The 10th General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (Moscow, Russian Federation, October 24-27, 2018)

Moscow Declaration
(Draft)

1. We, the leaders and representatives of 70 political parties from Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestinian National Authority, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Dominican Republic and Sudan gathered here in Moscow, the capital city of the Russian Federation, for the Tenth General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP). The Assembly was hosted by the United Russia Party, the governing party of Russia on October 24 - 27, 2018 on two major topics: the "Role of Political Parties in Reducing International Tensions and Combating Extremism" and the "Importance of International Inter-party Cooperation in the Formation and Development of Political, Economic and Social Ties between States".

2. First of all, we reaffirmed our commitment to the principles and the spirit of the Charter of the ICAPP and statements adopted at our biennial General Assemblies held in Manila in 2000, Bangkok in 2002, Beijing in 2004, Seoul in 2006, Astana in 2009, Phnom Penh in 2010, Baku in 2012, Colombo in 2014 and Kuala Lumpur in 2016 that sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and equality of all states, peaceful settlement of international conflicts, non-interference in internal affairs, and consensus orientation, among others, would serve as the cornerstone of the ICAPP principles.

3. We underlined the unique and valuable role of the ICAPP, as one of the largest political entities that embrace political parties in Asia across the ideological spectrum, leading the way forward for the establishment and implementation of constructive and cooperative strategies for future-oriented relations of the ICAPP member parties and international organizations in the world.

4. We noted, however, with deep concern, that the world is moving towards geopolitical uncertainty and a phase of competition at the international level. In particular, the rise of violent extremism has continued to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. We can defeat such negative trends through sustainable and comprehensive cooperation among political parties and governments together with international organizations such as the UN that

entails measures including active participation and dialogues in a manner consistent with their obligations and voluntary actions under international law.

(Common understanding and actions to reduce international tensions and combat extremism)

5. We emphasized that violent extremism, which can be linked to terrorism, undermines peace, security and sustainable development in the world and can bring out drastic consequences for regions around the globe, and that no nation is exempt from such challenges. In particular, growing tension in international relations, which has a negative impact on innocent people throughout the world, with the emergence and expansion of extremist groups such as Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al-Qaida, is testing the capability and solidarity of the international community.

(The role of political parties in reducing international tensions and combating extremism)

6. We acknowledged that there is an urgent need to take a more comprehensive approach which encompasses not only ongoing, essential security-based measures, but also systematic preventive measures which directly address the sources of international tension and violent extremism that have given rise to the emergence of more virulent groups.

7. We shared a common understanding that reducing international tension and combating violent extremism is a commitment and obligation under the principles and values enshrined in the Charter of the ICAPP and the United Nations. In this regard, we urged members to translate our common commitment and political will to bring real change into new ways of formulating public policy, so as to reduce international tension and to prevent violent extremism in their respective countries and regions, taking into account the UN General Assembly's emphasis on the need for united action on violent extremism.

8. We welcomed actions of members that have adopted their national plans of action to reduce international tensions and prevent violent extremism which set national priorities for addressing the local drivers of international tension and violent extremism, and complement national counter-terrorism strategies. We also encouraged other members that may consider developing their national plans of action to reflect recommendations of the ICAPP statements and the UN resolutions in them.

9. We shared the view that in developing national plans of action and

regional strategies to combat extremism and reduce international tensions, our members should consider the following elements:

(a) Ensure that in circumstances where military action becomes necessary to reduce international tensions and to counter the expansion of violent extremist groups, any such response is in full compliance with international law, in particular with the Charter of the United Nations, international refugee law and international humanitarian law;

(b) Explore opportunities to put in place alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as mediation, arbitration and restorative justice, to resolve conflict and achieve sustainable peace;

(c) Engage religious leaders to provide a platform for intra- and interfaith dialogue and discussions through which to promote tolerance and understanding between communities, and voice their rejection of sources of tensions and violent doctrines by emphasizing the peaceful and humanitarian values inherent in their theologies;

(d) Find ways to strengthen trust between government institutions and communities to prevent real or perceived marginalization and exclusion of people, through reviewing all national legislation, policies, strategies and practices aimed at preventing international tensions and countering violent extremism to ascertain whether they are firmly grounded in respect for human rights and the rule of law, and whether they put in place national mechanisms designed to ensure compliance;

(e) Support and enhance the participation of women and youth in activities aimed at preventing international tensions and violent extremism by prioritizing meaningful engagement mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels.

10. We reached common understanding on the importance of roles of social media and the Internet in reducing substantial amount of tensions and combating violent extremism. In this regard, we recommended that our members consider taking the following measures:

(a) Develop and implement national communications strategies, in close cooperation with social media companies and the private sector;
(b) Ensure that national legal frameworks protect freedom of opinion and expression, as well as the pluralism and diversity of the media;
(c) Protect journalists, who play a crucial role in democratic societies, by

ensuring the prompt and thorough investigation of threats to their safety.

11. We recognized the value of regional plans of action to reduce international tensions and prevent violent extremism. We shared the common understanding that as violent extremism does not respect borders, national and global action has to be complemented by enhanced regional cooperation. In this connection, we urged members to come together to complement those strategies or adopt sub-regional or regional plans of action to reduce international tension and prevent violent extremism and reinforce their national plans in the following ways:

(a) Strengthen regional and sub-regional organizations including ASEAN, by creating and maintaining regional contact lists of focal points, monitoring the trafficking of small arms and light weapons, and facilitating interstate communication and cooperation;

(b) Enable regional and sub-regional organizations to provide technical assistance to member States in the respective region or sub-region in building capacity for preventing violent extremism and support effective cooperation, for example, on border management.

12. The Members greatly welcomed the initiatives of the Leaders of the two Koreas and the US for the progress toward a nuclear weapon-free Korean Peninsula and welcomed the Panmunjom Declaration as well as the Summit in Pyeongyang which had served to reduce tensions and strengthen peace and security. Our members reaffirmed their support for the Inter-Korean Summit in September 2018 which had been of great value in moving toward the realization of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and achieving permanent peace, security and common prosperity in the Northeast Asian region, on the Korean Peninsula and indeed the Northeast Asian region.

(The importance of international inter-party cooperation in the formation and development of political, economic and social ties between states)

13. We noted the outcomes of the meetings of the ICAPP General Assemblies, which have affirmed the commitment of Asian political parties to form and develop political, economic and social ties among states through supporting the work of the United Nations and continuing efforts to bridge gaps of understanding and trust among political parties in various regions and continents.

14. We agreed to launch the [International Union of Political Parties (IUPP)]

at the global level, based on practical partnership with the representatives of political parties and institutions from various countries outside Asia, including the Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL) and the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP), with a view to enhancing their cooperation and solidarity with the ICAPP. We acknowledged the importance of the statement adopted at the Trilateral Meeting among the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP discussing the meaningful agenda topics of "Processes of Integration, Interdependence and Cooperation" and "Establishment of a Mechanism through the Three Organizations to Monitor the Cooperation" and need to follow up the outcomes of the Meeting in the future.

15. We recognized further the work of the ICAPP in the areas of democracy, gender equality, the empowerment of women, combating violence against women, youth empowerment, peace and security, disarmament, sustainable development and interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue, as well as countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism.

16. We took note of the indispensable nature and importance of multi-level cooperation among political parties within their countries and beyond for maintaining the security, stability and prosperity of the international community. We agreed that it would be valuable to take into account the potential inter-party cooperation in the formation and development of political, economic and social ties between states.

17. We also acknowledged the role and responsibilities of the political parties within the ICAPP with regard to promoting peace and international security through various strategies, such as encouraging governments to provide legislative support that could contribute to multilateral cooperation for strengthened ties among nations, given the increased interdependencies between countries which include cross-border critical infrastructure that contribute greatly to the distribution of energy, air, financial services, water supply, public health and human resources. Against the backdrop of rising unilateralism, protectionism and de-globalization in the world, Asian political parties should enhance communication, coordination and cooperation, uphold globalization and multilateralism, maintain a multilateral trading system, adhere to free trade, oppose protectionism, and defend the rule-based international trading system and world order.

18. We highly appreciated and welcomed the Secretary General's sincere efforts to establish a cooperation agreement between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the ICAPP. We recognized that such agreement in close coordination with, and with the

participation of, the Bureau of the Asian Cultural Council chaired by Cambodia would contribute to the expansion of the ICAPP's role in providing platforms for strengthened cooperation with international organizations, such as UNESCO.

(ICAPP actions to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals)

19. We also recognized the growing role of the ICAPP Standing Committee and the Secretariat in providing platforms for regular interactions among political parties and UN agencies for the planning of implementation of national commitments, facilitating closer cooperation between the United Nations specialized agencies and national political parties and helping to shape their input to major United Nations processes.

20. We took note of the work carried out upon the request of Member States by agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, including UNESCO, particularly for cooperation in education, science and culture.

21. We decided on actions to be taken by the ICAPP General Assembly, Standing Committee and affiliated bodies to pursue a more systematic engagement with the United Nations, and encourage both organizations to enhance their cooperation in meeting their common objectives. We also determined to encourage members of the ICAPP to strengthen cooperation with the UN, by engaging their political parties in efforts to fully support the implementation of relevant United Nations agreements.

22. We welcomed the contribution of the ICAPP to the work of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, through the participation of political parties, in convening regular meetings and events on the work to institutionalize the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as through its efforts to encourage political parties to engage in the voluntary national reviews. With this backdrop, we welcomed the positive role of China's Belt and Road Initiative in promoting openness and cooperation among Asian political parties.

23. In this regard, we further recognized that the ICAPP and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) have agreed to hold the Special Workshop on Green Cities on 30 October-2 November 2018 in Seoul and planned to conclude a new Memorandum of Cooperation during the Workshop.

24. We stressed the importance of closer cooperation between the United Nations and the ICAPP to promote and strengthen cooperation, through political parties at the national level, in regard to parliamentary capacities and the

allocation of budgetary resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

25. We reaffirmed our full endorsement of the Secretary General's report on the document reviewed by the Standing Committee and new Bureau amendments of the Standing Committee. We expressed full support for the ICAPP's initiative to obtain Observer status in the UN General Assembly and the partnership with the UN Economic and Social Council, in order to more actively coordinate and expand our activities with relevant UN programs and agencies, and called on all political parties in the region to recommend that their respective governments support the ICAPP's initiative.

26. We agreed on the importance of the improvement and amendment of the Charter and the establishment of the Rules and Working Modalities presented by the Secretary General. We adopted the proposed documents to further strengthen the legal foundation of the ICAPP to actively engage in international coordination among political parties for the formation and development of close partnership among states in the political, economic and social fields, especially within the framework of the UN related programs to meet the need to confront grave global challenges.

(Next year's schedule and appreciation)

27. We recalled, with satisfaction, the ICAPP activities and achievements in the 2016-2018 reports on the major ICAPP activities produced by the Secretariat and endorsed all recommendations made over the last two years by the Standing Committee and the other affiliated bodies of the ICAPP.

28. We welcomed the decision by the Cambodian People's Party to hold the 1st Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council in Phnom Penh on 11-12 February 2018. We also acknowledged the bipartisan initiative of political parties in Sri Lanka to hold the 3rd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum in Colombo on 5-7 April as well as the proposal of the New Azerbaijan Party to hold the Youth Wing in Baku in June next year.

29. We expressed our profound gratitude to the people and the government of the Russian Federation and particularly the United Russia Party for their excellent arrangements to ensure the resounding success of the meeting of the 10th General Assembly of the ICAPP. Our special thanks went to H.E. Dmitry Medvedev, Chairman of the United Russia Party and Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, and the Honorable Andrey Klimov, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Deputy Chairman of the Committee on International

Affairs of the United Russia Party, for their initiative and support for this historic gathering. We also reconfirmed our deep appreciation for the ICAPP Secretariat's invaluable role and efficient preparations in organizing the meeting.

Adopted unanimously on this 26th day of October, 2018 in Moscow, Russian Federation