(Draft) Annotated Agenda
for the 35th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee
(Online Conference, 21 April 2021)

As of 9 April 2021

I. Issues Relating to the ICAPP Standing Committee (SC)

New Members of the SC

As was informed by the ICAPP Update 21-04 on 22 February 2021, Hon. U Tin Oo Lwin, Member of the Central Committee of USDP and former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2011 to 2016, has replaced Hon. U Wunna Maung Lwin as the representative of USDP in the ICAPP SC. Also, Hon. U Wunna Maung Lwin has been appointed as the Union Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the State Administration Council in Myanmar as of 1 February 2021.

As was informed by the ICAPP Update 21-06 on 25 March 2021, the party which was previously known as Nepal Communist Party changed its name to Communist Party of Nepal (UML). In addition, Hon. Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal and Central Committee Member of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML), has replaced Hon. Jhala Nath Khanal, former Prime Minister of Nepal, as the party representative to the ICAPP SC.

As was mentioned during the 34th SC meeting, in May 2020, the Secretariat was informed that Hon. Anand Sharma had replaced former SC Member, Hon. Karan Singh as the new Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Indian National Congress (INC). The Secretariat has reached out to the INC for an official letter confirming the appointment of Hon. Anand Sharma as the new representative to the ICAPP SC. In response, the INC notified the Secretariat that the nominee may change upon internal discussions. The Secretariat is waiting to hear back on INC's final nomination.

The updated list of SC Members is attached as ***Appendix I***.

Next Meeting of the SC

The next SC meeting is to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, back to back with the 11th General Assembly (GA), which is tentatively scheduled for 17-20 September 2021.

II. Review of the ICAPP Activities Since the 34th SC Meeting in November 2020

Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Youth Wing: Education and Social Protection Mechanisms for Youth During and After COVID-19

The Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Youth Wing was held online over the Zoom platform on 3 February 2021. The conference was attended by 33 political parties from 24 countries.

The 1st session of the conference focused on the topic of "Enabling continuity in learning for youth" and the 2nd session, on "Expanding social protection mechanisms for young people who have lost their jobs or experienced income reductions." The sessions began with keynote presentations by experts from international organizations: Ms. Jenelle Babb, Regional Advisor, Education for Health and Wellbeing, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Bangkok, presented in the 1st session, and Mr. Markus Ruck, Senior Specialist on Social Protection, International Labour Organization (ILO) Decent Work Team for East and South East Asia and the Pacific, spoke in the 2nd session.

The participants discussed the disruptions in youth education and employment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. They called for a coherent response system, and stressed the need for social protection measures catered to the marginalized youth.

The program, list of participants and statement from the Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Youth Wing are attached as ***Appendixes II-1, II-2 and II-3***.

Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Women's Wing: Women's Empowerment During and After COVID-19

The Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Women's Wing was held online over the Zoom platform on 24 February 2021. The conference was attended by 32 political parties from 22 countries.

The 1st session of the conference focused on the topic of "Women's economic insecurity" and the 2nd session, on "Gender-based violence." The sessions began with keynote presentations by experts from international organizations: Ms. Maria Holtsberg, Regional Advisor for Humanitarian Action and Disaster Reduction at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific, presented in the 1st session, and Ms. Cai Cai, Chief of the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), spoke in the 2nd session.

The participants acknowledged the economic challenges faced by women and noted the severity of the rise in gender-based violence. They called for immediate policy measures to improve women's economic stability and equip more efficient emergency response systems to prevent violence against women.

The program, list of participants and statement from the Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Women's Wing are attached as ***Appendixes III-1, III-2 and III-3***.

2nd Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC): Harnessing Culture and Innovation for Shared Prosperity During COVID-19 and Beyond

The 2nd Meeting of the ACC was held online over the Zoom platform on 19 March 2021. The meeting was attended by 25 political parties from 19 countries.

The 1st session of the conference focused on the topic of "Investment in culture and creativity" and the 2nd session, on "Promotion of culture-innovation nexus." The sessions began with keynote presentations by experts from international organizations: Mr. Sardar Umar Alam, Head of Office and UNESCO Representative to Cambodia, and Dr. Piseth Keo,

Vice-President of Asian Vision Institute (AVI), presented in the 1st session. Ms. Sandrine Capelle-Manuel, Multi-Country Office Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Cambodia, and Dr. Masanori Nagaoka, Programme Specialist for Culture at the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh, spoke in the 2nd session.

On the occasion of the conference, H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia and Honorary Founding Chairman of the ACC, H.E. Mohammad Jusuf Kalla, former Vice-President of Indonesia, and H.E. K.P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal, sent congratulatory messages to the participants and wished them a successful meeting.

The participants discussed the current situation of the cultural and creative industries (CCI). They expressed their commitment to policy measures and investments in infrastructure that would enable CCI sectors to successfully adapt to the evolving demands for cultural products.

The program, list of participants and declaration from the 2nd Meeting of the ACC are attached as ***Appendixes IV-1, IV-2 and IV-3***. The congratulatory messages from H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, H.E. Mohammad Jusuf Kalla, and H.E. K.P. Sharma Oli are attached as ***Appendixes IV-4, IV-5, and IV-6***.

III. ICAPP Work Program for 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to limit in-person activities of the ICAPP. Given such circumstances, the SC needs to revisit the ICAPP work program for 2021:

a. *2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic (Online, May 2021)*
b. *35th Meeting of the ICAPP SC (Istanbul, Turkey, 17-20 September 2021)*
c. *11th GA and the "20th Founding Anniversary" Event (Istanbul, Turkey, 17-20 September 2021)*
d. *4th Trilateral Meeting among the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP (Istanbul, Turkey, 17-20 September 2021)*
e. *5th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum (Istanbul, Turkey, 17-20 September 2021)*
f. *4th Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) (Prague, Czech Republic, November 2021)*
g. *Special Conference on Security and Cooperation: Role of Political Parties (Baku, Azerbaijan, 26 November or 3 December 2021)*
h. *6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, TBC)*
i. *2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Tourism Promotion and Inter-City Cooperation (TOPIC) Council (TBC)*

The tentative work program for 2021 is attached as ***Appendix V***.

IV. Preparations for the 11th GA and Other Joint Meetings

Plans for the 11th GA and the "20th Founding Anniversary Event," 36th SC Meeting, ICAPP Media Forum, Trilateral Meeting of the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP, 2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Tourism Promotion and Inter-City Cooperation (TOPIC) Council

During the 34th SC Meeting, the *AK Parti* renewed its offer to host the 11th GA in Istanbul, Turkey during 17-20 September 2021. The party also maintained its offer to organize the ICAPP Media Forum, the Trilateral Meeting of the ICAPP-*COPPPAL*-CAPP, and the 36th SC Meeting as joint meetings. In addition, the *AK Parti* expressed its interest in hosting the next TOPIC Council Meeting together with the 11th GA if the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP) can no longer host it in Tunis, Tunisia. Since the 34th SC Meeting, the CAPP has not renewed its commitment to host the next TOPIC Council Meeting. As such, through a letter dated 18 January 2021, the Secretariat made a proposal to the *AK Parti* to host the next TOPIC Council Meeting on the sidelines of the 11th GA.

At the last SC Meeting, the United Russia Party raised concerns about the tentative dates for the 11th GA. Since the State *Duma* elections are taking place in mid-September, it will be difficult for the Russian political parties to participate. In this regard, the Secretariat encouraged the United Russia Party and the *AK Parti* to have a discussion on this matter.

SC Members previously supported the idea of organizing an event at the 11th GA to commemorate the ICAPP's "20th Founding Anniversary." In this regard, at the last SC Meeting, an SC Member suggested a peace lecture honoring Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the SC. The same SC Member also proposed the idea of inviting a keynote speaker such as the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, to speak about the challenges for Asia during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

V. Activities of the ICAPP-Affiliated Bodies

The 4th Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF)

As was informed by the ICAPP Update 20-11, the 4th AEPF Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic was postponed to 21-23 May 2021 after consultations with the Bureau of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) and the SC Members. Since then, the Secretariat has continued to communicate with the ECR on future plans for the meeting.

On 26 March 2021, a video call was organized between Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, and Hon. Jan Zahradil, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the International Trade Committee of the European Parliament and Co-Chairman of the AEPF. During the meeting, Hon. Zahradil proposed to postpone the 4th AEPF Meeting until the 1st or 2nd week of November 2021, given the unfavorable situation in Europe due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hon. Cho acknowledged the difficulties of hosting an in-person conference in May, and agreed to monitor the situation further. In addition, he invited Hon. Zahradil to participate in the 35th SC Meeting to provide brief updates to the SC Members on potential plans for the next AEPF meeting.

During the call, Hon. Zahradil also raised the issue of extending his Co-Chairmanship until the next AEPF Meeting, as he has been unable to carry out the AEPF activities due to the pandemic. The Secretariat is of the opinion that it would be practical and appropriate to extend the term of the AEPF Bureau until the end of 2021 in light of the current circumstances.

The 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and the 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing

During the 34th SC meeting, the Mongolian People's Party renewed its offer to host the 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and the 7th Meeting of the Women's Wing in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in October 2021. Since then, the party has proposed 6-8 September 2021 as the new dates for these meetings through separate communication to the Secretariat.

VI. ICAPP Special Conferences

The 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic

During the 34th SC Meeting, SC Members agreed to organize a follow-up conference on the COVID-19 pandemic given the importance of international cooperation during the crisis. As such, an SC Member suggested organizing the 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic in March 2021, which marked one year since the global outbreak of the pandemic. However, due to the logistical difficulties of scheduling multiple ICAPP meetings in the first quarter, the Secretariat suggests postponing the conference to May 2021. After receiving feedback from SC Members at the last SC meeting, the following tentative topics have been chosen for the video conference:

1. Building an enhanced global emergency response system, including the effective procurement and distribution of vaccines
2. Achieving an inclusive global recovery across all countries and groups of society

The updated draft concept paper of the 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic is attached as ***Appendix VI***.

Special Conference on Security and Cooperation: Role of Political Parties

During the 34th SC meeting, the New Azerbaijan Party offered to host a Special Conference on Peace and Cooperation, "Peace and Cooperation Dialogue," in Baku, Azerbaijan in the middle of 2021.

Since then, the New Azerbaijan Party has suggested 26 November or 3 December 2021 as the new dates for the conference through separate communication to the Secretariat. The party has also proposed to rename the conference to the "Special Conference on Security and Cooperation: Role of Political Parties."

VII. Other Issues

Political Situation in Myanmar

As was informed by the ICAPP Update 21-02, given the urgent situation in Myanmar, a statement was issued by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP SC and Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP. The statement called for a restoration of democracy and stability as well as a resolution of tensions among all parties through peaceful dialogue. Lastly, it reaffirmed strong support to the people of Myanmar in their pursuit of democracy, peace, and the rule of law.

The statement on Myanmar by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, and Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, is attached as ***Appendix VII***.

Plans to Launch the ICAPP Newsletter

The Secretariat is preparing a quarterly ICAPP newsletter, which will be distributed amongst the ICAPP Members, conference participants and experts in the public and international affairs sectors. The Secretariat believes this initiative will further strengthen the ICAPP network and keep the ICAPP Members up-to-date on new developments within the organization. It is also hopeful that the newsletter will serve as an effective communication channel with external groups such as international organizations, governments, media, NGOs, think tanks and all other parties who are interested in engaging with the ICAPP.

Appendixes

- ***I. Updated List of SC Members***
- ***II. Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Youth Wing***
  1. *Program*
  2. *List of Participants*
  3. *Statement of the ICAPP Youth Wing on Education and Social Protection Mechanisms for Youth During and After COVID-19*
- ***III. Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Women's Wing***
  1. *Program*
  2. *List of Participants*
  3. *Statement of the ICAPP Women's Wing on Women's Empowerment During and After COVID-19*
- ***IV. 2nd Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC)***
  1. *Program*
  2. *List of Participants*
  3. *Phnom Penh Declaration*
  4. *Congratulatory Message from H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen*
  5. *Congratulatory Message from H.E. Mohammad Jusuf Kalla*
  6. *Congratulatory Message from H.E. K.P. Sharma Oli*
- ***V. ICAPP Work Program for 2021***
- ***VI. Draft Concept Paper for the 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic***
- ***VII. Statement by the Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee and the Secretary-General of the ICAPP***