



Special Workshop on Climate Change:
The Role of Political Parties in Asia to Achieve Net Zero
(Online Conference, 8 December 2021)

ICAPP/14CON/003

Statement of the Special Workshop on Climate Change

1. We, the representatives of 32 political parties from 23 countries, gathered virtually for the Special Workshop on Climate Change. The meeting was held on 8 December 2021 and hosted by the ICAPP Secretariat following the consent of the Members of the ICAPP Standing Committee (SC) on holding the Special Workshop at the 36th Meeting of the ICAPP SC (Online, 3 October 2021). Due to social distancing rules and travel restrictions, the workshop was held through an online platform. The conference was structured into two sessions: the 1st session focused on “Catalyzing Collaboration between Public and Private Sectors to Reach Net Zero” and the 2nd session on “Enhancing Regional and Global Responses of the Political Parties to Reach Net Zero.”
2. We shared the view that we are on the verge of a climate crisis and the entire ecosystem is already facing serious adverse impacts of rising temperatures, as provided by the indisputable scientific evidence of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Report on 9 August 2021. Climate change is an urgent and critical global threat that reaches beyond the environmental agenda, posing economic, social, technological and even human rights related challenges as well. Bolder and specific commitment and rapid, coherent and collective actions are necessary to protect, conserve and restore nature and ecosystems to achieve the Paris Agreement temperature goal in this critical decade. In this regard, we recognized our common but differentiated responsibilities with respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. In particular, we take into account the needs of developing countries that are vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. We underlined the importance of moving swiftly for the full implementation of the Paris Agreement to secure global net zero around mid-century and to limit average global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. We would increase our efforts to adopt national policies to transition towards low-emission energy systems through clean power generation and energy efficiency measures including the phase-down of unabated coal power and inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. In this regard, we reaffirm our collective commitment that all Asian countries should communicate new or updated nationally determined contributions with the strengthened 2030 targets as

soon as possible in advance of the fourth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement in 2022. We also put great importance on the long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies and other actions that demonstrate progress towards the achievement of the Paris Agreement temperature goal.

4. We called upon political parties, governments, and private sectors to work together for bolder actions within a clearer and more ambitious policy framework in the race to net-zero, for the benefit of people today and the generations to come. In this regard, we urged our governments to create policies that incentivize investment in clean energy sectors and to promote funding for research and development to reinforce the productivity of clean energy transition. We recognized the importance of the private sector to enhance finance mobilization in order to deliver the scale of resources needed to achieve climate plans. We would work together with governments to explore innovative approaches and instruments for mobilizing finance from private sources. We also urged investors and other financial firms to make sure they support the transition to net zero by taking climate change into account in making financial decisions and investments.
5. We, as political parties representing voice of the people, recognized that a rapid transition to net zero cannot be achieved without sustained support or participation of citizens. In this regard, we reaffirmed that consumer choices such as retrofitting a house with energy-efficient technologies and green urban design to reduce the dwellers' carbon footprints such as by promoting digitalization in service demand are important for emission reductions. We also need to ensure that clean energy transitions are people-centered and inclusive which by use using policy tools in support of the poorest including tax credits, loans, and targeted subsidies. This also requires careful policy attention to minimize hardships associated with the employment losses as fossil fuels declines.
6. We are of the view that strengthened multilateral and regional cooperation, proactive domestic regulatory reform, as well as effective private sector engagement will be essential to ensuring that the economic transformation needed to mitigate the climate crisis takes place. In particular, global and regional collaboration is pivotal to achieving net zero, to develop green and low-carbon post-COVID19 recovery strategies and policies, and to enhance adaptive capacity, with a particular focus on supporting the least developed, landlocked developing, and small island developing countries.

7. We encouraged developed countries to significantly scale up their provision of climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building so as to assist developing countries in their climate change actions with respect to both mitigation and adaptation, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries. In this regard, we welcomed that the Glasgow Climate Pact adopted on 13 November 2021 on the occasion of COP26 urged developed countries to at least double their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing countries from 2019 levels by 2025. We put importance that developed countries fully deliver on the USD 100 billion goal urgently and through to 2025.
8. We recognized the importance of the global goal on adaptation and balance between mitigation and adaptation for effective implementation of the Paris Agreement, and welcome the launch of the comprehensive two-year Glasgow-Sharm El-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation.
9. We recognized the need to focus on how to build collective aspiration and collaboration within the international system for them to be translated into collective action. We called upon all political parties, international organizations, and governments to take joint actions in regularly examining and refining response measures. We also pledged to enhance our partnership and to share information on the legislative activities of our respective parliaments for the development of building more profound relationships to combat climate change.
10. We pledged to ICAPP members to participate in international efforts to devise net zero roadmaps that would uplift coherent measures to bring down greenhouse gas emissions. As one of the largest political entities that embrace political parties across the full ideological spectrum in Asia, we felt obliged to fulfill our political responsibilities. We welcomed and promised our sincere support for the worldwide implementation of global efforts, including the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). We also emphasized the importance of strengthening our capacity through mainstreaming climate change adaptation in development planning.
11. We drew attention to the disastrous consequences of the drying up of the Aral Sea, both on climate change in Asia, and on the fact that the Aral Sea zone has become the epicenter of an ecological catastrophe. In this regard, we noted the importance of the approval in 2021 by the United Nations General Assembly of a resolution declaring the

Aral Sea region "a zone of environmental innovations and technologies" initiated by the Republic of Uzbekistan.

12. We are committed to continuing strong regional partnership and cooperation among ICAPP Members to coordinate Asia's roadmap to net zero emission aligning with the Paris Agreement, within the realms of our unique role as political parties in our respective countries. We called on responsible governments and political parties of the ICAPP Member Countries to promptly address the critical state of the issue and to push for legislation that strengthens our common objective, battling climate change. We also proposed a workshop on climate change to become a regular feature of the ICAPP to ensure that this issue is discussed at regular intervals.
13. We expressed our profound gratitude to H.E. Ban Ki-moon, President of the Assembly and Chair of the Council of Global Green Growth Institute and 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations, for participating in the workshop as a keynote speaker to provide his invaluable insights and expertise.
14. We expressed our appreciation to the ICAPP Secretariat for the successful organization of the workshop.

Adopted on 8 December 2021