Conclusions of the 32nd Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee
(Colombo, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, April 7, 2019)

The 32nd Meeting (hereinafter referred to as "the Meeting") of the Standing Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the SC") of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (hereinafter referred to as "the ICAPP") was held in the Moonstone & Amethyst Hall of the Hilton Hotel in Colombo, from 8:15 to 9:30 on April 6. SC members and their delegations attended the Meeting which was held prior to the 3rd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (hereinafter referred to as "the AEPF"), which was hosted on April 5-8, 2019 by the United National Party (hereinafter referred to as "the UNP") with the support of the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The List of Participants and Annotated Agenda are attached as ***Appendixes I-1 and I-2.***

The Meeting was convened and chaired by Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Vice Chairman and Special Rapporteur of the ICAPP Standing Committee, and Hon. Park Ro-byug, Secretary General of the ICAPP.

Furthermore, Hon. Daya Gamage was appointed as the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 3rd Asia–Europe Political Forum.

Opening of the 32nd Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee

Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed extended his warm greetings to all the SC members, expressing also his deep gratitude for the hospitality from the host of the AEPF on behalf of Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founding Chairman and Chairman of the ICAPP SC. Hon. Park Ro-Byug and Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed expressed heartfelt regret for the absence of Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr. due to unavoidable circumstances and the upcoming election in the Philippines scheduled to be held on May 13.

Preparations for the 3rd Meeting of the Asia–Europe Political Forum

Report by the Organizing Committee of the 3rd Meeting of the Asia–Europe Political Forum

The Secretary General reminded the participants of the matters for this AEPF:

1) Procedures for the Sessions, each of which would start with a Keynote Presentation from experts for 15 minutes each followed by Remarks from the Speakers for a maximum of 7 minutes each

2) The experts invited for each session :
- Hon. Phang Ha-nam, Former Minister of Employment and Labor of the Republic of Korea
- Hon. Ulrike Trebesius, Vice-Chairperson of the AEPF, Chief Whip of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) and Member of the European Parliament, Germany

3) The Theme of the AEPF:
   "How political parties can handle the challenges of social security and employment of the increasing aged population as well as items of current urgency in the Asian region"

Hon. Daya Gamage in the capacity as the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 3rd Meeting of the Asia–Europe Political Forum addressed the meeting in this way:

1) He welcomed all participants of the ICAPP, on behalf of the leaders of the United National Party and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, expressing deep gratitude to the Prime Minister H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe and the President H.E. Maithripala Sirisena of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for supporting the holding of the AEPF in Colombo.

2) He emphasized the important role that the ICAPP has played as an effective platform and the Secretary General's close coordination with the host side during preparations for the SC and the AEPF in Colombo as well as his gratitude to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka and all the staff working in the Ministry for their full commitment and support extended for this event

3) He noted the practical challenges and the current issues generated by the drastically increasing number of aged persons in the population which Sri Lanka is faced with due to the growing percentage of senior population.

4) He looked forward to fruitful and valuable outcomes from this meeting so that participants would be able to gain insights and wisdom regarding how to overcome the challenges of population ageing and related issues

The Program, the List of Participants, the List of Speakers of the 3rd AEPF and the Colombo Statement are attached as ***Appendixes II-1, II-2, II-3, and II-4.***

Election of Bureau of the Asia-Europe Political Forum

The Secretary General informed the participants of a letter from Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden, Co-Chairperson of the AEPF, offering to appoint Hon. Jan Zahradil, Member of the European Parliament, Czech Republic, as a new Co-Chairperson of the AEPF, based on the Terms of Reference for the Asia-Europe Political Forum.

SC Members agreed to accept the European side's offer and elect Hon. Daya Gamage as a new Asian Co-Chairperson of the APEF for one term (of two years). This election was possible with the generous understanding of Hon. Khuon Sudary, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cambodia of Cambodian People's Party (CPP), who kindly transferred her role as a Co-Chairperson of the AEPF, in accordance with the ToR and as a reciprocal step in parallel with the change on the European side. It was understood that Hon. Khuon Sudary would continue to serve as a Standing Committee Member.

The Letter from Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden and the Terms of Reference for the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) are attached as ***Appendix III-1 and III-2.***

Issues relating to the ICAPP Standing Committee (SC)

Future Meetings of the SC

1. Hon. Shahidan Bin Kassim, Member of Parliament, United Malays National Organization (UMNO) and Former Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, and Mr. Ramin Mammadov, Deputy Chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party Youth, on behalf of Hon. Ali Javad Ahmadov, Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan and Deputy Chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party, reached an amicable agreement to reschedule the meetings of the Youth Wing / Women's Wing so that the meetings will be held on 5-8 September, considering traditional events following Ramadan. The rescheduled date, agreed upon between both sides, was informed to the SC members.

