ICAPP/2AEPF/003

ASIA EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM

London Communiqué

May 18, 2018

1. We, the members of over 25 political parties and political groups from Asia and Europe, following our Inaugural Meeting in Seoul on 9 July 2017, have gathered in London for this Second Annual Meeting of the Asia Europe Political Forum (AEPF) under the co-chairmanship of Mr. Geoffrey Van Orden MBE MEP and the Hon. Ms. Khuon Sudary;

2. The AEPF provides us with a meaningful platform to discuss topics of mutual interest and concern as well as to reaffirm shared objectives and to foster ties of cooperation in promoting the security, freedom and prosperity which is the clear wish of our citizens;

3. At the Second Meeting in London we engaged in constructive discussions on the three main topics of "Asia-Europe partnership and the role of political parties in regional co-operation and connectivity", "Co-operation in promoting affordable and clean energy, mitigating climate change, and preventing environmental degradation" and "Disaster relief, combating major diseases-the humanitarian response";

4. The relationship between our continents matters. Together we represent economic and industrial strength and diversity, share common goals for our people, and have the opportunity to work together to address regional and global challenges, ranging from migration and climate change, to security and humanitarian relief;

5. We believe it is crucial that the long-term partnerships between the countries of Asia and Europe be built on the foundations of political, economic, and social cooperation, promoting opportunity and equality for all our people, addressing common threats to our security, and encouraging the exchange of ideas;

6. On regional cooperation and political connectivity we encourage collaboration between the countries of Asia and Europe to deepen links across a wide range of sectors, from energy and communications, to education and transport. Connecting people, businesses, and communities is vital in enhancing stability and security, developing economies, creating opportunities, reducing inequality and poverty, and promoting greater understanding and tolerance;

7. We share the view that climate change is the most significant environmental challenge facing the world today and reaffirm our support for the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. There is urgent need to address this issue globally as well as at the regional, national, local, and individual level. Climate change bears on our security at home, and particularly the well-being of those living in the worst affected countries and regions. Inspired by the presentation of Ms Roz Savage, the rower of the oceans, we recognize the dangers both to mankind and marine life from manmade pollution of our oceans. We pledge to work together to help overcome this potential disaster;

8. We share the view that the migration of people as a result of climate change cannot be ignored and we will undertake to seek to address these issues;

9. We concur that there is a need for us to give thought to ways to promote sustainable sources of energy along with energy security. It is in our economic as well as our social interests to ensure stability of supply as well as to advance our shared scientific and technological expertise to protect existing and identify new energy sources, whilst also safeguarding the natural resources on which we depend;

10. We share deep concern about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in parts of the world, and the impact of disease, famine, and conflict on vulnerable people and communities. We express our sadness at the suffering and loss not only of livelihoods but indeed human lives. We recognize the great humanitarian efforts by many countries and organizations and renew our commitment to help realize measured and tangible improvements in the lives of millions of people living in the most vulnerable areas of the world. In order to achieve this we recommit ourselves to conflict prevention, economic growth and trade, and underline the importance of property rights, financial transparency and accountability and combatting corruption and terrorism;

11. We support global efforts to give children and young people the best possible start in life, tackling life-limiting diseases which rob them of their opportunities and even their lives, and commit to working together so our young people can indeed fulfill their potential. We also support measures, such as diplomacy and conflict resolution, which seek to end the exploitation of vulnerable children and young people, as well as bring the perpetrators of such actions to justice;

12. We share a commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through different means, focusing on achieving protection for women and girls from physical and sexual violence, as well as giving them equal opportunities in education, employment and in society in general;

13. While we share common goals, we also accept that a one-size-fits-all approach is not of value in achieving them. We recognize the importance of more flexible, responsive solutions which take into account national and regional interests and priorities, and are

adaptable to changing situations on the ground;

14. We have been provided with a valuable briefing on Brexit delivered by Lord Callanan and share the understanding that the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Union (EU) need to create a new and special partnership that respects the sovereignty of all parties. We support the UK position of remaining a global champion of an open economy, free trade and the free flow of investment, ideas and information;

15. We appreciate the valuable opportunity of providing an insightful proposal on the future of Korean Peninsula delivered by Honorable Founding Chairman Jose de Venecia and being briefed on the recent inter-Korean Summit by Honorable Park Young-sun. Recognizing that the Leaders of South and North Korea have taken a great historic step toward peace, prosperity and unification on the Korean Peninsula, we welcome the outcomes laid out in the Panmunjom Declaration, including the complete denuclearization commitment by North Korea and the two leaders' agreements and pledge to support their successful implementation;

16. We express our full support for the partnership between the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) and UNESCO as initiated by ICAPP to promote cultural and social connectivity between Europe and Asia and we look forward to the official launch of the ACC as an affiliated ICAPP body in the Kingdom of Cambodia in 2019 under the tenure of Prime Minister Hun Sen;

17. Conscious of the recent loss of life of civilians in Gaza, we implore the leaders of both Israel and the Palestine Authority, as a matter of urgency, to return to the conference table and negotiate a sustainable sovereign, two-state solution;

18. We, members of political parties in Asia and Europe, and representatives of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties and the main political groups of the European Parliament, pledge to continue to work together through the AEPF and other fora in order to provide opportunities for meaningful dialogue bringing together Asia and Europe;

19. We express our gratitude to the ECR and other groups of the European Parliament for hosting us, the leaders of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties and ICAPP Secretariat, for the excellent arrangements made for the conference. We strongly believe our next meeting in 12 months time will present a good opportunity to measure progress in achieving our common goals.