Statement by the ICAPP Mission
to Monitor the Parliamentary Elections in Azerbaijan
(Baku, November 2, 2015)

At the invitation of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) has sent an observation mission to monitor the Parliamentary Elections in Azerbaijan held on November 1, 2015. The mission was composed of ICAPP Standing Committee Members representing Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Republic of Korea, Pakistan and the Philippines.

On Election Day, the ICAPP mission was divided into four groups, and each group visited several polling stations respectively throughout the day, monitored ballot casting and interviewed randomly selected voters, election observers representing different candidates and officials of the Central Election Committee. They also monitored the process of ballot counting conducted in several polling stations.

The ICAPP mission also had opportunities to exchange views and impressions on the election process with other international observers and foreign diplomats stationed in Azerbaijan.

Although contacts have been limited, overall election environment appeared to be peaceful and orderly. The mission did not encounter any incidents that might have adversely affected the democratic process or the results of the election. The mission noted with particular interest a new on-line webcam monitoring system at the polling stations which enabled the whole process more transparent.

As an emerging democracy, like the countries which the mission represented, however, there appeared areas which required more efforts to make the democratic institution in Azerbaijan more effective in the future, such as providing more opportunities for public debates among candidates using mass media and further ensuring easier access for voters to information on candidates and their platforms.

The ICAPP mission hopes that the results of this year's parliamentary elections will lay stronger foundation to achieve more mature democracy in Azerbaijan, believing that the decisions made by the people of Azerbaijan yesterday are the right ones for their future.