Statement of the ICAPP Mission on the General Elections of Cambodia

(Phnom Penh, July 24, 2023)

1. At the invitation of the National Election Committee (NEC) of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the delegation of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), headed by Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee and composed of representatives of 12 political parties from 10 countries, visited Cambodia during July 20-24, 2023 as registered observers to monitor the general elections held on July 23, 2023.

2. Upon arrival in Phnom Penh, the members of the ICAPP delegation were given full orientation on the procedures of the general elections and code of conduct for electoral observers by the NEC, the Civil Society Alliance Forum(CSAF) and the Ministry of Interior of the Cambodian government.

3. The members of the ICAPP delegation had the honor to meet with His Excellency Samdech Akha Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia. They also met with other leaders of the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP). The delegation also had meetings with various political parties, including the *Funcinpec* Party and the Grassroots Democratic Party(GDP). Through these meetings, the members of the ICAPP delegation were extensively briefed on various views regarding the general elections in Cambodia.

4. On election day, the ICAPP delegation visited 4 polling stations in different locations, and took note that the elections were being conducted in those stations in a free, transparent, democratic and peaceful manner. Voters were enthusiastic to exercise their right as evidenced by high voter turnout. The members of the ICAPP delegation did neither find any signs of intimidation or coercion on voters during this process, nor experience any hindrance in performing their mission to observe the process. It was also observed that the NEC staff carried out their task in a professional and responsible manner with the assistance of volunteers.

5. The ICAPP delegation was also invited to witness the vote counting process immediately after conclusion of voting. The vote counting process that the ICAPP delegation observed was flawless and immaculate. Representatives from political parties, which registered to compete in the general elections, and representatives

of civil society organizations were also present during the vote counting process. In some vote counting stations, local and international media were invited to provide unimpeded coverage of the process which was broadcast throughout the country. Overall, the general election environment was calm, peaceful, transparent and non-violent under the supervision of the NEC.

6. The delegation did not observe any complaints that may adversely affect the process or results of the 2023 general elections. With the peaceful, effective and transparent election process, as well as the high rate of voter turnout, the ICAPP delegation commends the Cambodian people for this success. We believe that peace and democracy will continue to flourish, benefitting not only the people in Cambodia, but also across the whole region.

7. The ICAPP, one of the biggest political groupings in the world, representing over 350 political parties from 52 countries in Asia, is strongly committed to promoting democracy based on multi-party system. And the members of the ICAPP delegation expressed their strong solidarity and support to all political parties in Cambodia in their endeavor to further strengthen their democratic institutions through free, fair and transparent elections.