



**The 10th General Assembly of the
International Conference of Asian Political Parties
(Moscow, Russian Federation, October 24-27, 2018)**



ICAPP/10GA/007

Moscow Declaration

1. We, the leaders and representatives of 70 political parties from Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestinian National Authority, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Dominican Republic (representing the COPPPAL) and Sudan (representing the CAPP) gathered here in Moscow, the capital city of the Russian Federation, for the Tenth General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP). The Assembly was hosted by the United Russia Party, the governing party of Russia on October 24 - 27, 2018 on two major topics: the “Role of Political Parties in Reducing International Tensions and Combating Extremism” and the “Importance of International Inter-party Cooperation in the Formation and Development of Political, Economic and Social Ties between States”.

2. First of all, we reaffirmed our commitment to the principles and the spirit of the Charter of the ICAPP and previous statements adopted at our biennial General Assemblies held in Manila in 2000, Bangkok in 2002, Beijing in 2004, Seoul in 2006, Astana in 2009, Phnom Penh in 2010, Baku in 2012, Colombo in 2014 and Kuala Lumpur in 2016 that sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and equality of all states, peaceful settlement of international conflicts, non-interference in internal affairs, and consensus orientation, among others, would serve as the cornerstone of the ICAPP principles.

3. We underlined the unique and valuable role of the ICAPP, as one of the largest political entities that embrace political parties across the full ideological spectrum in Asia, to lead the way toward for establishing and implementing constructive and cooperative strategies for future-oriented relations of the ICAPP member parties and international organizations in the world.

4. We noted with deep concern geopolitical uncertainty and the worrying trend of the world towards geopolitical rivalries at the international level. Moreover, the risks, including territorial disputes, as well as the rises of terrorism have continued to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. We believed that such negative trends can be defeated through

sustainable and comprehensive cooperation among political parties and governments together with international organizations such as the UN active participation and dialogues measures that are consistent with their obligations under international law.

(Common understanding and actions to reduce international tensions and combat terrorism and extremism)

5. We emphasized that violent extremism, which can be linked to terrorism, undermines peace, security and sustainable development in the world and can generate dramatic consequences for regions around the globe, and for which no nation is exempt from such challenges. Moreover, growing tension in international relations continues to have negative impact on the lives of innocent people throughout the world, with the emergence and expansion of terrorist groups such as Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al-Qaida and their associated groups and entities, constantly testing the resolve and solidarity of the international community.

(The role of political parties in reducing international tensions and combating extremism)

6. We recognized that States and their competent agencies play a central leading role in countering terrorism and extremism both at the national and international levels. We acknowledged that there is an urgent need to take a more comprehensive approach encompassing both the ongoing, essential security-based measures, and also the systematic preventive measures that directly address the sources of international tension and all internal and external conditions conducive to terrorism and extremism.

7. We shared a common understanding that reducing international tension and countering terrorism and extremism is a commitment and obligation under the principles and values enshrined in the Charter of the ICAPP and the United Nations. In this regard, we urged members to translate our common commitment and political will to bring real change into new ways of formulating public policy, so as to reduce international tension and to united our efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and extremism in their respective countries and regions, as well as on global level, in accordance with international law, the principles of the UN Charter, the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

8. We welcomed actions of members that have adopted their national strategies to reduce international tensions and prevent and counter terrorism and extremism which set national priorities for addressing the local drivers of

international tension and all external and internal conditions conducive to terrorism and extremism. We also encouraged other members that may consider developing and updating their national strategies and legislation to take into account recommendations of the ICAPP statements and the UN resolutions in them. Against the backdrop of rising unilateralism and protectionism in the world, we noted the need to enhance communication, coordination and cooperation, uphold globalization and multilateralism, maintain a multilateral trading system, adhere to free trade and defend the rule-based international trading system and world order.

9. We shared the view that in strengthening coordination of our common efforts to counter terrorism and extremism and in this regard developing national and regional strategies to prevent and counter terrorism and extremism and reduce international tensions, our members should consider the following elements:

- (a) Find ways to strengthen trust between government institutions and communities to prevent real or perceived marginalization and exclusion of people, by way of a comprehensive review of all national legislation, policies, strategies and practices aimed at preventing international tensions and countering terrorism and extremism to ascertain whether they are firmly grounded in respect for human rights and the rule of law, and whether they put in place national mechanisms designed to ensure compliance of this mutually reinforcing goals;
- (b) Explore opportunities to put in place alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as mediation, arbitration and restorative justice, to resolve conflict and achieve inclusive and sustainable peace;
- (c) Engage religious leaders to provide a platform for intra- and interfaith dialogue in order to promote tolerance and understanding between communities, and voice their rejection of sources of tensions and terrorists and extremist ideologies and their propaganda by emphasizing the peaceful and humanitarian values inherent in their theologies;
- (d) Support and enhance the relevant participation of women and youth in activities aimed at preventing international tensions, terrorism and extremism by prioritizing meaningful engagement mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels;
- (e) Ensure that conflict should be resolved by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and in

circumstances where military action becomes necessary to reduce international tensions and to counter the expansion of violent terrorist and extremist groups, any such response is in full compliance with international law, in particular with the Charter of the United Nations, including its principle of sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs, and international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

10. We reached a common understanding on the importance of roles of social media and the Internet in reducing substantially the tensions and preventing the spread of terrorist and extremist ideology and propaganda. In this regard, we recommended that our members consider taking the following measures:

- (a) Develop and implement national and regional communications strategies to prevent the use of information and communication technologies, including the Internet, for terrorist and extremist purposes, in close cooperation with social media companies;
- (b) Ensure that such national legal frameworks comply both with international obligations regarding freedom of opinion and expression, and the obligation to prevent the spread of terrorist and extremist ideology and propaganda, including by condemning any public incitement to terrorism, its glorification or apology.
- (c) Protect journalists, who play a crucial role in democratic societies, by ensuring the prompt and thorough investigation of threats to their safety.
- (d) Encourage journalists to develop voluntary codes of conducts and standards of dealing with counterterrorism matter to ensure that their professional actions are socially responsible and do not contribute to radicalization of citizens to terrorism and extremism.

11. We recognized the value of regional strategies to reduce international tensions and prevent and counter terrorism and extremism. We shared the common understanding that as international terrorism does not respect borders, national and global action has to be complemented with enhanced regional cooperation. In this connection, we urged members to come together to complement those strategies or adopt sub-regional or regional plans of action to reduce international tension and prevent violent extremism and reinforce their national measures in the following ways:

- (a) Strengthen regional and sub-regional organizations including ASEAN, by creating and maintaining regional contact lists of focal points, monitoring the trafficking of small arms and light weapons, and facilitating interstate communication and cooperation;

- (b) Enable regional and sub-regional organizations to provide technical assistance to member States in their respective regions or sub-regions in building capacity for preventing violent extremism and reinforcing effective cooperation, for example, on border management.

12. The Members greatly welcomed the initiatives of the Leaders of the two Koreas for the progress toward the denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula and welcomed the Panmunjom Declaration as well as the outcomes of the Summit in Pyeongyang which had led to the easing of tensions and enhancing the prospect for peace and security. They reaffirmed their full support for the Inter-Korean Summit in September 2018 which marked a significant milestone toward the realization of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and the achievement of a permanent peace, security and common prosperity the Korean Peninsula and Asian region in accordance with the International law and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly.

(The importance of international inter-party cooperation in the formation and development of political, economic and social ties between states)

13. We noted the outcomes of the meetings of the ICAPP General Assemblies, which have affirmed the commitment of Asian political parties to form and develop stronger political, economic and social ties among states through their support to the work of the United Nations and their continuing efforts to bridge gaps of understanding and trust among political parties in various regions and continents.

14. We acknowledged the need to continue to expand the practical partnership with the representatives of political parties and institutions from various countries outside Asia, including the Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL) and the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP), with a view to enhancing their cooperation and solidarity with the ICAPP. We acknowledged the importance of the result at the Trilateral Meeting among the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP which discussed the meaningful agenda topics of “Processes of Integration, Interdependence and Cooperation” and “Establishment of a Mechanism through the Three Organizations to Monitor the Cooperation” and the need to engage the Secretariat to further study to reflect views of the members on the new naming of the inter-continental cooperation.

15. We recognized further the work of the ICAPP in the areas of democracy,

ensuring the equal rights of men and women, combating violence against women, meaningful youth participation, peace and security, disarmament, sustainable development and interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue, as well as preventing countering terrorism extremism.

16. We took note of the indispensable nature and importance of multi-level cooperation among political parties within their countries and beyond for maintaining the security, stability and prosperity of the international community. We agreed that it would be valuable to take into account the potential inter-party cooperation in the formation and development of political, economic and social ties between states. We expressed concerns over the rise of trade tariffs and related disputes and emphasized the need to resolve the differences on trade related matter in mutually beneficial ways.

17. We also acknowledged the role and responsibilities of the political parties within the ICAPP with regard to promoting peace and international security through various strategies, such as encouraging governments to provide legislative support that could contribute to multilateral cooperation for strengthened ties among nations, given the increased interdependencies between countries which include cross-border critical infrastructure that contribute greatly to the distribution of energy, air, financial services, water supply, public health and human resources. We believe that multilateral cooperation is the cornerstone of regional and international structure and hence expressed concern over unilateralism negating multilateral agreements.

18. We highly appreciated and welcomed the establishment of the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the ICAPP. We recognized that such agreement in close coordination with, and with the participation of, the Bureau of the Asian Cultural Council chaired by Cambodia would contribute to the expansion of the ICAPP's role in providing platforms for strengthened cooperation with international organizations, such as UNESCO.

(ICAPP actions to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals)

19. We also recognized the growing role of the ICAPP Standing Committee and the Secretariat in providing platforms for regular interactions among political parties and UN agencies for the planning of implementation of national commitments, facilitating closer cooperation between the United Nations specialized agencies and national political parties and helping to shape their input to major United Nations processes.

20. We took note of the work carried out upon the request of Member States by agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, including UNESCO, particularly for cooperation in education, science and culture.

21. We decided on actions to be taken by the ICAPP General Assembly, its Standing Committee and affiliated bodies to pursue a more systematic engagement with the United Nations, in order to enhance their cooperation in meeting their common objectives. We also encouraged members of the ICAPP to strengthen cooperation with the UN, by engaging their political parties in efforts to fully support the implementation of relevant United Nations agreements.

22. We welcomed the contribution of the ICAPP to the work of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, through the participation of political parties, in regular meetings and events on the work to institutionalize the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as through its efforts to encourage political parties to engage in the voluntary national reviews. With this backdrop, we welcomed the positive role of China's Belt and Road Initiative in promoting openness and cooperation among Asian political parties.

23. We further took note that the ICAPP and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) have agreed to hold the Special Workshop on Green Cities on 30 October-2 November 2018 in Seoul and planned to conclude a new Memorandum of Cooperation during the Workshop.

24. We stressed the importance of closer cooperation between the United Nations and the ICAPP to promote and strengthen cooperation, through political parties at the national level, in regard to parliamentary capacities and the allocation of budgetary resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

25. We reaffirmed our full endorsement of the Secretary General's report on the document reviewed by the Standing Committee and the new Bureau amendments of the Standing Committee. We expressed full support for the ICAPP's initiative to obtain Observer status in the UN General Assembly and the partnership with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in order to more actively coordinate and expand ICAPP activities with relevant UN programs and agencies, and called on all political parties in the region to recommend that their respective governments support the ICAPP's initiative.

26. We acknowledged the importance of the improvement and amendment of the Charter and the need to encourage the Secretariat and the members of the

ICAPP to engage in further study and exchange views within a sufficient time frame in an intensive manner. We also noted the need to promote cooperation among political parties for the formation and development of close partnership among states in the political, economic and social fields, especially within the framework of the UN related programs to response to the need to confront grave global challenges.

(Next year's schedule and appreciation)

27. We recalled, with satisfaction, the ICAPP activities and achievements in the 2016-2018 reports on the major ICAPP activities produced by the Secretariat and endorsed all recommendations made over the last two years by the Standing Committee and the other affiliated bodies of the ICAPP.

28. We welcomed the decision by the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) to hold the official launching of the Asian Cultural Council in Phnom Penh on 11-12 February 2019 under the tenure of Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, as the honorary founding chairman. We also acknowledged the bipartisan initiative of political parties in Sri Lanka to hold the 3rd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum in Colombo on 5-7 April 2019 as well as the proposal of the New Azerbaijan Party to hold the Youth Wing in Baku in June next year.

29. We expressed our profound gratitude to the people and the government of the Russian Federation and particularly the United Russia Party for their excellent arrangements to ensure the resounding success of the meeting of the 10th General Assembly of the ICAPP. Our special thanks went to H.E. Dmitry Medvedev, Chairman of the United Russia Party and Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, for the support for this historic gathering. We also reconfirmed our deep appreciation for the ICAPP Secretariat's invaluable role and efficient preparations in organizing the meeting.

Adopted unanimously on this 26th day of October, 2018 in Moscow, Russian Federation