

## **Conclusions of the 35th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee** (Online Conference, 21 April 2021)

The 35th Meeting (hereinafter referred to as “the Meeting”) of the Standing Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the SC”) of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) was held as an online conference on 21 April 2021 due to travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Meeting began and closed with remarks by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the SC, and former Speaker of the House of Representatives of Philippines. Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the SC and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, presided over the opening session and left afterwards due to a schedule conflict. Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, presided over the rest of the meeting.

Documents for the Meeting, including the program, list of participants, list of speakers, annotated agenda, and rules of procedure, are attached as *Appendixes I-1* through *I-5*.

### **Issues Relating to the ICAPP Standing Committee (SC)**

#### *New Members of the SC*

SC Members acknowledged that there have been three changes to the SC membership since the 34th Meeting, which was held on 25 November 2021. They extended a warm welcome to the new SC Members and also expressed their gratitude to the old SC Members for their contributions to the ICAPP.

First, as was informed by the ICAPP Update 21-04 on 22 February 2021, Hon. U Tin Oo Lwin, Member of the Central Committee of Union Solidarity and Development Party (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. Hon. U Wunna Maung Lwin has been appointed as the Union Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the State Administration Council of Myanmar as of 1 February 2021.

Second, 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.

Third, as was informed by the ICAPP Update 21-11 on 19 April 2021, Hon. Prakob Chirakiti, former Member of Parliament and former Executive Director of Democrat Party, Thailand, has replaced Hon. Chamni Sakdiset, Advisor to H.E. Jurin Laksanawisit, the Party Leader of Democrat Party, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce of Thailand.

Since the 34th SC Meeting, the Indian National Congress (INC) has notified the Secretariat that its representative to the ICAPP SC may change upon internal discussions. The Secretariat

is waiting to hear back on INC's final nomination, and will circulate an update once the letter of appointment has been received.

The updated list of SC Members is attached as *Appendix II*. Official letters of appointment of new SC Members are also attached as *Appendixes III-1* through *III-3*.

### ***On the Passing Away of Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru***

SC Members were informed through the ICAPP Update 21-10 on 16 April 2021 that Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru, Member of Parliament and Member of the Presidium of the Bangladesh Awami League and former Minister of Law and Justice of Bangladesh, had passed away in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 14 April 2021.

In this regard, a condolence statement was issued by Co-Chairman Jose de Venecia, Jr., Co-Chairman Chung Eui-yong, and Secretary-General Cho Byung-jae. The statement expressed deep sorrow and condolences at the news, and highlighted Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru's achievements as a statesman par excellence who dedicated himself to public service and the pursuit of justice. It also underlined his positive contributions to the ICAPP in promoting dialogue and cooperation among political parties in Asia.

SC Members also expressed their sadness and heartfelt condolences to the family of Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru and the people of Bangladesh for their loss.

The condolence statement is attached as *Appendix IV*.

### ***Future Meetings of the SC***

SC members agreed that, should the pandemic situation permit, the 36th SC Meeting will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, back-to-back with the 11th General Assembly (GA) in October 2021, based on the *AK Parti's* proposal. The Secretariat added that, if the global situation does not improve, it would be appropriate to organize the 36th SC meeting as an online conference in October 2021.

At the 34th SC Meeting, Hon. Cho Jeong-sik, Member of the National Assembly from the Democratic Party of Korea, Republic of Korea, had made a proposal from his party to host one of the SC Meetings in-person in 2021 if the situation allows for it. However, given the ongoing waves of COVID-19, and the upcoming presidential campaigns in the Republic of Korea in March 2022, he stated that his party would host the 37th SC Meeting in Seoul, Korea in the first half of next year instead.

### **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 Secretariat reported that 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 V-1, V-2 and V-3*.

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

The Secretariat reported that 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 VI-1, VI-2 and VI-3*.

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

The Secretariat reported that 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 VII-1, VII-2 and VII-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 VII-4, VII-5, and VII-6*.

### **ICAPP Work Program for the Remainder of 2021**

SC Members agreed to the tentative work program for the remainder of 2021, which had been prepared by the Secretariat.

- a. *2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic (Online Conference, May 2021)*
- b. *6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, September 2021)*
- c. *11th GA and the "20th Founding Anniversary" Event (Istanbul, Turkey, October 2021)*
- d. *36th Meeting of the ICAPP SC (Istanbul, Turkey, October 2021)*
- e. *4th Trilateral Meeting among the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP (Istanbul, Turkey, October 2021)*
- f. *5th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum (Istanbul, Turkey, October 2021)*
- g. *2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Tourism Promotion and Inter-City Cooperation (TOPIC) Council (Istanbul, Turkey, October 2021)*
- h. *4th Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) (Prague, Czech Republic, November 2021)*
- i. *Special Conference on Security and Cooperation: Role of Political Parties (Baku, Azerbaijan, 26 November or 3 December 2021)*

The ICAPP work program for the remainder of 2021 is attached as *Appendix VIII*.

### **Preparations for the 11th GA and Other Joint Meetings**

*Plans for the 11th GA and the "20th Founding Anniversary Event," 36th SC Meeting, 4th Trilateral Meeting of the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP, 5th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum, and 2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Tourism Promotion and Inter-City Cooperation*

### ***(TOPIC) Council***

During the Meeting, Hon. Efkan Ala, Deputy Chairman of *AK Parti*, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of *AK Parti*, Member of Parliament of Bursa, Turkey, renewed his party's offer from the last SC meeting to host the 11th GA together with the 36th SC Meeting, the 4th Trilateral Meeting of the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP, and the 5th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum in Istanbul, Turkey later this year. He added that the *AK Parti* would host the 2nd Meeting of the TOPIC Council on the sidelines as well, since the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP) has not renewed its commitment to host the meeting in Tunis, Tunisia.

In terms of timing, Hon. Efkan Ala agreed to change the dates for the 11th GA and the sideline meetings from 17-20 September 2021 to the second part of October. This change was first suggested at the 34th SC meeting in light of Russia's state *Duma* elections, which are scheduled to take place in mid-September this year.

Hon. Efkan Ala also expressed *AK Parti*'s willingness to organize events at the 11th GA to commemorate the ICAPP's "20th Founding Anniversary," and to honor Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP SC, for his foundational contributions to the ICAPP. In the previous SC Meeting, SC Members had suggested to organize a peace lecture honoring Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., and to invite 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.

With regards to the 5th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum, Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Vice Chairperson and Special Rapporteur of the ICAPP SC and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Muslim League-N of Pakistan, suggested that the ICAPP invite a select group of journalists from different parts of Asia to participate. He added that a core group of journalists should be formed to help increase ICAPP's visibility in the areas of social, electronic and print media moving forward. Given his previous experience as a journalist and as the former Minister of Information of Pakistan, Hon. Musahahid Hussain Sayed offered to provide his ideas and input to the ICAPP in achieving this goal.

The SC Members thanked the *AK Parti* for generously agreeing to host all five aforementioned meetings in Istanbul, Turkey, and for incorporating suggestions from the SC.

### **Activities of the ICAPP-Affiliated Bodies**

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

At the 34th SC Meeting, the SC Members had been informed that the 4th AEPF Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic would be 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. Hon. Jan Zahradil, Co-Chairman of the AEPF, Vice-Chair of the International Trade Committee and Member of the European Parliament, attended the Meeting on the invitation of Secretary-General Cho Byung-jae to brief SC Members on plans for the next AEPF meeting.

During the Meeting, Hon. Jan 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. He also raised the issue of extending his Co-Chairmanship until the next AEPF Meeting, as he has not been able to carry out the AEPF activities due to the pandemic.

Given the extremely low feasibility of hosting an in-person conference in May 2021, the SC Members supported the postponement of the 4th AEPF Meeting until November of this year. Also, they agreed with Hon. Zahradil and the Secretariat that it would be practical and appropriate to extend the term of the AEPF Bureau until the next meeting 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 had renewed its offer to host the 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and the 7th Meeting of the ICAPP 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.

In this regard, Hon. Saikhansanaa Khurelbaatar, Advisor to the Secretary General of the Mongolian People's Party, reiterated her party's proposal to host the two meetings in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in September 2021.

## **ICAPP Special Conferences**

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

During the 34th SC Meeting, SC Members had agreed to organize a follow-up conference on the COVID-19 pandemic given the importance of international cooperation during the crisis.

In this regard, the Secretariat informed SC Members that the conference was postponed to May 2021 due to the logistical difficulties of scheduling multiple ICAPP meetings in the first quarter, although one of the SC Members had suggested March 2021 at the previous SC Meeting. The SC Members continued to express strong support for the organization of the 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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

### ***Special Conference on Security and Cooperation: Role of Political Parties***

During the 34th SC meeting, the New Azerbaijan Party had 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 date 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.”

In this regard, Hon. Ali Ahmadov, Deputy Chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, renewed his party’s proposal to host the Special Conference at the end of this year. He also suggested that the conference be held with joint participation from both Asian and European political parties as this would be in line with the philosophy of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) of the ICAPP.

### ***Special Conference on Asian Democracy and Political Party Development***

During the Meeting, Hon. Cho Jeong-sik, Member of the National Assembly from the Democratic Party of Korea, Republic of Korea, expressed his party’s willingness to host a Special Conference on Asian Democracy and Political Party Development back-to-back with the 37th SC Meeting in Seoul, Korea in the first half of next year, when the pandemic situation is further resolved and the local presidential elections are over.

### **Other Issues**

#### ***Political Situation in Myanmar***

The SC Members were informed through the ICAPP Update 21-02 on 22 February 2021 that a statement had been 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, given the urgent situation in Myanmar. The statement called for a restoration of democracy and stability as well as a resolution of tensions among all parties through peaceful dialogue. Also, it reaffirmed strong support for the people of Myanmar in their pursuit of democracy, peace, and the rule of law.

During the Meeting, many SC Members called for a peaceful resolution and protection of human rights in Myanmar. In particular, Hon. Theo L. Sambuaga, Vice Chairman of the Patron Council of *Golkar* Party, Indonesia, stated that the ASEAN should be encouraged to come up with appropriate and effective solutions at its upcoming Special Summit on Myanmar, which will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 24 April 2021. He suggested that the State Administration Council and the National Unity Government led by Aung San Suu Kyi be invited to engage in a dialogue with the aim of developing Myanmar based on democracy, growth, the promotion of human rights, and good governance. He also mentioned that this should be preceded by stopping the brutality against peaceful protestors and by releasing political prisoners.

In this regard, Hon. Cho Jeong-Sik informed SC Members that the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea had passed a parliamentary resolution condemning the military coup in Myanmar. He expressed his hopes that human rights violations and the use of violence against the people of Myanmar will stop as soon as possible, and called upon the ICAPP to pay special and continuous attention to this issue.

Hon. Youssef Awad, Coordinator for Asia and Overseas from the Free Patriotic Movement Party of Lebanon, suggested that the ICAPP should make more efforts on the ground to diffuse tensions in certain countries where there are political problems such as Myanmar. He added that in such situations, the ICAPP should form and send a delegation to offer assistance.

In response to Hon. Youssef Awad's suggestion, Secretary-General Cho Byung-jae reminded SC Members that the ICAPP had sent a delegation to Myanmar back in 2012 to offer support to the USDP and the National League for Democracy (NLD) in their efforts to achieve full democracy in the country. He agreed that such works of the ICAPP would continue to remain as a possibility in the future.

Meanwhile, Hon. U Tin Oo Lwin, Member of the Central Committee of USDP, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, thanked the SC Members for their concerns for Myanmar. He stated that currently, investigations are being held regarding the misconduct and fraud during the general elections of 2020. He also added that during the current state of emergency, the State Administration Council has established a roadmap which includes the following: the reconstruction of the Union Election Commission in accordance with the law; effective measures to prevent the COVID-19 disease; recovery of businesses affected by the pandemic; restoration of peace nationwide in line with agreements from the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA); and lastly, a free and fair multi-party democratic election in accordance with the 2008 Constitution after the state of emergency concludes, followed by the handover of state duty to the winning party in line with the standards of democracy.

The statement on Myanmar 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, is attached as *Appendix X*.

#### ***Launch of the ICAPP Newsletter***

The Secretariat reported that it had newly launched the ICAPP newsletter this month. The newsletter is to be distributed amongst the ICAPP Members, conference participants and experts in the public and international affairs sectors on a quarterly basis. The Secretariat added that this initiative will further strengthen the ICAPP network and keep the ICAPP Members up-to-date on new developments within the organization. It also expressed its hopes 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.

The SC Members showed support for the Secretariat's new initiative. Hon. Nguyen Thai Hoang Van, Vice Chairman of the Commission for External relations of the Communist Party of Vietnam, who attended the Meeting on behalf of Hon. Nguyen Manh Cuong, Member of the ICAPP SC, agreed that the newsletter will keep the ICAPP member parties up-to-date on the ICAPP activities, and strengthen the communication network among all member parties.

The ICAPP newsletter from April 2021 is attached as *Appendix XI*.

#### ***Developing a "Concept of Financing of Asian Political Parties"***

During the Meeting, Hon. Ali Ahmadov, Deputy Chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, raised the issue of financing and state support for political parties as a potential discussion topic for the ICAPP. He stated that there are a number of political parties that are unable to function effectively due to financial difficulties; and although state subsidies can alleviate the problem to a certain extent, it is not quite enough. As such, Hon. Ali Ahmadov proposed that the ICAPP develop a "Concept of

Financing of Asian Political Parties” for the normal functioning of parties by studying the issue of financial resources and by sharing the experiences of various political parties across different countries. He added that the financing of political parties on an open, transparent and legal basis would provide a foundation for the independent activities of political parties in the absence of external influences.

### ***Extending the Term of the Bureau for ICAPP-Affiliated Bodies***

During the Meeting, Hon. Dr. Nalinee Taveesin, former Thailand Trade representative, former Minister Attached to the Prime Minister’s Office, Member of *Pheu Thai* Party of Thailand, recommended that the terms of the bureaus of the ICAPP-affiliated bodies, including the AEPF, Youth Wing, and Women’s Wing, be extended until the next meeting. As aforementioned, Hon. Jan Zahradil, Co-Chairman of the AEPF, Vice-Chair of the International Trade Committee and Member of the European Parliament, also made a similar proposal that the AEPF Co-Chairmanship be extended until the next meeting. These requests were made in account of the bureaus’ inability to carry out the ICAPP activities as a result of the pandemic.

In response, SC Members and the Secretariat agreed that the extension of the terms of the bureaus until the next meeting would be reasonable and practical given the current circumstances.

### ***Reapplying for UN Observer Status***

During the Meeting, Hon. Youssef Awad, Coordinator for Asia and Overseas from the Free Patriotic Movement Party of Lebanon, suggested that the ICAPP resume its previous efforts to attain observer status at the United Nations.

In response, Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, stated that the Secretariat would review previous efforts and plan to continue discussions on this topic at future SC meetings.

### ***On the Situation in Lebanon***

During the Meeting, Hon. Fadi Fawaz, Advisor for Development Affairs to H.E. Saad Hariri, Prime Minister and Chairman of Future Movement Party, informed SC Members about the extremely difficult political and economic situation in Lebanon, referencing more than 1.5 million refugees from Syria and another 400,000 refugees from Palestine.

In this regard, he asked all SC Members, whose countries have embassies in Lebanon, to provide assistance in facilitating the creation of a task force to help the people in Lebanon.

### ***Further Engagement in Multilateral Mechanisms***

During the Meeting, Hon. Suos Yara, Vice-Chairman of the External Commission of the Cambodian People’s Party (CPP), who participated in the Meeting on behalf of Hon. Khuon Sudary, Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP SC, recommended that the ICAPP expand its institutional partnerships by engaging with multilateral organizations such as the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), ASEAN, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), and the United Nations.

Ms. Xu Min, Deputy Director General of the Asian Bureau of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, who participated in the Meeting on behalf of Hon. Guo Yezhou, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP SC, also emphasized the upholding of the principles of multilateralism, extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefit to promote regional peace, stability and development.

### ***Contingency Plan for Offline Meetings***

Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, asked SC Members to share their ideas on a contingency plan for the scenario, in which in-person meetings are not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hon. Rajan Bhattarai, Chief of the International Department and Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML), suggested that the ICAPP should continue to monitor the situation closely and make a decision accordingly in a few months' time instead of making a decision now. He also proposed that, should the pandemic situation fail to improve, the GA should be postponed to next year, while some of the sideline meetings could be held online this year.

Hon. Afif Demirkiran, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of *AK Parti*, stated that if the situation does not improve, his party is ready to host the 11th GA and other sideline meetings next year instead.

## **Appendixes**

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- VII. 2nd Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC)**
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  4. Congratulatory Message from H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen
  5. Congratulatory Message from H.E. Mohammad Jusuf Kalla
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- VIII. ICAPP Work Program for the Remainder of 2021**
- IX. Draft Concept Paper for the 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic**
- X. 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**
- XI. ICAPP Newsletter (April 2021)**