# The 3rd ICAPP Workshop on Human Trafficking
**(Islamabad, Pakistan, March 11-13, 2016)**

## Islamabad Statement on Human Trafficking

We, the leaders and representatives of 18 political parties of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine and Turkey, participated in the 3rd ICAPP Workshop on Human Trafficking which was convened in Islamabad, Pakistan, from March 11th to 13th, 2016, and declared human trafficking as a major crime against humanity and reaffirmed our commitment to continue our combat against this most heinous act of violence as we did in the previous two ICAPP Workshops on Human Trafficking held in Kathmandu, Nepal in January 2014 and in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in April 2015.

In particular, we emphasized that human trafficking is a major crime of such magnitude and atrocity that it cannot be dealt with successfully by any stakeholder alone, both state and non-state actor, thus requires a region-wide and multi-stakeholder strategy that builds on both national and international efforts, and recognized the urgent need for the coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to deliver a comprehensive and balanced resolution to this trans-border challenge.

In doing so, we emphasized the need to uphold the principle of humanitarian imperative and rights-based approach at all stages of combating human trafficking and noted that it is of utmost importance to mobilize efforts of all stakeholders to eradicate human trafficking by reducing both the vulnerability of potential victims and the demand for exploitation in all its forms, ensuring adequate protection and support to those who fall victim, and supporting the efficient prosecution of the criminals involved, while respecting the fundamental human rights of all persons.

We also urged all governments and parliaments in the region to bring their national legal frameworks into conformance with, and actively participate in, the relevant international initiatives on human trafficking, not only to provide immediate and necessary assistance and protection, but also correctly punish traffickers and profiteers to eradicate such insidious criminal act.

We, in particular, encouraged all political parties in ICAPP to strengthen their effort through an **Action Plan** focusing on the following issues, among others, in order to create synergies among all stakeholders in fighting against human trafficking by (1) raising public awareness on seriousness and urgency, (2) mapping trans-border networks of cooperation, and (3) establishing a fast-track punishment system:

- Effective data collection, research, and sharing of information, good practices and successful stories;
- Awareness-raising activities with the help of the business sector and the media;
- Empowerment of people, especially women and children, who are common targets of trafficking, through education and vocational training;
- Effective coordination mechanism among stakeholders to mobilize joint efforts;
- Promotion of gender equality and prevention of gender-based discrimination in labor markets;
- Promotion of effective rights-based responses and partnerships for joint action among state and non-state stakeholders;

- Promotion of legal migration to contribute to the development of origin, transit and destination countries;
- Coordination of efforts to enact anti-human trafficking provisions in our respective national criminal codes and impose stringent punitive measures;
- Provision of services, including recovery treatment, training and technical assistance, to help victims and survivors reintegrate into society;
- Promotion of legal migration of skilled workers across national borders; and
- Inclusion of more stringent punitive measures in anti-human trafficking laws.

We appreciated the lead role of the ICAPP Women's Wing in combating and curbing the scourge of human trafficking by promoting public awareness of this vice in a sustained manner.

We warmly welcomed the passage by the Senate of Pakistan on March 11, 2016 of new legislation raising the punishment and penalties for human trafficking, a welcome coincidence with the 3rd ICAPP Workshop on Human Trafficking.

Finally, we expressed our most sincere gratitude to four leading political parties in Pakistan, i.e. Pakistan Muslim League-*Nawaz* (PML-N), Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Pakistan Movement for Justice (*PTI*: Pakistan *Tehreek-e-Insaf*) and Pakistan Muslim League-*Quaid-i-Azam* (PML-Q), for co-hosting the workshop, and our appreciation to the ICAPP Women's Wing and the ICAPP Secretariat for the successful organization of the event. Furthermore, we gave special thanks to the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (*TIKA*), and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) for co-sponsoring the 3rd ICAPP Workshop on Human Trafficking. We also thanked the representatives of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime and the *Insan* Foundation Trust in Pakistan for their participation and sharing with us their expertise.

Adopted in Islamabad, Pakistan, on March 13th, 2016.