ICAPP/5YW/003

Baku Statement

1. We, the youth representatives of 19 countries, following our four meetings in Kuala Lumpur (2012), Baku (2013), Colombo (2014) and Moscow (2018), gathered in Baku, the capital city of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for the Fifth Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing. The Meeting was hosted by the New Azerbaijan Party on 5-8 September 2019, to discuss political issues relevant to youth issues with a focus on the main theme: "The Role of Youth in Social and Political Activities."

2. We recalled the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995 and its follow-up tools and endeavours for implementation, which provided practical guidelines for support at the national and international levels for further advances in promoting the well-being of young people.

3. We further recalled the important outcomes achieved through the previous four meetings of the Youth Wing and the Moscow Statement adopted at the 4th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing, which reaffirmed the organization's strong commitment to expanding collaboration with youth and acknowledged the importance of youth-led and youth-focused activities in fostering stable societies.

4. We took note that the percentage of young people around the world is the largest in history, accounting for approximately 1.5 billion people, and that 90 percent of youth live in developing countries. With this unprecedented number of young people), significant numbers of young people around the region face a range of obstacles such as in their access to information technology, employment, education, healthcare, training, and the lack of opportunity to play their due part in developing and translating into reality a global strategy and participate in the creation of development policies. We noted that there was a particular need to focus in this regard on the Asia-Pacific, where there is not full engagement of young people in policy-making processes.

5. We acknowledged that 20% of all youth in the developing world are not engaged in quality education, training or employment. We noted further that 5 million new jobs are needed monthly to keep youth unemployment at its current high rate, twice the adult unemployment rate. Moreover, noting that 65% of the population is under age 35, while only 6% of political representatives are under 35, we emphasized the importance of youth engagement in political activities.

6. We underlined the importance of international cooperation among political parties to conduct concrete research on collecting credible data on youth issues as an

important means for the formulation of policies that serve to promote the healthy participation of youth in socio-economic activities as well as for their implementation and bearing of fruit in tangible ways.

7. We emphasized the responsibility of Governments and political parties, in promoting and providing structural guidelines for improved employability, skills development and vocational training to facilitate the transition from school to work, noting the importance of this in terms of reducing the high youth unemployment rates. We further emphasized that, in order to address the situation from a longer term perspective, there is a strong need to promote sustainable labour market integration, increased entrepreneurship, including in the form of start-up networks for the young generation at both the domestic and international levels, with a view to fostering knowledge on the part of young people regarding their rights and responsibilities in society.

8. We also reiterated the role of Governments and political parties in addressing malnutrition, hunger and poverty, which can have a severe impact on children and youth. Recalling the importance of quality healthcare for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations, we called for investment in youth, especially in health, education, and information technology sectors for the promotion of sustained economic growth, expressing the view that, through international cooperation, this would have broad implications in terms of promoting global prosperity.

9. We called upon members to promote equal opportunities for all, including youth, to eliminate all forms of discrimination, whether based on race, religion, sex, language, political views, national or social origin, property, or age, and to foster social integration among groups of different ages, with a particular focus on young people with disabilities, migrants, and indigenous people, leaving no one behind.

10. We encouraged members to take concerted action, in accordance with international law, to remove obstacles to the realization of youth rights under foreign occupation, colonial rule, or other forms of conflicts, as well as of youth in marginalized groups affected by terrorism.

11. We drew attention to the fact that unresolved disputes such as Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh should be resolved peacefully, taking into full account relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and that human rights abuses and disregard for international law must be stopped immediately.

12. We agreed that increased cooperation among United Nations agencies, civil groups, relevant stakeholders, as well as policymakers is crucial and necessary in addressing challenges hindering youth development, and, in this regard, encouraged close cooperation among members, thus fulfilling the pledge of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind.

13. We expressed our profound gratitude to the New (*Yeni*) Azerbaijan Party for their excellent arrangements to ensure the resounding success of the 5th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and to the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the warm welcome. Our special thanks went to Hon. Ali Ahmadov, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Deputy Chairman of New Azerbaijan Party and Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, for his full support for this historic gathering. Extending our gratitude for the invaluable role of the ICAPP Secretariat in making the arrangements for a successful meeting and expressing our deep appreciation for the steadfast support of the ICAPP Standing Committee led by Hon. Jose de Venecia, ICAPP Founding Chairman and Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee and for the invaluable role of the ICAPP Secretariat led by Secretary General Park Ro-byug, we concluded by reaffirming the importance of continued bonds of cooperation among youth representatives in pursuit of the noble goals we embrace.

Adopted unanimously on this 7th day of September, 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan