



**The ICAPP Special Conference on the Silk Road
(Tehran, February 1-4, 2017)**



ICAPP/10CON/003

Tehran Statement on the Silk Road

1. We, the leaders and representatives of 37 political parties from 24 countries gathered in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran for the ICAPP (International Conference of Asian Political Parties) Special Conference on the Silk Road hosted by the Islamic *Motalefeh* Party of the Islamic Republic of Iran and co-hosted by the Foundation for Islamic Development, during February 1-4, 2018.
2. We note that the leaders and representatives conducted open-hearted and productive exchanges of views and proposals on the themes of ‘The role of political parties in political development and cultural cooperation along the Silk Road’ and ‘The role of political parties in developing trade exchanges along the Silk Road’.
3. We strongly reaffirm the importance of rejuvenating the legendary Silk Road and call for the international cooperation to actively enact and apply the Silk Road Spirit, as clearly stated at the Beijing Initiative adopted in the Special Conference of the ICAPP in 2015, for the further promotion of world connectivity. In this regard, we stress the necessity of formulation of consensus-building mechanism among Asian political parties to deepen mutual trust, facilitate coordination for achieving common purposes and, obtain political stability and economic development of nations.
4. Recognizing the unique geopolitical position that the Islamic Republic of Iran and its centuries of history offer in the context of the Silk Road as a crucial hub for international trade and exchange of the cultures connecting the East and West, we welcome the important efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to enhance political leadership to share common responsibility and the interests relative to the Silk Road.
5. We acknowledge that the “Beijing Initiative” adopted at the ICAPP Special Conference on the Silk Road held in October 2015 initiated practical actions for international coordination, encouraged related countries to participate in rejuvenating the ancient Silk Road and which also provided a solid foundation for our discussions and understandings.
6. We emphasize the significance of policy coordination and the political environment conducive to the rejuvenation of the Silk Road. In order to construct the world connectivity to and ensure the benefits of Silk Road, the promotion of mutual understanding and policy coordination would be necessary. Consultations and discussions at this Special Conference provided the stepping stone for policy-communication among the political parties and countries along the Silk Road and brought about the intrinsic people-to-people and country-to-country linkages for the strategies of development in our region.
7. We agree that the rebuilding of the Silk Road requires solidarity in the international community to lead in the development of free economic zones, expanded economic build-up among regions and the integration of infrastructure. In this context, the urgent need to address some practical issues such as the safeguarding of oil and gas pipelines, removal of barriers,

and expansion of trade and joint investments and, the improvement of labour and distribution system in the industrial chains of nearby regions.

8. We note that the Islamic Republic of Iran occupies an important and indispensable position in the pursuit and successful realization of the Silk Road. When the market of Islamic Republic of Iran is fully opened and integrated with the global economy, the significant economic volume of the country combined with abundant energy resources would secure a splendid showcase where goods, trade, trans-territorial capital investment, and human exchanges are to be exponentially expanded in the Silk Road.

In addition to discussion on the Silk Road, we focused on two more topics such as “the role of political parties in reducing sectarian tensions and confronting extremism” and “Political parties and sustainable urban development” after the presentation by the Foreign Minister of Islamic Republic of Iran, by the Chairman of City Council of Tehran and President of the World Assembly of Silk Road Cities, Presidency of of the ECO Cultural Institute and Mayor of Tehran City.

9. We welcome with pleasure the continued exchanges and cooperation among political parties on the Silk Road in the framework of ICAPP. We firmly believe that this development would be a step forward to achieve political stability, economic development, cultural diversity and symbiosis of civilizations in the countries and regions along the Silk Road in the international community.

10. We also acclaim the contribution of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) for the efforts to support the historic revival of the Silk Road. The ICAPP has played its role as a pivotal platform in forging political consensus, building a mechanism of policy communication, constructing a bridge of people-to-people exchanges and in encouraging coordination of development strategies among the countries along the Silk Road.

11. We take note of the progress of ICAPP, in concert with the Cambodian People’s Party, to pursue full partnership of ICAPP’s Asian Cultural Council with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

12. We express the most sincere gratitude to the people and the government of Islamic Republic of Iran for the warm hospitality. We also thank our gracious host and co-host, the Islamic *Motalefeh* Party of Islamic Republic of Iran and Foundation for Islamic Development, for their excellent arrangements and contribution for the success of the ICAPP Special Conference on the Silk Road. Our special thanks goes to Hon. Prof. Hassan Ghafoori Fard, Former Vice President of Iran and Former Minister of Energy, and Standing Committee Member of the ICAPP, for his active and support for this historic gathering.

13. In concert with the leadership in Iran, the Spiritual Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and President Hassan Rouhani, our earlier efforts to reach out to Africa and Latin America, and our institution of the Asia Europe Political Forum, we in ICAPP congratulate the steady rejuvenation of the Iran economy and the efforts to initiate dialogue and bring about peace and reconciliation in the Middle East.

The political leaders expressed support for the proposal of ICAPP Founding Chairman Jose de Venecia for a revival of the age-old need for a movement towards reconciliation of the

Sunni-Shiite societies in the Arab world and the Middle East and Africa as a major contribution to regional and global peace, following mutual understanding achieved between Catholics and Protestants in the Christian world, which have contributed to global harmony.

They also expressed earnest hopes for a final peace settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

14. We also extend our gratitude to the representatives of political parties and institutions from various countries outside Asia, including the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP), which participated in the conference as an observer, for their cooperation and solidarity, and the extensive preparations for ICAPP's forum in Europe in May this year with the European political parties, following earlier successful ICAPP initiatives to achieve collaboration with the political parties of Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa.

Adopted unanimously on this 3rd day of February 2018 in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran