nations Charter, International Law, the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, and the Bandung Principles that emphasize democracy, good governance, human security, human rights, dignity, freedom, well-being, the rule of law and coexistence between ethnicities, cultures and faiths. Promotion of inter-faith harmony is basic tenet of ICAPP's principles. ICAPP embodies the Asian spirit of resilience evident in the dynamism and vibrance of our societies: successfully combating crises and overcoming the economic difficulties with innovation.

### THE PRINCIPLES TO WHICH WE ADHERE

We pledge to ensure peace, security, stability and prosperity for our home continent, in the context of growing political and economic multi-polarity, by adhering to the following principles:

- Sovereignty and territorial integrity of every state;
- Right to determine its own political, economic and social system of every state;
- Non-aggression and non-interference in each other's internal affairs;
- Peaceful settlement of territorial disputes and adherence to international treaties and laws;
- Arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and
- Rejection of every kind of extremism, prejudice or bigotry.

We support in particular the international agreement that "all States need to make special efforts to establish the necessary framework to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons," as stated in the final Document unanimously adopted in 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the United Nations Secretary General's five point proposal which includes negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.

We support our Standing Committee's initiative—in company with the Permanent Conference of the Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL)—to reach out to our counterparts in Africa and in other continents to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation through dialogue and exchange, with the object of eventually convening a global convention of political parties. This was reaffirm at the meeting between Standing Committee of the ICAPP and Coordinating Body of the COPPPAL.

## FACING UP TO OUR GRAVEST THREATS

We realize that environmental degradation and poverty passed down from generation to generation are the gravest threats confronting humankind in our time. We support all efforts—international and national—to moderate the effects of climate change and to alleviate hunger, ignorance and ill-health. We endorse U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's efforts to accelerate the attainment of the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals; and to facilitate international agreements to reduce greenhouse gases. We endorse ICAPP's initiative to gain observer status to the General Assembly, so as to coordinate its activities with relevant U.N. programs.

We realize the Asian economies' need to improve their management of financial liquidity and their ability to pool resources, if they are to control the processes of national and regional development. Our countries must seek inclusive growth by expanding economic parity and by increasing their share of the benefits from global economic growth. They can achieve this by bridging the development gap and by speeding up their economic integration through the connectivity being generated by globalization.

## OUR CALL FOR OPEN REGIONALISM

We realize our need to boost intra-regional trade through open regionalism—by eliminating both tariff and non-tariff barriers, deepening cooperation, and integrating the economies of the Asian regions. We must link up the ASEAN and SAARC (South Asia Association for

Regional Cooperation) frameworks; strengthen the Mekong-Indo-China economic corridors; connect the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) with the South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) as well as with the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC); and bring Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) and all other regional cooperation frameworks into a larger pan-Asian architecture.

In this regard, we remind ourselves of our vision and our ultimate goal to build an Asian community that will bring about shared prosperity to all peoples in the region and emphasize the importance of collectively striving to further strengthen coordination and cooperation among all countries and regional groupings, in particular through expanded roles of political parties.

We reaffirm our resolve to establish an Asian Anti-Poverty Fund and an Asian Micro-Financing Fund—as called for by the Kunming Declaration of the ICAPP Conference on Poverty Alleviation held in the capital city of Yunnan Province, China, in July 2010. We reaffirm our will to enlarge the objective area of the proposed Fund into a Global Anti-Poverty Fund following consultations with our intra-regional political partners in Latin America and the Caribbean under COPPPAL and with the political parties in Africa.

We realize that, as Asia's economies expand, the continent's huge population will exert an upward pressure on food demand worldwide. To anticipate this, we must now build up our centers of sustainable agricultural growth. The Mekong River basin can become one such resource, both for Southeast Asia and beyond. We urge the Mekong Basin states to protect their water resources and develop their agriculture—particularly its organic components—not only to reduce poverty among their peoples, but also to improve regional food security and to restrain the inflation of global food prices.

## DEALING WITH THE PERILS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

We recognize our critical need to turn our economies away from business as usual—so that we can face up to our collective responsibility to deal with the hazards and perils of climate change. Already our countries must cope increasingly with environmental disasters such as super-typhoons, great floods and engulfing landslides. We must reexamine our accustomed energy culture and move forward in the innovative use of renewable and clean energy sources.

We must strengthen the bonds between humankind and the living earth by making industry a friend and not an enemy of the environment. Public policy must encourage the rise of 'green enterprises' and the adoption of technologies attuned to the new environmental imperatives. We must always keep in mind the earth is not for us to deal with as we please. We're merely its trustees for the next generation.

## TOWARD RENEWABLE ENERGY

We recognize that moving toward the use of renewable energy is not just an effort to reduce $CO_2$ emissions. It is also an opportunity to create sustainable domains of economic activity, raise popular incomes and generate jobs. The judicious development of Asia's renewable

energy resources—in all their variety and widespread availability—should become the end-goals of our continent's energy strategy.

Since it will take some time for renewable energy resources and green technologies to become fully developed, we must—at least for the foreseeable future—continue to rely on conventional energy sources to fuel Asia's development. Hence we must also advocate—in an era of volatile oil prices—the tapping of the oil and gas reserves known to lie both inland and offshore in many regions of our Continent.

## THE ROLE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

We recognize that biological diversity has played a crucial role in the rise of civilizations. Humankind must preserve zealously this immense biodiversity reserve. We call for the founding of an 'Asian Environment Research Center' to support our Continent's sustainable development and to encourage pioneering and innovation in sustainable development, particularly in farming, forestry and fishery.

## COPING WITH NATURAL DISASTERS

We also call for the closest cooperation among the Asian states to deal with recurring natural disasters, such as earthquakes, tsunami and flooding. We must link all efforts to prevent these disasters and to provide relief and rehabilitation at all levels—local, national and international. We urge the convening of an ICAPP Medical Emergency Forum (IMEF) to respond to the challenges and threats from natural disasters, as agreed at the 1st Meeting of the IMEF Steering Committee in Langkawi, Malaysia in May 2010. We welcome the decision to convene the ICAPP Conference on Natural Disasters and Environmental Protection in Malaysia in May 2011. And we support the objectives of the International Eco-Safety Cooperative Organization and propose that we show our collective resolve and consider including in our respective national Constitutions and political party platforms provisions and solutions to combat climate change and environmental degradation.

## YOUTHS' AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

We recognize that youth and women's access to and control over resources, access to opportunity and participation in al sphere of life are vital to sustainable development and prosperity. We recognise that the social-cultural processes of modernisation cannot be completed without their active engagement.

## MOBILIZE POLITICAL PARTIES FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENTS

We seek reconciliation in all Asia's conflict zones. Indeed one of our end-goals is to mobilize all the world's political groupings on behalf of the global peace process; the political and economic integration of the regions; the stability of the economic order; debt relief, and common action against poverty, corruption and climate change. By getting together and agreeing on common action, we, the Asian and world's political parties, could contribute our share to bridging the East-West, North-South divide; prevent the threatening "clash of civilizations," and save our planet from environmental degradation.

## PRESERVING THE ASIAN HERITAGE

We must also emphasize the importance of preserving Asia's splendid heritage, its cultures and values to the extend that they do not violate the rights of any individual and group that even under globalization, continue to inspire and to guide our Continent's processes of modernization. We call for the creation of an institution to award grand prize for union and innovating contributions to sustainable development, particularly in the field of agriculture, environment, energy, peace and culture.

Felicitate the Royal Government of Cambodia and the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) for their achievement with respect to the Angkor World Heritage Site, a cooperation between 18 countries and 25 institutions in 60 different projects, a model of excellence in its execution of protection, preservation and sustainable development and harmonization between cultural heritage, nature and human activities.

## PRAISE FOR THE CAMBODIAN LEADERS

Under the auspices of His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni and His Majesty King Father Samdech Preah Bat Norodom Sihanouk, we compliment the Cambodian People's Party for achieving the following goals:

- Liberating the country from the genocidal regime, preventing its return, and rebuilding the country from scratch with poverty rate of 100 percent;
- Negotiating and achieving a political settlement which paved the way for the development and prosperity;
- Safeguarding the Constitution and, thanks to win-win policy of Samdech Techo Hun Sen, guaranteeing peace, political stability and full national unity that has enabled the economy to growth by double digits in recent years;
- Brining the last Khmer Rouge leaders to justice through an Extraordinary Chamber within the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) that has been recognized by the United Nations as a new model for the international justices; and
- Dispatching Cambodian troops on UN peace-keeping mission to a number of countries such as Sudan, Chad, Central Africa and Lebanon.

Within a short spam of less than two decades, Cambodia has demonstrated through its policy a model of peace and reconciliation. A large-hearted approach based on inclusion, generosity and taking all on board has ensured a process where there no loser and all are victors. Such a model has relevant for others conflicts in Asia. In this context, ICAPP supports and joins the Centrist Asia Pacific Democrats International (CAPDI) Peace Commission in its efforts to promote peace in Asia through dialogue among political parties in conflict areas such as Nepal, Korea, Pakistan-India, and Afghanistan.
The ICAPP will be sending a delegation to Kathmandu on the invitation of the three major political parties of Nepal to seek a way out of the impasse through dialogue among the parties concerned.

The ICAPP also welcomes the establishment of the High Peace Commission by the Government of Afghanistan, which is mandated to start negotiation with the insurgents with a view to seeking a political settlement of the conflict.

Pursuant to the letters written by Chairman, Jose de Venecia and Secretary General Chung Eui-yong of the ICAPP, to the President of Pakistan and the leader of the ruling Indian National Congress, Madame Sonia Gandhi, representatives of the Indian and Pakistani ruling, and opposition parties met in Phnom Penh on December 3, 2010, and agreed to institutionalize the dialogue amongst the two countries main political forces.

With respect to the recent provocation and military action in the Korean Peninsula, the ICAPP General Assembly calls on all parties concerned to immediately defuse the situation through dialogue and negotiations. The ICAPP strongly urges the international community to ensure that there is no recurrence of the use of force, in line with the statement of the UN Secretary General of November 23, 2010, on this issue.

The ICAPP General Assembly noted that the "Cambodian Model" of peace, reconciliation and integration of armed groups presents a way forward to resolve conflicts in other parts of Asia.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Lastly, we must express our gratitude to the Cambodian People's Party and the FUNCINPEC Party for hosting our Sixth General Assembly. Further, we thank the Royal Government and the people of Cambodia for their warm hospitality. And we note with gratitude the encouragement and support of the Hanns Seidel Stiftung and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, both of the Federal Republic of Germany; and of the Korea Foundation, Republic of Korea.

We also express our gratitude to the representatives of political parties and institutes from Argentina, Columbia, Germany, Mexico, Seychelles, Sudan, Sweden, Tanzania, Uganda, and the United States who have participated in the assembly as observers.

Adopted unanimously on this 3rd day of December 2010, in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.

## C. Declaration of the 5th General Assembly of the ICAPP (Astana, Kazakhstan, September 24-26, 2009)

We, the leaders and representatives of 63 Asian political parties from 34 countries, have gathered at the 5th General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, from 24 to 26 September, 2009,

- based on the fundamental documents and principles of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties:
- wishing to make a joint contribution to ensuring peace, security and stability in the region in the context of growing political multi-polarity, economic and informational globalization,

- based on the aspiration for strengthening mutual confidence, friendship and good neighborly relations; encouragement of efficient cooperation in politics, trade and economy, science, culture, education, energy, transport, environment and other fields,
  striving for more profound and comprehensive cooperation to overcome the consequences of the global economic and financial crisis,
- adhering to the rule of law and good governance, and reconfirming the need to fight against corruption,
- acknowledging the need for Asian renovation to comply with the modern world requirements and to enhance life quality and competitiveness of Asia,
- recognizing that the ICAPP embodies a new culture of inter-party cooperation to further strengthen the close ties among the Asian peoples,
- acknowledging adherence to the generally recognized principles and regulations of international law related to maintaining peace, security and developing good neighborly and friendly relations, as well as collaboration between countries,
- and following the principles of Manila 2000, Bangkok 2002, Beijing 2004, and Seoul 2006 Declarations, have adopted this Declaration.

1. We are determined to create a just political model of relationships between the countries. Primary importance should be attached to the interests of the whole world rather than those of individual countries. The renovated system of international relations should make no distinction between rich and poor countries, big and small nations. This new world is to become the world of general confidence and respect, partnership and dialogue.

2. We all agree on the necessity of a new approach to ensuring global security. It is of paramount importance to consolidate efforts in international disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Therefore, we are appealing to the world community to focus the efforts on search for the ways to make the existing mechanisms of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and disarmament more efficient, including the establishment of a new universal Agreement on the general horizontal and vertical non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. We are appealing to the nuclear powers to be responsible to the world community and perform their obligations related to quantitative and qualitative reduction of their arsenals. In this connection, we welcome the recent agreements between Russia and the United States on nuclear disarmament and strategic arms limitation. We are sure that the problem of the global disarmament will only be solved when it is addressed by not only the nuclear weapons owners but the international community as a whole. We support Kazakhstan's request addressed to the United Nations Organization for proclaiming August 29 the World day of non-dissemination of weapons of mass destruction.

3. We emphasize the importance of the recently adopted Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty signed by five Central Asian states: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. This is a truly historical document that has a strategic significance in nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. Signing and ratification of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty is an important decision in the field of strengthening international and regional security. We are calling other countries of the Asian continent to follow this example in the sphere of disarmament and

nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, and appealing to the world nuclear powers to sign the Protocol on Negative Security Assurances provided to the zone member-states which is an integral part of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty. A world, including all regions, without nuclear weapons should be ultimate objective.

4. The current risks and threats are mostly of a transnational character and, therefore, require consolidated efforts to overcome them. We support active participation in the international movement aimed at fighting against terrorism, illegal arms traffic, all kinds extremism and drug traffic, as well as racism, intolerance and discrimination.

5. The Asian political parties regard it as their historical mission to adequately respond to challenges and threats facing the states of the Asian continent in the modern world. Our joint significant contribution to the development of a large-scale international strategy of strengthening regional security might be the creation of a Charter of peace and stability in renovated Asia aimed at facilitating cooperation of countries and nations of our vast region in the face of new challenges and threats. In fact, this will be the Strategy of Asian renovation. This idea of unification complies with the interests of all the nations of the Asian continent, facilitates economic and political cooperation and inter-party dialogue. General Assembly welcomed the peaceful dialogue between Indian and Pakistan parties.

6. We are convinced that interaction and confidence-building measures in politics and ensuring of regional security are to be supported by interaction and confidence-building measures in the financial sphere. The Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) singed by twenty Asian states representing 90 per cent of the Asian continent is a good start for the activities of the Asian twenty states, A-20. Political parties in Asia highly appreciate the role of CICA and would like to make unremitting efforts to promote cooperation among Asian countries.

7. We call for a new global monetary mechanism which will enable us to closely monitor the global financial activities and prevent, or properly prepare for, forthcoming risks and challenges. We also call for specific measures to be taken by leading economies of the world to establish transparent international rules of macroeconomic and financial discipline, adopt new standards for the budgetary policy, and reduce speculative transactions in the global financial market. In this regard, we note with great interest the initiative taken by Kazakhstan to restructure the world financial system.

8. We support the efforts by the international community, particularly the United Nations, to address the challenges caused by climate change and arrest the emission of carbon dioxide, and call upon all political parties in Asia to urge their governments and parliaments to undertake massive reforestation and tree planting projects as a way of contribution in the battle to fight environmental degradation and also as a part of economic stimulus packages to overcome the current global recession

9. We all agree with the opinion that a new, more flexible and mobile structure of international relations is being established. An increasing importance is attached to regional integration associations that are turning into independent poles of the world politics. We support the efforts taken by various regional organizations and forums

whose activities are aimed at establishing an Asian community, including the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Gulf Cooperation Council, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Shanghai Cooperation Organization, ASEAN Regional Forum, Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC), East Asia Summit, Organization of the Islamic Conference, Boao Forum, APA, ECO for Asia.

10. We welcome the chairmanship of Kazakhstan in OSCE in 2010 that represents the Asian sub-continent with predominantly Muslim population. We are convinced that it will facilitate the settlement of issues related to arms reduction, ensuring environmental safety, maintaining energy and food stability, as well as strengthening inter-ethnic, intercultural, and inter-confessional harmony. We believe that Kazakhstan's chairmanship in OSCE will contribute to the settlement of problems of the Asian region and enhancement of its cooperation with Europe, as well as joint settlement of Afghanistan's and Palestinian problems.

11. We are sure that the priority area of Asian renovation is integration in the industrial and innovation field. Cooperation in the innovation sphere is to be focused on consolidation of scientific and manufacturing resources, establishment of joint funds, and creation of the system of advanced technology exchange. We support joint involvement in large-scale high-technology projects in the field of information and communication, nuclear and nanotechnologies, power engineering and energy saving, biotechnologies and agricultural technologies. An important area is integration in the scientific and educational sphere. It is necessary to expand cooperation between universities and exchange of professors and students, organize joint scientific and educational research.

12. We are interested in attracting the attention of international financial institutions to the creation of transcontinental transport corridor between Europe and Asia as continuation of the Silk Road traditions. We are determined to turn the Silk Road which used to tie us in ancient times into a highway promoting more intense contacts with regions of the world.

13. We call for an integrated approach in utilizing water resources and maximizing its potential in our region. We agree that the efficient use of water resources is a prerequisite for self-sufficiency in food and energy in the region and call for intergovernmental collaboration. We also agree, in particular, to take urgent measures to prevent ecological crises in the basins of trans-boundary rivers to ensure safe use for water supply, irrigation and power generating. In this regard, we take a special note of the need for large-scale assistance of the international community to improve environment in the Aral Sea Basin.

14. Being aware of our citizens' right to work and better life, we recognize the necessity of free movement of human resources. We also recognize the need for taking joint efforts to reduce poverty and social inequality being objective prerequisites for mass and illegal citizens' migration.

15. We are firmly convinced that discrimination against women violates the principles of equal rights and respect of human dignity, and impedes women's participation in the political, social, economic, and cultural life in their countries, we are calling for elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

16. We support the fundamental regulations of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as other international acts aimed at combating the employment of children. We are calling for taking an immediate efficient action for prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including slavery and forced labor, traffic in children and recruitment for participation in armed conflicts, child prostitution and pornography, production and sale of drugs, as well as work that may damage children's health, safety or morality. We are for taking efficient measures to eliminate the worst forms of child labor and prevent its new forms. Such measures are to include children's rehabilitation and access to free education and medical care, social protection and cultural development.

17. We recognize the need for active work with young people since the process of Asian renovation cannot be implemented without extensive involvement of young generation. The Asian political parties are to work out their own youth policies as a strategy of competition for youth. It is necessary to create the appropriate conditions for young people to obtain positive social experience in such important spheres as education, public recognition, employment, family.

18. We are for spiritual renovation based on maintaining an efficient dialogue of cultures in the framework of various ethnic and confessional traditions and values. Ensuring religious harmony, peaceful coexistence of ethnic groups is an important priority of Asian renovation. We all agree on the opinion that inter-confessional and inter-ethnic harmony is the pillar stone of universal security, stability, and progressive economic and political development of countries. We welcome the decision taken at the 3rd Congress of World and Traditional Religions Leaders held on July 1-2, 2009 in Astana, and intend to take efforts to fully implement it. We support the idea of giving right and correct religious knowledge. We are appealing to all stakeholders to take the relevant measures to ensure comprehensive and universal celebration of the International year of cultural convergence in 2010.

19. We agree that the ICAPP has become the pivot of inter-party dialogue and cooperation in our region. We take note with pride and satisfaction that, in less than a decade since its inception in 2000, the ICAPP has expanded rapidly and emerged as a major factor on the Asian horizon building on its own success. We recognize that the ICAPP has made substantive progress in addressing various issues of the region, political, social and economic, through such programs and initiatives as General Assemblies, Standing Committee meetings, Special Workshops and Joint Sessions with other regional political institutions, including the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL). We believe that, through increased exchanges and interactions among political parties in the region, we can build an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding among all the peoples in Asia, promote democratic values and institutions throughout the region, and more effectively implement our mission of Asian

renovation. In this regard, we support the joint initiative of the ICAPP and the COPPPAL to reach out to political parties in other regions of the world, especially in Africa. We can proudly state that the ICAPP has indeed become the political bridge between Asia and Latin America, and Asia and Africa.

20. We declare that the ICAPP is an open forum for all political parties in Asia which support close dialogue and cooperation to achieve our common goal of sustained peace and shared prosperity in the region. We hope that all the political parties in Asia will join our Forum as full-fledged members or observers and further strengthen the ICAPP as a truly continent-wide inter-party institution to unite the whole region and create an environment where all people of the region flourish. We declare the ICAPP is open for all political parties committed to cooperation and common development that are eligible according to the ICAPP charter.

Finally, we express our most sincere gratitude to the President of Kazakhstan, Chairman of the People's Democratic Party "Nur Otan" H.E. Nursultan Nazarbaev for hosting this historic General Assembly of the ICAPP. We also thank the government and the people of Kazakhstan for their support and warm hospitality.

Adopted on September 26, 2009 in Astana City, Republic of Kazakhstan

### D. Declaration of the 4th General Assembly of the ICAPP (Seoul, Korea, September 7-10, 2006)

We, leaders and representatives of 90 political parties from Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, East Timor, Fiji Islands, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, and Vietnam, gathered in Seoul for the Fourth General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), jointly organized by the governing Uri Party and the opposition Grand National Party of the Republic of Korea under the main theme of "Peace and Prosperity in Asia." We aimed to further strengthen our collective endeavor to bring about stability, peace and prosperity in Asia by building mutual confidence and fellowship among Asian political organizations, by seeking political consensus through consultation, and by sharing our experiences and developing common political strategies for all our peoples, as envisioned in Manila in September 2000, and as confirmed in Bangkok in November 2002, and reconfirmed in Beijing in September 2004.

1. We noted with great satisfaction that the ICAPP has become a solid platform to advance our common vision and an effective channel to bridge diverse ideologies and cultures existing in Asia. With renewed commitment, this year, we pledged ourselves to continue our utmost efforts to further promote mutual understanding and cooperation among the peoples and the political parties in the region. As a result, we presented the future direction that the ICAPP should be progressing towards, on the basis of the principles confirmed by the past three General Assemblies, in the following paragraphs

with the sincere aim of seeing our region realize its full potential and ultimately witness permanent peace and shared prosperity all across Asia.

## REGIONAL SECURITY AND POLITICAL STABILITY

2. With firm conviction that regional security and political stability are necessary foundations in achieving these goals, we carefully deliberated on our responsibilities as political leaders and identified our common tasks to meet the challenges arising in the region, firmly reminding ourselves that we must pursue peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue, while respecting the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in domestic affairs.

3. First and foremost, we strongly condemned all forms of terrorism as they only work to destabilize the region and counter the goals of the ICAPP. Accordingly, we stood united in agreeing to work together in finding and implementing measures, which effectively confront terrorism, while complying with relevant obligations under international law. We called on the international community to work towards eradicating the root causes of terrorism and advocated the strengthening of coordination and collaboration between countries and regional organizations toward this goal.

4. In this regard, we also supported the initiative for the Inter-Faith Dialogue which would bring together peoples with different religious beliefs and cultural heritages, thus isolating the extremists who attempt to resolve their differences through violence. These inter-faith dialogues should engage people of all faiths including, but not limited to, Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, and Buddhists.

5. We affirmed the fact that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) poses a threat to the existence and development of mankind, and is a major element affecting regional security and political stability. Thus, we fully endorsed the comprehensive prohibition and thorough elimination of nuclear weapons and we opposed the proliferation of WMD and their carriers.

6. In this regard, we noted United Nations Security Council Resolution 1695 of 15 July 2006, which supported the six-party talks, called for their early resumption, and urged all the participants to intensify their efforts on the full implementation of the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement, with a view to achieving verifiable denuclearization of the Korean peninsula in a peaceful manner, and to maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in north-east Asia. We also welcomed the signing of the treaty on the creation of nuclear weapons free zone in Central Asia on 8 September 2006.

7. In recognition that the principle of democracy is a fundamental value as it respects the will of the majority, protects the rights of individuals and minority groups, and subjects governments to the rule of law, we emphasized the importance of making concerted efforts in the promotion of democracy across Asia. We acknowledged the need for more systemic support to modernize political parties in some parts of our region and agreed, as a means to achieve this goal, to set up a clearing house where political parties can exchange ideas and best practices to better serve political interests of the peoples. We are

confident that such collective exertion shall bear positive results for the region.

8. We acknowledged that human security issues including drug and human trafficking, piracy, and other trans-national crimes are obstacles to peace and stability in the region which must be overcome. If left uncontrolled, they threaten to directly counteract the work exerted in achieving our goals. Thus, we welcomed all initiatives which aim to prevent, control, and eliminate all such transnational crimes, not only on an individual country-by-country basis, but also at the regional level.

9. We recalled the large-scale natural disasters that the region recently experienced and conveyed our condolences to the victims and their bereaved families. Recognizing that through collective effort, such tragedies can be surmounted, we fully supported the establishments of the UN Anti-Disaster Unit, a Global Fund, and early warning systems to prevent and minimize the dangers of calamities created by large-scale natural disasters. Further, we applauded the efforts in the region to prevent and find an answer to avian influenza and other pandemic diseases.

POVERTY REDUCTION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

10. By recognizing that Asia has been the stage of many miracles, particularly in the economic area, and that the positive effects have not been enjoyed universally and across the region, we reaffirmed the need to address poverty and inequality still prevalent in the region. For its appropriate remedy, we proposed equitable share among countries in view of the interests and rights of all countries, including access to resources. We concurred that it is our obligation to pursue a policy of sustainable development, to share development experiences, and to expand economic and technical cooperation, all actions which partake in the curing of such ailments.

11. In particular, we found that poverty is a prominent issue which needs to be urgently addressed. Therefore, we were united in endorsing the efforts to realize the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which includes, but is not limited to, reducing global poverty by half by the year 2015. We also supported other goals of the MDGs that ensure environmental sustainability and develop a global partnership for development.

12. We reaffirmed that success in our efforts for eradicating poverty depends, inter alia, on good governance within each country. We identified the following as characteristics of good governance: participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive, and following the rule of law. In addition, we renewed our determination to fight against corruption, which is a vice still deeply rooted in some parts of our region. We also agreed to embrace attempts to improve corporate governance, establish financially sound regulation, and promote a cleaner and more transparent community in the region.

13. Further, we stressed that good governance at the international level is equally important to achieve our common goal to free the entire human race from want. Our success depends on transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems. In this regard,

we reaffirmed our commitment to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system. We shared the view that the idea of creating the Asian Monetary Fund and the Asian Anti-Poverty Fund should be given wider support to help many economies in the region to better cope with potential financial challenges, generate more appropriate jobs, and create social wealth. We also agreed to push ahead with the large scale debt-to-equity conversion initiative, which had been unanimously endorsed by G-77, as one of anti-poverty programs under the MDGs.

14. We agreed to intensify the investment of our time and energy to improve access to proper nutrition, basic social services, healthy environment, educational opportunities and gainful employment. We agreed to continue our efforts to mainstream women, ethnic minorities, handicapped individuals, and other marginalized populations. We also shared our concern on the impact of high oil prices and emphasized the need to develop energy resources, including alternative fuels, in ways to alleviate the sufferings of the poor.

15. Moreover, we concluded that the Special Workshop on Women Politicians, held for the first time during this General Assembly, reminded us of the need to firmly recommit ourselves in the effort to promote the political empowerment and social participation of women. We determined that this would entail proactive endeavors to create practical and specific formulation, such as the micro-financing programs introduced in less developed countries. We recognized that the elevation of women to their rightful base, ultimately works to counteract the ailments, particularly that of poverty. Thus, we noted that workshops, focusing on women's issues in future General Assemblies, would be most beneficial.

## BUILDING AN ASIAN COMMUNITY

16. As we proclaimed in the Asian Declaration adopted at the First General Assembly of the ICAPP in Manila in 2000, it is our ultimate goal to build an Asian community that will bring about permanent peace and shared prosperity in the region and will enrich the minds and spirits of all our peoples. We reminded ourselves of this vision of an Asian community and emphasized the importance of collectively striving to strengthen coordination and cooperation among countries, in particular through expanded roles of political parties.

17. In this regard, we reaffirmed our support and endorsement of the efforts being made by various regional groupings toward building an Asian community, including the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Central Asian Union, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Shanghai Cooperation Organization, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Plus Three, ASEAN Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), Conference on Interaction and Confidence- Building in Asia (CICA), ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO), and East Asia Summit.
18. In particular, we endorsed the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) initiative, which the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) had agreed to convert itself into at its 5th General Assembly in Islamabad in November 2004, and expressed our firm

conviction that such efforts to foster integration of the region will lead us a step closer to ultimately draw upon our respective strengths and creating the synergy to build an Asian community.

19. We agreed that further institutionalization of the ICAPP is necessary in order to achieve this goal. We understood that it would be a long term exercise, involving all the political parties in the region, and that the steps to share our experiences and knowledge in party-building and modernization should be incorporated in the process. With this understanding in mind, we adopted the Charter of the ICAPP, which is attached as Annex, and mandated the current Standing Committee of the ICAPP to prepare the plan to implement the Charter from the Fifth General Assembly of the ICAPP. It is our firm conviction that the Charter, together with the recent launching of the website, will be a solid foundation in the development of the ICAPP.

CONCLUSIONS

20. With the continually transforming political, economic, and social landscapes, the ICAPP is an embodiment of our ideal to unite the region of Asia and create an environment where all people of the region flourish. Bearing this in mind, we have gathered here in Seoul and remained loyal to the objectives of the ICAPP. Our pursuit of the common goal and spirit of cooperation have made the dialogue, which we have extensively engaged in during the Fourth General Assembly, truly productive and reassuring. Although we must now part, we do not leave empty handed. We take with us fond memories of the ICAPP to serve as reminders of the immense potential of Asia and the close friendship which exists between us. We shall now return invigorated to our respective nations, and work to guarantee the continuity of our commitment.

21. Finally, we express our deepest gratitude to the Uri Party and the Grand National Party for co-hosting this historic ICAPP meeting. Further, we thank the government and the people of the Republic of Korea for their support and warm hospitality. The impeccable arrangements by the Organizing Committee and the Secretariat of the Fourth General Assembly, with the support of The Korea Foundation, The Federation of Korean Industries, Korea International Trade Association, The Korea Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Korea Securities Dealers Association, Lotte Hotel in Seoul, Hanns Seidel Stiftung, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, and The United Nations Development Program, have made this conference a monumental gathering.

Adopted unanimously on this 10th day of September 2006 in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

### E. Declaration of the 3rd General Assembly of the ICAPP (Beijing, China, September 3-5, 2004)

1. We leaders and representatives of 81 political parties from 35 countries attended the Third International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) hosted by the Communist Party of China in Beijing China, September 3rd through 5th, 2004.

2. The ICAPP, established in September 2000, is a great undertaking in which Asian political parties adjust to the contemporary trend of peace and development, adapt to the rapid development of regional cooperation and expand international exchanges and cooperation among themselves. The ICAPP has become an important forum where legal political parties of sovereign Asian countries can exchange political ideas, seek political consensus and increase understanding and trust. It has also become a new channel and new mechanism through which political parties can play their unique role in promoting regional cooperation and mutual development. The Third ICAPP has injected new vigor into international exchanges among political parties of Asian countries.

3. "Exchange, Cooperation and Development" is not only the explicit theme of the Third ICAPP but also the unshakable historical duty of Asia's political parties and politicians. The leaders and representatives of the Asian political parties at this conference have carried out extensive discussion and exchanges of ideas on the three topics of regional security and multilateral cooperation, economic development and social progress, and party building and national development. The conference has been productive, and it has met the objectives of further strengthening mutual friendship, exchanges and cooperation, increasing mutual understanding, trust and consensus, and jointly safeguarding regional peace, stability and unity.

4. It has already become the common desire of the political parties, politicians and ordinary people of all Asian countries to adapt to the trend of the times, increase regional exchanges and cooperation and promote common development. Cooperation in Asia is not exclusive, nor is it directed at any third party. Asia should develop itself by opening up to the whole world and advance through contacts all over the world. We advocate resolving differences through dialogue and negotiation in accordance with the intent and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the ten principles of Bandung. We advocate gradually reforming the inequitable and unjust aspects of the current international order through mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation, energetically carrying forward the process of democratization in international relations and cooperatively promoting Asia's peace, stability, harmony and prosperity.

5. The rapid development of Asia has been aided by a peaceful environment. Maintaining the momentum of development requires the region's security and stability. In recent years, the overall situation in Asia has been stable and its main trend has been toward peace, development and cooperation. However, traditional and nontraditional security issues have become intertwined, and both new and old hot spots are still affecting the peace and tranquility of some countries and regions. The question of how to ensure the long-term peace and stability of Asia is a major issue that all Asian political parties and politicians should ponder deeply. We affirm refusing wars, aggressions and hegemony. We are committed to multilateral cooperation and believe that justice will ensure peace. We applaud the efforts Asian countries and political parties have made to peacefully resolve regional conflicts and crises, and advocate turning areas of disputes into areas of cooperation.

6. Terrorism, splittism and extremism have already become plagues that do harm to human society. We strongly condemn and oppose all forms of terrorism. We advocate strengthening cooperation among sovereign countries and between regional organizations against terrorism, taking steps to eliminate the root causes of terrorism while giving full play to the role of the United Nations. Double standards should not be practiced and the fight against terrorism must not be linked with any particular ethnic group or religion.

7. Asia is one of the most vigorously developing regions in the world and one of the most important areas for trade growth. We have great confidence in the development potential of the Asian economy. At the same time we fully recognize that the world's globalization trend has brought about opportunities and challenges to every country and the people. Asian countries can take advantage of their opportunities only by strengthening their cooperation, overcome their difficulties only by recognizing that they are all in the same boat, and thrive in the face of fierce global competition only by working together to make themselves stronger. It is a sacred obligation of all countries and political parties as well as the international community to eliminate poverty and achieve prosperity. We encourage governments of all countries to draw up anti-poverty strategies, reinforce international cooperation and implement diversified measures to alleviate poverty in an effort to create a better world of common prosperity without destitution.

8. Energy issues are central to the economic security and sustainable development of all countries, and the safety of energy resources is a problem facing the entire international community. Cooperation in energy can become an important component of Asian regional cooperation. Countries in the region should expand dialogue and cooperation on the basis of the principles of mutual benefits and win-win solutions and jointly promote sustainable development in Asia.

9. We believe that all Asian countries should choose their own development path and development model in accordance with local conditions, strengthen coordination, exchanges and cooperation in the areas of economic and social development, and work to create an environment beneficial for development. They should work together to develop a new concept of development, explore new ways of thinking about development, expand the connotation of development, and work hard to promote coordinated and sustainable economic and social development, urban and rural development, and development of both human beings and nature throughout the region. They should take advantage of the favorable opportunities in the region that arise from the overall political stability, the continual economic growth and the deepening regional cooperation to increase economic cooperation, progressively open up markets to each other, resolve trade disputes through negotiation and promote the sound development of a multilateral trade system.

10. Asian countries have a radiant splendor of historical and cultural traditions, diverse social and political systems and different levels of economic development. We advocate strengthening dialogue among different civilizations, seeking common development through interactions and realizing a win-win situation by maximizing the consensus and setting aside the differences on the basis of fully respecting each other's historical traditions, cultural differences and diversified development paths.

11. Asian political parties bear a historic responsibility for developing their national economies, safeguarding social stability and promoting the development of democracy and legal systems. As all the countries in Asia progress toward modernization, their political parties should constantly adjust to the requirements of the development of the times. In order to achieve social and political stability and contribute to their country's modernization, political parties should promote clean and efficient government through vigorous measures of party building, and effectively integrate all the country's internal relationships by strengthening ties with the parliament, the government and the civil society.

12. Asian political parties, large or small, old or new, should be entirely equal, respect other's independence and self-determination, respect other's choices and practices, respect other's internal and external policies established on the basis of conditions in their respective countries, and refrain from interfering in other's internal affairs. Ideological differences should not be a barrier to contacts and cooperation among Asian political parties. Concerning differences and conflicts between parties, Asia's political parties should adopt the spirit of seeking common ground and reserving differences, resolving differences through dialogue and negotiation or temporarily setting them aside so that they do not affect the normal development of bilateral relations. We believe that Asian political parties should promote the sound and stable development of state-to-state relations through positive contacts and cooperation. They should continuously enrich the connotation and develop the potential for cooperation and make full use of their unique role in promoting economic development, advancing social progress and safeguarding regional security.

Finally, we wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to the distinguished Communist Party of China and its leaders for their energetic efforts and outstanding contributions that led to the successful convocation of the Third International Conference of Asian Political Parties.

### F. Declaration of the 2nd General Assembly of the ICAPP (Bangkok, Thailand, November 22-24, 2002)

We, the Heads and special representatives of political parties from Commonwealth of Australia, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Kingdom of Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Republic of India, Republic of Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Republic of Kyrgyz, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Kingdom of Nepal, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of the Philippines, Russia Federation, Republic of Singapore, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Republic of Tajikistan, Kingdom of Thailand, and Socialist Republic of Vietnam, gathered in Bangkok on 22-24 November 2002, for the Second International Conference of Asian Political Parties.

Recalling the Asian Declaration 2000 adopted by the Heads and special representatives of Asian political parties at its First Conference of Asian Political Parties held at Manila from 17 to 20 September 2000 which constitutes the important framework for the strengthening of a

close and cordial relationship among political organizations in Asia; the promotion of our mutual understanding and confidence; and the attainment of Asia-wide peace, stability, concord and prosperity for all our peoples,

Reiterating the central role and responsibility of political parties in national, regional and international policy and development processes and in dealing with the challenges of globalization arising out of the words changing political, economic, social and technological landscapes,

Recognizing that there is an imperative need to pursue our shared vision to transform Asia into a better knowledge-based society through our collective wisdom, combined strengths and coherence of actions to meet the challenges of globalization,

Expressing firm conviction that democracy, good governance, human security, principles of rights, dignity, freedom, well-being and adherence to constitutional principles are essential elements for peace and sustainable development in Asia,

Underlining the vital role of political parties in promoting policies and strategies for the implementation of this Declaration that ensure popular participation, enjoy political consensus, and endure our vision,

Hereby, adopt the Agenda for Action as the embodiment of our commitment to work cooperatively for the betterment of Asia.

ENHANCING ASIA'S REGIONAL SECURITY

Commit ourselves to creating political, economic, social, cultural and legal environment that will make Asia a zone of secure stability, peace, freedom and prosperity among the peoples,

Respect each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity; and respect the right of every state to determine its own political, economic and social systems in an interdependent world,

Reinforce peace by promoting tolerance, non-violence and respect for our diversity, and by settling disputes by peaceful means, especially to achieve permanent and lasting cooperation and dialogues among all religions, cultures and civilizations,

Urge our respective governments to strengthen national mechanisms and bilateral, regional and international cooperation in combating terrorism and to ratify or accede to more international anti-terrorist conventions, support the role of the United Nations in this regard, and work together to create international confidence that Asia is safe to travel and to engage in economic activities,

Welcome the initiative to establish a regional framework for fighting human and drug trafficking and other transnational crimes and to adopt a strategy and plan of action to prevent, control and neutralize the crime,

Support global initiatives aimed at achieving general and complete disarmament, including the disarmament and the elimination of nuclear weapons,

Agree to set up an Asian network of centers for conflict management and prevention,

## ON GOOD GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Respect internationally recognized human rights, dignity and fundamental freedoms,
Pledge to work in partnerships with private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society so as to enhance democracy and promote good governance,

Commit ourselves to creating political environments that enable citizens to fully participate in political processes in order to improve respective governments' effectiveness, efficiency and responses to the needs of the peoples,

Minimize "money politics," cronyism and corruption by encouraging our governments to undertake reforms to enhance transparency and accountability in governments and to institute a system of state allocation for political parties,

## TOWARDS GREATER ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Welcome the final outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development on 22 March 2002 in Monterrey, Mexico,
Promote economic growth and development as catalysts of change to enhance the capabilities of people and allow greater human freedom,

Recognize that economies must be developed in a sustainable manner to ensure that the environment is conserved and protected for future generations,

Commit ourselves to enhancing the role of regional and sub-regional agreements and free trade areas, consistent with the multilateral trading system, in construction of a better world trading system,

Support the efforts of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) grouping to strengthen the regional financial system in order to attain Asia's greater stability,

Welcome the initiative of the Royal Thai Government in inaugurating the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) on 18-19 June 2002 in Thailand, as a means to enhance Asia-wide's strength, cooperation and competitiveness in international economic order,

Strive to ensure that Asian countries draw upon the strengths of our rich history, culture and natural resources, and pool them together so as to create synergy and economic partnership,

Promote the principles of equal participation in the multilateral decision-making process, especially in the World Trade Organization (WTO), and urge our respective governments to work cooperatively in the WTO negotiations for further integration of our countries into the world economy in the context of fair trade,

Encourage the members of the WTO to implement the outcome of its Fourth Ministerial Conference, held in Doha, Qatar, from 9-14 November 2001, to ensure the meaningful and full participation of developing countries in multilateral trade negotiations, taking into account the special differential treatment that developing countries deserve,

Further economic reform to improve corporate governance and financially sound regulation, and urge continued efforts to enhance the effectiveness of mechanisms to prevent recurrence of economic crisis in Asia,

Emphasize human resources development as an essential component of international development cooperation and that there is a need to promote continuous training and capacity building within projects and programs as a means of advancing such development,

Urge our respective governments to strengthen the foundations for sustainable growth, job creation and well-balanced monetary and fiscal policies in order to enhance the adaptability and competitiveness of our economies,

Recognize the important roles of information and communication technologies in the age of globalization and the growing digital divide between countries, thereby urge our governments to work jointly on information and communication technologies application and development,

## FOR A SUSTAINED HUMAN SECURITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Emphasize the United Nations Millennium Declaration development goals of sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development,

Recognize that poverty remains a major problem in Asia, and we pledge to continue our efforts in eradicating the problem from our societies,

Promote the exchange of experiences and the transfer of best practices on poverty alleviation, as well as human capacity building,

Welcome the adoption of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation unanimously approved at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg on 4 September 2002,

Stress that human, economic and social development and environmental protection are the four pillars of the sustainable development principle, and there is an imperative need to protect and manage the natural resources base of economic and social development,

Note with concern that the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen in Asia, and encourage the adoption of policies, approaches and measures that serve to narrow this increasing gap,

Urge our respective governments to develop a greater capacity to provide universal health, basic education, social safety nets and other services to the peoples, especially the poor and those most in need, to enable individuals to embrace global change and trade liberalization,

while enhancing social cohesion,

Encourage further efforts to combat HIV/AIDS at the national and international level through a combined strategy of prevention, vaccine development and appropriate therapy, and we welcome the efforts of UNAIDS in the fight against HIV/AIDS,

Call for the recognition of, and respect for, cultural diversity and the cultural rights for all, which contributes to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural backgrounds and fosters stable, friendly relations among peoples and countries in Asia,

Encourage a broader dialogue to continue to include shared experiences on social development and adaptation to the new global realities. We support the inter-parliamentary dialogue initiated by the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) and allied regional groupings.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

To ensure the continuity of our commitment to the Agenda for Action, the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties shall implement a mechanism to continue the discussions covering regional security, good governance, political participation, economic cooperation, human security and social development.

Finally, we express our deep gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Leader of Thai Rak Thai Party and Prime Minister of Thailand, and the Thai political parties for the warm hospitality and for hosting this Bangkok Meeting with excellent arrangements, with the support of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Hanns Seidel Foundation and the King Prajadhipok's Institute.

Adopted by unanimous acclamation this 24th day of November 2002, at Bangkok, Thailand.

### G. Declaration of the 1st General Assembly of the ICAPP (Manila, Philippines, September 17-20, 2000)

INTRODUCTION

1. We—the heads and special representatives of political parties from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, East Timor, Indonesia, India, Iran, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam—met in Manila on 17-20 September 2000, to inaugurate a process of fraternal consultations in order to build bridges of political cooperation and establish networks of mutual benefit in Asia over the first decades of the 21st Century.

2. Our Conference—the first meeting in history of political parties in the continent—includes both majority and leading minority parties, since it is out of their memberships that governments are formed and popular support mobilized for public policies.

3. We regard our collective endeavor as parallel to the efforts of our diplomats, economic and financial ministers, and Heads of State and of Government, to bring about Asia-wide stability, concord, and prosperity. Our aims are to build mutual confidence and fellowship among Asia's political organizations; to seek political consensus through consultation and the sharing of national experience; and to develop political strategies in common to achieve peace and economic prosperity for all our peoples.

## A SHARED VISION OF WHAT ASIA CAN BECOME

4. We realize our countries' urgent need to deal with the remaining problems of Asian security, recognizing regional stability to be absolutely essential to Asian development.

5. We also recognize our imperative need to develop coordinated responses to the challenges of globalization, particularly our need to draw up new rules to govern relationships between the developed and developing economies under the new global environment.

6. Considering the diversity of our political cultures, we are keenly aware of the limits to what we can agree on at this early stage of our association. But we also recognize we must move together toward a political vision we can share of what our continent can become.

## AGENDA FOR ACTION

7. We proclaim the preliminary elements of this shared vision in this Asian Declaration 2000, which we hereby adopt, and which we enjoin future Conferences to embrace and enrich.

8. We adopt this Agenda for Action as the embodiment of our commitment to work cooperatively—for economic prosperity, good governance and peace that will endure throughout the continent.

9. We believe political parties to be important instruments for carrying out this agenda—through their ability to promote popular participation, build political consensus, and clarify visions of alternative futures.

## ON REGIONAL SECURITY

10. It is our wish to build a zone of peace, freedom, and prosperity among our peoples that have called us here together.

11. To attain stability in Asia, we reaffirm our adherence to these proven principles of state relationships:

12.a. Respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity; and for the right of every state to determine its own political, economic, and social systems:

12.b. Non-aggression and non-interference in each other's internal affairs;

12.c. Peaceful settlement of territorial disputes and respect for treaties and international law.

13. We support the steps the ASEAN Regional Forum is taking to build mutual confidence and promote political security dialogue among the Asia-Pacific states.

14. We will cooperate to preserve the regional balance of power in the Asia-Pacific and help maintain sub-regional balances in South Asia and Northeast Asia.

15. We also support global initiatives on arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

16. We appeal to all states to resolve territorial disputes through peaceful dialogue. We welcome warmly the efforts at reconciliation in the Korean peninsula.

17. We will cooperate to further confidence-building, preventive diplomacy and conflict-resolution in Asia - particularly in the South China Sea and in Kashmir.

18. We will initiate and support efforts to achieve Christian-Muslim cooperation and dialogues among cultures and civilizations—initially at the level of political parties and non-government organizations—to help mitigate ethnic, political, and religious conflicts that have spilled over into the 21st Century.

19. We call on our governments to harmonize their laws on combating human and drug trafficking, terrorism, piracy and other trans-national crimes.

ON ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

20. We seek economic growth not merely because it enables human beings to accumulate material goods, but because it enhances the capabilities of ordinary people and allows greater human freedom.

21. We welcome the revitalization of regional economic growth in the aftermath of the East Asian financial crisis.

22. We support further reform to improve corporate governance, prudential regulation, and banking supervision.

23. We also support closer cooperation among our monetary authorities to prevent future crises; and welcome efforts to establish an Asian Monetary Fund -that would work cooperatively with the International Monetary Fund—and eventually a common currency for the region.

24. We support the efforts of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) grouping, the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), the East Asia-Latin America Forum (EALAF), and the ASEAN Free Trade Area's efforts to promote free and open trade and investment.

25. We subscribe to open regionalism that would lead eventually to a common market—confident it will enhance Asian competitiveness and generate prosperity all our peoples can share.

26. We regard eradicating mass-poverty from our national societies as the greatest challenge to Asia. In our time, to be poor is to be excluded from the heritage of civilization.

27. The East Asian "economic miracle" has benefited not too many areas in the continent; large segments still live in poverty. We resolve to cooperate to address once and for all Asia's problems of inequity and social exclusion. Opportunities to prosper cannot be the preserve of the few: they must be shared by all.

28. We agree to pursue parallel efforts in our countries to bring down the structural barriers that deny the poor access to proper nutrition, basic social services, a healthy environment, educational opportunities and gainful employment.

29. We pledge to promote the upgrading of our agricultural sectors—both to ensure food security for our peoples and decent living standards for all.

30. We urge our governments to follow responsible fiscal and monetary programs for the benefit of all, the poor in particular.

31. We regard economic development not merely as the expansion of the supply of goods and services but as enhancing the capabilities of people. We pledge to pursue public policies that will foster the growth of the Asian middle class, and enhance the capacities of the vulnerable sectors, particularly the women, the aged, the young, and the handicapped.

32. We note the emergence in the world of a new economy based on open and speedy access to information. To cope with this technological revolution, we urge our governments to enhance the development of Asia's human capital. We recognize universal education as a prime social goal—and accept that our challenge is to adopt learning environments to the new technology.

33. We agree to cooperate among ourselves—and with the governments of developed countries—to eliminate distortions and to stabilize and strengthen global commodity markets.

34. We seek the restructuring of debt of the least developed countries and urge the rich countries to increase their involvement in meeting the development needs of these poorest nations—particularly in the areas of trade, physical infrastructure, human resources, institutional development, and technology transfer.
35. We call on all countries to take active part in safeguarding national cultures and heritage and the global environment, and enjoin them to pursue sustainable development objectives.

## ON GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL DIALOGUE

36. We believe governments should nurture political cultures that enable citizens to exercise civic and social responsibility to realize their potential to lead meaningful lives. And for this purpose, we see our own role as that of bringing our governments and citizens together in partnership.

37. We reaffirm our commitment to respect for human rights and dignity—as enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

38. We will undertake to strengthen the capabilities of our national party systems— believing responsible parties can mitigate the deficiencies of representative systems in the developing world—and will seek to enhance the roles of political parties as catalysts of change and instruments of development.

39. We pledge to work with civil society for practical and beneficial reforms that will increase people's participation in governance and politicians' accountability to their constituencies.

40. We resolve to support legislation instituting a system of state subsidies for political parties, where appropriate; to reduce "money politics" and corruption; and to promote greater transparency and accountability in government.

41. To achieve reforms in Asia, we urge that ruling parties and those in the opposition must provide the political will. As governments come and go, political parties must remain—as the mechanisms for the peaceful sharing and constitutional alternation of power.

## TOWARD AN ASIAN COMMUNITY

42. We proclaim our eventual goal is to achieve a community of interests that will bring about Asia-wide peace, shared prosperity, and enrich the minds and spirits of all our peoples.

43. Recognizing regional groupings to be the building blocks of one world, we welcome warmly the effort of the "ASEAN Plus Three" powers—the ten Southeast Asian states together with China, Japan, and South Korea; and of the South Asian association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)—to explore the idea of Asian economic groupings, together with regional arrangements in Western Europe and North America.

44. We encourage the initiatives of the Asian Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO), and allied regional groupings to foster Asia-wide inter-¬parliamentary dialogue.
45. To enhance economic and political cooperation in Asia, we will encourage and engage in initiatives towards the eventual establishment of an Asian Parliament.

## CONCLUDING STATEMENT

46. To advance the objectives of this forum and to guarantee the continuity of our commitment to the Agenda for Action, we agree to meet every two years. The preparation

for the next meeting will be delegated to a Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties.

47. Finally, we express our warm appreciation to the Honorable Jose de Venecia of the Philippines, for initiating this historic Manila Meeting and for the excellent arrangements made for our Conference, with the support of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Hanns Seidel Foundation, and the Asian Center for the Study of Democracy.

48. And we further express our sincere gratitude to His Excellency President Joseph Ejercito Estrada and the Government of the Philippines for the warm hospitality they have extended to us throughout our stay in Manila.

Adopted on this 19th day of September 2000, at Manila, Philippines.

## 2. Declarations and Other Documents Adopted by ICAPP Special Conferences

### A. Seoul Declaration on Women's Leadership and Empowerment (September 12-14, 2013)

We, the leaders and representatives of thirty two political parties of Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Turkey, and observers from the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP), the Permanent Conference of Political Parties from Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL) and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) attended the Special Conference of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) on Women's Leadership and Empowerment which was convened in Seoul, Republic of Korea from September 12$^{th}$ to 14$^{th}$, 2013.

During the conference, we extensively shared our experiences in, and exchanged our views on, promoting women's leadership in politics, expanding women's participation in economy, and strengthening women's role in peace-building.

First of all, we confirmed our commitment to the work of gender mainstreaming, adopted at the Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in June 2000, as the major global strategy, approach and means to achieve the goal of gender equality by ensuring the incorporation of gender perspectives in all central political, economic and social activities, including development, implementation and monitoring of policies, and resource allocation.

In particular, we reaffirmed the critical importance of removing all legal and social barriers that undermine the participation of women, especially women of any ethnic, cultural or religious minority, in politics and economy. Such creation of safe environment for women to be actively involved in political decision-makings and entrepreneurial activities without structural discrimination and prejudice will subsequently build women's collective capacities and further strengthen women's leadership. It will also help realize full potential of women in society and shape our lives in accordance with our own aspirations.

In this regard, we shared the view that our goal of strengthening women's status can be better achieved by encouraging joint and harmonious efforts of men and women. We also agreed to recommend our respective governments and parliaments through our political parties to create a Ministry or Department of Women's Affairs in every country in the region, which will be dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment.

We also called for the implementation of the international conventions related to human rights to fulfill gender equality and eliminate all forms of discrimination and prejudice against women, and U.N. Resolution 1325 of October 2000 on women, peace and security to increase participation of women at all levels of decision-making: national, regional and international.

We welcomed with great delight the launching of the ICAPP Women's Wing, and expressed our strong commitment to its playing a salient role in strengthening cooperation, coordination, and communication among Asian political parties for our common strategy and efforts "to advance the goals of equality, development and peace for all women everywhere in the interest of all humanity," as determined in the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action adopted at the 4th World Conference on Women (WCW) in September 1995.

We endorsed all the agreements reached at the First Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing in April 2013. In particular, we recommended our respective governments to endorse and implement the ICAPP's recommendation to establish an Asian All-Women Anti-Poverty Bank or Fund to micro-finance business of as low as $500 or $1,000.

We agreed to provide necessary support to the future work of the ICAPP Women's Wing, as agreed at its Second Bureau Meeting in June 2013, to raise public awareness on the seriousness and urgency of the issues relating to women, to establish trans-border networks for exchange of information on crimes and violence against women, and to explore practical system to prevent such crimes and violence.

We also supported the proposal made by the United Nations on International Women's Day on March 8, 2012 to convene the 5th WCW in 2015. We believe that convening the 5th WCW is important not only to look closely at the implementation of the landmark Beijing Platform for Action but also to deal squarely with the newly emerging issues and the enormous changes taking place in the world which are having both positive and other implications for women.

Finally, we expressed our gratitude to H.E. Park Geun-hye, President of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, and H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations for their congratulatory messages. Our sincere thanks also go to the *Saenuri* Party and the Democratic Party for co-hosting this historic event and to the Government of the Republic of Korea for providing warm hospitality during our stay.

Adopted in Seoul, Republic of Korea on the 14th of September, 2013

### B. Xi'an Initiative to Promote Green Development and Build a Beautiful Asia Together (May 30-31, 2013)

Asia today stands at a crucial juncture of development and faces rare and unique opportunities. We, the leaders and representatives of 57 political parties from 33 countries of the Asia-Pacific, and observers from the Council of African Political Parties and the Permanent Conference of Political Parties from Latin America and the Caribbean, met at the 2013 ICAPP Special Conference hosted by the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province of China, from May 30th to 31st, 2013, to discuss and exchange views under the main theme "Promote Green Development and Build a Beautiful Asia Together."

We extensively shared our practices and experience in protecting ecological environment and promoting equitable green development, and held in-depth discussions on the importance of further international cooperation, especially among political parties, in such endeavors. Prior to the conference, we visited ecological projects in Shaanxi Province, and witnessed the concrete steps taken in promoting green development and building a "Beautiful China", through which we also saw with admiration the efforts of the CPC and the Chinese government at all levels in simultaneously promoting development and preserving ecosystems.

While emphasizing that peace and development are the themes of our times, we are also aware that problems with development are still important. The global economic recovery remains slow and weak. The international financial crisis has adversely impacted the existing economic structures and development patterns. Asia is still confronted with many grave challenges in pursuing sustainable development.

We are aware that in the last three centuries, mankind has created huge wealth through industrialization, but at a heavy cost to the environment, with severe environmental pollution, eco-degradation, and more frequent natural disasters. Going through a critical period of industrialization, Asia enjoys strong momentum and huge potential for development, but is also witnessing a growing incompatibility between man and nature. This is manifested through severe resource and energy constraints and rapidly deteriorating environment, sharpened by the impact of the international financial crises. Whether Asia can turn the 21$^{st}$ century into an "Asian Century" largely depends on the proper and timely resolution of these issues.

We are convinced that structural changes in the world economy in the "Post-Crisis Era" are inevitable, and that innovation on development patterns is urgently needed. Since the second half of the 20$^{th}$ century, as the international community reflected on such notions as "the Limit to Growth" and "mankind has only one Earth to live on," the building of a "community of common destiny" has gradually acquired common understanding around the world. Hence green economy has boomed, with environmental protection paramount. We note that Asian countries have, in recent years, explored their own ways of green and sustainable development that suit their respective national conditions, and have contributed to the global movement on this front. We warmly welcome such endeavors, and will continue to encourage and facilitate deepened and wider exchanges in this area.

We believe that the "greening" of economy is not a burden of development, but a new engine of growth that is fast becoming a basis of convergence among interests of nations. Green development will provide increasing bonus for countries to tighten cooperation and accelerate growth. The full realization of green development is part of our eventual quest for global sustainable development and harmonious coexistence of man and nature. Green development is going to play an indispensable role in fulfilling the "Asian Dream" of revival and rejuvenation.

We call for:

1. **Greater attention to green development and enhanced efforts for ecological progress;**

While the negative effects of the international financial crisis still linger on, the new technological revolution is yet to make breakthroughs. Fostering green industries, developing green technologies, producing green products, utilizing green energy and advocating green consumption are measures that would not only help ease the conflict between economic development and preserving resources and defending the environment, but also create new market demands and job opportunities as well. In the concept of green development, "green" is the means, whereas "development" is the end, since ecological sustainability and development go together. We must not halt development for the sake of going green. Instead, we need to ensure a green way of development, thus creating a positive cycle of growth where development is boosted by and provides for green conservation. Asian countries, with political parties pushing governments and the private sector, should actively develop green technologies and explore new ways of technology transfer; increase the cost-effectiveness of investment to reduce the costs and risks of the "green transformation;" cultivate green modes of production and consumption and expand market for green products; and create more jobs, gear up development, and improve people's wellbeing with a view to promote green and sustainable development on a global scale.

2. **Transparency and inclusiveness in pursuing common development;**

In promoting green development, we need to uphold the values of equitability, openness and inclusiveness to ensure equitable development for Asian countries. We must acknowledge the fact that Asian countries are in different stages and at different levels of development. These countries must be supported to independently decide their paths of green development according to their specific conditions, compatible with the emerging realities of climate change and relevant international agreements. Concurrently, we need to emphasize the importance of mutual benefits, lest green development be used as a pretext for protectionism by becoming "green barriers" in practice.

3. **Closer international cooperation and a joint effort to build a "Beautiful Asia";**

Many challenges confronting Asia are trans-border issues, which entail closer international cooperation since climate change and its devastating after effects know no borders. Such cooperation would make things easier and facilitate the building of a "Beautiful Asia." Countries in our region should strengthen international cooperation in the spirit of partnership, learn from and help each other, and jointly work for a "Beautiful Asia." Participants of the Conference have put forward many new ideas in promoting green development, including (but not restricted to) an Asia Green Development Fund, a Great Green Technology Market in Asia, etc. In this context, we endorse President Xi Jinping's clarion call for setting and strictly observing an ecological 'red line' to protect the environment. ICAPP founding chairman Jose de Venecia's proposals linking ecology with economy are also relevant, especially investment in massive tree plantation campaigns, helping both to protect the environment and to push economic growth by promoting employment.

4. **An active role of political parties and innovation in development modes.**

Achieving green development is not only a pressing task for all governments in Asia, but also a heavy responsibility and historic mission of Asian political parties, who must resolutely commit themselves to being leaders, promoters and practitioners in pursuing ecological

progress, advocating the idea of ecological protection and improvement, urging respective governments to make policies for green development, conducting international cooperation through multilateral mechanisms such as ICAPP, and proactively seek effective models of green development. Such models must be based on the rule of law, good governance, and a culture of clean and green environment upholding the basic human right to a pollution free future.

The Xi'an Conference noted with satisfaction the recent launch of the "Global Political Parties Climate & Ecological Alliance", comprising ICAPP, CAPDI, COPPPAL and IESCO, as a broad-based "united front" aimed at galvanizing political parties and civil society in a coordinated quest to combat climate change.

We note with delight that during the 13 years since its creation, ICAPP has served as an important platform for strengthening exchanges and cooperation among Asian political parties, with increasing influence in the region and beyond, contributing to peace and development in Asia. In the context of dynamic development and cooperation in Asia, more space can be expected for party-to-party cooperation. We believe that ICAPP should carry on its tradition of building consensus and promoting cooperation, deepen relationships among Asian political parties, thereby laying the foundation for frequent party-to-party exchanges that reinforce inter-state relations. Combating climate change can be an important pillar of such Asian solidarity for a common cause, backed by effective agreements under the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change.

Finally, we sincerely thank H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for his congratulatory video message. Our thanks also go to the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government for their efforts in hosting this historic event, and the province of Shaanxi for its whole-hearted support and gracious hospitality.

Xi'an, China
May 31, 2013

### C. Nanning Declaration on Development and People's Access (Nanning, China, September 2-6, 2011)

As Asia adventures into the second decade of the 21st century starting a new phrase in its development, we, the leaders and representatives of 53 political parties from 27 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, gathered from 4 to 6 September, 2011 in the Chinese city of Nanning, for the ICAPP (International Conference of Asian Political Parties) Conference on Development and People's Access: Deliver the Fruits of Development to the People hosted by the Communist Party of China (CPC).

In a spirit of equality, mutual respect, and mutual learning for common development, the in-depth discussions on the theme of the Conference achieved positive results. The delegates felt that the Conference provided a good opportunity for sharing experiences by building consensus and translating collective wisdom into concrete cooperation. The Conference

facilitated enhanced communication, closer rapport and mutual trust among Asian political parties. During the Conference, delegates also expressed ideas which they felt were necessary for creating conducive conditions for development. These included an Asian Anti-Poverty Fund, as well as, a proposal for an Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council, so that the process of change in certain parts of Asia leads to a stable, peaceful transition.

The participants acknowledged that, since its founding, ICAPP has emerged as representative voice of Asian public opinion since it now includes virtually all the major Asian political parties. And the participants expressed a determination that ICAPP seize opportunities, to build into a unique platform. The ICAPP would continue exchanging ideas for party building statecraft, sharing experiences of development and good governance, making it an important channel for promoting relations among Asian nations, and for boosting development and prosperity of the region.

We emphasize that peace and development are the themes and trend of our times. Asia is enjoying an unprecedented momentum with opportunities of development for moving forward economically. However, our development is sometimes impeded by structural roadblocks and requires greater coordination and clarity, both in policy and execution. In this regard, our governments have constantly explored solutions, and some have worked out strategic development plans, and policies to promote balanced economic and social development, backing that vision with commendable will, upon which we express our appreciation.

Under these circumstances, we propose:

1. To give primacy to development. Currently, with the global financial crisis still casting its shadows, and the debt crisis of some developed countries taking its toll, the world remains at higher risk of economic turbulence. Moreover, global problems such as climate change, energy security and food security are getting increasingly complicated, and the North-South gap and the gap between the rich and poor are still widening. Asian countries share the tremendous challenge of combating these crises and reviving the economy. Development holds the key to resolving global problems, social, economic and political. Asian countries should leverage their comparative advantages, enhance their economic competitiveness, and cultivate new economic growth points to accelerate economic and social development in all sectors;

2. To pursue inclusive development. To improve people's quality of life is the objective driving development. We should promote consensus, uphold the concept of equality of opportunity and development shared by all. We should put people's well-being first, improve the structures and policies related to employment, income distribution, social security, health care and housing, which are key to ensuring and improving livelihood. We should uphold social justice and remove the barriers preventing people from participation, so that the fruits of development are delivered to the people in an equitable manner; and

3. To lay more stress on the mode of development. With the deepening of economic globalization, the global economy is undergoing new transformation and adjustment. The

North-South gap and the gap between the rich and the poor still exist; and emerging challenges such as climate change, resources shortage, and environmental safety are posing new threats to the survival and development of Planet Earth and humankind. To this end, countries should pay great attention to address imbalances in development by taking into consideration the factors of environment, resources and people's livelihood and pursue development in a balanced and sustainable way.

We note that the Conference coincides with the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China, upon which we express our warm congratulations. We highly appreciate the historic achievements China has made in economic and social development under the leadership of the CPC. We also appreciate the CPC's idea of people-oriented and scientific development and the active approaches it has made towards this end.

Finally, we express our appreciation to H.E. Xi Jinping, Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Vice-President of the People's Republic of China for his gracious message of congratulations to the Conference. We express our most sincere gratitude to the Communist Party of China and the Chinese Government for hosting this historic Conference. We also thank the CPC Committee and People's Government of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region for their support and warm hospitality.

Adopted on September 6, 2011 in Nanning, China.

### D. Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Natural Disasters and Environmental Protection (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May 5-7, 2011)

We, the leaders and representatives of 40 governing and opposition political parties from 24 countries in Asia, together with observers representing political parties in Latin America and the Caribbean and international organization, gathered at the ICAPP (International Conference of Asian Political Parties) Conference on Natural Disasters and Environmental Protection held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia under the auspices of the United Malays National Organization from May 6 to 7, 2011.

Sharing the sorrows and sufferings of the Japanese people in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami, ICAPP expresses its full support, solidarity and empathy with the people, the political parties and the government of Japan for the tragedy that caused a loss of nearly 28,000 lives.

Ever since the launching of the ICAPP Medical Emergency Forum (IMEF), in June 2010, in Langkawi, Malaysia, the issue of climate change has assumed crisis proportions in Asia. The devastating floods in Pakistan, forest fires in Russia, flash floods in Korea, Bangladesh and China, typhoons in the Philippines, earthquakes in India and landslides in Nepal, and the recent tsunami in Japan cumulatively caused a serious threat to the way of life of the peoples living not only in Asia, but beyond. IMEF's formation as a humanitarian wing of the ICAPP is therefore timely and since its formation a year ago, IMEF has been extremely active in

providing support and generous assistance to several countries in the region including Pakistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, and Myanmar. The decision to institutionalize IMEF by establishing a permanent secretariat at Kuala Lumpur will provide for a readily available, rapid corps of professionals and personnel to respond to tragedies whenever and wherever these may occur.

Since humanity has no borders, IMEF's role will not be confined to Asia alone, but it will be ready, willing and able to respond to natural disasters and for the protection of the environment, ecology, and eco-safety in other parts of the world as well. We also believe, and this has been demonstrated by recent events, that the Asian spirit of resilience and resurgence resonates during calamity and crises, when people turn their grief into strength and overcome difficulties to move on to build a better future.

In order to preserve and protect the environment and to promote the cause of climate change, we also propose that the leaders and representatives of political parties gathered here together push for legislation that strengthens our common objectives. In this regard, the Climate Change Act, proposed jointly by ICAPP and IESCO, can serve as a good basis of a model law for optional passage by parliaments belonging to ICAPP member states, provisions that are relevant to specific countries.

We, therefore, appeal to all political parties, governments, parliaments, civil society organizations and the international community to strengthen their disaster reduction activities such as speedy and correct information exchange in a more concerted and coordinated manner by implementing relevant international commitments and frameworks, including the U.N. Millennium Declaration adopted in September 2000 and the Resolutions adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in January 2005.

We also propose that a meeting of IMEF become a regular feature of the ICAPP General Assembly, meeting on the sideline to ensure that this issue is discussed at regular intervals. And we also propose that IMEF coordinate with other international organizations, including NGOs and humanitarian bodies, as well as the IESCO, as ICAPP affiliate which has founded the SOS Emergency Aid Center of Asia Pacific based in Hongkong, as well as those functioning under the United Nations system. ICAPP acknowledge the importance and effectiveness of IT in combating natural and man-made disasters, both in prevention and management of emergency situations.

Finally, we express our most sincere gratitude to the leaders of the United Malays National Organization (UMNO) especially the moving spirit behind the IMEF, the Honourable Dato' Seri Shahidan bin Kassim, and the Government of Malaysia for hosting this historic conference.

Adopted on May 6, 2011 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

## E. Kunming Declaration on Poverty Alleviation (Kunming, China, July 13-20, 2010)

We, the leaders and representatives of 58 governing and opposition political parties from 28 countries in Asia and the Pacific, together with African political parties and international organizations such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), gathered at the ICAPP (International Conference of Asian Political Parties) Conference on Poverty Alleviation held in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China, under the auspices of the Communist Party of China (CPC) from 13 to 18 July, 2010.

We emphasize that poverty alleviation and common development signify a lofty dream of humankind, shared responsibility of the international community, deserve high priority in Asian and other developing countries in the world, as well as an historical mission for the political parties across Asia and the developing world. We express our strong support for the efforts led by the United Nations to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

We appeal to all political parties, governments, parliaments, NGOs, the civil society organizations and the international community to pursue MDGs with single-minded determination to alleviating poverty. Reflecting the diversity of Asia as its strength, delegates exchanged ideas, experiences and discussed innovative undertakings in pursuit of the goal of poverty alleviation. These ideas include initiatives: an Asian Anti-Poverty Fund, an Asian Micro-Finance Fund, and final implementation of relevant UN-approved proposals such as Debt-Swaps for financing MDGs. The meeting also lauded the international cooperation in the field of development and poverty reduction, as well as debt relief undertaken by several nations.

We express our admiration for China's success in lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty within the span of a generation. This is a unique economic and social achievement in human history, for which the Communist Party of China and its wise leadership deserve due credit.

Finally, we express our appreciation to H.E. Hu Jintao, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and President of the People's Republic of China and H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations for their gracious messages of congratulations to the Conference. We express our most sincere gratitude to the leaders of the Communist Party of China and the Government of People's Republic of China for hosting this historic Conference. We also thank the government and the people of Yunnan Province for their support and warm hospitality.

Adopted on 18 July, 2010 in Kunming, China.

## F. Model Legislation on State Subsidies for Mainstream Political Parties (Seoul, Korea, May 23-25, 2008)

The Special Workshop was held in Seoul during May 23-25, 2008 and attended by 65 representatives from 34 major political parties in 29 countries in the region. The workshop was co-hosted by the ICAPP Secretariat and the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the Korean National Assembly.

The following elements have been identified to be considered for inclusion in the legislation on state subsidies for mainstream political parties to meet different political, economic and social situation in individual countries.

*Legal basis*

- An *independent law* may be needed to set the principles and rules to administer public funding for mainstream political parties.
- In some countries, the principles and rules on public funding for political parties are included in the laws governing activities of political parties and/or election campaigns.
- In some countries, public support for political parties is based on the *basic law* or *constitution* where political parties are defined as central institutions of a democratic political system.

*Basic principles*

- ***eligibility for state subsidies*:** Political parties or candidates, that cross certain thresholds in the outcome of national elections, i.e. winning more than a certain percentage of votes or a certain number of seats in national or provincial parliaments, should be eligible for state subsidies. In this regard, some additional conditions can be imposed to political parties and/or individual candidates to receive state subsidies, such as agreeing to limit their expenditures to a certain amount, submitting party manifesto, raising matching funds, etc.
- ***transparency in both revenue and expenditure*:** All accounting procedures of state subsidies received by political parties or individual candidates should be reported to, and monitored and audited by, a national commission which manages and oversees elections and/or political funds, and the results of the audits should be disclosed to the public on a regular basis.
- ***accountability for state subsidies*:** Setting up a national committee by recipient political parties, or a campaign committee by individual candidates, which can be held accountable for executing the fund and keeping its record, can be required as a prerequisite.
- ***limited coverage of state subsidies*:** Strict and detailed criteria should be established to limit the use of the state subsidies for certain purposes, i.e. operational expenses of political parties, including expenses for minimum personnel management, public utilities to maintain party offices, training and recruiting party members, policy development, grassroots activities, etc., and specific activities during election campaigns, including advertisements.

*Types of state subsidies*

- ***general subsidies:*** public funds that are included in the annual budgets of national governments and distributed to political parties on a regular basis to subsidize their operational expenses, as provided for in the above-mentioned criteria.

- ***election subsidies:*** public funds that are paid to political parties, or political candidates, by national governments in election years, either presidential, parliamentary or municipal, to support their election campaign expenses, as provided for in the above-mentioned criteria.
- ***special subsidies:*** public funds that are paid to promote special and specific political goals, such as subsidies to encourage participation of women and/or other socially underprivileged people in mainstream political activities.

*Distribution of state subsidies*

- ***standard distribution:*** A standard formula should be established to calculate the amount of public funds to be allocated and distributed to political parties or candidates in accordance with well established criteria, such as winning more than a certain percentage of votes or a certain number of seats in national parliaments.
- ***special distribution:*** A separate formula can be set up for public funds to promote special and specific political goals.
- ***ceilings of public funds:*** A certain limit in the amount of public funds that can be provided to certain political parties or candidates should be set to prevent misuse or excessive use of political funds and moral hazards of the recipients, and also in consideration of budget constraints and to prevent moral hazard.
- ***timing of distribution:*** A portion of public funds can be provided in advance to help alleviate budgetary constraints of political parties or candidates on a regular or ad hoc basis, or a portion or the total sum of the funds can be paid in the form of reimbursement on a regular basis or after elections, or a combined method can be adopted.

*Tax benefits on political contributions*

- Such benefits as tax exemption or tax deductions up to a certain amount of political donations should be considered to encourage small personal and voluntary contributions or party membership dues by individual voters.
- The expenditure of such private donations should also be subject to audit by national commissions as in the case of state subsidies.
- No tax benefits are usually available for corporate donations, and/or strict rules to limit corporate donations to a certain amount are adopted and applied to prevent the collusive link between politics and business.
- “Earmarking funds” system, under which voters can make special donations to the political parties of their choice at the time of their annual tax report, can be considered as a source of public funds in addition to national government’s budget.

*Political realities and obstacles faced by developing countries*

- lack of proper political structure and accountability,
- lack of proper guidelines on election campaign expenditures,
- lack of electoral systems that do not require a great amount of money,
- deep-rooted and pervasive corruption in the society,
- concentration of political power on party leadership,
- dilution of political influence of political parties through increased oversight by governments on the political expenditures,
- buying over of smaller parties by big and stronger political parties,
- doling out of favors to voters by political parties in collaboration with governments,
- lack of financial resources and budget constraints,
- increase in the expenditures of political activities, including election campaign expenditures,

- more urgent political, economic and social agenda and priorities than state subsidies for political parties,
- lack of social consensus on public funding for political activities,
- need for educating party activists on the principles and rules of good governance, etc.

### G. Press Release by the High–Level ICAPP Delegation to Nepal on June 26 (Kathmandu, Nepal, June 23-26, 2009)

The Special Workshop was held in Kathmandu during June 23-26, 2009. It was co-hosted by the ICAPP Secretariat and the Institute for Foreign Affairs (IFA) of Nepal, headed by Dr. Gopal Prasad Pokharel as its Executive Director. The workshop was attended by political leaders of Nepal, including Rt. Hon. Madhav Nepal, Prime Minister, Hon. Sujata Koirala, Minister of foreign Affairs, and Hon. Nilamber Acharya, Chairman of Committee on Constitution Drafting of the Constituent Assembly. Nepalese participants also included the members of the Constitution Drafting Committee and Chairpersons of 20 different Committees of the Constituent Assembly, representatives of 24 political parties, and about 50 other public opinion leaders like intellectuals and journalists.

The high-level delegation of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) currently visiting Nepal expressed complete support and solidarity for the efforts of Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal's government to strengthen Nepal's democratic transition. The delegation, led by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Former Speaker of the Philippines House of Representatives, includes Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Secretary General of the ICAPP Secretariat, and Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Secretary General of Pakistan Muslim League and Former Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism.

The delegation also included Hon. Yang Seung-jo, Member of the Korean National Assembly and constitutional expert, who gave a special lecture at the "Special ICAPP Workshop: an Interaction on Constitution-Making in Nepal" co-hosted by the Institute for Foreign Affairs of Nepal on June 25.

The ICAPP Delegation, representing 240 political parties in Asia, from Tonga to Turkey, and from Palau to Pakistan, met with the leaders of the Nepali Government, the Constituent Assembly and Major Political Parties, including the Communist Party of Nepal(Maoist), the Nepali Congress and the Communist Party of Nepal (UML). The Delegation saluted the determination and resilience of the people and democratic political forces of Nepal to launch a successful struggle for the restoration of democracy and supremacy of the popular will. This struggle is a shining example of the maturity and statesmanship demonstrated by the political leadership of Nepal to preserve, protect and promote democracy that is today the destiny of Nepal, as well as South Asia as a whole.

The ICAPP Delegation, in its deliberations with the political leaders of Nepal, told them that the eyes of the international community were focused on them as this is a defining moment for Nepal and its people. In order for the democratic transition to succeed, and for the fruits of the struggle to be shared by all 30 million people of this great nation, the ICAPP Delegation felt it was imperative for unity, flexibility, large-heartedness and an inclusive approach so that all segments of society are stakeholders in Nepal's democracy.

Recalling the experiences of other Asian New Democracies, the ICAPP Delegation offered to share its expertise in building a democratic Nepal based on conciliation, consensus and consultation. This would require a strong commitment to democracy through incorporating diversity of interests and opinions, which is the essence of pluralism. Already, Nepal has charted a new course, unprecedented in the annals of history, by ending the insurgency, bringing all forces and parties into the political mainstream and holding national elections, all through dialogue, discussion and democratic debate.

