Draft 2
As of January 29, 2018

Tehran Statement on the Silk Road

1. We, the leaders and representatives of 00 political parties from 00 countries gathered here in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran for the ICAPP (International Conference of Asian Political Parties) Special Conference on the Silk Road hosted by the Islamic *Motalefeh* Party of Islamic Republic of Iran and co-hosted by the Foundation for Islamic Development, during February 1-4, 2018.

2. We note that the leaders and representatives conducted open-hearted and productive exchanges of views and proposals on the themes of 'The role of political parties in political development and cultural cooperation along the Silk Road' and 'The role of political parties in developing trade exchanges along the Silk Road'.

3. We strongly reaffirm the importance of rejuvenating the Silk Road and call for the international cooperation to actively enact and apply the Silk Road Spirit, as being clearly stated at Beijing Initiative adopted in the Special Conference of the ICAPP in 2015, for further promotion of world connectivity. In this regard, we stress the necessity of formulation of consensus-building mechanism among Asian political parties, which is expected to deepen mutual trust, facilitate coordination for achieving common purposes and, obtain political stability and economic development of the nations.

4. Recognizing the unique geopolitical position that Islamic Republic of Iran offers in the context of the Silk Road as a crucial hub for international trade and exchange of the cultures connecting the East and the West, we welcome the persistent efforts of Islamic Republic of Iran to enhance political leadership to share common responsibility and interests with regards to the Silk Road.

5. We acknowledge that the "Beijing Initiative" adopted at the ICAPP Special Conference on the Silk Road held in October 2015 initiated practical actions for international coordination and encouraged related countries to further participate in rejuvenating the Silk Road and also provided solid foundation on which our discussions shall be layered up.

6. We emphasize the significance of policy coordination and political environment conducive to the rejuvenation of the Silk Road. In order to construct the world connectivity with the benefits that the Silk Road shall allow, the promotion of mutual understanding by way of policy coordination would be necessary. Consultations and discussions at this Special Conference are expected to serve as a stepping stone for the policy-communication among the political parties and countries along the Silk Road and bring in the intrinsic people-to-people and country-to-country linkages that we assume the most important and indispensable element for the regional development strategies.

7. We agree that the rebuilding of the Silk Road requires cement solidarity of the international community which could lead up to free economic zone, expanded economic integration among regions and integration of the logistic infrastructure. In this context, the urgent need to address some practical issues such as safeguarding oil and gas pipelines, removing the barriers and expansion of trade and joint investments and, improving the labour and distribution system within industrial chains of nearby regions.

8. We note that Islamic Republic of Iran occupies an important and indispensable position in the pursuit and successful realization of the Silk Road. When the market of Islamic Republic of Iran is fully opened and integrated with the global economy, the significant economic volume of Islamic Republic of Iran combined with abundant energy resources would secure a splendid showcase where goods trade, trans-territorial capital investment and human exchanges are to be exponentially expanded on the coattails of the Silk Road.

In addition to the discussion on the Silk Road, we discussed two more topics such as "the role of political parties in reducing sectarian tensions and confronting extremism" and "Political parties and sustainable urban development" after the presentation by the Foreign Minister of Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of City Council of Tehran.

9. We welcome, with pleasure, the continued exchanges and cooperation among political parties on the Silk Road in the frame work of ICAPP. We firmly believe that this development would be a step forward to achieve political stability, economic development, cultural diversity and symbiosis of civilizations in the countries and regions along the Silk Road.

10. We also acclaim the great contribution of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) for the efforts that the Organization has made specifically on the Silk Road. The ICAPP has successfully played its role as a pivotal platform in forging political consensus, building a mechanism of policy communication, constructing a bridge of people-to-people exchanges for the revitalizing of the Silk Road and in encouraging deep coordination of development strategies of countries along the Silk Road.

11. Lastly, we express the most sincere gratitude to the people and the government of Islamic Republic of Iran for the warm hospitality. We also thank our gracious host and co-host, the Islamic *Motalefeh* Party of Islamic Republic of Iran and Foundation for Islamic Development, for their excellent arrangements and contribution for the success of the ICAPP Special Conference on the Silk Road. Our special thanks goes to Hon. Prof. Hassan Ghafoori Fard, Standing Committee Member of the ICAPP from Islamic Republic of Iran, for his active and continued support for this historic gathering.

12. We also extend our gratitude to the representatives of political parties and institutions from various countries outside Asia, including the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP), who participate in the conference as an observer, for their cooperation and solidarity.

Adopted unanimously on this 3rd day of February 2018 in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran