Draft Phnom Penh Declaration

Adopted at the 6th General Assembly of the ICAPP

In Phnom Penh, Cambodia on December 3, 2010

We, leaders and representatives of (100) political parties from Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, East Timor, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Russia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey and Vietnam, have gathered here in Phnom Penh, the magnificent Capital City of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the bank of the mighty Mekong River, for the Sixth General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) hosted by the Cambodian People's Party in collaboration with the FUNCINPEC Party of Cambodia during December 1 to 4, 2010 under the main theme of " Asia' Quest for Better Tomorrow."

We declare as follows, taking note, in particular, that this historic event coincided not only with the Tenth Anniversary of founding of the ICAPP, but also the Thirty-third Anniversary of establishment of a salvation front for the liberation of the Cambodian nation from the genocidal regime.

1. We reaffirm that the ICAPP is an open forum for all political parties in Asia and has become the pivot of inter-party dialogue and cooperation in our home continent, in parallel to the efforts of our governments, to achieve our common goal of sustained peace and shared prosperity in the continent, through making great contributions during the first decade of its inception to (1) promoting exchanges and cooperation between political parties with various ideologies in Asia; (2) enhancing mutual understanding and trust amongst the peoples and countries in the region; and (3) promoting regional cooperation through the unique role and channel of political parties. We also reaffirm our strong commitment to the spirits and principles embodied in the Charter of the ICAPP and subsequent Declarations of the General Assemblies of the ICAPP – Manila in 2000, Bangkok in 2002, Beijing in 2004, Seoul in 2006 and Astana in 2009.

2. We reiterate our strong commitment to the intent and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, the Five Principles of the Peaceful Co-existence and the Ten Principles of Bandung that emphasize democracy, good governance, human security, principles of human rights, dignity, freedom, and well-being, rule of law and inter-faith-cultural togetherness. We are also committed to ensure peace, security, stability and prosperity in our home continent in the context of growing political and economic multi-polarity by respecting and adhering to the following principles:

a. Each state's sovereignty and territorial integrity;

b. Right of every state to determine its own political, economic and social systems;

c. Non-aggression and non-interference in each other's internal affair;

d. Peaceful settlement of territorial disputes and respects for treaties and international laws;

e. Arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and

f. Opposing and denying all forms and shape of terrorism, splittism and extremism.

3. We support the joint initiative with other regional political institutions, including the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL), to reach out to political parties in other continents of the world, to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation through dialogue and exchanges, and to convene a global convention among all political parties in the world in the near future.

4. We recognize that poverty and climate change are by far two greatest challenges facing mankind today and strongly endorse and support all efforts, both international and national, to fight against poverty and reduce the affect of climate change, including in particular the efforts led by U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to accelerate the progress toward the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals and to arrive at appropriate solutions to reduce greenhouse gases with due urgency and importance. In this regard, we endorse the initiative to obtain an observer status for the ICAPP in the U.N. General Assembly to coordinate our activities with the various U.N. programs to meet the two challenges in a more concerted and efficient way.

5. We realize the need for improving liquidity management and pooling resources to allow Asian economies to have more control on the ownership of the processes of national and regional development. We need to seek inclusive growth by expanding economic parity in Asia and increasing the share of benefit from the global economy, by bridging development gap and streamlining integration with strong emphasis on improved physical infrastructure and connectivity. We also need to boost intra-regional trade in Asia by eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers on the basis of open regionalism, harmonizing and deepening cooperation and integration of East and South Asia through synergizing and converging of ASEAN and South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) frameworks, strengthening the Mekong-Indo Economic Corridors; linking Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) with South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) as well as Asia

6. We recognize that rising economies of Asia with their billions of population will tremendously put upward pressure worldwide in the prices and demand for food. However, there is a promising scope for transforming agriculture into the source of sustainable growth in Asia since it has a great potential to cater the increasing demand for foods within the region and beyond. In particular, we take note of the great potential of Mekong River basin as the main source of food, and, therefore, urge and encourage the countries in the subregion to protect and manage their water resources and develop their agriculture, including organic agriculture, to help not only reduce poverty in the countries, but also enhance the regional food security and ease the problem of food prices increase worldwide.

7. We recognize the critical need for de-linking and departing from business as usual, blame game or shifting of responsibility in addressing the issue of climate change and moving forward with the use of renewable and clean energy sources in a ground-breaking manner. We firmly believe that it is the proper course and the responsibility of all countries and communities in the world. Our departure in this way will require revisiting the culture of energy production and use, impacting upon the evolution of civilization. We will strive for strong political commitment, and education, awareness and advocacy campaigns amidst the mass citizenry to effectively make this breakthrough, which is so urgently needed, to happen. In this regard, we reiterate that the role of international cooperation in technological advancement and climate adaptation will be crucial.

8. We recognize that moving toward the increasing use of renewable energy is not merely an effort to improve environment and reduce CO_2 emission but also an opportunity to create sustainable domains of promoting economic activities and growth, and raising income and employment. We should view the renewable sources as the main stream of Asia's energy in light of their vastness for exploitation and energy security. In this regard, we further emphasize that more emphasis and generous support is needed for the technological advancement in the area of renewable energy, and an environment to attract the best minds and sufficient resources is needed for this purpose.

9. While we support the ongoing efforts to address the challenges caused by climate change and arrest the emission of greenhouse gases, we admit at the same time the need for continuous supply of conventional sources of energy to fuel the development

10. We recognize that biological diversity has played a crucial role in human civilization, and its loss will be a threat to long-term economic sustainability. The most important values of the biodiversity are the ecological services and commodities that it provides, such as purification of freshwater, maintenance of the earth's climate, and sustaining food supply and timber. In this regard, we call for the establishment of Environment Research Center in Asia to support region's sustainable future development and creation of an institution to encourage pioneering and innovation for sustainable development, particularly in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fishery.

11. We call for close coordination and cooperation among countries in the region to cope with recurring natural disasters, such as earthquakes, tsunamis and flooding, in a more efficient and timely way by linking all activities of prevention, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction at all levels, local, national and international. In this regard, we endorse the establishment of the ICAPP Medical Emergency Forum (IMEF) to adequately respond to challenges and threats from natural disasters as agreed at the 1st Meeting of the IMEF Steering Committee in Langkawi, Malaysia in May 2010. We also welcome the decision to convene the ICAPP Conference on Natural Disasters and Environmental Protection in Malaysia in May 2011.

12. We recognize the need for active work with young people and women since the process of Asian renovation cannot be implemented without extensive involvement of younger generation and women. We call for the establishment of ICAPP's Youth and Women Organization.

13. We emphasize on the importance of preserving Asian heritages, cultures and values, which besides providing tangible benefits can also usher the development process in consonance with peace and happiness of mankind.

14. We highly support and compliment the efforts of the Cambodian People's Party, under the able leadership of Samdech Chea Sim, Samdech Hun Sen and Samdech Heng Samrin, in achieving the following goals:

a. Negotiating political settlement to ensure Cambodia that is independent, peaceful, democratic and neutral;

b. Safeguarding and defending the Constitution and guaranteeing political stability and security, thus enabling steady economic development; and

c. Preventing the genocide from coming back to power and bringing the remnants of the Khmer Rouge leaders to justice through the Extraordinary Chamber within the Court of Cambodia.

Finally, we express our most sincere gratitude to the Cambodian People's Party and the FUNCINPEC Party for hosting this historic 6th General Assembly of the ICAPP. Further, we thank the Royal Government and the people of Cambodia for their support and warm hospitality. We also take note with appreciation the continuous support of Hanns Seidel Stiftung, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and the Korea Foundation which have made this conference a meaningful gathering.

Adopted unanimously on this 3rd day of December 2010 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.