**Draft Annotated Agenda for the 1st Meeting of the Coordination Committee among the ICAPP, *COPPPAL* and CAPP (Khartoum, Sudan, February 24-26, 2017)**

## Establishment of the Coordination Committee among the ICAPP, *COPPPAL* and CAPP

At the first Trilateral Meeting among the Standing Committee of the ICAPP (International Conference of Asian Political Parties), the Coordinating Body of the *COPPPAL* (Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean) and the Executive Committee of the CAPP (Council of African Political Parties), which was held in Jakarta during April 22-24, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as the "Jakarta Meeting"), it was agreed to initiate a process to further strengthen the trilateral cooperation in the areas of common interest among political parties in Asia, Latin America and Africa in a more inclusive way. It was also agreed to have regular meetings among representatives of the three organizations to work together for gradual institutionalization of the trilateral cooperation among political parties in the three continents.

To follow up with the agreements reached at the Jakarta Meeting, Hon. Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie, Secretary General of the CAPP, who attended the ICAPP Special Conference on Migration and Refugees held in Istanbul during November 4-6, 2016, offered to host a small group meeting among representatives of the ICAPP, *COPPPAL* and CAPP, perhaps around five delegates from each organization, in Khartoum, Sudan in early 2017. He proposed to discuss at the meeting how to further promote and institutionalize trilateral cooperation and to initiate the process to establish the "global forum of political parties."

In accordance with this proposal, it was agreed among the ICAPP, *COPPPAL* and CAPP to establish the Coordination Committee among the ICAPP, *COPPPAL* and CAPP (hereinafter referred to as the "Coordination Committee) which will be composed of around five representatives each from the ICAPP Standing Committee, the COPPPAL Coordinating Body and the CAPP Executive Committee, and convene its 1st Meeting in Khartoum during February 24-26, 2017 under the auspice of the CAPP Secretariat.

In this regard, participants in the 1st Coordination Committee may further discuss the terms of reference and the future work programs of the Coordination Committee.

## Proposal to convene the 1st full-drawn Trilateral Conference of Political Parties of Asia, Africa and Latin America

Particpants in the 1st Coordination Committee meeting are requested to consider how to organize the 1st full-drawn **Trilateral Conference of Political Parties of Asia, Africa and Latin America**, including the time, venue, agenda and the list of political parties to be invited.

The ICAPP is currently representing over 350 political parties in 51 countries and 1 territoy in Asia. The *COPPPAL* is representing 62 political parties in 29 countries in Latin America, and the Caribbean and the CAPP 39 poltical parties in 31 countries in Africa.

With regard to the agenda for the first full-drawn Trilateral Conference of Political Parties in the three continents, it is proposed to include "*poverty* and *environmental degradation*" which had been identified as two most serious challenges at the Jakarta Meeting. The participants in the Jakarta Meeting also agreed that these two challenges need to be urgently addressed in a more coordinated and concerted way. (See ***Appendix 1***: "Jakarta Declaration" which was adopted at the Jakarta Meeting)

The following challenges can also be considered as main topics for the first full-drawn Trilateral Conference.

- Refugees: Continuous and tragic flow of refugees from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa to other continents, and economic refugees from Latin America in the United States of America
- Terrorism: Issues, including Al-Qaeda/ISIS extensions in Africa
- Inter-faith Dialogue and Reform of the United Nations: In particular, a proposal to replace the U.N. Trusteeship Council with the Inter-faith Council since most of the trust territories have long become independent and member states of the U.N.
- Promotion of Business: Cooperation among businessmen in the three continents and exchanges of information on best practices in business environment
- Empowerment of Women: How to promote trilateral cooperation and coordination for empowerment of women in all sectors of society in the three continents, including holding workshops and seminars

In this regard, the Secretariats of the ICAPP, COPPPAL and CAPP will continue to coordinate cooperation among the three organizations.

**Initiative to build a global forum of political parties**

At the Jakarta Meeting, it was also agreed to establish close contacts with other groups of political parties in Europe with a view to launching a "global forum of political parties" in the future.

In accordance with this agreement and the decision taken by the ICAPP Standing Committee, the ICAPP Secretariat has communicated with the four principal groups of political parties in the European Parliament, i.e. the European People's Party (EPP), Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), European Conservatives and Reformist Group (ECR), and Alliance of Liberals and Democrats in Europe (ALDE), and agreed to establish the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) between the ICAPP and the four groups of political parties in the European Parliament. (See ***Appendix 2***: Propsal for the establishment of the AEPF)

In this regard, during the recent visit by the ICAPP mission to the European Parliament, it was agreed tentatively to convene the 1st Meeting of AEPF during July 7-9, 2017. Baku and Seoul have been recently suggested as possible venues for the meeting. More details about the meeting, including the venue, agenda and program, will be worked out through consultation between the ICAPP Secretariat and the four groups of poltical parties in Europe.

**Other Issues**

***ICAPP's initiative to obtain observer status in the U.N. General Assembly***

The ICAPP has been a staunch supporter of the U.N. and its activities. In all of its activities, the ICAPP has also been trying to promote cooperation of the governments and the peoples in the region for the successful implementation of the U.N. activities and programs. Against this backdrop, the ICAPP has been trying to obtain observer status in the U.N. General Assembly (UNGA) since 2011, in order to more closely coordinate its activities with the U.N. and create synergy in promoting objectives of both organizations.

The draft resolution to invite the ICAPP to the UNGA as an observer was, once again, co-sponsored by 13 member states, i.e. Australia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, and was deliberated at the Sixth Committee meeting of the 71st session of the UNGA on October 11, 2016.

At the meeting, in addition to the co-sponsors, three more member states, i.e. Bangladesh, Iran and Turkey, made statements supporting the draft resolution. Consensus was not reached, however, due to reservations expressed by three member states. These delegations pointed out that the ICAPP did not meet the first of the two following requirements for UNGA's observers, as laid out in the UNGA's Decision 49/426 of December 9, 1994 and the UNGA's Resolution 54l195 of December 17, 1999 which says *"Granting observer status will be confined to States and the Inter-governmental Organizations."* There was no objection, however, to the other requirement of the resolution, which says "*the work of the organizations should be in the interest of the U.N. General Assembly in nature*." when ICAPP's relevant activities were introduced.

To this, the co-sponsors and supporters stressed that the UNGA Decision 49/426 should be interpreted and implemented in the context of evolution of the UNGA's decisions of granting observer status, historical backgrounds of negotiations on the decision and subsequent practices of granting observer status since the decision was taken in 1994. They also pointed out that there had been several exceptions to the criteria since the decision was taken, and, in consideration of the unique nature of the organization which is open to all political parties across political spectrum, and the contributions it has been making to the regional stability, the ICAPP deserved special consideration by member states.

They also stressed that, once granted observer status in the UNGA, the ICAPP will forge closer cooperation between the U.N. and the political parties in Asia and in other continents, such as Latin America and Africa, by aggregating and channeling to the U.N. system the views of our peoples, promoting people's awareness and support for U.N. activities, and building international consensus on U.N. actions to meet global challenges.

In the absence of consensus, however, the Chairman of the Sixth Committee of the 71st session of the UNGA concluded discussions on the item by recommending member states to continue consultation among them and to revert to it at later stage.

In this regard, at the informal meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee held on November 4, 2016 in Istanbul, SC Members agreed to continue discussions as to what action the ICAPP will take on this matter at future SC meetings.

**Democratic Institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean**

The Delegation of the *COPPPAL* will make a brief presentation on democratic institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean. (See **Appendix 3:** Democratic Institutionality in Latin America and the Caribbean)

In this regard, other participants in the meeting, particularly of the ICAPP and CAPP delegations, are requested to make their comments or suggestions.

***Other Issues***

Participants in the 1st Coordination Meeting may raise any other issue under this item.

***Appendixes:***

1. ***Jakarta Declaration adopted at the Jakarta Meeting in April 2016***
2. ***Proposal for the establishment of the AEPF***
3. ***Democratic Institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean***