

**(Draft) Annotated Agenda  
for the 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee  
(Online Conference, 3 September 2021)**

As of 23 August 2021

**I. Issues Relating to the ICAPP Standing Committee**

***Incentive Mechanism for Serving as Additional Vice-Chairperson***

Following the consensus reached among the SC Bureau members during the 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP SC, adopted as the 18<sup>th</sup> Major Understanding, the SC Member who hosts the General Assembly, the largest event of the ICAPP, would be granted a chance to serve as a SC Bureau Member for one term. In this regard, the term of Hon. Andrey Klimov, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Russia Party on International Affairs, will be maintained until the 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey.

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

***Next Meeting of the SC***

Plans for the 37<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting during the first half of 2022 will be decided depending on future developments of the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions. If the global situation does not improve, the ICAPP Secretariat deems it appropriate to organize the next SC Meeting via an online platform during the first half of 2022.

**II. Review of the ICAPP Activities since the 35<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting in April 2021**

***2<sup>nd</sup> Special Video Conference on COVID-19 Pandemic***

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Video Conference on COVID-19 Pandemic was held on 25 May 2021. The conference was attended by 24 political parties from 19 countries. The conference was divided into two sessions: the first Session focused on the topic of “Building a More Effective Regional and Global Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic”; the second Session focused on “Achieving an Inclusive Economic Recovery in the Post-COVID-19 Environment.” Each session was attended by experts from international organizations: Dr. Takeshi Kasai, World Health Organization Regional Director for the Western Pacific, provided keynote presentation and facilitated Q&A Session in the first part of the Conference; Dr. Hoon Sahib Soh, Special Representative of the World Bank Group Korea Office, presented and facilitated Q&A session in the latter part of the Conference.

The participants discussed and called for a coherent response system to the pandemic, such as by encouraging expansions in medical supplies, promoting collaborations with international organizations, and emphasizing the importance of adapting to the post-COVID-19 economic landscape.

The program, list of participants and statement from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Video Conference on COVID-19 pandemic are attached as *Appendix II-1, II-2, II-3*.

### ***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 the remainder of 2021:

*a. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ICAPP*

The commemorative event of the 20th Anniversary of the ICAPP was initially planned to be held with the 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey, first in October 2020 and then in October 2021. However, as the 11<sup>th</sup> GA is to be postponed until 2022 due to the persisting COVID-19 pandemic, a decision needs to be taken if we further postpone the celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ICAPP or explore any alternative option. The Secretariat is afraid that, if we further postpone the event to the next year, it would sound quite awkward to celebrate it either as the 20<sup>th</sup> or the 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary. It might be better to separate the commemorative event from the General Assembly and celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary virtually or in a hybrid form in late October or early November 2021.

*b. Special Workshop on “Climate Change” [To be Confirmed: November or December 2021 ]*

Considering the importance of the issue, particularly after the publication on 9 August 2021, of the Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the status of global climate change, it would be appropriate and desirable for the ICAPP to take up and express its serious interests in this issue. In line with the tradition and practice of the ICAPP to have a consultation on the issues of global importance, the Secretariat believes it is recommendable to organize a Special Workshop on climate change in November or December this year. In such a case, it would be also recommendable to see if any representative from the related UN Agencies would be available for the event.

*c. Special Conference on “Security and Cooperation: Role of Political Parties” [Baku, Azerbaijan, 3-5 December 2021]*

The New Azerbaijan Party reconfirmed its decision to host “Special Conference on Security and Cooperation: Role of Political Parties” in person in Baku, Azerbaijan, between 3-5 December 2021.

The ICAPP Work Program for the remainder of 2021 is attached as *Appendix III*.

### **III. Preparations for the 11<sup>th</sup> GA and Other Joint Meetings**

***Plans for the 11<sup>th</sup> GA, 38<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting, ICAPP Media Forum, Trilateral Meeting of the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP Tourism Promotion and Inter-City Cooperation (TOPIC) Council***

Since the 34<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting, the *AK Parti* has offered to host the 11<sup>th</sup> GA in Istanbul, Turkey along with the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ICAPP, the ICAPP Media Forum, the Trilateral Meeting of the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP, TOPIC Council Meeting, and the 36<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting.

On 27 July 2021, the *AK Parti* renewed its offer to host an in-person meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> GA and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ICAPP in Istanbul, Turkey, through a letter to the ICAPP Secretariat. However, with the persisting pandemic and the advent of the COVID-19 variants, some members of the SC raised voices of concern about conducting an in-person meeting. The Secretariat thus circulated a letter of survey to solicit opinions of the members of the SC. Majority of the members stated that they would find it difficult to send a delegation to the in-person meeting in Turkey this year. The Secretary General Hon. Cho Byung-jae informed the *AK Parti* of such result. On 19 August 2021, Hon. Efkan Ala, Deputy Chairman of *AK Parti* in charge of Foreign Affairs, Member of Parliament, sent a letter to Hon. Cho to deliver the *AK Parti*'s decision to postpone the 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the ICAPP along with the 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP SC, the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP Tourism Promotion and Inter-City Cooperation (TOPIC) Council, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Meeting of the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP, which were planned to be held between 21-24 October 2021 to next year whenever the risk of pandemic reduces.

The letter from the *AK Parti* on 19 August 2021 is attached as ***Appendix IV***.

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

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

During the 35<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting, members agreed to postpone the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) to the first or second week of November 2021, given the unfavorable situation in Europe due to the pandemic. The SC members also agreed to keep the term of the AEPF Bureau member including Hon. Jan Zahradil, Co-Chairperson of the AEPF until the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AEPF.

On 12 July 2021, Hon. Jan Zahradil sent a letter to Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> AEPF meeting. In the letter, Hon. Jan Zahradil proposed to either hold the 4<sup>th</sup> AEPF meeting online due to the persisting pandemic, or further postpone it to Spring 2022 with the hope that the situation will be different by then.

On 16 July 2021, a phone call was organized between Hon. Cho Byung-jae and Hon. Daya Gamage, the Co-Chairperson of the AEPF on the Asian side. During the conversation, Hon. Daya Gamage suggested further postponement of the meeting instead of holding it virtually, so to further solidify a sense of connection and cooperation among the members of the ICAPP. Hon. Cho informed Hon. Jan Zahradil of Hon. Daya Gamage's opinion upon the matter through a letter on 19 July 2021.

On 15 August 2021, Hon. Jan Zahradil sent a letter to the ICAPP Secretariat and delivered his support to the decision made by the Asian side to hold the 4<sup>th</sup> AEPF meeting in person in Spring

2022. He also mentioned that the mandate of AEPF's Co-Chairs should be extended until the meeting can take place, so to ensure that the preparations can resume smoothly once the circumstances allow us to do so.

The latest letter from Hon. Jan Zahradil is attached as *Appendix V*.

#### ***6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing***

Previously in March 2020, the Mongolian People's Party (MPP) reiterated to host the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing in person in Ulaanbaatar, but decided to postpone them from April 2020 to September 2021 under the recommendations of the World Health Organization regarding the spread of COVID-19. On 28 June 2021, the ICAPP Secretariat and the MPP held an online preliminary meeting to review the relevant issues of the two meetings. Hon. Amarbayasgalan Dashzegve mentioned that although Mongolia has a high rate of vaccination and plans to open its border to host international guests, the spread of the coronavirus and its mutations are extremely worrisome, to which the Secretary-General of the ICAPP, Hon. Cho Byung-jae also agreed. The MPP agreed to further inform the Secretariat of its decision on the time and format of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing.

Through a letter on 6 August 2021, the Mongolian People's Party (MPP) reconfirmed to hold the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing in Ulaanbaatar in person. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the Party rescheduled the two meetings to March 2022, while we further observe how the situation of the pandemic would develop.

The letter from the Mongolian People's Party is attached as *Appendix VI*.

#### ***V. ICAPP Work Program for 2022***

The COVID-19 pandemic has restrained all activities of the ICAPP in 2021. Several meetings that were initially planned for 2021 are postponed to 2022. The SC needs to discuss and decide on the ICAPP work program for 2022.

Following is the ICAPP's tentative work program for 2022:

- a. *3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) [To be Confirmed]*
- b. *37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee [To be Confirmed]*
- c. *6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, March 2022) [To be Confirmed]*
- d. *7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, March 2022) [To be Confirmed]*
- e. *4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) (Prague, Czech Republic, Spring 2022)*
- f. *Special Conference on "Asia's Political Development through Political Parties" (Seoul, Republic of Korea, Second Half of 2022)*

- g. *11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP General Assembly [To be Confirmed]*
- 38<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee [To be Confirmed]*
- 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum [To be Confirmed]*
- 4<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Meeting among the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP [To be Confirmed]*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP Tourism Promotion and Inter-City Cooperation (TOPIC) Council [To be Confirmed]*
- h. *5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IPDA Steering Committee [To be Confirmed]*

The above list demonstrates the semiannual, annual, and biennial events of the ICAPP that are to be held in 2022. The hosts, venues, and schedules for the rest of the Work Programs in 2022 are open to SC Members' discussions and suggestions.

The ICAPP's tentative work program for 2022 is attached as *Appendix VII*.

## **VI. Cooperation with the United Nations**

### ***ICAPP's Bid for the Observer Status in the UN General Assembly***

Since the ICAPP had tried hard in vain to get observer status in the U.N. General Assembly (UNGA) between 2011 and 2016, the Secretariat have reviewed our strategy on this issue from scratch. It is the Secretariat's view that we need some ground works before we drive our full-fledged efforts in the future.

First, we need to consolidate ICAPP's identity as a "quasi-intergovernmental" organization. The UNGA adopted a decision in 1994 and a resolution in 1999 which stated that the granting of observer status should be confined to States and "intergovernmental" organizations. Even though the ICAPP is not intergovernmental organization *per se*, it should be regarded as a quasi-intergovernmental one as its members are ruling or potential ruling parties of sovereign states. We need to develop this logic further and improve our activities in order to strengthen the ICAPP's *de-facto* intergovernmental nature.

Second, the ICAPP has concluded the "MOU on Cooperation to Support the Activities of the ICAPP" with governments to reinforce the inter-governmental character of the ICAPP. Until 2016, 11 governments have signed the contract (Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Nepal, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Vietnam). As we believe that these MOUs will augment the ICAPP's "intergovernmental" nature, we strongly recommend the ICAPP members to persuade their respective government to join the MOU.

Third, we know that some non-intergovernmental organizations were granted the observer status even after the adoption of the 1999 UNGA resolution since the UN agreed that cooperation with them would be beneficial to the UN. It means that observer status could be granted to the ICAPP also if the UN finds that the ICAPP activities are supportive enough to achieve the UN's objectives. In this regard, we need to make more efforts to expand our contacts with the UN through such activities as organizing forums or workshops supporting the

UN Agenda 2030 or inviting as many UN representatives as possible at any ICAPP event as we have been doing through the first half of this year.

Fourth, we can plan to submit a draft UNGA resolution for the observer status in 2022 or 2023 considering COVID-19 situation. By that time, we need to conduct a campaign to have more co-sponsors for the resolution and persuade some states against the ICAPP observer status to accept our logic. The Secretariat is ready to restart our concerted drive together with the SC members as soon as the COVID-19 situation is improved.

### *Appendixes*

- I. Updated List of SC Members***
- II. 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Video Conference on COVID-19 Pandemic***
  - 1. Program*
  - 2. List of Participants*
  - 3. Statement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Video Conference on COVID-19 Pandemic*
- III. ICAPP Work Program for the Remainder of 2021***
- IV. Letter from the AK Parti***
- V. Letter from Hon. Jan Zahradil***
- VI. Letter from the Mongolian People's Party***
- VII. Tentative Work Program of the ICAPP for 2022***