ICAPP-COPPPAL/1JS/003

Conclusions of the 1st Joint Session between the ICAPP SC and the COPPPAL CB
(Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 30-31, 2009)

The First Joint Session (hereinafter referred to "the Meeting") of the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (hereinafter referred to as "the ICAPP") and the Coordinating Body of the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, or *Conferencia Permanente de Partidos Politicos de America Latina y el Caribe* (hereinafter referred to "the COPPPAL") was held under the main theme of "the Global Challenges and the Role of Political Parties" in Buenos Aires, Argentina during July 30-31, 2009. The program of the meeting and the lists of both COPPPAL and ICAPP participants are attached herewith as ***Appendixes I, II and III*** respectively.

The Meeting was convened in the morning of Thursday, July 30 by Hon. Dr. Antonio Cafiero, Chairman of the COPPPAL Coordinating Body and Senior Leader of the Justicialist Party of Argentina, and Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, President Emeritus of the LAKAS-CMD Party of the Republic of the Philippines. The opening ceremony was also attended by H.E. Jorge Taiana, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Republic of Argentina who delivered welcoming remarks on behalf of the Argentine Government.

The Meeting was conducted in three Discussion Panels during July 30-31. The First Discussion Panel was on "the Role of Political Parties in Society, Politics and Economy in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean and the Current International Context," and was moderated by Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Secretary General of Pakistan Muslim League, representing the ICAPP. The Second Discussion Panel was on "Political Parties and Promoting National and Regional Development," was moderated by Hon. Dr. Jorge Drkos, Chairman of the Province of Buenos Aires, the Frente Grande of Argentina, representing the COPPPAL. The Third Discussion Panel was on "Political Parties in Building an Interregional Multilateralism," and was moderated by HRH Prince Sisowath Sirirath, 2nd Vice President of the FUNCINPEC Party of Cambodia, representing the ICAPP.

During the Meeting, the members of both the COPPPAL Coordinating Body and the ICAPP Standing Committee discussed a wide range of issues pertaining to the main theme and sub-themes, including the current political, economic and social situation in various parts of their two continents, and agreed that the first inter-continental meeting between the two leading political institutions in Asia and Latin America was significant in many-fold.

First, they recognized that the two continents together represented 50% of the total land area of the Earth, 68% of the world population and 53% of the world GDP. Yet the fates of many nations in the two continents were still greatly affected by the interests of foreign powers and institutions. In this regard, they agreed to increase cooperation and solidarity between the two continents through increased contacts and exchanges among the political parties thereof to meet the common challenges

and defend their common objectives of peace and prosperity. In doing so, they agreed, among others, to respect territorial integrity and sovereignty of each country, to respect diversity in cultural and social values of each country, to adhere to the rule of law and good governance, to reject any form of violence as a means to resolve differences among nations, and to further promote multilateralism to meet the current global challenges.

Second, they agreed that the moment had come for political parties, as carriers of people's will, to assume more responsibility in shaping relations among the nations in our two continents. They recognized that, without solid basis of political support in each country, they could not carry out their tasks to tackle the new challenges they faced today, especially the recent global financial crisis in a sustainable way. They jointly identified the key roles for the political parties to play in this process, such as constructing a just international order and building a common strategy to make this world a fairer and better place for all mankind. Together they could promote cooperation and integration between the two continents, especially in the fields of education, technology and environment, and to raise public awareness for democracy and good governance.

Third, they identified priority areas for their future joint efforts to bring more justice and equity in international order. The priority projects included, among others, reduction of poverty, promotion of inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue, creation of micro-financing and "debt-for-equity" programs for developing economies, establishment of a bi-continental development bank, promotion and protection of migrant workers' rights, promotion of technological cooperation, protection of environment and bio-diversity, and fighting against drug trafficking and organized crime.

Fourth, they agreed to closely coordinate to increase mutual understanding and trust, to reinforce and continue their political, economic, social and cultural ties, and to provide political environment for their respective governments to expand cooperation and coordination in their policies on the various political and economic issues being debated in various international *fora* with a special emphasis on bringing together the countries that have been less fortunate with the benefits of globalization and affected more severely by the recent global challenges.

Lastly, they shared the view on the need to have joint sessions between the COPPPAL Coordinating Body and the ICAPP Standing Committee on a regular basis, and agreed to hold the second joint session in Asia not later than the end of the first half of 2011. The ICAPP participants also invited the members of the COPPPAL to participate in the 5th General Assembly of the ICAPP to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan during September 24-27, 2009. In return, the COPPPAL participants invited the members of the ICAPP to participate in the annual Plenary Session of the COPPPAL to be held in the Dominican Republic during October 10-12, 2009, which will also celebrate the 30th anniversary of the COPPPAL.

Before concluding, the Meeting adopted by consensus the Declaration which reflected the results of the discussions during the Meeting was adopted by consensus. The Declaration is attached herewith as ***Appendix IV***. The Meeting also adopted a joint statement on the current political situation in Honduras, which is attached herewith as ***Appendix V***.

The Meeting was concluded in the afternoon of Friday, July 31 by Hon. Gustavo Carvajal Moreno, Associate Chairman of the COPPPAL Coordinating Body and Former President of the National

Executive Council, Institutional Revolution Party (PRI) of Mexico, and Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Secretary General of the ICAPP Secretariat and Former Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee of the Democratic Party of the Republic of Korea. The closing ceremony was also attended by Hon. Daniel Scioli, President of the Justicialist Party of Argentina and Governor of Buenos Aires, and Amb. Agustin Colombo Sierra, Undersecretary of Latin American Policies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina. They delivered their congratulatory remarks.

After concluding the Meeting, all the participants paid a courtesy call on H.E. Dra. Crisitna Fernandez de Kirchner, President of the Republic of Argentina, at the Government House.

Appendix:

I. Program of the Meeting
II. List of COPPPAL Participants
III. List of ICAPP Participants
IV. Declaration of the Meeting
V. Joint Statement on Honduras