

Appendix II:

Presentation at the 32nd Plenary Meeting of the COPPPAL by Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Secretary General and Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the ICAPP (Managua, October 12, 2014)

Excellencies, Distinguished Leaders of the COPPPAL, and Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to extend my most sincere congratulations, on behalf of the ICAPP, to the leaders of the COPPPAL and the Sandinista National Liberation Front of Nicaragua on your successful launching of the 32nd Plenary Meeting of the COPPPAL.

I will focus on four topics in my presentation today.

First topic will be on what the ICAPP is currently up to.

Second, I will discuss how the relations between the ICAPP and the COPPPAL should develop in the future.

Third, on the prospect of the trilateral cooperation among the ICAPP, COPPPAL, and the CAPP, the Council of African Political Parties.

And lastly, on the ICAPP's initiative to obtain observer status in the U.N. General Assembly.

I. ICAPP's Activities

The ICAPP was launched in 2000 by the leaders of about 40 mainstream political parties, mostly from East Asia, and is now firmly and deeply rooted as a forum for dialogue, cooperation, and creation of opportunities for a better tomorrow for all countries in the Asian region.

Our first ten years were dedicated to the launch of the ICAPP and to the efforts to strengthen its institutional capacity and networks. And we made dramatic progress in both fronts. We now represent more than 350 political parties in 52 countries across all political spectrum. Secretariat was set up in Seoul, Korea in 2008.

We convene General Assemblies once in every two years, in which we invite all eligible political parties in the region.

The Standing Committee which is composed of principal political parties of 23 countries meet at least twice a year.

We also established ICAPP Women's Wing and ICAPP Youth Wing which meet once a year.

Perhaps more importantly, this level of institutionalization and outreach has allowed us to begin exploring more specific and substantive issues whose discussion at this level would surely benefit not only the people in the region but beyond.

Since 2008, we have started convening special conferences and workshops on specific topics and issues annually, which included prevention of political corruption, poverty alleviation, prevention of natural disasters, green development, women's empowerment, human trafficking, among others.

Just as significant as the frequency of meetings is the expanding breadth of political figures that the ICAPP has engaged with in our member countries which include the top political leadership.

We believe that the ICAPP's observer status in the UN General Assembly, which I will discuss in more detail later, will confirm to the world the very relevance and importance of the ICAPP in advancing the global debate on how to address the common challenges of mankind.

II. ICAPP-COPPPAL relations

Since its inception three decades ago, the COPPPAL has been instrumental in bringing political stability and regional peace, and promoting democratic values and social justice in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We also pay our respect and salute to the remarkable achievements you have made in recent years in economic development under the leadership of the COPPPAL members in various countries.

We, in the ICAPP, highly value, and attach great importance to, the close cooperation and the strong solidarity with the COPPPAL.

Our two continents represent half of the total land area of the world. We also represent more than half of the total world GDP, with two thirds of the total population.

Increased cooperation and exchanges between our two continents, therefore, are very important in meeting our common challenges, defending our common values of democracy and freedom, and achieving our common objectives of peace and prosperity.

Political parties, as carriers of people's will, should assume more responsibility in shaping relations among the countries in our two continents.

Without solid basis of political support in each country, we cannot carry out our tasks to tackle the challenges we face today, challenges like poverty and climate change.

At the first joint ICAPP-COPPPAL meeting in Buenos Aires in July 2009, we jointly identified "building a common strategy to make this world a safer, fairer and better place to live for all people" as the key role for the political parties to play in this process.

Since the first joint meeting in Buenos Aires, we have been holding joint meetings annually, the second meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2010, the third meeting in Mexico City in 2012, and the fourth meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan in 2013.

We are now looking forward to having the fifth meeting in Mexico City during November 26-28 this year. In particular, we are very much looking forward to the first assembly of the Asian-Latin American Business Council which will be held back-to-back with the joint meeting.

This is, indeed, a pioneering initiative. We hope we will eventually link up our joint efforts with political and business leaders in Africa.

In this regard, we have two proposals.

First, we need to focus our collaborative efforts on issues which directly concern us, such as fighting against poverty and climate change, at least for a time being. These two issues are already huge challenges for us to deal with. We can gradually expand the scope of our attention to other issues.

Second, as we had agreed when we decided to launch the Asian-Latin American Business Council, we need to have very clear mandates and terms of reference for the council for its sustainability. We are now discussing among the members of the ICAPP Standing Committee on these two points and will soon submit our proposal through the COPPPAL Secretariat.

III. TRI- Continental Cooperation among ICAPP, COPPPAL, and CAPP

At the third joint session between the ICAPP and the COPPPAL held in Mexico City in October 2012, we agreed to institutionalize the trilateral cooperation among political parties in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to cope with the common challenges in a more structured manner.

We also agreed to hold the first Trilateral Conference as soon as possible, and work together with a view to eventually establish a big umbrella organization, such as World Congress of Political Parties, which will include political parties in all three continents.

And in April 2013, with the strong encouragement and support of the ICAPP and the COPPPAL, the Council of African Political Parties, CAPP, was established in Sudan.

This is a very positive development and we should be proud of ourselves in successfully helping organize the CAPP. And we will continue to work together to bring about the tri-continental linkages to address the most urgent problems we have today.

Such problems may include poverty, the widening gap between rich and poor, education and healthcare, climate change and environmental degradation, and violence, terrorism and sectarian extremism, which somehow seriously affect growth efforts in our respective regional communities.

However, during our debate in the ICAPP Standing Committee on how to further proceed with this initiative, the following three points have been raised.

First, we need to start more carefully planning for specific efforts in the areas of common interest and gradually working together toward further institutionalization of the trilateral cooperation.

Second, we would also need to do more preparatory work on how to mobilize collaborative efforts and on how to develop topics which could capture the interests of all three continents and organizations.

Third, some members in the ICAPP Standing Committee also pointed that the COPPPAL may now consider becoming more inclusive like the ICAPP, by inviting political parties with different political orientation to join COPPPAL activities.

They also pointed out the need for the CAPP to be more region wide in its structure.

Under the circumstances, it may be desirable to convene a joint session among the ICAPP Standing Committee, the COPPPAL Coordinating Body and the CAPP Executive Council and discuss how to officially launch the Trilateral Conference among the political parties in all three continents.

IV. ICAPP's bid for observer status in the U.N. General Assembly

The ICAPP will continue to play a key role not only in Asia's inevitable movement to build an Asian community, but also in the global quest for a more peaceful and prosperous world.

It was against this background that the ICAPP applied for observer status in the U.N. General Assembly.

We believe we can play a role in forging cooperation between the United Nations and the political parties not only of Asia but also of Latin America and Africa, the three continents of emerging democracies.

Once granted the observer status, we can share our representation in the UN with the COPPPAL by sending joint delegation to UN meetings.

We can channel to the U.N. system the views of our peoples directly in all their diversity, as expressed in political debates at all dimensions, local, national and continental.

We can also help build international consensus on U.N. action to meet key global challenges, among others.

By doing so, the ICAPP and the COPPPAL can together, through our fraternal linkages, provide support for political parties in our continents and in Africa eventually to increase their capacity to carry out at the local and national level their law-making and oversight functions on matters subject to international cooperation at the U.N.

The item regarding the ICAPP's application for observer status in the U.N. General Assembly (UNGA) was considered for the third time at the meeting of the Sixth Committee of the 68th session of the UN General Assembly in October 2013.

The governments of seven Asian countries, including Japan, Korea and Vietnam, co-sponsored the draft resolution to invite the ICAPP to the work of the UNGA as observer.

Representatives of some governments in Latin America, however, expressed their reservations about granting observer status to the ICAPP in the UNGA on the ground that the ICAPP does not meet the one of the two requirements for UNGA's observer, as laid out in UN resolution of 1999.

It says that "granting observer status will be confined to States and the Inter-governmental Organizations."

To these arguments, the co-sponsors responded with the following three points and requested to give special consideration to the ICAPP.

First, there had been exceptions to the UN criteria since 1999, and four non inter-governmental organizations have been granted observer status.

Second, the inter-governmental "Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation to Support the ICAPP" was signed by eight governments in Asia in 2013, and more than dozen governments were taking domestic procedures to join the MOU. This well demonstrates that the governments in Asia recognize the ICAPP as an official international organization.

And third, the ICAPP, which now represents more than 350 political parties across political spectrum, can be an effective channel to promote and support UN's main objectives of peace, security and human rights.

In the absence of consensus, however, the co-sponsors decided "not to pursue the request for observer status in the UNGA for the ICAPP during the 68th session while reserving the right to present it at a future session."

Under the circumstances, the ICAPP Standing Committee decided to seek closer coordination with the COPPPAL, including dispatching ICAPP missions to the relevant countries in Latin America. And we hope all the governments in Latin America and the Caribbean will support us during the next session of the UN General Assembly.

Distinguished leaders of the COPPPAL,

Before concluding, I'd like thank once again the COPPPAL and the Nicaraguan hosts for the kind invitation and warm hospitality.

Thank you very much.