4th Meeting of the ICAPP Asian Cultural Council
(Baku, Azerbaijan, October 16-19, 2025)

Baku Statement

We, the representatives of political parties from across Asia, gathered at Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, for the 4th Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), under the theme of "From National Diversity to Global Solidarity: The Role of Culture in the New World Order."

We affirmed that culture is both a reflection of identity and a bridge for solidarity and cooperation in an interconnected world. It nurtures belonging while fostering mutual respect, empathy, and reconciliation, outcomes that political and economic mechanisms alone cannot deliver.

We noted UNESCO's Global Report on Cultural Policies for Sustainable Development ("Culture 2030"), which highlights the role of culture in advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We welcomed the establishment of the United Nations "International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations". We stressed the urgent need to integrate culture systematically into national and international policy frameworks, believing that culture contributes directly to economic growth, poverty reduction, urban regeneration, and environmental stewardship.

The discussions highlighted both opportunities and challenges posed in placing culture at the heart of global policy-making. We reaffirmed that culture is a vital force for unity and resilience in a time marked by global uncertainty, technological change, environmental crises, and social fragmentation. We underscored the importance of investing in creative industries, cultural tourism, heritage preservation, and reducing poverty, recognizing their roles in generating employment, and fostering inclusion and pride in cultural identity.

At the same time, we cautioned against the risks posed by conflict, neglect, and unchecked commercialization. We urged the preservation, revitalization, and transmission of cultural traditions to future generations, ensuring they remain relevant and respected. We further emphasized that inclusive cultural policies are essential to people-centric development and justice.

In this regard, we encouraged political parties, governments, and cultural institutions to strengthen cultural cooperation across Asia through partnerships, exchanges, and shared initiatives. We emphasized embedding culture into education, urban planning, development strategies, and digital innovation. In parallel, we called on all stakeholders to promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, and inclusive access to cultural life for all people through greater collaboration across borders.

We called on the ICAPP member parties to encourage their governments to work in unison with the UNESCO to respect the international conventions and treaties concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage in the event of armed conflict and to exercise maximum restraint from the use of conventional weapons and ammunitions targeting the world and national heritage sites.

We reaffirmed our commitment to the vision of ICAPP, recognizing cultural cooperation as a core dimension of its mission to foster solidarity, and inclusive development across Asia. We also highlighted the importance of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) as a key mechanism for advancing ICAPP's cultural agenda and for shaping culture's role in the global order. On top of this, we proposed that the ICAPP consider institutionalizing the ACC as the UNESCO Category 2 Center for Asia to advance the shared mission of the ACC and the UNESCO.

Finally, we extended our sincere appreciation to the *Yeni* (New) Azerbaijan Party and the ICAPP Secretariat for their excellent preparations and warm hospitality.

Adopted unanimously on the 17th day of October 2025 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan.