ICAPP/9GA/007

Kuala Lumpur Declaration

1. We, the leaders and representatives of 87political parties from Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, East Timor, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestinian National Authority, Philippines, Russia, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam, gathered here in Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of Malaysia, for the Ninth General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP). The Assembly was hosted by the United Malays National Organization (UMNO), the governing coalition of Malaysia, from September 1 to September 4, 2016 under the main theme of "One Asia."

2. First of all, we reaffirmed our commitment to the principles and the spirit of the ICAPP Charter and of the Declarations we had adopted at our biennial General Assemblies in Manila in 2000, Bangkok in 2002, Beijing in 2004, Seoul in 2006, Astana in 2009, Phnom Penh in 2010, Baku in 2012 and Colombo in 2014. We also reaffirmed that sovereignty, territorial integrity and equality of all nations, peaceful settlement of international conflicts, non-interference in internal affairs, and consensus orientation, among others, would remain as the main pillars of the ICAPP principles.

3. We noted with great satisfaction that the ICAPP has become a major and unique political force open to all political parties across the ideological spectrum to bring out the best of Asia's unity in diversity by leading the way forward in what is now generally accepted as the "Asian Century," and by building a bridge of peace, friendship and cooperation among all countries in the region. In doing so, we affirmed that political parties should enhance democratic values and institutions in our societies by adhering to principles of good governance and the rule of law which are characterized as participatory, accountable, transparent, equitable and inclusive.

4. We noted, however, with grave concern that the 9th General Assembly of the ICAPP was held in the midst of increasing uncertainties in the geopolitics and global economy.

In particular, growing fears of terrorism against innocent people throughout the world is clouding our region in the wake of successive assaults in many places. In this regard, first and foremost, we strongly condemned all forms of terrorism as they only work to destabilize our region and the world, and counter the goals of the ICAPP. In this context, we strongly condemned coup attempts against democracy and duly elected governments. We agreed that, at the current stage at least, we should prioritize combating terrorism than other challenges, and called on all political parties in the region to unite their efforts, together with their governments and parliaments, to prevent terrorist activities, irrespective of their motives.

We also stressed the need to eliminate root causes of terrorism through alleviation of poverty, elimination of discrimination, improvement of education, prevention of armed conflicts, and protection and promotion of human rights, and not to associate any specific religion or civilization with terrorism. In this regard, we called upon all international parties to help refugees and to create the necessary atmosphere to remove the causes of migration and create conducive conditions for the return of the displaced persons to their homelands.

5. We expressed our deep concern at the lingering conflicts in our region, including the current territorial issues, and stressed that all the potentially dangerous flashpoints should be resolved in a peaceful and harmonious way through dialogue and cooperation among concerned parties, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

We also stressed that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction constituted a serious threat to not only regional but global peace and security, and endorsed the comprehensive prohibition and thorough elimination of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. In this regard, we supported the efforts in the international community to accomplish the goal of a world without nuclear weapons, as proposed by U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

6. We agreed that the ICAPP, as a leading political platform, should play a bigger role in making our region a better and safer place by safeguarding unity and cooperation among all political parties, by exchanging diverse and different views in a frank and fraternal atmosphere, by forging consensus through consultations, and by exploring practical ways to promote security cooperation in the region with the new concept of ensuring common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. We also agreed to further expand ICAPP activities to strengthen communication and coordination among political parties in various sectors and fields, and constantly promote mutual understanding.

In particular, we emphasized the importance of potential, strategic role to be played by the ICAPP in linking up all the sub-regional cooperation efforts, such as Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building in Asia (CICA), Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC), into a larger pan-Asian architecture.

7. In this regard, we renewed our commitment to building an “Asian community” or “One Asia,” as our ultimate goal. We believe that building a community of common interest, common destiny and common responsibilities with freer movement

of people and goods will lead to greater peace and prosperity by enriching the mind and spirit of all our peoples, easing political and historical tensions, and raising the standard of living for the peoples.

We also reconfirmed our commitment to uphold open regionalism as our guiding principle to achieve our goal of integration in the region. We stressed the need to actively seek cooperation in various fields, such as trade, finance, and science and technology, with other regions in the world for mutual benefits with an outward-looking and inclusive attitude, and agreed to enhance cooperation with our intra-regional political partners, such as the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL) and the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP).

8. We noted that the rapid pace of globalization in recent years has greatly contributed to tremendous growth in exchange of goods and manpower across national borders, and made the world even more inter-connected. In this regard, we agreed that no nation should or could build a wall around globalization which was mostly driven by technological innovation and fast development of transportation, since globalization is effective in deterring xenophobia, racism and fear of "the other."

We also agreed, however, that globalization has not necessarily succeeded in providing answers to all the threats we face in the region. In this regard, we emphasized that globalization should be achieved in a way to protect and promote harmony among nations and plurality which are inherent in our societies, and not to weaken the abilities of our societies to handle our own challenges.

9. We pointed out poverty and environmental degradation as two most serious challenges we still face in the region. Many people in our region are still suffering from abject poverty which in most cases is passed down from generation to generation, and humanitarian catastrophe and large-scale devastation which are caused by adverse consequences of climate change, such as super typhoons, great floods and landslides, severe drought, desertification, rising sea level, and enormous destruction in eco-system. Spreading out of the infectious, contagious diseases and malignancies such as HIV/AIDS and Zika virus is becoming grave threat to people in our region, especially among the poor.

In this regard, we expressed our concern about the symptoms of slow growth, low employment and rising income and social inequality which many countries in our region are recently experiencing, and called for all governments to have more sincere dialogue on, and coordination of, policy priorities for inclusive growth that works for all, defeating inequality in economy.

10. We also agreed that sustainable growth is equally important, and called on all political parties in the region to urge their respective governments and parliaments to render full support for the successful and effective implementation of the 2030

Agenda of the U.N., and ratify immediately the Paris Agreement on Climate Change of 2016.

We noted that issues of one nation now easily spill over to other countries, and, therefore, we need closer cross-border cooperation to meet our common challenges. We also emphasized that good governance at the international level is equally important to achieve our common goal to free the entire human race from poverty and environmental degradation.

11. In this regard, we welcomed the initiatives taken at the first Trilateral Meeting among the representatives of the ICAPP, COPPPAL, and CAPP, held in Jakarta in April 2016, to launch trilateral efforts not only to bring more concrete and positive outcome to our common challenges of eradicating poverty and fighting climate change, but to further strengthen trilateral cooperation in the areas of common interest in a more inclusive way.

We also endorsed the agreement reached at the 1st Trilateral Meeting that all political parties in the three continents of Asia, Latin America and Africa will work together for gradual institutionalization of the trilateral cooperation with a view to launching a global forum of political parties in the future.

12. We stressed the need to further promote understanding and friendship among the countries in the region through people-to-people cooperation in such areas as culture, education, science and technology, and sports. In particular, we agreed to encourage more frequent and coordinated exchanges among various sectors of our society, including inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogues, to further foster harmonious atmosphere and counter extremism in all its aspects by easing rising politico-religious tensions. We also agreed that increased interaction, particularly among young people, is needed to advance human progress in such areas of common endeavor as sharing and appreciating different cultural heritage, values and traditions.

We also recognized that empowering women to participate fully in all sectors of society is essential to build stronger and more sustainable society, and to improve the quality of life not only for women but men, families and communities.

13. We reaffirmed our endorsement, made at the 6th General Assembly held in Phnom Penh in December 2010, of the ICAPP's initiative to obtain observer status in the U.N. General Assembly, so as to more closely coordinate our activities with relevant U.N. programs, and called on all political parties in the region to recommend their respective governments to support the ICAPP's initiative.

In this regard, we also reconfirmed that the ICAPP Charter, adopted in 2006, declared unequivocal commitment to the principles and objectives of the U.N. The ICAPP has also been a staunch supporter of the U.N. and its activities and promoted cooperation

among the governments and the peoples in the region for the successful implementation of the U.N. programs and projects.

We believe that, once granted observer status in the U.N., the ICAPP can play a major role in forging cooperation between the U.N. and the political parties in Asia, and in other continents of the world, by aggregating and channelling 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, promoting people's awareness, approval and support of international agreements reached at the U.N., and building international consensus on U.N. actions to meet key global challenges. The ICAPP can also provide support for political parties in the region and increase their capacity to carry out at local and national levels their law-making and oversight functions on matters subject to international cooperation at the U.N.

14. We welcomed with appreciation the decision by the Government of the Republic of Korea to provide annual financial assistance from the budget of Prime Minister's Office beginning in 2016 for the management and activities of the ICAPP Secretariat which is located in Seoul.

In this regard, we also endorsed the recommendation made by the Standing Committee to establish the ICAPP Fund to finance future projects and activities of the ICAPP.

15. Finally, we expressed our profound gratitude to the people and the government of Malaysia, for their warm hospitality. We also thanked our gracious host, the United Malays National Organization, for their excellent arrangements to make the 9th General Assembly of the ICAPP a resounding success.

Our special thanks went to H.E. Dato Seri Haji Mohammad Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, and Chairman of the National Front and President of the UMNO, for his initiative and support for this historic gathering.

We also expressed our gratitude to the representatives of political parties and institutions from various countries outside Asia, including the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL) and the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP), who participated in the 9th General Assembly as observers, for their cooperation and solidarity.

Adopted unanimously on this 3rd day of September, 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia