Conclusions of the 22nd Meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties
(Vladivostok, Russian Federation, May 30 to June 1, 2014)

The 22nd 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 (hereinafter referred to as "the ICAPP") was held at the Morskoy Hall of the Far Eastern Federal University on Russkiy Island, Vladivostok, Russian Federation, under the auspice of the United Russia Party (hereinafter referred to as the "URP") of the Russian Federation during May 30-June 1, 2014.

The program, list of participants and annotated agenda of the Meeting are attached as ***Appendixes I, II and III.***

Before starting the Meeting, Hon. Dr. Andrey A. Klimov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs, the Council of Federation (Senate), and Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs of the URP, made the welcoming statement, on behalf of the URP. Welcoming remarks were also made by Hon. Alexander I. Rolik, Vice Governor of the Primorsky Territory, Hon. Mrs. Lyudmila Talabaeva, Secretary of the Regional Branch of the URP in Primorsky Territory, and Hon. Victor Gorchakov, Chairman of the Primorsky Parliament.

The Meeting was chaired by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman of the SC and Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the SC and Secretary General of the ICAPP. Chairman Jose de Venecia delivered his opening statement at the beginning of the Meeting. (See the statement attached as ***Appendix IV***)

I. Preparations for the 8th General Assembly of the ICAPP

Secretary General Chung Eui-yong made the report on the results of his visit to Sri Lanka during March 11-13, 2014. (See the report attached as ***Appendix V***)

Secretary General Chung reported that H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Chairman of the SLFP, confirmed his earlier commitment to host the 8th General Assembly (GA) of the ICAPP in Colombo, Sri Lanka and agreed to the following arrangements, among others, at the meeting on March 12, 2014:
(1) The 8th GA will be held during September 18-21, 2014 in accordance with the tentative program proposed by the ICAPP Secretariat. (See ***Appendix VI***)
(2) The 8th GA will be co-hosted by the SLFP and the opposition United National Party (UNP).
(3) The main theme of the 8th GA will be "Building an Asian Community".
(4) The 2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing and the 3rd Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing will be held respectively on the sidelines of the 8th GA, as agreed in the 21st SC Meeting held in Ankara last November.
(5) The SLFP will follow the ICAPP tradition to provide local accommodations for up to two representatives for each participating political party and observer delegation.
(6) The SLFP also agrees to the conference procedures for the 8th GA as proposed by the ICAPP Secretariat. (See ***Appendix VII***)

The high-level delegation of the SLFP, headed by Hon. Maithripala Sirisena, Minister of Health and Secretary General of the SLFP, attended the Meeting as a special participant, and made a comprehensive presentation on the state of preparations for the 8th GA, which included a video presentation. In particular, President Rajapaksa conveyed his message through the delegation that he and the SLFP would welcome all the participants in the 8th GA and closely coordinate with the ICAPP Secretariat to make the GA a most successful one. The SLFP delegation also included Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, and other high-level officials.

Hon. Daya Dharmapal Kilittuwa Gamage, National Organizer of the UNP, also attended the Meeting as a special participant, and confirmed, on behalf of Hon. Ranil Wickramasinghe, Chairman of the UNP, his party's commitment to cooperate with the SLFP and the ICAPP Secretariat for the success of the 8th GA as one of the co-hosts.

After the presentation, the MOU between the ICAPP and the SLFP on the arrangements relating to the hosting of the 8th GA was signed by Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Secretary General of the ICAPP, and Hon. Maithripala Sirisena, Secretary General of the SLFP. (See the copy of the MOU attached as ***Appendix VIII***)

Other details of the 8th GA, including its logistic arrangements and sub-themes for the meetings of ICAPP Women's and Youth Wings, will be finalized through consultation and coordination between the SLFP and the ICAPP Secretariat, and be provided to SC Members and other participants in the 8th GA in due course.

The Secretariat reported that the official invitations to the 8th GA are being sent out to 363 political parties in 53 countries and 1 Territory which were eligible to participate in ICAPP activities in accordance with the ICAPP criteria, which had been adopted at the 8th SC Meeting held in Tehran in November 2008. (See copies of the invitation and the list of 363 political parties attached as ***Appendixes IX and X***)

The Secretariat confirmed that invitations to 168 political parties have been duly delivered by email. The Secretariat would continue to reach out to the remaining 196 parties through all other possible means. In this regard, Secretary General Chung Eui-yong requested all SC Members to help the Secretariat deliver invitations to all the eligible political parties not only in their respective countries but also in their neighboring countries to make the 8th GA a most inclusive one.

SC Members expressed their appreciation to the delegations of the SLFP and the UNP for attending the Meeting. In particular, they expressed their gratitude with great satisfaction for the excellent presentations made by the SLFP delegation on the state of preparations for the 8th GA.

II. Issues relating to the Standing Committee

New Members in the Standing Committee

The Secretariat reported that there had been three changes in the SC Membership since the 21st SC Meeting held in Ankara last November.

First, as has been informed by ICAPP Update 14-03, dated February 5, 2014, the Communist

Party of Nepal (UML) and the Nepali Congress Party have recently agreed to share the membership in the ICAPP Standing Committee in reflection of the outcome of the General Elections which were conducted in Nepal last November and in accordance with the ICAPP understandings reached at the 12th Meeting and the 13th Meeting of the SC which were held respectively in Kathmandu in February 2010 and in Kunming in July 2010. According to the understandings, the SC Members were recommended to adopt an arrangement under which the representatives of the political parties with the largest number of seats in their respective parliaments would represent their countries as Members of the SC while the representatives of the political parties with the second largest number of seats as Alternate Members of the SC.

In accordance with the said understandings and in consideration of the contributions made by the Communist Party of Nepal (UML) to SC activities over the years, it was further agreed that the representative of the CPN (UML), which is currently represented by Hon. K.P. Sharma Oli, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chief of the International Department, will continue to act as the Member of the SC, and the representative of the Nepali Congress Party, will participate in SC activities in the future as Alternate Member from Nepal. The Nepali Congress Party nominated Hon. Sujata Koirala, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs, Member of the Constituent Assembly, and Head of the International Department, as its representative to the SC.

SC Members welcomed and endorsed the arrangement between the CPN (UML) and the Nepali Congress Party. In this regard, SC Members were reminded that as of now, nine out of twenty-two countries which are represented in the SC have agreed to follow the similar arrangement, i.e. Bangladesh, Cambodia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Thailand. SC Members, representing the countries where the similar arrangement is applicable, were also encouraged to invite one of other major political parties in their respective countries to participate in SC activities, in order to make the SC more inclusive, representative and transparent.

Second, the governing Liberal Party of Japan (LDP) has recently informed the Secretariat of its decision to withdraw its membership from the Standing Committee of the ICAPP due to mounting domestic political agenda. In this regard, Secretary General Chung Eui-yong reported that he visited Tokyo on April 22, 2014 to meet with leaders of major political parties in Japan to discuss more active participation of political parties in Japan in future activities of the ICAPP. He reported that Hon. Natsuo Yamaguchi, Chairman of the New Komeito Party, which is the leading coalition partner with the LDP, has agreed to discuss with LDP leaders the possibility of reconsidering their decision, and to consider the participation of the New Komeito Party in future SC activities as SC Member, representing the coalition partners of Japan in case the LDP confirms its earlier decision.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), including Hon. Kaname Tajima, Director General of the International Department, reconfirmed their commitment to continue participation in ICAPP activities, including its participation in SC meetings as Alternate Member from Japan. Hon. Motohiro Oono, Member of the House of Councillors, Former Vice Minister of Defense and Vice Director-General of the International Department of the DPJ, who attended the Meeting, confirmed his party's commitment to participate in future ICAPP activities.

Under the circumstances, SC Members agreed to invite the New Komeito Party to participate in SC activities as Member representing Japan, in case the LDP confirms its decision to withdraw from the SC.

Third, the Democratic Party of the Republic of Korea has merged with the New Politics Alliance, and that they established a new political party, named the New Politics Alliance for Democracy (NPAD) as of March 25, 2014. The total number of NPAD's seats in the National Assembly is 130 out of 300. It was also reported that an understanding was reached between the governing *Saenuri* (New Frontier) Party and the opposition NPAD that the NPAD would participate in SC activities as Alternate Member.

23rd Meeting of the Standing Committee

It was confirmed that the 23rd SC Meeting would be held in Colombo in the evening of September 18, 2014 prior to the opening of the 8th GA following the ICAPP tradition. The agenda for the meeting will be provided in due course, which will include, among others, the draft Colombo Declaration to be adopted at the 8th GA.

Recommendations to amend Article 9 of the ICAPP Charter on the Standing Committee

SC Members agreed to invite the SLFP and the UNP of Sri Lanka, which will co-host the 8th GA, to become new Member and Alternate Member of the SC respectively, following the ICAPP tradition.

For this purpose, SC Members agreed to submit a recommendation to the 8th GA to amend Paragraph 1 of Article 9 of the ICAPP Charter, which currently reads as "*A Standing Committee, composed of the representatives of not exceeding twenty-two (22) political parties from an equal number of countries in the region, shall be established*" to "*A Standing Committee, composed of the representatives of not exceeding twenty-three (23) political parties from an equal number of countries in the region, shall be established*."

SC Members also agreed to recommend to add a new paragraph in Article 9 which reads as "*The Members of the Standing Committee are encouraged to invite the representatives of one of other political parties in their respective countries which has a large number of seats in their respective parliaments as Alternate Member of the Standing Committee*." This is to reflect the understandings reached at the 12th and the 13th SC Meetings which were held respectively in Kathmandu in February 2010 and in Kunming in July 2010.

The draft recommendation for the above-mentioned amendments to be submitted to the 8th GA for its approval is attached as ***Appendix XI***.

Future Meetings of the Standing Committee

SC Members were reminded that at the 21st SC Meeting held in Ankara last November, Hon. Anil K. Shastri, Senior Leader and Member of Congress Working Committee of the Indian National Congress (INC), and Hon. Chinbat Khishigt, Head of International Relations and Cooperation Department of the Mongolian People's Party, had offered to host the SC Meetings in New Delhi and Ulan Bator respectively in 2015.

The Secretariat reported, however, that, in the aftermath of general elections held in India during April 7 – May 12, 2014, there would be a need for further consultation with the INC and also with the *Bharatiya Janata* (Indian People's) Party (BJP) which has emerged as the new governing party with 282 seats out of 543 in the parliament.

In this regard, SC Members endorsed a proposal by Secretary General Chung Eui-yong to send an ICAPP mission to India to meet with leaders of major political parties in early July and discuss future participation of political parties of India in ICAPP activities, including the possibility of co-hosting an SC meeting by the BJP and the INC in 2015. SC Members were invited to join the mission to meet with leaders of the BJP and the INC. Other details regarding the ICAPP mission to India will be circulated among SC Members, as soon as they are confirmed.

The Secretariat also reported that the Mongolian People's Party recently requested to postpone its original offer to host a SC Meeting from 2015 to 2016 due to the possibility of holding major elections in Mongolia in 2015.

In this regard, the political parties represented in the SC, which are yet to host SC meetings, were requested to consider hosting SC meetings in the future.

III. Activities of the ICAPP-affiliated Bodies

1st ICAPP Workshop on Human Trafficking (Kathmandu, January 16-18, 2014)

Hon. Dr. Park In-sook, Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Floor Leader of the *Saenuri* Party of the Republic of Korea, and Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Women's Wing, reported on the results of the 1st ICAPP Workshop on Human Trafficking which was held in Kathmandu during January 16-18, 2014 under the auspice of the ICAPP Women's Wing.

The workshop was also co-hosted by five leading political parties in Nepal, i.e. the Nepali Congress Party, the Communist Party of Nepal (UML), the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (UCPN-Maoist), *Madhesi* People's Forum-Nepal, and the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-Maoist). The workshop was also fully supported by the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and co-sponsored by *Girija Prasad Koirala* Foundation of Nepal. The two development cooperation agencies of the governments of Turkey and the Republic of Korea, i.e. Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), have provided financial assistance for the workshop.

The workshop was attended by representatives of twenty political parties from eleven countries, including Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Turkey. At the end of the workshop, the participants adopted "Kathmandu Statement on Human Trafficking" (see ***Appendix XII***) in which they declared human trafficking as a major crime against humanity that required a region-wide and multi-stakeholder strategy. To promote such efforts, they laid out, among others, three major objectives as the framework of their future discussion: (1) raising public awareness on seriousness and urgency; (2) mapping trans-border networks of cooperation; and (3) establishing fast-track punishment system.

The full report of the workshop was published as "ICAPP-2014 Jan (1)" by the Secretariat and separately distributed to all participants, SC Members and other relevant agencies and organizations and put on the official website of the ICAPP at www.theicapp.org.

In this regard, Hon. Sujata Koirala, who is also Chairperson of the *Girija Prasad Koirala* Foundation of Nepal, and Vice Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Women's Wing, expressed her gratitude, on behalf of all the Nepali hosts, to all the participants who attended the workshop. She also stated that the workshop had also provided a rare but a greatly significant occasion for all major political parties in Nepal to gather together in a major political event for the first time since the conclusion of the last general elections overcoming their confrontational positions in domestic politics. She said it was another major contribution made by the ICAPP to help establish political stability in Nepal and make progress in their efforts to write the first democratic Constitution.

4th Meeting of the Bureau of the ICAPP Women's Wing (Kathmandu, January 16 and 18, 2014)

Dr. Park In-sook, Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Women's Wing, also reported that the 4th Meeting of the Bureau of the ICAPP Women's Wing was held in Kathmandu on the sideline of the ICAPP Workshop on Human Trafficking.

She reported that, at the meeting, the Bureau Members recognized that an issue of such magnitude and atrocity as human trafficking cannot be addressed and resolved at a one-time event or by a single statement, and agreed to continue their deliberations on the key issues relating to human trafficking which were laid out in the Kathmandu Statement. In particular, they agreed to convene two or three more follow-up workshops on human trafficking in South Asia during 2014-2015, in order to strengthen region-wide efforts and build cohesive partnerships to combat human trafficking.

The Bureau Members also agreed that political leaders, both men and women, who were in more responsible positions to take decisions on policies relating to human trafficking, should be encouraged to participate in future workshops. They also agreed to the need to invite more experts in the fields of legislation and law enforcement to future workshops, and to seek the continued assistance from development cooperation agencies such as *TIKA* and KOICA for future workshops. (See the report of the 4th Bureau Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing attached as ***Appendix XIII***)

In this regard, Hon. Sujata Koirala, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Women's Wing, added that the Bureau Members of the ICAPP Women's Wing had also expressed their hope that more woman representatives would participate in SC meetings in the future.

Both Hon. Dr. Park In-sook and Hon. Sujata Koirala also requested the Secretariat to continue its efforts to get financial assistance for future workshops from development cooperation agencies such as TIKA and KOICA. She also requested continued support of the SC Members for the future activities of the ICAPP Women's Wing.

Secretary General Chung Eui-yong responded that the Secretariat would continue to coordinate with the ICAPP Women's Wing and such donor agencies like TIKA and KOICA

to organize next workshops on human trafficking. He also reported that the Secretariat has recently been informed that the Council of State Support to NGOs (CSSN) under the auspice of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which was established in December 2007, was also willing to provide necessary support for future ICAPP workshops on human trafficking.

SC Members expressed their appreciation for, and congratulations on, the successful launching by the ICAPP Women's Wing of an initiative to combat human trafficking and confirmed to provide their full support for the future activities of the ICAPP Women's Wing.

1st Meeting of the Bureau of the ICAPP Youth Wing (Kuala Lumpur, February 20, 2014)

Hon. Suos Yara, Member of Parliament, Vice Chairman of the International Relations Commission of the Cambodian People's Party, and Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Youth Wing, reported on the results of the 1st Meeting of the Bureau of the ICAPP Youth Wing which was held in Kuala Lumpur on February 20, 2014.

The participants in the bureau meeting reconfirmed their earlier agreement to convene the Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing annually, and to hold the 3rd Meeting in conjunction with the 8th GA to be held in Colombo in September 2014.

They also agreed to organize a series of Youth Workshops on topics like "election security," fight against violence and extremism, use of social media, IT, aquaculture, employment in construction and cultural markets, etc. in the future.

Hon. Sous Yara confirmed the earlier offer to host a Youth Workshop on election security in Cambodia in the latter part of 2014. (See the report of the bureau meeting attached as ***Appendix XIV***)

SC Members expressed their appreciation to the report and hoped that the future activities of the ICAPP Youth Wing would be more in line with the overall activities of the ICAPP and be more focused on a few selected topics which were more directly relevant in promoting young politicians' active participation in politics throughout the region.

2nd Meeting of the Steering Committee of the ICAPP Medical Emergency Forum (IMEF) (Kuala Lumpur, February 20, 2014)

The Secretariat reported on the results of the 2nd Meeting of the Steering Committee of the ICAPP Medical Emergency Forum (IMEF) which was held in Kuala Lumpur on February 20, 2014, on behalf of Hon. Dato Seri Shahidan Bin Kassim, Minister in the Office of Prime Minister, Member of Supreme Council of the United Malay National Organization (UMNO), and Chairman of the IMEF Steering Committee, who had to leave Vladivostok in the middle of the Meeting due to unexpected urgent domestic agenda. (See the report of the meeting attached as ***Appendix XV***)

SC Members agreed to the need to give more guidance to the future activities of the IMEF in order to make it more sustainable and help deliver original goals in a more practical and concrete manner.

IV. Other Work Programs and Activities of the ICAPP for 2014

2nd ICAPP Workshop on Human Trafficking (December, 2014 or January 2015)

As reported earlier, the Members of the Bureau of the ICAPP Women's Wing recognized that an issue of such magnitude and atrocity as human trafficking could not be addressed and resolved at a one-time event or by a single statement, and agreed to convene a follow-up workshop on human trafficking in South Asia either in late 2014 or early 2015.

In this regard, Secretary General Chung Eui-yong reported that the Secretariat would continue to coordinate with the ICAPP Women's Wing to prepare for the future workshops on human trafficking. He also said that the Secretariat would continue its consultations with potential donor agencies, including TIKA, KOICA, and CSSN, to provide financial assistance for convening such workshops.

SC Members agreed to the importance of continued efforts to address the issue of human trafficking in a dire manner. Some Members proposed that future workshops would pay specific attention to the increasing number of trafficked women, particularly those who are in the state of detention against their will, and to seek common policies in the region to properly accommodate trafficked women who are not accepted by their home countries and families.

Launching of the "Global Parties' Climate and Ecological Alliance (GPCEA)"

At the 20th SC Meeting held in Xi'an in May 2013, Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee, reported that the CAPDI (Centrist Asia Pacific Democrats International) had endorsed a proposal to establish "*Global Political Parties' Ecological Alliance* (GPPEA)" as a joint united effort among the ICAPP, COPPPAL, CAPDI and IESCO (International Ecological Safety Collaborative Organization) in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation. Chairman Jose de Venecia also reported that the CAPDI had requested the IESCO, with its offices in Beijing and New York, to present its recommendations on various steps that would be needed to establish the GPPEA.

In addition, the participants in the ICAPP Special Conference on Promoting Green Development and Building a Beautiful Asia, held in Xi'an during May 30-31, 2013, adopted the Xi'an Initiative, which confirmed, among others, the establishment of the "Global Political Parties Climate & Ecological Alliance (GPPCEA)," comprising ICAPP, COPPPAL, CAPDI, and IESCO, as a broad-based united front aimed at galvanizing political parties and civil society in a coordinated quest to combat climate change.

It was later proposed by Chairman Jose de Venecia to change the name from "Global Political Parties Ecological Alliance (GPPEA)" to "Global Parties' Climate and Ecological Alliance (GPCEA)" as the organization should not only be limited to political parties but also include civil society groups like CAPDI and IESCO. He further suggested that the IESCO manage and undertake the ecological work for GPCEA and host the inaugural assembly of the GPCEA in Beijing in 2014. He also stressed that political parties in the ICAPP and the COPPPAL could play an important role in the activities of the GPCEA.

In this regard, Dr. Jiang Mingjun, Director General of the IESCO, made a report on the recent activities of the IESCO, in particular its efforts to prepare the official launching of the

GPCEA. He also reported that the IESCO would host the "Climate Change and Human Health Forum" in Chengdu, China, on July 18, 2014, and the 3rd World Ecological Safety Assembly (WESA) in Beijing, China, in December 2014, and invited SC Members to both occasions. He also expressed his hope that the bureau of the GPCEA could be elected and the charter of the GPCEA would be adopted at the forum to be held in Chengdu in July so that the GPCEA could be launched in Beijing in near future. (See the text of IESCO presentation attached as ***Appendix XVI***)

SC Members expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the IESCO to organize the GPCEA and also confirmed their determination to join hands with other international bodies to combat ecological degradation and climate change. They also welcomed the formation of the GPCEA as a timely initiative to coordinate work on the crucial and common cause of climate change.

There was, however, a lengthy discussion among SC Members on the ICAPP's role in, and relationship with, the GPCEA, in particular its participation in the GPCEA as one of the founding members with other civil societies like CAPDI and IESCO in consideration of ICAPP's different structure and organization in nature.

In the absence of consensus on the issue, SC Members agreed to continue its consideration on the issue while fully cooperating with the GPCEA and fully participating in its activities given the shared goals and objectives which were in line with what the ICAPP itself had been striving for on the issue of climate change.

ICAPP's Bid for Observer Status in the U.N. General Assembly

The Secretariat made a brief report on the current state of ICAPP's efforts to obtain observer status in the U.N. General Assembly (UNGA). SC Members were further reminded that the six co-sponsors of the draft resolution to invite the ICAPP to the UNGA as observer, i.e. Cambodia, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, decided, however, "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", in consideration of the absence of consensus, and announced the decision at the meeting of the Sixth Committee on November 15, 2014. There was no statement made to this announcement from other Member States, including Argentina, Cuba and Venezuela, which had made their reservations. Under the circumstances, the Chairman of the Sixth Committee concluded deliberations on the draft resolution by saying that the decision taken by the co-sponsors could be considered as "no action" in formality.

In this regard, Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Senator of Pakistan and Special Rapporteur of the ICAPP Standing Committee, reported that he had a meeting in Islamabad on April 3, 2014 with Hon. Eduardo Antonio Zuain, Foreign Secretary of Argentina, who made an official visit to Pakistan. Senator Hussain raised the issue of the ICAPP's bid for U.N. observer and requested the support of the Argentine government. Secretary Zuain responded that he had a "good meeting with a high-level ICAPP delegation" in Buenos Aires last September and that the reservation of the Argentine government was regarding the possible impact on its position on Falkland/Malvinas issue. Senator Hussain strongly affirmed that there was no connection between the two issues and requested to suggest a way out, pointing out that the ICAPP and the COPPPAL were both good friends of Argentina. Secretary Zuain promised to reconsider

the Argentine government's position.

SC Members, after hearing this report agreed to continue to pursue observer status in the UNGA, and, in particular, to persuade the governments of the Latin American countries, which opposed ICAPP's bid for observer status in the UNGA. They agreed to seek closer coordination with the COPPPAL, including sending ICAPP missions to the Latin American countries, if necessary. They also agreed to strongly recommend governments of all countries in the region to demonstrate more actively their solidarity and support in the UNGA for the ICAPP initiative.

SC Members also requested the Secretariat to recommend the ICAPP's future strategy in pursuing its efforts to obtain the observer status in the UNGA after consultations with the COPPPAL, including a more concrete plan to send ICAPP missions to the Latin American countries and the issue of whether to include the item in the provisional agenda for the 69th session of the UNGA which would start in September 2014.

Signing of the MOU on Cooperation to Provide Support for ICAPP Activities

The Secretariat reported that eight governments, including Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Iran, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, have so far signed the inter-governmental "MOU on Cooperation to Provide Support for ICAPP Activities", since July 26, 2013. It was also reported that several SC Members, including Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Turkey, have also indicated that their respective governments are giving positive consideration to signing the MOU in the near future. (See the copy of the MOU attached as ***Appendix XVII***)

In this regard, SC Members were reminded that, at the 21st SC Meeting in Ankara, they agreed that the increased number of signatories to the MOU would further cement the position of the ICAPP in its efforts to obtain observer status in the UNGA.

V. Cooperation with COPPPAL and CAPP

5th ICAPP-COPPPAL Joint Session

The Secretariat reported that, at the 4th ICAPP-COPPPAL Joint Session, held in Baku last October, it was agreed to hold the 5th Joint Session between the ICAPP Standing Committee and the COPPPAL Coordinating Body (CB) in Managua, Nicaragua under the auspice of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (*FSLN*) of Nicaragua in either October or November 2014.

SC Members confirmed this decision and requested the Secretariat to continue its consultation with the COPPPAL Secretariat. Details of the joint session, including the program and agenda, will be provided in due course as soon as they are confirmed through consultation with the COPPPAL Secretariat.

Launching of the Asian-Latin American Business Council

The Secretariat reported that it was also agreed to hold the 1st Meeting of the Asian-Latin

American Business Council on the sidelines of the 5th Joint Session between the ICAPP SC and the COPPPAL CB, if it would not have been held until then. It was also reported that SC Members agreed to nominate two business leaders from each country for the business council, and so far, four SC Members, representing Cambodia, China, Nepal and Pakistan, have nominated their business representatives for the council. (See the list attached as ***Appendix XVIII***)

Trilateral Cooperation among the ICAPP, COPPPAL and CAPP

The Secretariat reported that, at the 21st SC Meeting held in Ankara last November, SC Members reaffirmed their commitment to convene the 1st Trilateral Conference among the ICAPP, COPPPAL and CAPP in the near future. They, however, stressed (1) the need for both COPPPAL and CAPP to be more inclusive with region-wide participation of political parties, and (2) the need to start planning for specific joint efforts in the areas of common interest and gradually working together toward further institutionalization of the trilateral cooperation.

In light of such views among SC Members, it was further noted that the three organizations would need to do more preparatory work on how to mobilize the collaborative efforts and on how to develop topics which could capture the interests of all three continents and organizations.

Hon. Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie Ahmed, General Secretary of CAPP and Member of Higher Committee of the National Congress Party of Sudan, reported that the CAPP now represents 45 political parties in 33 countries throughout Africa and is currently expanding its membership through close communication and coordination among major political parties in all the member countries of the African Union. He also expressed strong hope that the first trilateral conference among the ICAPP, COPPPAL and CAPP would be held in the near future. In this regard, Dr. Nafie Ahmed also expressed closer coordination between the Secretariats of the ICAPP and the CAPP, and invited Secretary General of the ICAPP to attend the Executive Council meeting of the CAPP.

VI. Other Issues

Political Situation in Thailand

Secretary General Chung Eui-yong reported that the Secretariat had issued two statements regarding the recent political developments in Thailand on May 20 and 22, 2014 respectively, one in the name of the ICAPP Standing Committee and the other by the name of the Secretary General of the ICAPP, considering urgency and seriousness of the political developments in the country. Both statements were circulated among SC Members immediately afterwards, and were picked up by international news media as well. The Secretariat also reported that both statements seemed to have been taken note of by the National Council for Peace and Order in Thailand which was established after the military take-over of the government. (See the statements attached as ***Appendixes XIX and XX***)

In this regard, he reported that the Secretariat has received a message in writing from a SC Member, in which the Member stressed that “a basic footing for the development of the ICAPP is the principle of negotiation and consensus,” and “actions and remarks by the

ICAPP should avoid involving sensitive internal, bilateral or regional issues of individual countries." The SC Member also worried that such actions like issuing statements on the political situation in Thailand "may seriously damage the sound development of the ICAPP and the solidarity and cooperation among Asian political parties." Therefore, "ICAPP's statement on May 20 without thorough and extensive consultation with SC Members is out of step with the principle of negotiation and consensus, and is to the disadvantage of the long-term development of the ICAPP."

The SC Member further informed that his party therefore "didn't recognize the statement," and hoped "to see a set of code of conduct for the ICAPP" under which the SC Members would be "adequately consulted with and maximum consensus be tried before any statement in the name of the ICAPP or the Standing Committee is issued or any action is taken."

Secretary General Chung Eui-yong responded to this message by saying that the ICAPP statements on Thailand were prepared and released in close consultation with the members of the bureau of the SC, which included two Co-Chairmen and the Special Rapporteur, and in consideration of urgency and seriousness of the recent political developments in Thailand. He further pointed out that the statement of May 20 had already been issued in the name of the ICAPP Standing Committee and also reported by international media. Under the circumstances, the Secretary General said that he would assume full responsibility for his failure to conduct thorough consultation in advance with all SC Members to get their consensus on the statements. He further confirmed that the ICAPP's core principles of negotiation and consensus would be more strictly upheld in the future activities of the ICAPP.

In this regard, several SC Members, while acknowledging the need of developing a set of code of conduct or standardized procedures for maximizing consensus and negotiation among SC Members, expressed their full endorsement of the two statements issued in the name of the Standing Committee and by the Secretariat since the statements were made in good faith and purpose. Some SC Members also emphasized that, on the day of the declaration of martial law and coup d'état, people's lives and security were at stake, including the members of the SC. They also expressed their appreciation to the bureau members of the SC for taking swift actions on their behalf in response to the unfortunate political developments in Thailand.

Territorial Disputes and Security in the Region

Some SC Members raised their concern that the recent territorial issues in some parts of the Asian region might pose serious potential threats to overall security in the region. They mentioned that, with the fast pace of globalization and regional integration in recent years, all nations have become more interdependent than before. And this trend in turn might create unnecessary challenges sometimes to the regional security due to the failure to foster a corresponding environment for better understanding of diverse national interests and security perspectives of the countries in the region.

