



**12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the  
International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP)  
(Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, November 21-24, 2024)**



**ICAPP/12GA/000**

**Phnom Penh Declaration on Peace and Reconciliation**

1. We, the leaders and representatives of 49 political parties from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Turkiye, Uzbekistan and Vietnam, gathered in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, for the Twelfth General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP). The General Assembly was hosted by the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), the ruling party of the Kingdom of Cambodia, during November 21 to 24, 2024 under the theme of "The Quest for Peace and Reconciliation." Representatives of 16 political parties of 15 countries from Africa, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean, and representatives of 6 political institutions from around the world also participated in the General Assembly as observers.

2. We reaffirmed our commitment to the principles as stipulated in the Charter of the ICAPP and as confirmed in the declarations of previous ICAPP 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, Kuala Lumpur in 2016, Moscow in 2018, and Istanbul in 2022, 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 are still essential to peace and reconciliation in our region and beyond.

**ICAPP's Role for Regional and Global Peace and Reconciliation**

3. We noted with deep interest the historic transformation in which the center of global political and socioeconomic gravity was shifting from the West to the East, a process that now appears to be inevitable, inexorable and irreversible with the dawn of the Asian Century. In this regard, we recognized, and reiterated our resolve to support for the ICAPP's leading role in promoting exchanges and cooperation among political parties not only in our region but across the whole world, as a unique and largest political forum which embraced all ideological spectrum and orientation. We hoped that the ICAPP will further mobilize and synergize the strength of its network to reach out to other regions and explore ways to further contribute to global peace and reconciliation through its various programs and initiatives.

4. We noted with deep concern the rise of geopolitical rivalries and the decline of international cooperation as major powers were adjusting and recalibrating their regional and global strategies. We were particularly concerned about the prolonged hostilities and increasing tensions in many parts of the world where efforts to restore peace and reconciliation has failed or are inadequate, causing unbearable sufferings for the people.

In this regard, we agreed that, in an increasingly interdependent world, political parties can significantly contribute to creating a peaceful and reconciled society embracing their responsibilities as advocates for social justice, which are essential to secure lasting peace and

reconciliation in each society, and to facilitate dialogues, foster inclusivity and connect communities through open, consultative and peaceful fora.

5. We noted with great apprehension the trend of de-globalization, marked by increasing uncertainties in the global economy by deteriorating multilateral trading system and re-emerging protectionism. Years of cascading challenges and crises, including the covid-19 pandemic reversed the progress we were making toward the U.N. 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with rising food and energy prices, and these developments contributed to cost-of-living pressures and disproportionately affected women and children, and the most vulnerable.

In this regard, we recognized that economic disparity, lack of social justice or systemic oppression can further contribute to a peace deficit by creating environments ripe for discontent and instability. And we shared common beliefs that such negative trends could be dealt with through expanded and comprehensive cooperation among political parties and their governments together with active participation of all stakeholders.

6. With the persistence and proliferation of violence and conflicts in various parts of the world, we highly appreciated the “Cambodian model of peace, reconciliation and integration” that has lasted more than two decades under the leadership of His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, President of the Cambodian Peoples’ Party, President of the Senate and former Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and Chairman Emeritus of the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the ICAPP.

We hoped that the Cambodian model will be presented as a potential solution to resolve differences and end conflicts and build peace and reconciliation on the principles of inclusiveness, forgiveness, creativeness, cultural diversity, and connectivity.

## **Actions for Regional and Global Peace and Reconciliation**

### **Promoting a culture of peace**

7. We shared the view that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, racial and religious diversities is essential for lasting peace, and agreed that we will endeavor to promote cultural and religious tolerance, inter-faith harmony and peaceful coexistence among nations and ethnicities as well as the Asian tradition of mutual respect, consensus building and accommodating the comfort level of all parties as the basic tenet of ICAPP principles.

In this regard, we welcomed the Global Civilization Initiative that will be pursued on the notion of harmony without uniformity rather than a coercive insistence on uniformity.

### **Initiating a peace process and providing good offices**

8. We noted that there is no single template for peace, and history is full of best practices for peaceful settlement of conflicts and different models of dialogue in good faith. We also noted that there are a full range of actions to promote peace and reconciliation at all levels, as well as to explore opportunities to put in place alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as mediation, arbitration, restorative and retributive justice, to resolve conflicts and achieve inclusive and sustainable peace.

In this regard, we believed that the ICAPP can look forward to serving as a platform in the future to provide a wide range of good offices to build trust and gain momentum for peace and reconciliation.

### **Ensuring national ownership**

9. We emphasized that national ownership is the best strategy to guarantee that a development project succeeds and expands in the long run. Governments at all levels more readily assume ownership when initiatives build on their visions, strategies and frameworks.

We also recognized that national ownership, that includes diverse voices and participation of all segments of society, is a guiding principle for effective conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts which will help make peace more sustainable.

### **Preventing conflicts**

10. We were cognizant that poverty, inequality, marginalization, social exclusion, racial and religious discrimination, and lack of access to economic and employment opportunities were commonly identified as root causes of socio-economic problems that could easily escalate into social unrest and larger conflicts. In this regard, we emphasized the importance of a comprehensive approach in addressing these causes, particularly, through a shift from a reactive attitude to a more proactive mindset to remove hatred, promote culture of dialogue, and build confidence and trust among people we represent.

We shared the view that conflicts are costlier than preventive diplomacy. As such, no effort should be spared to take systemic approaches to address the sources of counter-peace forces, such as violence and terrorism. We also acknowledged the need for more proactive engagement by political parties in the process of building sustainable peace and reconciliation, both in pre- and post-conflict settings.

### **Building post-conflict peace and reconciliation**

11. We recognized that peacebuilding and sustaining peace in post-conflict support require closer attention, stronger commitment and wider investment to ensure stable rehabilitation, reconstruction and development. We were also mindful that to prevent the recurrence of conflicts, restorative and retributive justice and reconciliation are key to post-conflict nation-building and development.

In particular, we stressed the importance of the contributions of women and youth in the prevention and resolution of conflicts at all levels and their meaningful involvement in activities promoting a culture of peace in post-conflict situations.

### **Supporting multilateral efforts for peace and reconciliation**

12. Recalling the Istanbul Declaration of 2022 regarding all multilateral frameworks to consolidate various types of collective arrangements in our region, from sub-regional programs to the U.N. initiatives, we reiterated that peace and security, development and human rights are the foundations of an interlinked and mutually reinforcing human security. In this regard, we welcomed and supported the objectives of the UN Summit of the Future 2024, focused on forging a new international consensus on delivering a better present and safeguarding the future, and the 2030 U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, the global roadmap for ending poverty, protecting the planet and tackling inequalities.

We fully espoused the efforts of ICAPP in calling all political parties in the region to urge their respective governments and parliaments to translate their political will and commitment to peace through the formulation and implementation of public policies, strategies and practices, and legislations to promote peace and reconciliation. We also urged a sustained effort by the ICAPP to pursue its initiative to obtain an observer status in the U.N. General

Assembly and partnership status with U.N. agencies, and called on all political parties to recommend to their respective governments to support this initiative.

In this regard, we welcomed the extension of the Cooperation Agreement between the ICAPP and the UNESCO, and expressed our gratitude to the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) for its support under the chairmanship of the Cambodian People's Party.

### **Strengthening regional and sub-regional cooperation**

13. We resolved to strengthen our regional and sub-regional frameworks to reduce tensions and prevent conflicts with the larger Asian regional architecture to facilitate inter-state communication and collaboration, including, among others: the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC); the South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC); the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC); the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO); the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC); and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building in Asia (CICA) and even a broader Global South governance mechanism such as the BRICS and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

### **Expanding cooperation with other sectors**

14. We emphasized the importance of expanding the roles of political parties to collectively strive to strengthen coordination and cooperation among all sectors and groupings in our societies. Toward this aim, we agreed to expand ICAPP activities to strengthen communication and promote cooperation between political parties and other sectors and fields.

In particular, in this era of digital transformation and with the rapid advancement of new technologies, we acknowledged the important role that the media plays in reducing substantially the tensions arising from the spread of misinformation, disinformation, and other extremist ideologies and propaganda. The media is a most effective means to fight against violence, hatred, racism, discrimination and xenophobia which lead to political and social disturbances and disorder in many countries. We agreed that freedom of the press and freedom of information and communication must be ensured, and further agreed to endeavor to make effective use of all forms of mainstream and social media for advocacy and dissemination of information to engage, educate and empower a culture of peace.

### **Reaching out to political parties in other regions and institutions**

15. We recognized that the conflict in one nation or in one region can spill over to other countries and regions. So, we need closer multi-level cross-border and cross-region cooperation among political parties around the world to meet our common challenges. We committed to pursue practical partnerships with the representatives of political parties in Africa, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. In this regard, we welcomed the first Roundtable Discussion among political parties from the four continents on the sideline of the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. We hoped to enhance cooperation and solidarity with political parties in other regions in bilateral, trilateral or quadrilateral format on a more regular basis. We also hoped to increase our cooperation and coordination with other political institutions, including ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Global Council for Tolerance and Peace (GCTP), Non-Aligned Movement Parliamentary Network (NAM-PN), and Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC).

Last but not least, we expressed our profound gratitude to the people and the government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and particularly the Cambodian People's Party for their warm

hospitality and excellent arrangements to ensure the resounding success of 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the ICAPP. Our special thanks went to H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, President of the CPP and President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and to H.E. Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia for their support of this historic ICAPP gathering with fruitful outcomes to carry over. We also expressed our deep appreciation to the ICAPP Secretariat and the Organizing Committee of the 12<sup>th</sup> ICAPP General Assembly for their invaluable role and successful preparations for the meeting.

Adopted unanimously on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November 2024 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.