The ICAPP Delegation also urged all political leaders to eschew narrow, factional and partisan interests and put the interests of Nepal and its people supreme. The Delegation expressed its appreciation of the wisdom and democratic spirit of all political leaders that they met.

The ICAPP Delegation is leaving Nepal with tremendous hope and faith in Nepal's future, and it has full confidence in the ability of the government of Prime Minister Madhav Nepal to overcome all challenges to build a better tomorrow for the people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. That confidence stems from the interaction of the ICAPP Delegation with political and public opinion leaders of Nepal, all of whom share a loyalty to strengthening Nepal's democracy by ensuring a new Constitution on schedule. The ICAPP Delegation also extended an invitation to all of the afore-mentioned political leaders of Nepal to address the 5th General Assembly of the ICAPP to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan during September 24-27, 2009, which was accepted with pleasure by all.

## 3. Joint Declarations with COPPPAL

### A. Declaration of the 3rd Joint Session between the ICAPP Standing Committee and the COPPPAL Coordinating Body (Mexico City, October 14, 2012)

The Representatives of the ICAPP Standing Committee and the COPPPAL Coordinating Body, with the unprecedented participation of representatives of political parties in Africa for the first time, gathered in Mexico City for the 3rd Joint Session during October 13-14, 2012, and declared:

- To express its gratitude to the considerations provided by the COPPPAL and Mexico's PRI president, Pedro Joaquin Coldwell and colleagues, and to highlight the message of the President-elect of Mexico Enrique Peña Nieto, through his personal representative Jorge Carlos Ramírez Marín.

- Reiterate its acknowledgment for the leadership of the ICAPP and COPPPAL of Jose de Venecia and Chung Eui-yong, and Antonio Cafiero and Gustavo Carvajal, respectively, for having initiated and developed the dialogue and communication between political parties of Asia and Latin America; it also recalled the importance of previous bilateral meetings in Seoul, Buenos Aires, Cambodia and El Salvador, as solid background for the current ICAPP-COPPPAL meeting with the presence of political parties of Africa.

It states that:

- Considering the maturity of ICAPP-COPPPAL interparty dialogue with the participation of representatives of political parties of Africa, it is appropriate to sponsor and support the setting up of a conference of political parties of Africa.

- It is time to call the first tri-continental conference of political parties, and to thank the Communist Party of China for offering to host during the second half of 2013 to enable the establishment of a mechanism to coordinate these continental organizations.

- There is an urgent need to call international community to convene governments, political parties, and civil society organizations at a global summit meeting on the worldwide problem of drug and weapons trafficking and its consequences and seek solutions together, within Mexico City, as the proposed venue of this summit; a proposal already discussed by the ICAPP leadership with United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon.

- It is relevant and of high priority to support the creation of an Asia-Latin America Business Council with the participation of representatives of political parties of the three continental regions, that impel cooperation on terms of trade and economic harmonization between our countries and continents.

- Considering that we still suffer under colonial and neocolonial enclaves, we demand and support the solution of the problem of the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands, Puerto Rico's independence and the nation-building process in Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire and St. Martin.

- We welcome the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Africa, between the Sudan and South Sudan, as a positive step for a new chapter of co-operation rather than confrontation. At the same time, the political parties of Asia, Latin America and Africa endorsed the framework agreement between the Government of President Benigno Aquino III of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), signed in Manila which would lead to a final settlement and a plebiscite after more than 40 years of recurring hostilities.

- In order to promote, through political training, an interparty relationship in which prevails dialogue, cooperation, collaboration and a new humanist and fraternal awareness in the Youth and women, forthcoming members of our parties, we seek to enhance and give effect to the agreements currently debated towards global solutions to contemporary worldwide challenges.

- Given the increasing politico-religious and ethnic tensions in different parts of the world, there is an urgent need to create a Centre for Inter-Faith Harmony under United Nations auspices to defuse such tensions and to promote inter-faith dialogue and harmony in an institutional manner.

- We are committed to work in all matters relating to the issues of global warming and climate change, and to include in all our basic documents and charters these duties as ecological and political responsibilities, and as the core for international cooperation between developed and developing countries.

- We call to the agencies and the international community to fulfill all matters relating to the Kyoto Protocol.

- We propose the IESCO to become the advisory body on environmental issues for both ICAPP and COPPPAL.

Mexico City, October 14, 2012.

### B. Declaration of the 2nd Joint Session between the ICAPP Standing Committee and the COPPPAL Coordinating Body (Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 3, 2010)

We, the Members of the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties(hereinafter referred to as the "ICAPP"), an open forum for all political parties in Asia since 2000 and currently with over 300 political parties from 52 countries eligible to participate in its activities, and the Coordinating Body of the Permanent Conference of Latin America and Caribbean Political Parties (hereinafter referred to as the 'COPPPAL"), a most important multilateral forum since 1979 currently comprising of 58 political parties in 29 countries in the Americas, held their second inter-continental meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on December 3, 2010 during the 6th General Assembly of the ICAPP.

We believe in inclusive democracy. It is not possible to build a democracy and make progress where some sectors suffer from marginalization and overexploitation. In this regard, while we admit that globalization is a historical process that cannot be reversed, we

believe that it should be governed in a way to protect and promote diversity and plurality which are inherent in our societies, and not to weaken the abilities of our societies to handle our own challenges.

We confirm our commitment to approach global threats together and seek common strategies to ensure stable supply of food and fuel, prevent epidemics, effectively deal with natural disasters, protect and promote human rights, and fight against violence and terrorism.

In particular, we endorse the initiative to establish a Global Anti-Poverty Fund, instead of a regional Anti-Poverty Fund, and encourage our respective governments to join forces to work with the United Nations to materialize this proposal. We also call for multilateral efforts to make the best use of debt payment made by developing countries to their respective debtors, including a way to channel the fund to support international efforts to accelerate the attainment of U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals.

We pledge to continue our common efforts to achieve bi-regional integration between Asia and Latin America.

In this regard, we call for the establishment of ICAPP-COPPPAL Economic Council to be composed of representatives of both the ICAPP and the COPPPAL and business leaders of both Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. The main function of the Council will be to explore, and promote, potential areas or projects for economic cooperation between the two continents.

We also call for the establishment of exchange programs between young political leaders of Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean to help them develop wider and better perspective in dealing with common challenges we are facing in this rapidly globalized world. We agree to work together as a long-term plan to establish a joint institute to train young political leaders.

We reconfirm our commitment to reach out to political parties in other continents, in particular in Africa, with a view to convening the first tri-regional conference among political parties in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.
We agree to hold the third joint session between the ICAPP Standing Committee and the COPPPAL Coordinating Body at a site in Latin America to be decided through consultation during the second half of 2011.

Adopted unanimously on this 3rd day of December 2010, in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.

### C. Declaration of the 1st Joint Session between the ICAPP Standing Committee and the COPPPAL Coordinating Body (Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 31, 2009)

We, the Members of the Coordinating Body of the Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean (hereinafter referred to as the COPPPAL), a most important multilateral forum in the American Continent since 1999, currently joined by 58 political parties from 28 countries, and the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (hereinafter referred to as the ICAPP), an open forum for all political parties in Asia, launched in 2000 and currently with over 240 political parties from 45

countries eligible for participation in its activities, held their first inter-continental meeting under the main theme of the Current Global Challenges and the Role of Political Parties in Buenos Aires, Capital City of the Argentine Republic, during July 30 to 31, 2009.

First of all, we reaffirmed our commitment to the following principles in further promoting cooperation among the political parties in our two continents:

- To respect territorial integrity and sovereignty of each country;
- To respect diversity in cultural and social values of each country, and in political ideologies of each political party;
- To adhere to the rule of law and good governance;
- To abide by the U.N. Charter and reject any form of violence as a means to resolve differences among nations;
- To further promote multilateralism to meet the current global challenges, both the financial crisis and terrorism, as well as to fight against drug trafficking; and
- -To reject colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

We, in particular, discussed the role of political parties in the following context:

- To construct a just international order and build a common strategy to meet the current global challenges;
- To promote cooperation and integration between our two continents, especially in the fields of education, technology and environment;
- To build capacity of producing able political leaders and responsible citizens; and
- To raise public awareness for democracy and good governance.

We took note that the relations among nations are mostly dictated and defined by the policies of their governments as well as by their commercial and financial exchanges, and agreed that the moment has come for political parties, as carriers of people´s will, to assume more responsibility in shaping such relations. In this regard, we recognized that, without sound solid basis of political support in each country, key issues we face today including the recent global challenges cannot be tackled in a sustainable way.

We also agreed that it is essential to further increase cooperation and solidarity between our two continents through increased contacts and exchanges among the political parties thereof to meet the current challenges and defend our common objectives of peace and prosperity. We noted that the fates of many nations in the two continents have been greatly affected by the interests of foreign powers and institutions in the past, despite the fact that our two continents together represent 50% of the total land area of the Earth, 68% of the world population and 53% of the world GDP.

We further agreed to closely coordinate the following activities to promote and safeguard our common interests:

- To increase mutual understanding, trust, dialogue, and cooperation among the political parties of the two continents through more frequent contacts and exchanges;
- To encourage our respective governments and legislatures to reinforce and continue their political, economic, social and cultural ties through increased exchanges in various fields;
- To provide political ambiance for our governments to expand cooperation and

coordination in their policies on the various political and economic issues being debated in various international fora with a special emphasis on bringing together the countries that have been less fortunate with the benefits of globalization and affected more severely by the recent global challenges; and

- To urge the international community to take urgent, remedial measures to combat the global financial crisis and to contain its severe after-effects on developing countries and their peoples, including efforts at their poverty alleviation and economic stabilization through speedy assistance.

We were totally convinced that the strong bonds between our two institutions will contribute not only to further integrating our two continents, but also to bringing more justice and equity in international order by expanding cooperation in resolving differences through dialogue and consensus and bringing in more democratic values. In this context, we identified the following initiatives, among others, as our joint priority projects:

- Reduction of poverty and narrowing of gap between the poor and the rich, both within and among nations, which has been further widened in recent years;
- Promotion of Inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue;
- Creation of micro-financing and "debt-for-equity" programs for developing economies;
- Establishment of a bi-continental development bank and increased cooperation and coordination between the Inter-American Development Bank and the Asia Development Bank;
- Promotion and protection of migrant workers' rights;
- Promotion of technological cooperation between the two continents to guarantee a sustainable human development;
- Consolidation and coordination of policies to protect environments in both continents, in particular their biodiversity;
- Fighting against drug trafficking and organized crime;
- Providing financial support for mainstream political parties as a means to prevent political corruption; and
- Supporting women's social and political participation.

We welcome the forthcoming General Assembly of the ICAPP to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan in September 2009 as a timely initiative to bring us together again in our common quest for a better tomorrow.

We agreed to meet regularly in the future and to hold the Second Joint Session between the COPPPAL Coordinating Body and the ICAPP Standing Committee at a site in Asia to be decided later through consultation during the first half of 2011.

## V. Communications Between the ICAPP and the UN (2009-2013)

### 1. ICAPP Letters to the UN

#### A. Letter to UN Secretary General, November 20, 2009

H.E. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary General of the United Nations
U.N. Headquarters
New York City

November 20, 2009

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

We write to Your Excellency on behalf of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties(ICAPP) to propose an *enlarged debt swap* and *'debt-for-environment' formula* for highly indebted middle-income countries—an anti-climate change strategy that will *not* require new appropriations from the donor-states.

There are many highly indebted countries in our region, which are struggling to recover from catastrophic natural disasters, including super-typhoons that successively brought unprecedented rains and flooding, causing hundreds of casualties and displacing hundreds of thousands.

In our view, the most difficult aspect of the coming Copenhagen negotiations is that the newly-industrializing countries (NICs) are *unwilling* to accept internationally binding emission reduction targets *without* financial or technical compensation to cover the economic costs of achieving these targets—since the NICs have historically generated *much lower* per capita emissions than the industrialized countries, and will continue to do so over the foreseeable future.

The *extent* to which the industrialized powers are prepared to *support* the developing countries in *reducing* their carbon emissions *could* make *or* break the Copenhagen Conference. In negotiating a compensation package for the NICs, you may find *helpful* this enlarged debt swap and *debt-for-environment* scheme we are proposing to the creditor states on behalf of the most heavily indebted middle-income countries. The arrangement is voluntary and does *not* ask international creditors to *forgive*—or *suspend*—a single dollar of debt. *Nor* will it require new money from the parliaments and governments of any of the rich countries.

Excellency,

Our proposal is simple. It offers creditor states and lending institutions the *option* of *converting* as much as 50% of the yearly debt-service payments they receive into *investor equity* in anti-climate change programs in *their* debtor countries. These projects would include massive reforestation, water conservation, alternative energy, mass housing, health, education, and other social infrastructure. We are certain that financial engineers can refine this basic formula and think up variations.

Countries in East Asia can offer tremendous possibilities for harnessing monsoon winds and ocean currents to generate electricity. Many of the infrastructure projects currently under way or consideration in our region are potentially viable in commercial and economic aspects. They can generate tolls, users' taxes, rentals and sales income. Reforestation projects in the region can earn carbon credits under the Kyoto Protocol. Furthermore, a cycle of timber sales can be profitable, as witnessed in the evergreen timber plantations of Canada, New Zealand, and Finland.

Mass housing projects will enable governments in poor countries to relocate millions of squatter families living along watercourses and on sloping land susceptible to landslides. As equity-holders in these projects, creditor countries will have at least oversight powers over the projects they finance. From the viewpoint of each nation, these projects—reforestation in particular—will have a tremendous economic-stimulus impact amid the global downturn as well. Substantial funds diverted from debt service to foreign direct investment will pump-prime poor-country economies. They will generate many jobs for relatively low-skilled people.

Since the onset of the global recession, many developing countries in Asia have found servicing debt more and more difficult. Because of pump priming, the fiscal deficits in many of these countries have already exceeded their original target for the whole of 2009. The real danger is that debt service will crowd out their social expenditures, which are already squeezed dry. In case of the Philippines, more than 8% of the GDP now goes to *yearly* debt payments. For its total foreign debt of some US$56 billion, the Philippines must set aside close to $5 billion in principal and interest payments every year.

Excellency,

In this regard, massive reforestation can be the *crucial* debt-swap, debt-for-environment, debt-for-nature goal. It promises as well the creation of new wealth. It must be undertaken simultaneously in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, as well as in some European countries and areas of North America. Over the next 20 years, the most vulnerable regions in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East face water crises, catastrophic flooding, droughts, and food shortages. The tiny island-nations in the Pacific face outright extinction.

We have abused Mother Nature and the wonders of creation. Now we're reaping the harvest of our abuse. As is well known, trees absorb the runoff from monsoon rains and prevent the erosion that swells rivers—whose flooding destroys low-lying communities and farms, aqua-culture fisheries, schools, hospitals, and rural-health units, roads bridges, markets, and other infrastructure. Trees also absorb the carbon dioxide emissions that create global warming and set off storms, droughts, rains, and floods.

Massive reforestation can also be a major economic stimulus, since it could employ hundreds of thousands to nurture seedling nurseries, grow the trees, and harvest their timber. Commercial tree farming can be vastly profitable. In the Philippines, as in other tropical countries, even hardwoods mature in 12-20 years, compared with much longer periods in the temperate zones.

Excellency,

We are pleased to inform you that the *original* debt-for-equity proposal, to finance anti-poverty projects and the U.N. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the 100 most-heavily-indebted countries, had been presented to the U.N. and other international financial institutions by Mr. Jose de Venecia, Jr. in his capacity of the Speaker of the House of

Representatives of the Philippine Congress in 2005, and had been supported by the U.N., with a written endorsement from then-U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan; as well as by the governments of Germany, Italy, and Spain; the Group of 77 Plus China; the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP); and the Eleventh Summit of ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Copies of these endorsements are enclosed herewith for your reference.

We suggest that creditor-countries that avail of this program require their debtor-countries to *commit* to specific standards of transparency, anti-corruption safeguards, and fiscal reform as pre-conditions to accessing their anti-climate change funds.

And even as we emphasize massive reforestation, we mustn't lose sight of the importance of developing low-carbon public transport, 'smart' electricity grid systems, wind, geo-thermal and solar power, second-generation biofuels, and various 'green' investments.

We further propose that the Copenhagen Summit approve a Resolution mandating governments to create anti-climate change ministries or departments at cabinet level to ensure that they all become fully engaged in the battle against climate change.

We hope that in your person the most heavily-indebted middle-income countries in Asia, and across the world, will find a champion; and that together we will achieve a breakthrough in our common struggle against climate change—while also generating a major stimulus and jobs creation for our stagnant economies.

The key is to find the formula for financing our battle against climate change. We believe that we now have such a formula and hope that the Copenhagen Conference will see its way toward applying this formula of massive reforestation and other anti-climate change programs simultaneously in Asia, and wherever else in the world there is a need for it.

Please accept, Excellency, our best wishes and highest regards.

Jose de Venecia, Jr.
Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman
(Former Speaker of the House of Representatives of Philippines)
(email: venecia@pldtsl.net)

Chung Eui-yong
Co-Chairman and
Secretary General of the ICAPP
(email:euiyongchung@gmail.com)

Attachments: As stated.

## B. Letter to UN Secretary General, March 8, 2010

H.E. Ban Ki Moon
Secretary General
United Nations
New York

March 8, 2010

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

It is a great privilege and pleasure for us to inform you that the International Conference of Asian Political Parties(ICAPP), which is currently representing over 260 political parties in 51 countries and 1 territory in Asia, successfully held the 12th Meeting of its Standing Committee in Kathmandu, Nepal during February 26-28, 2010. Attached are the summary report on the outcomes of the Meeting with its program and the list of participants. The list of political parties that the ICAPP currently represents is also attached for your ready reference.

The Meeting also unanimously adopted a special statement on Nepal in which they expressed strong support and solidarity to efforts of the people and the government of Nepal to successfully conclude the peace process and the constitution-making process in the country. As can be seen in the attached statement, the Meeting also agreed to recommend to Your Excellency to pay an official visit to Nepal at the earliest convenience to encourage the peace process in Nepal and, in particular, help establish a democratic and stable government in Nepal.

We also agreed to hold a Special Workshop on the theme of "Poverty Reduction and Alleviation under Globalization" in early July 2010 under the auspice of the Communist Party of China. The political leaders and representatives of relevant organizations in Asia will be invited to the workshop. The program will include field trips in the western China and workshops in Beijing. We hope to link the outcomes of the workshop with other regional and global initiatives to fight poverty, including the United Nations' Millenium Development Goals(MDGs). We hope that the United Nations will also send their representatives to the workshop. Formal invitations will soon follow. It is also our hope that Your Excellency can send your personal message for the occasion.

In addition, the 6th General Assembly of the ICAPP will be held in Phnom Pehn, Cambodia under the main theme of "Asia's Quest for a Better Tomorrow" in late November or early December this year. It is our sincere hope that Your Excellency will attend the opening session of the General Assembly and make a keynote speech. About five hundred political leaders representing over 150 political parties in Asia are expected to participate in the conference. We will send you an official invitation as soon as the dates of the conference are confirmed.

In this regard, it is with great pleasure for us to report that the video message of Your Excellency to the 5th General Assembly of the ICAPP which was held in Astana, Kazakhstan in September last year was very inspirational for our joint endeavors not only to achieve permanent peace and shared prosperity in our region but also eventually build an Asian community. Your strong support for and keen interest in the regional solidarity were also highly appreciated by all the participants in the General Assembly. We rely upon your continued support and cooperation for our efforts to further promote the principles of negotiated settlement of political differences through expanded dialogue among political parties, both domestically and internationally.

Please accept, Excellency, assurances of our highest consideration.

Jose de Venecia, Jr.
Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman
of the Standing Committee
Manila, Philippines
(email: venecia@pldtsl.net)

Chung Eui-yong
Secretary General and Co-Chairman
of the Standing Committee
Seoul, Korea
(email:euiyongchung@gmail.com)

Attachments: As stated.

### C. Letter to UN Secretary General, September 1, 2010

H.E. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary General of the United Nations
U.N. Headquarters
New York City

September 1, 2010

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

In continuation of our letters, dated November 20, 2009 and March 8, 2010, we'd like to update Your Excellency on the latest activities of the ICAPP, International Conference of Asian Political Parties, which now represents over 300 competing political parties with diverse ideological backgrounds in Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, West Asia, Middle East and Oceania.

First of all, it is a great pleasure to inform you that the 6th General Assembly of the ICAPP will be held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia during December 1 to 4, 2010 under the main theme of "Asia's Quest for a Better Tomorrow." The conference will be hosted by the Cambodian People's Party in collaboration with the Funcinpec Party of Cambodia. We expect that over 150 political parties will send high-level delegations to the meeting, some of which will be led by Heads of State and Government. It is our sincere hope that Your Excellency will participate in the General Assembly of the ICAPP and deliver a keynote speech at the opening ceremony in the morning of Thursday, December 2, 2010. We believe that your presence will not only contribute to the success of the conference, but also make the occasion more meaningful which will also celebrate the tenth anniversary of the ICAPP.

Secondly, we are also pleased to report to Your Excellency that the ICAPP Conference on Poverty Alleviation was held in Kunming, China during July 13 to 18, this year under the auspice of the Communist Party of China and was attended by representatives of 58 major political parties in 28 countries in the region. At the end of the conference, Kunming Declaration on Poverty Alleviation was adopted, in which all participants expressed their strong endorsement and support for the efforts of the United Nations led by Your Excellency to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Reflecting the diversity of Asia as its strength, they exchanged and shared their experiences and discussed innovative undertakings in pursuit of the goal of poverty alleviation. These ideas included, in particular, such initiatives as an Asian Anti-Poverty Fund, and Asian Micro-finance Fund, and final implementation of relevant U.N.-approved proposals such as Debt-Swaps for financing MDGs. It is our hope that the results of the Kunming conference, including its declaration, will be circulated among the participants in the forthcoming AAMDG Summit and be fully taken into into consideration in their discussion.

Recently, we are also trying to reach out to political parties in other regions of the world. As a result, the first joint session was successfully held in Buenos Aires in July 2009 between the ICAAPP and the COPPPAL, *Conferencia Permanente de Partidos Politicos de America Latina y el Caribe* (Permanent Conference of Political parties in Latin America). We are now in contact with key political parties in Africa, in collaboration with the COPPPAL, to organize the first trilateral meeting of political parties in Asia, Africa and Latin America in a very near future.

Excellency,

We are very confident more than ever that the ICAPP will continue to play a key role not only in Asia's inevitable movement to build an Asian community, but also in the global quest for a

more peaceful, harmonious and prosperous world. In this regard, we'd like to request continued support and assistance of Your Excellency and the United Nations for our future endeavors to further promote mutual understanding and friendship among nations through increased dialogue and exchanges among the political parties.

Please accept, Excellency, our best wishes and highest regards.

Jose de Venecia, Jr.
Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman
of the Standing Committee of the ICAPP
Manila, Philippines
(email: venecia@pldtsl.net)

Chung Eui-yong
Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee
and Secretary General of the ICAPP
Seoul, Korea
(email:euiyongchung@gmail.com)

Attachments:
1. Report of the ICAPP Activities ("Ten Years of the ICAPP")
2. Official Invitation from H.E. Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia
3. Program and Other Information on the 6th GA of the ICAPP
4. Kunming Declaration on Poverty Alleviation

## D. Letter to President of the 65th Session of the General Assembly, January 10, 2011

His Excellency Joseph Deiss
President of the 65th Session of the General Assembly
United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite A-0313
New York, N.Y. 10017-6706

January 10, 2011

Excellency,

We are writing, on behalf of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), to request that our Conference be accredited to take part in the sessions and works of the General Assembly as an Observer.

ICAPP was founded in Manila (Philippines) in September 2000, to build bridges of political cooperation and to establish networks of mutual benefit among mainstream political parties in Asia, both ruling and in opposition. Over its first decade, ICAPP has grown steadily in both membership and influence. As of December 2010, ICAPP's membership has reached more than 300 eligible political parties in 52 Asian states. After establishing fraternal linkages and cooperation with COPPPAL, the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2008, we are also undertaking efforts to reach out to the political parties in Africa.

So far ICAPP has held six General Assemblies—in Manila (2000), Bangkok (2002), Beijing (2004), Seoul (2006), Astana (2009), and Phnom Penh (2010). These assemblies have brought together the Asian continent's most prominent political leaders to search for ways of co-existing in a more peaceful, more democratic and more prosperous Asia. Our Standing Committee—made up of 18 leading political parties in 18 states—has met at least twice a year since 2004. ICAPP also organizes Special Conferences on key continental issues—such as those of minimizing political corruption, strengthening state capacity, and easing mass poverty. We are currently planning a special conference on natural disasters and environmental protection; it is to be held in Malaysia in early May this year.

From its inception, ICAPP has been a staunch supporter of the United Nations and its activities. The first paragraph of the Preamble of the ICAPP Charter, adopted in September 2006, declares ICAPP's unequivocal commitment to the principles and objectives of the UN Charter. Representatives of the political parties that took part in ICAPP's 6th General Assembly in Phnom Penh (Cambodia) during December 1-4, 2010 unanimously adopted the Phnom Penh Declaration endorsing ICAPP's bid for Observer Status to the General Assembly. Even now our Secretariat is coordinating with the governments of our UN-member States joint initiatives toward the same objective.

We believe, Excellency, that ICAPP can play a major role in forging cooperation between the United Nations and the political parties not only of Asia but also of Latin America and Africa—the three continents of the emerging democracies—in the following areas:

(a) Aggregating and channeling to the United Nations system the views of our peoples in all their diversity, as expressed in political debates and discussions at all dimensions, local, national and continental;

(b) Promoting ordinary people's awareness, approval and support of international agreements reached at the United Nations and through UN programs;

(c) Building international consensus on United Nations action to meet key global challenges; and

(d) Providing support for political parties in the emerging democracies—to increase their capacity to carry out at local and national level their lawmaking and oversight functions on matters subject to international cooperation at the United Nations.

For your information and ready reference, Excellency, we enclose an Internal Report on ICAPP's first ten years and a copy of the Phnom Penh Declaration adopted at the 6th General Assembly of the ICAPP in December 2010. More information on ICAPP activities may be found on our website at www.theicapp.org.

We hope that our request for Observer Status to the U.N. General Assembly will merit the General Assembly's favor, and be included in its agenda during its 66th Session. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Please accept, Excellency, every assurance of our highest consideration.

Jose de Venecia, Jr.
Founding Chairman and
Co-Chairman of the
Standing Committee
Manila, Philippines

Chung Eui-yong
Co-Chairman of the Standing
Committee and Secretary General
Seoul, Korea

Enclosures: As stated.

Cc:
H.E. Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations
Mr. Thomas Stelzer, U.N. Assistant Secretary General for Policy Coordination

## E. Letter to UN Secretary General, September 15, 2011

H.E. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary General of the United Nations
U.N. Headquarters
New York City

September 15, 2011

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

On behalf of the Standing Committee of the ICAPP, International Conference of Asian Political Parties, we extend our sincerest gratitude to Your Excellency for your continued support for the agenda and work of the ICAPP, in particular your most recent special video message for the ICAPP Special Conference on Development and People's Access, held in Nanning, Guangxi Autonomous Region of China from September 3 to 6, 2011 under the auspices of the Communist Party of China. It was attended by representatives of 53 major ruling and opposition political parties from 27 countries in the region and observers from Latin America. Your video message was well received by all participants at the opening ceremony and provided good foundation for the deliberations on the theme during the conference.

At the end of the conference, the Nanning Declaration on Development and People's Access was adopted, in which all participants agreed that, while giving primacy to development, more stress should be laid on how to pursue inclusive development and on how the fruits of development would reach, and enjoyed, by the people. Reflecting the diversity of Asia as its strength, they exchanged and shared their experiences and discussed innovative undertakings in pursuit of the goal of more inclusive and equitable development. These ideas included, in particular, such initiatives as an Asian Anti-Poverty Fund, and an Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council in the aftermath of the "Arab Spring" to help enable the new political order and to help heal society's wounds and lay the basis for political, economic, and social reforms that will endure, because they are rooted in truth and justice. It is our hope that the results of the Nanning Conference, including its Declaration, will be circulated among the Member States of the United Nations and be fully taken into consideration in their future discussion on the relevant issues.

Excellency,

We are also most grateful for your support for our efforts to obtain observer status in the U.N. General Assembly. In this regard, it is with great pleasure to note that the General Committee of the General Assembly decided at its meeting on September 15, 2011 to include the item on observer status for the ICAPP in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly. Once granted observer status, the ICAPP will be able to play a more active role not only in Asia's inevitable movement to build an Asian community, but also in the global quest for a peaceful, harmonious and prosperous world.

The ICAPP is now representing over 340 competing political parties in 53 countries with diverse ideological backgrounds. In this regard, we seek the United Nations' and Your Excellency's continued support and assistance for our future endeavors to further promote mutual understanding and friendship among nations through the culture of cooperation, increased dialogue and exchanges among the political parties.

Please accept, Excellency, our best wishes and highest regards.

Jose de Venecia, Jr.
Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman
of the Standing Committee of the ICAPP
Manila, Philippines
(email: venecia@pldtsl.net)

Chung Eui-yong
Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee
and Secretary General of the ICAPP
Seoul, Korea
(email:euiyongchung@gmail.com)

Attachments:
1. List of Speakers at the ICAPP Special Conference on Development and People's Access
2. Nanning Declaration on Development and People's Access

Cc:
H.E. Sha Zukang, U.N. Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs
Mr. Thomas Stelzer, U.N. Assistant Secretary General for Policy Coordination

## F. Letter to UN Secretary General, October 11, 2011

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General
The United Nations
New York, N.Y.

October 11, 2011

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

We extend warm greetings and good wishes to Your Excellency on behalf of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties(ICAPP), which represents over 340 political parties, both in government and opposition, in Asia.

On the occasion of our special meeting with you today, we submit this letter suggesting that perhaps the present is a good time for the United Nations to renew the Global Inter-Faith Dialogue it sponsored in regions and key countries in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001.

Understanding among the great religions and cultures still is the only basis for the enduring peace in the world, and our need to mobilize churches, temples, mosques and synagogues, no less than political parties and civil societies, to promote a global culture of peace and mutual tolerance is as imperative as it was then. Indeed, our need to bring peoples together may even be more acute after the recent flashpoints of conflicts created by an internet film and magazine cartoons that some Islamic communities find extremely offensive to their religion.

Your Excellency will recall that the ICAPP has collectively been promoting and commending to the United Nations a proposal to create an Inter-Faith Council as a special forum under the ECOSOC. We now regard action on this resolution to be worth considering and even compelling.

Meanwhile, the ICAPP has helped establish an Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council(APRC), based in Bangkok, and we have nominated Dr. Suriakart Sathirathai, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, to be Chairman. We had the privilege to initiate the APRC because numerous conflicts in our region require the support of Track 1.5 to Track 2 diplomacy as well. The members of the APRC are mostly elder statesmen not only from Asia but also from Europe, and we hope that the APRC can assist the relevant agencies of the United Nations in resolving conflict situations. Dr. Suriakart has indicated that he would also write to you shortly on APRC's plan for future activities.

Excellency, we will soon travel to Mexico City to attend the 3rd Joint Meeting between the ICAPP and the COPPPAL, Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, during October 13-14. The meeting will be hosted by the PRI, Institutional Revolutionary Party, of Mexico and convened by Mexico's President-elect Enrique Pena Nieto.

We had recently written to the president-elect, following our meeting with him in Mexico City last July, to consider convening, in possible partnership with the United Nations, a Global Summit to Fight against Narcotics Cartels as production and distribution of narcotics is growing in various parts of the world.

We thank you most sincerely, Mr. Secretary General, for your continuous support for the ICAPP's efforts to obtain observer status in the activities of the U.N. General Assembly. We are also most grateful for your statements at various ICAPP assemblies endorsing and encouraging our programs to fight poverty, corruption, extremism and climate change, and support the U.N. Millennium Development Goals and our fresh campaign to help bring about peace and reconciliation in conflict areas of Asia.

Please accept, Excellency, assurances of our highest esteem.

Jose de Venecia, Jr.
Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman
of the Standing Committee
(Former Speaker of the Philippine
House of Representatives)

Chung Eui-yong
Co-Chairman of the Standing
Committee and Secretary General
(Former Chairman of the Foreign
Relations Committee of Korea's
Democratic United Party)

## G. Letter to UN Secretary General, June 11, 2013

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General
The United Nations
New York, N.Y.

June 11, 2013

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

This is to report to you the results of the ICAPP Special Conference on Promoting Green Development which was held in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province during May 301-31, 2013 under the auspice of the Communist Party of China.

First of all, we'd like to extend our deepest gratitude to Your Excellency for your video message which was delivered to all participants at the opening session. Your endorsements and encouragements at various ICAPP assemblies, including the recent conference in Xi'an, have always been a strong impetus to our efforts to achieve peace and prosperity in our region and beyond through dialogue and cooperation among political parties of diverse ideological orientation.

The Xi'an conference was attended by top political leaders, including Heads of Governments, from over fifty leading political parties in Asia and the observer delegations from political parties in Latin America and Africa. Attached are the list of participants in the conference and the Xi'an Initiative we adopted at the end of the conference. Other related documents of the conference are also attached for your reference.

In this regard, we'd particularly like to draw Your Excellency's attention to, and support for, the initiative of the "Global Political Parties Climate and Ecological Alliance (GPPCEA)", recently launched by political parties in Asia, Latin America and Africa, represented respectively by the ICAPP, the *COPPPAL* (Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean), and the CAPP (Council of African Political Parties).

Please accept, Excellency, assurances of our highest consideration.

Jose de Venecia, Jr.
Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman
of the Standing Committee
Manila, Philippines

Chung Eui-yong
Co-Chairman of the Standing
Committee and Secretary General
Seoul, Korea

Attachments: As stated.

## 2. UN Secretary General's Messages for ICAPP Conferences (2009-2013)

### A. Message for the ICAPP Special Conference on Women's Leadership and Empowerment (Seoul, Republic of Korea, September 13, 2013)

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**MESSAGE TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ASIAN POLITICAL PARTIES SPECIAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT**

**Seoul, 12 September 2013**

I offer my warm greetings to participants at this Special Conference on Women's Leadership and Empowerment of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties. Your influential gathering can have a meaningful impact on the workings of governments and the lives of women across Asia.

As Secretary-General, I have placed top priority on advancing women's equal rights, opportunities and participation. In my travels around the world, I have consistently and strongly advocated for the engagement of women at all levels. At the United Nations, I have significantly increased the number of women in senior positions, including in "non-traditional" areas such as peacekeeping and political affairs. The women I rely on for expertise and advice have enriched our activities and contributed greatly to our success.

There is a growing global consensus that gender equality is more than a goal in its own right; it is a path to reducing poverty within families and across nations. When you promote gender equality and expand equal opportunities for women, you accelerate success in all areas for all people. This creates an environment for sustained peace and shared prosperity.

The United Nations estimates that removing barriers to women's participation in the workforce across the Asia-Pacific region would unleash nearly $100 billion every year. This would also bring help to address discrimination and allow women and girls to more fully contribute to society.

I count on all of you to exert your best efforts to close gender gaps in laws, policies, programmes and budgets, and to champion women's leadership and empowerment.

I wish you great success at this Special Conference and in your ongoing work across the Asia-Pacific region.

BAN Ki-moon

## B. Message for the ICAPP Special Conference on Promote Green Development and Build a Beautiful Asia Together (Xi'an, China, May 30, 2013)

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to send greetings to the International Conference of Asian Political Parties.

I thank our Chinese hosts and all of you for your active participation.

This year's theme, 'Promoting Green Development and Beautiful Asia', is particularly relevant in this time of test and transition.

The world needs sustainable solutions. Green development can help people meet their aspirations while protecting our planet. Such policies, in the context of poverty eradication, are especially suited to the Asia-Pacific region.

Green development is crucial to reducing poverty, reinforcing economic dynamism, and coping with rapid urbanization and industrialization.

By shifting the region and our world to a more inclusive and sustainable path of development, we can reduce the risks of climate change and help ensure the future we want.

The United Nations is your committed partner. Our "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative is one area for focused collaboration.

I thank the region for taking part in the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia, which is now taking place in Vladivostok with the support of the Russian Federation.

I'm confident that together we can create more just, equitable, and inclusive societies and protect our people and planet for generations to come.

I wish you a productive meeting and look forward to working with you to achieve a green and beautiful Asia.

Thank you.

## C. Message for the 7th General Assembly of the ICAPP

Your Excellency President Aliyev of Azerbaijan,

Honorable Jose de Venecia Jr., Founding Chairman and Co-chairman of the Standing Committee of the ICAPP,

Ambassador Chung Eui-yong, Co-chairman of the Standing Committee and Secretary General of the ICAPP,

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'm pleased to send greetings to the International Conference of Asian Political Parties. I thank the *Yeni* Azerbaijan Party for hosting this important meeting. Since its inaugural meeting in 2000, ICAPP has grown to become an important forum for dialogue and coordination encompassing diverse government, opposition and independent voices from across the region. Your theme at this year's gathering, Security, Peace and Reconciliation, is timely.

Throughout Asia, conflict and misunderstanding among faith and cultures remain significant obstacles to progress. This makes it harder to mobilize the global cooperation, we need to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, protect the human rights and address common threats such as extremism and climate change. This meeting is opportunity to build bridges of mutual understanding that can lead you towards future of stability, prosperity, freedom, and opportunity. As you travel that road, I encourage you to empower women, youth, and civil society in keeping with the democratic tenet of our times.

The United Nations for its part is active across your membership. I will continue to be your partner from energy to education, from conflict prevention to disaster risk reduction. I wish you a productive meeting and every success as you strive to build better lives for all the people of Asia.

Thank you.

### D. Message for the ICAPP Special Conference on Development and People's Access (Nanning, China, September 5, 2011)

Distinguished leaders and participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to convey greetings to the International Conference of Asian Political Parties.

Asia and the Pacific have emerged as new leaders in the global economy. The region's transformation brings with it the potential for dramatic advances and standard of living, building on what has been achieved already.

But, there will also be risks and policy challenges in sustaining the dynamic growth that is so critical for closing development gaps and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Our focus must be on building more resilient societies and economies. We must do more to invest in people, including by ensuring that social protection programs are a mainstay of national development.

Above all, we need to connect the dots between the main challenges we face, from climate change to water scarcity, from food security to pandemic disease, from energy security to the empowerment of women. Just as people are connected, so are the issues.

With more than 4 billion people, the Asia-Pacific region accounts for more than 60 per cent of the world's population. If we get it right in Asia-Pacific, we get it right for two-thirds of humanity. Clearly, the stakes are very high.

I wish you every success in your deliberations. And I look forward to working with you to achieve truly sustainable development.

Thank you.

### E. Message for the 6th General Assembly of the ICAPP (Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 2, 2011)

Your Excellency, Prime Minister Hun Sen of Kingdom of Cambodia, Distinguished Party Leaders, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by conveying condolences to the government and people of Cambodia, for the tragic loss of life during last month water festival. My thoughts are with all Cambodians, at this time of mourning.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I congratulate the International Conference of Asian Political Parties, on its tenth anniversary, and its commitment in promoting dialogue and cooperation in Asia. Political parties may have many different concerns, contexts, and ideologies. But, through regular contacts and exchange of ideas, political parties are also well placed, to promote mutual understanding, promote democracy, and strengthen regional cooperation.

Moreover, they have a responsibility to do these, and should be allowed to these, whether or not they are in power. These are testing times. The world faces challenges that no nations can address on its own. Climate change, environmental degradation, extreme poverty, the continuing impact of the economic crisis, nuclear threat, natural and manmade disasters, armed violence, and violations of human rights. People everywhere live in growing anxiety and fear.

I welcome ICAPP's support for the efforts of the United Nations, to address these issues including, our work to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Thank you as well, for promoting women's participation in politics and society, and for helping young people to play larger roles in political decision making. Our future depends on how we work together, and honor United Nations that can deliver.

Thank you again for your partnership and support, and please accept my best wishes for successful conference.

### F. Message for the ICAPP Special Conference on Poverty Alleviation (Kunming, China, July 17, 2010)

Excellencies, Distinguished Political Party Leaders, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to greet this International Conference of Asian Political Parties. Your focus on poverty alleviation is timely indeed. In September, world leaders will gather in New York for a summit for the Millennium Development Goals.

The world and Asian region continues to deal with the fallout from the global financial crisis. There are encouraging signs, but recovery is uneven. It is precarious. We need concrete action and cooperation at every level. You have come together to share experiences and forge solutions. This is vital.

Asia-Pacific is home to some of the world's largest and most dynamic economies. Many millions have been lifted out of poverty, but far too many remain. Now, it is time to invest in inclusive growth, in green growth, and in education, health and empowerment of women. I look forward to your input as we prepare for the MDGs Summit.

I wish you all the best. Thank you for your work.

### G. Message for the 5th General Assembly of the ICAPP (Astana, Kazakhstan, September 27, 2009)

Your Excellency, President Nazarbayev, Distinguished Co-Chairs, Distinguished Leaders of Political Parties, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'm pleased to greet the participants in this International Conference of Asian Political Parties.

Political parties are crucial for democracy. They integrate citizens into the political process. Decisions are more likely to be accepted, even by those who oppose them, if the citizens feel that they have been adequately represented. This can go a long way towards fostering stability and reducing social tension.

Since 2000, your conference has offered a common vision of peace and prosperity across Asia. It is fostering cooperation among political parties, bridging diverse cultures, and building trust.

I'm also pleased, that you are reaching out to other continents. These contacts, among political parties, can build a global solidarity ready to meet the common challenges from poverty to climate change, to human rights.

Asia is a leading actor on the international stage. It is home to some four billion people and the rich diversity of language, ethnicity, culture, and religion. Asia's political parties can serve as an engine of progress for these people. I urge you to do your utmost to meet your citizens' needs, listen to their voices, and respect their democratic rights.

In that spirit, please accept my best wishes for a successful conference. Thank you.

## VI. List of Political Parties Eligible to Participate in the ICAPP Activities
## (359 Political Parties in 53 Countries and 1 Territory)

**As of September 2013**

**Afghanistan (as of September 18, 2010) : 11**

1. Islamic Society *(Jamiat-e Islami)* (*/249)
2. People's Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan (*Hezb-e Wahdat Mardum*) (*/249)
3. National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan (*Hezb-e Junbish Milli Islami*) (*/249)
4. Republican Party of Afghanistan (*Hezb-e Jumhori*) (*/249)
5. Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan (*Hezb-e Wahdat Islami*) (*/249)
6. National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (*Hezb-e Mahaz Milli Islami*) (*/249)
7. National Solidarity Party of Afghanistan (*Hezb-e Paiwand Milli*) (*/249)
8. Islamic Dawah Organization of Afghanistan *(Hezb-e Tanzim Dahwat Islami)* (*/249)
9. Islamic Movement of Afghanistan (*Hezb-e Harakat Islami*) (*/249)
10. Afghan Social Democratic Party (*Hezb-e Afghan Millat*) (*/249)
11. Islamic Party *(Hezb-e Islami)* (*/249)

*Since most candidates for the Wolesi Jirga (House of the People) run without a party affiliation on the ballot, the strength of parties in the parliament can only be estimated.

**Armenia (as of May 6, 2012) : 7**

1. Republican Party of Armenia (*Hayastani Hanrapetakan Kusaktsutyun)* (69/131)
2. Prosperous Armenia Party (*Bargavadj Hayastani Kusaktsutyun*) (37/131)
3. Armenian National Congress (*Hay Azgayin Kongres*) (7/131)
4. Rule of Law Party (*Orinants Erkir*) (6/131)
5. Armenian Revolutionary Federation (*Hay Heghapokhakan Dashnaktsutiun*) (5/131)
6. Heritage Party (*Zharangutiun*) (5/131)

   Eligible by size of popular votes won –
7. Armenian Communist Party (*Hayastani Komunistakan Kusaktsutyun*) (1.45/100)

**Australia (as of September 7, 2013) : 7**

1. Liberal Party (58/150)
2. Labor Party (54/150)
3. Liberal National Party (22/150)
4. The Nationals (9/150)

   Eligible by size of popular votes won –
5. The Greens (1/150, 8.65/100)
6. Palmer United Party (1/150, 5.49/100)
7. Katter's Australian Party (1/150, 1.04/100)

* *Ruling Coalition*: Liberal National Coalition, composed of Liberal Party, Liberal National Party, the Nationals, and Country Liberals, claimed 90 seats in total

**Azerbaijan (as of November 7, 2010) : 4**

1. New Azerbaijan Party (*Yeni Azərbaycan Partiyası*) (72/125)
2. Civil Solidarity Party (*Vətəndaş Həmrəyliyi Partiyası*) (3/125)
3. Motherland Party (*Ana Vətən Partiyası*) (2/125)

   Eligible by size of popular votes won –

4. United People's Party (*Azərbaycan Xalq Cəbhəsi Partiyası*) (1/125, 1.29/100)

**Bahrain (as of February 18, 2011) : 2**

1. *Al-Wefaq* National Islamic Society (-/40)*
2. *Al Asalah* National Islamic Society (3/40)
3. *Al Menbar* National Islamic Society (2/40)
4. Independent Block (17+18/40)

*Following the Bahrain Uprising in 2011, all 18 previous Members of Parliament affiliated to *Al Wefaq* resigned from parliament.

**Bangladesh (as of Dec 29, 2008) : 5**

1. Bangladesh Awami League (230/300)
2. Bangladesh Nationalist Party (30/300)
3. *Jatiuya* Party (27/300)
4. National Socialist Party *(Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dal)* (3/300)
   Eligible by size of popular votes won –
5. *Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh* (2/300, 4.6/100)

**Bhutan (as of July 13, 2013) : 2**

1. People's Democratic Party (32/47)
2. Bhutan Peace and Prosperity Party *(Druk Phuensum Tshogpa)* (15/47)

**Cambodia (as of July 28, 2013) : 4**

1. Cambodian People's Party *(Kanakpak Pracheachon Kâmpuchéa)* (68/123)
2. Cambodian National Rescue Party *(Kanakpak Songkruos Cheat Kampuchea)* (55/123)
   Eligible by size of popular votes won –
3. FUNCINPEC Party (3.66/100)
4. League for Democracy Party (1.03/100)

**China : 1**

1. Communist Party of China

**Cyprus (as of May 22, 2011) : 7**

1. Democratic Rally - DISY (*Dimokratikós Sinayermós*) (20/56)
2. Progressive Party of Working People - AKEL (*Anorthotikó Kómma Ergazómenou Laoú*) (19/56)
3. Democratic Party - DIKO (*Dimokratikó Kómma*) (9/56)
4. Movement for Social Democracy- EDEK (*Kinima Sosialdimokraton Eniaia Dimokratiki Enosi Kentrou*) (5/56)
5. European Party - EURO.KO *(Evropaiko Komma*) (2/56, 3.88/100)
6. Ecological and Environmental Movement - Cyprus Green Party (*Kinima Oikologon Perivallontiston*) (1/56, 2.21/100)
   Eligible by size of popular votes won –
7. National Popular Front (*Ethniko Laiko Metopo*) (1.08/100)

* The House of Representatives is composed of 80 seats in total which include 56 seats assigned to Greek Cypriots and 24 to Turkish Cypriots ; however, only those assigned

to Greek Cypriots are officially filled and recorded.

**East Timor (as of July 7, 2012) : 11**

1. National Congress for Reconstruction of Timor-Leste (*Congresso Nacional da Reconstrução Timorense*) (30/65)
2. Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor - Fretilin (*Frente Revolucionária do Timor-Leste Independente*) (25/65)
3. Democratic Party (*Partido Democrático)* (8/65)
4. Front for National Reconstruction of Timor-Leste – Change (*Frente de Reconstrução Nacional de Timor-Leste – Mudança*) (2/65)
   Eligible by size of popular votes won –
5. Timor National Unity Better Growing Party (*Kmanek Haburas Unidade Nasional Timor Oan*) (2.97/100)
6. Social Party of Timor (*Partido Socialista de Timor*) (2.41/100)
7. Social Democratic Party (*Partido Social Democrata*) (2.15/100)
8. National Development Party (*Partido Desenvolvimento Nacional*) (1.99/100)
9. Timorese Social Democratic Association (*Associação Social-Democrata Timorense, ASDT*) (1.80/100)
10. National Unity of Timorese Resistance (*União Nacional Democrática de Resistência Timorense, UNDERTIM*) (1.49/100)
11. Timorese Democratic Union (*União Democrática Timorense*) (1.13/100)

**Fiji (as of May 13, 2006) : 5**

1. *Soqosoqo Duavata ni Lewenivanua* (SDL) (36/71)
2. Fiji Labor Party (FLP) (31/71)
3. United People's Party (UPP) (2/71)
   Eligible by size of popular votes won –
4. National Federation Party (NFP) (6.2/100)
5. National Alliance Party of Fiji (NAPF) (2.9/100)

***** Since Dec. 2006, political activities have been restricted due to coup d'état.

**Georgia (as of October 1, 2012) : 4**

1. The Georgian Dream – Democratic Georgia Coalition *(k'art'uli ots'neba – demokratiuli sak'art'velo)* (85/150)
2. United National Movement *(Ertiani Natsionaluri Modzraoba, ENM)* (65/150)
   Eligible by size of popular votes won –
3. Christian-Democratic Union *(K'ristianul-demokratiuli modzraoba)* (2.05/100)
4. Labor Party of Georgia *(Sakartvelos Leoboristuli Partia)* (1.24/100)

**India (as of May 13, 2009) : 14**

1. Indian National Congress (206/543)
2. *Bharatiya Janata* Party (Indian People's Party) (116/543)
3. *Samajwadi* Party (Socialist Party) (23/543)
4. *Bahujan Samaj* Party (21/543)
5. *Janata Dal* (United) (20/543)
6. All India Trinamool Congress (19/543)
7. *Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam* (Dravidian Progress Federation) (18/543)

8. *Biju Janata Dal* (14/543)
9. *Shiv Sena* (Army of Shiv) (11/543)
10. Nationalist Congress Party (9/543)
11. All India *Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam* (9/543)
12. *Telugu Desam* Party (Party for Telugu Land and People) (6/543)
    Eligible by size of popular votes won –
13. Communist Party of India (4/543, 1.43/100)
14. *Rashtriya Janata Dal* (National People's Party) (4/543, 1.3/100)

**Indonesia (as of April 9, 2009) : 13**

1. Democratic Party (*Partai Demokrat*) (148/560)
2. Party of the Functional Groups - Golkar (*Partai Golongan Karya*) (106/560)
3. Indonesian Democratic Party – Struggle (*Partai Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan*) (94/560)
4. Prosperous Justice Party (*Partai Keadilan Sejahtera*) (57/560)
5. National Mandate Party (*Partai Amanat Nasional*) (46 /560)
6. United Development Party (*Partai Persatuan Pembangunan*) (38/560)
7. National Awakening Party (*Partai Kebangkitan Bangsa*) (28/560)
8. Great Indonesia Movement Party (*Partai Gerakan Indonesia Raya*) (26/560)
9. People's Conscience Party (*Partai Hati Nurani Rakyat*) (17/560)
   Eligible by size of popular votes won –
10. Crescent Star Party *(Partai Bulan Bintang)* (1.8/100)
11. Prosperous Peace Party *(Partai Damai Sejahtera)* (1.5/100)
12. Concern for the Nation Functional Party *(Partai Karya Peduli Bangsa)* (1.4/100)
13. Reform Star Party *(Partai Bintang Reformasi)* (1.2/100)

**Iran (as of May 4, 2012) : 7 [Coalitions]**

1. United Front of Conservatives (98/290)
2. Democratic Coalition of Reformists (60/290)
3. Front of Islamic Revolution Stability (43/290)
4. People's Voice (19/290)
5. Monotheism and Justice Party (17/290)
6. Labour Coalition (11/290)
7. Insight and Islamic Awakening Front (5/290)

* Main political forces are generally classified as either conservatives or reformists; therefore, the exact number of seats by parties or coalitions is unclear

* *Conservatives*: United Front of Conservatives, Front of Islamic Revolution Stability, People's Voice, Monotheism and Justice Party, and Insight and Islamic Awakening Front
*Reformists*: Democratic Coalition of Reformists, and Labour Coalition

**Iraq (as of March 7, 2010) : 9**

1. Iraqi National Movement – al Iraqiya *(Al-Haraka al-Wataniya al-Iraqiyya)* (91/325)
2. State of Law Coalition (89/325)
3. Iraqi National Alliance *(Al-Itilaf al-Watani al-Iraqi)* (70/325)
4. Kurdistan Alliance *(Lîstî Kurdistan)* (43/325)
5. Movement for Change – Gorran *(Rewtî Gorran)* (8/325)
6. Iraqi Accord Front – al Tawafuq *(Jabahat al-Tawafuq)* (6/325)

7. Unity Alliance of Iraq *(I'itilaf Wehdat al-Iraq)* (4/325)
8. Kurdistan Islamic Union (Yekgirtuy Islami Kurdistan) (4/325)
   Eligible by size of popular votes won –
9. Islamic Group of Kurdistan/Irak *(Komele Islami le Kurdistan*/Iraq) (2/325, 1.3/100)

**Israel (as of Jan. 22, 2013) : 15**

1. *Likud Yisrael Beiteinu* (31/120)*
2. *Yesh Atid* (There is a Future) (19/120)
3. Israeli Labor Party (*HaAvoda* Party) (15/120)
4. The Jewish Home *(HaBayit HaYehudi)* (12/120)
5. *Shas* Party (11/120)
6. United Torah Judaism Party (7/120)
7. *Hatnuah* Party (The Movement Party) (6/120)
8. *Meretz* Party (6/120)
9. United Arab List (*Ra'am – Ta'al*) (4/120)
10. *Hadash* (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality) (4/120)
11. *Balad, or Brit Le'umit Demokratit* (National Democratic Assembly) (3/120)
12. *Kadima* Party(Forward) (2/120)
    Eligible by size of popular votes won –
13. *Otzma LeYisrael* Party (Strong Israel) (1.76/100)
14. *Am Shalem* Party(Whole Nation) (1.20/100)
15. *Ale Yarok* Party (Green Leaf) (1.15/100)

*Israeli electoral alliance between the center-right *Likud* (Consolidation) and the right wing *Yisrael Beiteinu* (Israel Our Home)

**Japan (as of December 16, 2012) : 7**

1. Liberal Democratic Party (LDP*)* (294/480)
2. Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) (57/480)
3. Restoration Party (JRP, *Ishin no Kai*) (54/480)
4. New *Komeito* Party (Justice Party) (31/480)
5. Your Party *(Minna no To)* (18/480)
6. Tomorrow Party (TPJ, *Mirai no To*) (9/480
7. Japanese Communist Party (JCP, *Kyosanto*) (8/480)

**Jordan (as of January 23, 2013) : 22**

1. Islamic Centrist Party (3/150)
2. Stronger Jordan (2/150)
3. The Homeland (2/150)
4. National Union Party (2/150)
5. National Current Party (4.19/100, 1/150)
6. Salvation (3.16/100, 1/150)
7. Labour and Professionalism (3.12/100, 1/150)
8. Cooperation (3.01/100, 1/150)
9. Dignity (2.85/100, 1/150)
10. Unified Front (2.79/100, 1/150)
11. National Unity (2.67/100, 1/150)
12. Construction (2.66/100, 1/150)

13. The People (2.47/100, 1/150)
14. People of Determination (2.04/100, 1/150)
15. Free Voice (1.97/100, 1/150)
16. Voice of the Nation (1.73/100, 1/150)
17. National Labour (1.69/100, 1/150)
18. Al Quds (1.52/100, 1/150)
19. Al Bayyan (1.42/100, 1/150)
20. The Dawn (1.38/100, 1/150)
21. Shabab Al Wifaq (1.25/100, 1/150)
22. Citizenship (1.25/100, 1/150)

* Only 27 seats out of 150 in the parliament are allocated to party lists.

**Kazakhstan (as of January 15, 2012) : 5**

1. People's Democratic Party "*Nur Otan"* (83/98)
2. Democratic Party of Kazakhstan Ak Zhol *"Bright Path"* (*Qazaqstan Demokratiyalyk Partiyasi Ak Zhol*) (8/98)
3. Communist People's Party of Kazakhstan (*Qazaqstan Khalyk Kommunistik Partiyasi*) (7/98)

   Eligible by size of popular votes won –
4. Nationwide Social Democratic Party (*Zhalpyulttyk Sotsial-Demokratiyalyk Partiya*) (1.68/100)
5. Kazakhstani Social Democratic Party Auyl *"Village"* (*Auyl Sotsial-Demokratiyalyk Partiyasi*) (1.19/100)

**Kiribati (as of October 21, 2011) : 3**

1. Pillars of Truth Party *(Boutokaan Te Koaua)* (15/28)
2. Unified Coalition Party *(Karikirakean Tei-Kiribati)* (10/28)
3. *Maurin Kiribati Pati* (3/28)

**Korea, Democratic People's Republic of : 1**

1. Workers' Party of Korea *(Rodong Dang)*

**Korea, Republic of (as of April 11, 2012) : 4**

1. *Saenuri* Party (New Frontier Party) (154/300)
2. Democratic Party (127/300)
3. Unified Progressive Party (6/300)
4. Justice Party (6/300)

**Kyrgyzstan (as of Oct. 10, 2010) : 8**

1. *Ata-Zhurt* (Fatherland) (28/120)
2. Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan (SDPK) (26/120)
3. *Ar-Namys* (Dignity) (25/120)
4. *Respublika* Party of Kyrgyzstan (23/120)
5. *Ata-Meken* (Fatherland) Socialist Party (18/120)

   Eligible by size of popular votes won –
6. *Butun* Kyrgyzstan Party (United Kyrgyzstan Party) (8.76/100)
7. *Ak-Shumkar* Party (White Falcon Party) (4.76/100)

8. *Zamandash* (3.82/100)

**Laos (as of April 30, 2011) : 1**

1. Lao People's Revolutionary Party (128/132)

**Lebanon (as of June 7, 2009) : 15**

1. Future Movement (*Tayyar Al Mustaqbal*) (26/128)
2. Free Patriotic Movement (*Al-Tayyar Al-Watani Al-Hur*) (19/128)
3. *Amal* Movement (*Harakat Amal*) (13/128)
4. *Hezbollah* (Loyalty to Resistance) (12/128)
5. Lebanese Forces *(Al-quwat al-lubnāniyya)* (8/128)
6. Progressive Socialist Party *(Al-Hizb al-Taqadummi al-Ishtiraki)* (7/128)
7. Lebanese Phalanges Party (*Hizb al-Kataeb*) (5/128)
8. Lebanese Democratic Party (*Hizb al-democraty al-lubnany*) (4/128)
9. *Marada* Movement *(El Marada)* (3/128)
10. Armenian Revolutionary Federation *(Hay Heghapokhagan Tashnagtsutiun)* (2/128)
11. Syrian Social Nationalist Party *(Al-Hizb as-Sūrī al-Qawmī al-Ijtimā'ī)* (2/128)
12. Arab Socialist *Ba'ath* Party (2/128)
13. Glory Movement (2/128)
14. *Murr* Bloc (2/128)
15. Social Democrat *Hunchakian* Party (2/128)

* In April 2013, Tammam Salam formed a new government following the resignation of Najib Mikati, Former Prime Minister.

*Ruling Coalition* (gained overwhelming support from the current Prime Minister):

- March 14 Alliance (Future Movement, Lebanese Forces, Lebanese Phalanges Party, *Murr* Bloc, Social Democrat *Hunchakian* Party, and others)

*Opposition Coalition*:

- March 8 Alliance (dissolved; former ruling coalition)
- Change and Reform bloc (Free Patriotic Movement, Lebanese Democratic Party, *Marada* Movement, Armenian Revolutionary Federation, and Solidarity Party)
- Pro-Government Independence (Progressive Socialist Party, Glory Movement)

**Malaysia (as of May 5, 2013) : 13**

1. United Malays National Organization (*Pertubuhan Kebangsaan Melayu Bersatu*, UMNO) (88/222)
2. Democratic Action Party (*Parti Tindakan Demokratik*, DAP) (38/222)
3. People's Justice Party - KeADILAN (*Parti Keadilan Rakyat*, PKR) (30/222)
4. Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (*Parti Islam SeMalaysia*, PAS) (21/222)
5. United Traditional Bumiputera Party (*Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu*, PBB) (14/222)
6. Malaysian Chinese Association (*Persatuan Cina Malaysia*, MCA) (7/222)
7. *Sarawak* People's Party (*Parti Rakyat Sarawak*, PRS) (6/222)
8. Malaysian Indian Congress *(Kongres India Se-Malaysia*, MIC*)* (4/222)
9. United Sabah Party (*Parti Bersatu Sabah*, PBS) (4/222)
10. *Sarawak* Progressive Democratic Party (*Parti Demokratik Progresif Sarawak*, SPDP) (4/222)
11. United Pasokmomogun Kadazandusun Murut Organization

(*Pertubuhan Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Bersatu*, UPKO) (4/222)
Eligible by size of popular votes won –

12. Malaysian People's Movement Party (*Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia*, Gerakan) (1.38/100, 1/222)
13. *Sarawak* United People's Party (*Parti Rakyat Bersatu Sarawak*, SUPP) (1.21/100, 1/222)

* Two major coalitions were formed, which are
  1) National Front (UMNO, PBB, MCA, PRS, MIC, PBS, SPDP, UPKO, Gerakan, and SUPP)
  2) People's Front (DAP, PKR, and PAS)

**Maldives (as of February 2013: by-election & internal adjustment) : 6**

1. Maldivian Democratic Party (29/77)
2. Progressive Party of Maldives (18/77)
3. *Dhivehi Rayyithunge* Party (Maldivian Peoples Party) (14/77)
4. *Jumhooree* Party (Republican Party) (6/77)
5. People's Alliance (2/77)
6. *Dhivehi Qaumee* Party (1/77)

**Marshall Islands (as of Nov. 21, 2011) : 2**

1. Aelon Kein Ad Party (AKA) (20/33)
2. Kien Eo Am Party (KEA) (12/33)

**Mongolia (as of June 28, 2012) : 4**

1. Democratic Party (*Ardchilsan Nam*) (31/76)
2. Mongolian People's Party (*Mongol Ardyn Khuv'sgalt Nam*) (25/76)
3. Justice Coalition (Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and Mongolian National Democratic Party) (11/76)
4. Civil Will-Green Party (*Irgenii Zorig-Nogoon Nam*) (2/76)

**Myanmar (as of April 1, 2012) : 6**

1. Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) (219/440)
2. National League for Democracy (NLD) (37/440)
3. *Shan* Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP) (18/440)
4. National Unity Party (NUP) (12/440)
5. *Rakhine* Nationalities Development Party (RNDP) (9/440)
6. National Democratic Force (NDF) (8/440)

**Nepal (as of April 10, 2008) : 9**

1. Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) (220/600)
2. Nepali Congress (110/600)
3. Communist Party of Nepal (UML) (103/600)
4. *Madhesi* People's Rights Forum (52/600)
5. *Tarai-Madhesh Loktantrik* Party (20/600)
6. *Sadbhavana* Party (9/600)
7. Communist Party of Nepal (Marxist-Leninist) (8/600)
8. *Rashtriya Prajatantra* Party (National Democratic Party) (8/600)

9. *Janamorcha Nepal* (People's Front Nepal) (7/600)

**New Zealand (as of Nov. 26, 2011) : 8**

1. National Party (59/121)
2. Labour Party (34/121)
3. Green Party (14/121)
4. New Zealand First (8/121)
5. Maori Party (3/121)
6. Mana Party(1/121)
7. ACT New Zealand (1/121)
8. United Future (1/121)

**Pakistan (as of May 11, 2013) : 10**

1. Pakistan Muslim League—N (*Nawaz*) (176/340)
2. Pakistan People's Party (39/340)
3. Pakistan *Tehreek-e-Insaf* (Pakistan Movement for Justice) (35/340)
4. *Muttahida Quami* Movement (United National Movement) (23/340)
5. *Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam* (F) (Assembly of Islamic Clergy) (14/340)
6. Pakistan Muslim League—F (Functional) (6/340)
7. *Jamaat-e-Islami* (Islamic Party) (4/340)
8. Pakhtun-khwa Milli Awami Party (4/340)

   Eligible by size of popular votes won –

9. Pakistan Muslim League—Q (*Quaid-i-Azam*) (3.11/100, 2/340)
10. Awami National Party (1.00/100, 1/340)

**Palestinian National Authority (as of Jan. 25, 2006) : 6**

1. *Hamas* (*Harakat al-muqāwamah al-islāmiyyah*) (74/132)
2. *Fatah* (*Harakat al-tahrīr al-filastīn)* (45/132)
3. Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine *(Al-Jabhah al-Sha`biyyah li-Taḥrīr Filasṭīn)* (3/132)
4. Palestinian National Initiative *(Al-Mubadara al-Wataniyya al-Filistiniyya)* (2/132)
5. Third Way (2/132)

**Papua New Guinea (as of July, 2012) : 14**

1. People's National Congress Party (27/111)
2. Triumph Heritage Empowerment Rural Party (12/111)
3. Papua New Guinea Party (8/111)
4. National Alliance Party (7/111)
5. United Resources Party (7/111)
6. People's Party (6/111)
7. People's Progress Party (6/111)
8. Social Democratic Party (3/111)
9. Coalition for Reform Party (2/111)
10. Melanesian Liberal Party (2/111)
11. New Generation Party (2/111)
12. People's Movement for Change Party (2/111)
13. People's United Assembly Party (2/111)

14. People's Democratic Movement (2/111)

**Philippines (as of May 13, 2013) : 8**

1. Liberal Party *(Partido Liberal ng Pilipinas)* (110/292)
2. Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) (43/292)
3. National Unity Party (NUP) (24/292)
4. *Nacionalista* (Nationalist Party) (17/292)
5. *Lakas (*People Power-Christian Muslim Democrats*)* (14/292)
6. United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) (8/292)
7. *Buhay Hayaan Yumabong* (Let Life Prosper) (3/292)

   Eligible by size of popular votes won –
8. PDP-*Laban* (Philippine Democratic Party-People's Power) (1.02/100)

**Russia (as of Dec. 4, 2011) : 5**

1. United Russia Party *(Yedinaya Rossiya)* (238/450)
2. Communist Party of Russian Federation *(Kommunisticheskaya Partiya Rossiskoy Federatsii)* (92/450)
3. A Just Russia Party *(Spravedlivaya Rossiya)* (26/450)
4. Liberal Democratic Party of Russia *(Liberal'no-Demokraticheskaya Partiya Rossii)* (16/450)
5. Russian United Democratic Party - Yabloko *(Rossiyskaya obyedinyonnaya demokraticheskaya partiya "Yabloko")*(3.4/100)

**Samoa (as of March 4, 2011) : 2**

1. Human Rights Protection Party (36/49)
2. *Tautua Samoa* Party (13/49)

**Singapore (as of May 7, 2011) : 7**

1. People's Action Party (81/87)
2. Workers' Party (6/87)

   Eligible by size of popular votes won –
3. National Solidarity Party (12.04/100)
4. Singapore Democratic Party (4.83/100)
5. Reform Party (4.28/100)
6. Singapore People's Party (3.11/100)
7. Singapore Democratic Alliance (2.78/100)

**Solomon Islands (as of August 4, 2010) : 12**

1. Solomon Islands Democratic Party (13/50)
2. Ownership, Unity and Responsibility Party (OUR Party) (3/50)
3. Reform Democratic Party (RDP) (3/50)
4. Independent Democratic Party (IDP) (2/50)
5. People's Alliance Party (2/50)
6. Rural Advancement Party (SIPRA) (2/50)
7. Rural Development Party (1/50)
8. Solomon Islands National Party (1/50)
9. Solomon Islands Liberal Party (1/50)

10. People's Federation Party (1/50)
11. People's Congress Party (1/50)
12. Rural and Urban Political Party (RUP) (1/50)

* *Ruling Coalition*: the National Coalition for Reform and Advancement (OUR, RDP, IDP, RUP, SIPRA, and several independent members of parliament) now claiming 29 seats out of 50

**Sri Lanka (as of April 8, 2010) : 4**

1. United People's Freedom Alliance (144/225)
2. United National Front (60/225)
3. Tamil National Alliance *(Tamit tēciyakkūamaippu)* (14/225)
4. Democratic National Alliance (*Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna* – JVP) (7/225)

**Syria (as of May 7, 2012) : 2**

1. National Progressive Front (168/250)
   - Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party
   - Arab Socialist Movement
   - Arab Socialist Union
   - Communist Party of Syria
   - Social Democratic Unionists
   - Socialist Unionists
   - Syrian Social Nationalist Party
   - Democratic Socialist Unionist Party
   - Arabic Democratic Unionist Party
   - National Vow Movement
2. Popular Front for Change and Liberation
   - People's Will Party
   - Syrian Social Nationalist Party

***** Under the new constitution, ratified through referendum on February 26, 2012, multiple political parties that were not affiliated to NPF were allowed to run for the election for the first time.

**Tajikistan (as of Feb. 28, 2010) : 5**

1. People's Democratic Party of Tajikistan (*Hizbi Demokrati-Khalkii Tojikston*) (55/63)
2. Communist Party of Tajikistan (*Hizbi Kommunistīi Tojikston*) (2/63)
3. Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (*Nahzati Islomi Tojikiston*) (2/63)
4. Agrarian Party of Tajikistan (2/63)
5. Economic Reforms Party (2/63)

**Thailand (as of July 3, 2011) : 6**

1. *Pheu Thai* Party (265/500)
2. Democrat Party *(Phak Prachathipat)* (159/500)
3. *Bhumjaithai* Party (BJT) - "Blue Shirts" (34/500)
4. Thai Nation Development Party (*Phak Chat Thai Patthana*) (19/500)
5. National Development Party for the Homeland (*Chart Pattana Puea Pandin Party*) (7/500)
6. *Phalang Chon* Party (7/500)

**Tonga (as of Nov. 25, 2010) : 3**

1. Democratic Party of the Friendly Islands (12/26)
   Eligible by size of popular votes won –
2. People's Democratic Party (2.4/100)
3. *Paati Langafonua Tu'uloa* (Sustainable Nation-Building Party) (1.4/100)

**Turkey (as of June 12, 2011) : 4**

1. Justice and Development Party – AK Party (*Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi*, AKP) (327/550)
2. Republican People's Party (*Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi*, CHP) (135/550)
3. Nationalist Movement Party (*Milliyetçi Hareket Partisi*, MHP) (53/550)
   Eligible by size of popular votes won –
4. Felicity Party (*Saadet Partisi*) (1.3/100)

**Turkmenistan (as of Dec. 14, 2008) : 1**

1. Democratic Party of Turkmenistan (125/125)

**Uzbekistan (as of Jan. 10, 2010) : 4**

1. Uzbekistan Liberal Democratic Party *(O'zbekiston Liberal Demokratik Partiyasi)* (53/135)
2. Uzbekistan People's Democratic Party *(O'zbekistan Xalq Demokratik Partiyasi)* (32/135)
3. Uzbekistan National Revival Democratic Party – "*Milliy Tiklanish" (O'zbekiston Milliy Tiklanish Demokratik Partiyasi)* (31/135)
4. Justice Social Democratic Party – "*Adolat*" *(Adolat Sotsial Demokratik Partiyasi)* (19/135)

**Vanuatu (as of Oct. 30, 2012) : 19**

1. Party of Our Land (*Vanua'aku Parti*) (8/52)
2. People's Progress Party (*Parti progressiste populaire*) (6/52)
3. Union of Moderate Parties (*Union des Partis moderés*) (5/52)
4. Vanuatu National United Party (*Parti national uni*) (4/52)
5. Land and Justice Party (*Graon mo Jastis Pati, GJP)* (4/52)
6. Reunification of Movement for Change (3/52)
7. *Nagriamel* (3/52)
8. Iauko Group (3/52)
9. Green Confederation (*Confédération verte*) (3/52)
10. Melanesian Progressive Party (2/52)
11. Natatok (2/52)
12. Vanuatu Republican Party (1/52)
13. Vanuatu Liberal Democratic Party (1/52)
14. Vanuatu National Party (1/52)
15. Peoples Service Party (1/52)
16. Vanuatu Progressive Development Party (1/52)
    Eligible by size of popular votes won –
17. Vanuatu Presidential Party (2.40/100)

18. Vanuatu Democratic Party (1.75/100)
19. National Community Association (1.56/100)

**Vietnam : 1**

1. Communist Party of Vietnam (Đảng Cộng sản Việt Nam)

**Yemen (as of April 27, 2003) : 4**

1. General People's Congress *(Al-Mu'tammar al-Sha'bi al-'Am*) (238/301)
2. Yemeni Congregation for Reform *(Al-Tajmu al-Yamani li al-Islah*) (46/301)
3. Yemen Socialist Party (*Hizb al-Ishtirakiya al-Yamaniya*) (8/301)
   Eligible by size of popular votes won –
4. Nasserite Unionist People's Organisation *(Al-Tantheem al-Wahdawi al-Sha'bi al-Nasseri)* (3/301, 1.9/100)

There are no political parties which meet the ICAPP criteria to be eligible to participate in the ICAPP activities in the following ten countries: Brunei, Kuwait, Micronesia, Nauru, Oman, Palau, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tuvalu and the United Arab Emirates.

## VII. Members of the ICAPP Standing Committee

**(As of Sept. 2013)**

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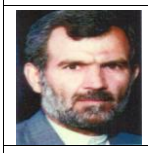
| **Co-Chairmen** | | | |
| | **Hon. Jose de VENECIA, Jr.**<br>▸Founding Chairman of the ICAPP<br>▸Former Speaker of the House of Representatives of the **Philippines** | | **Hon. CHUNG Eui-yong**<br>▸Secretary General, ICAPP Secretariat<br>▸Former Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee United Democratic Party, Republic of **Korea** |
| **Members (by alphabetical order of the name of country)** | | | |
| | **Hon. Shane L. STONE**<br>▸Assistant Chairman of International Democratic Union<br>▸Former Federal President of the Liberal Party of **Australia** | | **Hon. Ali Javad AHMADOV**<br>▸Deputy Chairman and Executive Secretary of New Azerbaijan Party, **Azerbaijan** |
| | **Hon. Abdul Matin KHASRU**<br>▸Secretary for Legal Affairs of the Central Committee, Bangladesh Awami League<br>▸Former Minister of Law, Justice and Placement Affairs, **Bangladesh** | | **Hon. Hussain Muhammad ERSHAD (Alternate Member)**<br>▸President of Jatiya Party<br>▸Former President of **Bangladesh** |
| | **Hon. SOK An**<br>▸Member of the Standing Committee of Cambodian People's Party<br>▸Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in Charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, **Cambodia** | | **Hon. KEO Puth Reasmey (Alternate Member)**<br>▸President of the Funcinpec Party<br>▸Former Deputy Prime Minister, **Cambodia** |
| | **Hon. AI Ping**<br>▸Vice Minister of the International Department, Central Committee of the Communist Party of **China** | | **Hon. Karan SINGH**<br>▸Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Indian National Congress, **India** |
|  | **Hon. Prof. Dr. Hassan Ghafouri FARD**<br>▸Member of the Central Committee of the Islamic Motalefeh Party<br>▸Former Vice President of **Iran** | | **Hon. Theo L. SAMBUAGA**<br>▸Vice President, GOLKAR Party, **Indonesia** |
| | **Hon. Tatsuya ITO**<br>▸Director-General of the International Bureau, Liberal Democratic Party of Japan<br>▸Member of the Diet, **Japan** | | **Hon. Yuji FUJIMOTO (Alternate Member)**<br>▸Director-General of the International Department, Democratic Party of Japan<br>▸Member of the Diet, **Japan** |
| | **Hon. Bauyrzhan BAIBEK**<br>▸First Deputy Chairman of "Nur Otan" People's Democratic Party of **Kazakhstan** | | **Hon. HWANG Jin-ha**<br>▸President of ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union of the National Assembly, Saenuri (New Frontier) Party<br>▸Member of the National Assembly, Republic of **Korea** |
| | **Hon. KIM Sung-gon (Alternate Member)**<br>▸Democratic United Party<br>▸Member of the National Assembly, Republic of **Korea** | | **Hon. Fadi FAWAZ**<br>▸Advisor for Development Affaires to Hon. Saad Hariri, Former Prime Minister and Chairman of Future Movement Party of **Lebanon** |
| | **(Alternate Member)**<br>▸Representative of Free Patriotic Movement Party of **Lebanon** | | **Hon. Dato Seri Shahidan bin KASSIM**<br>▸Special Adviser to the Prime Minister for the Northern Region Economic Growth, United Malay National Organization, **Malaysia** |

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| | **Hon. BAIGAL Luvsanchultem**<br>▸Chairman of General Control Committee, Democratic Party of **Mongolia** | | **Hon. CHINBAT Khishigt (Alternate Member)**<br>▸Head of International Relations and Cooperation Department, Mongolian People's Party, **Mongolia** |
| | **Hon. Dr. Mya Oo**<br>▸ Member of the Central Executive Committee, Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) of **Myanmar** | | **(Alternate Member)**<br>▸Representative of National League for Democracy (NLD), **Myanmar** |
| | **Hon. K.P. Sharma OLI**<br>▸Chief of International Department, Communist Party of Nepal (UML)<br>▸Former Deputy Prime Minister, **Nepal** | | **Hon. Mushahid HUSSAIN SAYED**<br>▸Secretary-General of the Pakistan Muslim League-Q<br>▸Senator, **Pakistan** |
| | **Hon. Andrey KLIMOV**<br>▸Member of the Presidium of the General Council of the United Russia Party<br>▸Member of the Council of Federation, **Russia** | | **Hon. Dr. Nalinee TAVESEEN**<br>▸Thailand Trade Representative<br>▸Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office<br>▸Pheu Thai Party of **Thailand** |
| | **Hon. Chamni SAKDISET (Alternate Member)**<br>▸Deputy Party Leader of the Democrat Party of **Thailand** | | **Hon. Yuksel OZDEN**<br>▸Justice and Development Party (AK Parti)<br>▸Member of the Parliament, **Turkey** |
| | **Hon. Vuong Thua PHONG**<br>▸Vice Chairman of the Commission for External Relations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of **Vietnam** | | |