Under the circumstances, the establishment of a collective security mechanism in the region was suggested as a most effective way to strengthen security and stability by preventing confrontational positions of the countries, such as territorial disputes, from getting out of control, and thus to ultimately promote peace and prosperity in the region. It was also emphasized that all the countries in the region should respect international laws and put maximum efforts to resolve their differences through diplomatic and peaceful means.

In this regard, SC Members fully agreed with the new concept of ensuring common and sustainable security in the Asian region. They in particular noted with satisfaction that the SC Meeting in Vladivostok had provided a new occasion to strengthen confidence among political parties in Asia, and also a new platform to exchange diverse and different views in a frank and friendly atmosphere and to explore practical ways to promote security cooperation in the region.

Informal Round-Table Session on Foreign Policies of the Russian Federation

At the request of the URP, the host of the 22nd SC Meeting, the informal "round-table" session on the current political situation in Ukraine, Russia's relations with the E.U. and the U.S., and the eastern vector of Russia's foreign policy was held in the evening of May 30 prior to the SC Meeting.

At the beginning of the informal session, Hon. Dr. Andrey Klimov, Member of the Presidium of the General Council of the URP, made a comprehensive presentation on the Russian perspectives and historical backgrounds relating to the topics, which was followed by lively and frank exchange of diverse views on the topics.

SC Members expressed their appreciation for such an informal occasion which had helped them have better understanding about different perspectives on the topics and also have more balanced overall view on the international relations and foreign policies of the Russian Federation.

Cooperation with the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thoughts (WFPIST)

Hon. Hassan Ghafouri Fard, Former Vice President and Member of the Central Committee of the Islamic *Motalefeh* Party, the Islamic Republic of Iran, made a proposal to invite the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thoughts (WFPIST), which is an international organization of individual members and civil societies based in Tehran, to attend future ICAPP activities, including the GA, as an observer. (See the letter from the WFPIST attached as ***Appendix XXI***)

SC Members agreed to invite WFPIST to some of the relevant activities of the ICAPP in the future, including the GA, as an observer.

SC Members agreed, however, to limit the number of observers to be invited to the SC Meetings, in consideration of extra burden that the increased number of observers might create for future hosts of the SC meetings and also the need to maintain a certain level of exclusiveness of the activities of the SC which is responsible for decision-makings for the overall operation and management of the ICAPP between the GAs. They agreed, in principle, to limit the observers to SC Meeting to (1) regional organizations of political parties, like COPPPAL and CAPP, (2) ICAPP-affiliated bodies, like ICAPP Women's Wing, ICAPP Youth Wing and IMEF, and (3) a very limited number of other organizations which have been attending the SC Meetings in recent years, such as IESCO.

Other Issues

Several SC Members requested the Secretariat to coordinate with the future hosts of the ICAPP events to pay more careful attention to specific diet preferences of certain delegations due to their religious requirements.

Appendixes:

I. Program of the Meeting
II. List of Participants in the Meeting
III. Annotated Agenda of the Meeting
IV. Opening Statement by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Founding Chairman of the ICAPP
V. Report of the ICAPP Mission to Sri Lanka
VI. Tentative Program of the 8th GA
VII. Conference Procedures of the 8th GA
VIII. MOU between the ICAPP and the SLFP on the Arrangements for the 8th GA
IX. Invitation Letter to the 8th GA
X. List of Political Parties Eligible to Participate in the 8th GA
XI. Recommendation for Amendment of Article 9 of the ICAPP Charter
XII. Kathmandu Statement on Human Trafficking
XIII. Report of the 4th Meeting of the Bureau of the ICAPP Women's Wing
XIV. Report of the 1st Meeting of the Bureau of the ICAPP Youth Wing
XV. Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Steering Committee of the IMEF
XVI. Presentation by the IESCO on GPCEA
XVII. Inter-Governmental MOU on Cooperation to Provide Support for ICAPP Activities
XVIII. List of Business Leaders for the Asian-Latin-American Business Council
XIX. ICAPP Statement of May 20, 2014 on Martial Law in Thailand
XX. ICAPP Statement of May 22, 2014 on Military Coup d'etat in Thailand
XXI. Letter from WFPIST for Observer Status in the ICAPP