   The Invitation Letter from Hon. Ali Javad Ahmadov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, was sent to the Secretariat on April 19, and the letter is attached as ***Appendix IV-1***.

2. Hon. Sujata Koirala, Member of Parliament and Member of the Central Committee of the Nepali Congress Party, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, announced that a Special Conference on Inter-Faith Dialogue would be held at the end of August 2020. She added with confidence that it would encompass a broad range of forms of interaction among various forms of beliefs, and that all the participants would be able to interact with each other, in the very birthplace of Buddha. SC Members will be provided with updated information on the further consultations and preliminary activities regarding detailed matters relevant to the conference.

3. The Secretary General informed the meeting of a letter sent by Hon. Jose de Venecia, who wishes to announce the holding of the 11th General Assembly in November 2020 in Manila in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of the founding of the ICAPP. The announcement was welcomed, and the views were expressed that official and political support from the Government of the Republic of the Philippines would be of vital importance.

   The Letter from Jose de Venecia is attached as ***Appendix IV-2.***

4. Hon. Andrey Klimov, Deputy Secretary of the General Council on International Affairs of the United Russia Party, proposed the holding of the 5th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum tentatively on 13-15 June in Vladivostok with the participation of journalists from the SC member countries. Further reviews on specific matters such as the participation of journalists and the SC Members would be made in due course.

Adoption of an Incentive Mechanism for Serving as Additional Vice- Chairperson

Following the consensus reached among the SC Bureau members, the Secretary General of the ICAPP informed the meeting of a proposal for the establishment of a practice of granting a chance to serve as a Bureau member (additional Vice-Chairperson) for one term (of two years) to the member who has hosted the General Assembly of the ICAPP, as an expression of appreciation for his/her endeavors exerted in hosting the largest scale biennial event of the ICAPP.

SC Members agreed on the great contribution and roles of Hon. Andrey Klimov in achieving the successful outcomes of the 10th General Assembly in Moscow with the participation of the Prime Minister H.E. Dmitry Medvedev of the Russian Federation. The SC Members accepted the new practice until the new Amendment is adopted and welcomed Hon. Andrey Klimov assuming the post of Vice-Chairperson for one term (of two years).

Idea of a Global Platform

Hon. Andrey Klimov proposed the idea of a Global Platform, which would aim to build an online platform which provides users with more comprehensive and broader functions and easy connection to websites of the parties of the SC members.

The participants recognized the idea as a way to improve the current website system, making it more convenient and comprehensive, and supported the Secretary General's comment on the enhancement of the current official website of the ICAPP with the addition of essential functions, considering the benefit of time efficiency and the financial burden incurred by building a new website. The Secretary General of the ICAPP also added that the current website is ready for the creation and addition of the proposed functions. SC Members agreed that a further technical review would be necessary and hoped to receive further reports on this in the future.

Review of the ICAPP Activities Since the 31st SC Meeting in October 2018

The Special Workshop on Green Cities and Air Quality Improvement (Seoul, November 1, 2018)

The Secretary General of the ICAPP re-emphasized that the Special Workshop on Green Cities and Air Quality Improvement had truly contributed to broadening the base of political awareness of the importance of sustainable development in harmony with the environment. He noted that the topics touched upon in the workshop - including climate change, green cities, air quality and water management - are issues which are greatly relevant in our daily lives yet very often overlooked by the public.

He stressed that the ICAPP needs to facilitate and hold this kind of workshop more frequently, as a step forward to produce substantial discussions and actions for the future.

All the SC Members concurred on this and pledged their further participation and roles with a view to encouraging the public to be more attentive to environmental issues.

The 1st Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (Siem Reap, Cambodia, January 14-16, 2019)

The Secretary General of the ICAPP reminded all the SC members of the excellent organization and successful hosting of the 1st Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council in Cambodia in January.

Hon. Khuon Sudary, conveyed profound gratitude and appreciation from the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the ICAPP, and briefly commented on the progress and the

achievements of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) since its launch. She announced that the Siem Reap Declaration has received a noteworthy endorsement at the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs in Bangkok in February 2019, and that the ACC is working on a village development project in collaboration with a think tank in Cambodia and UNESCO.

She reaffirmed that the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) would continue its full commitment and efforts to preserve and protect democracy in Cambodia, and that the ACC would continue to cooperate closely with the ICAPP Secretariat and the member countries of the ICAPP. The Secretary General of the ICAPP also promised close cooperation and interaction with the ACC for the further activities.

The Remarks by Hon. Khuon Sudary are attached as ***Appendix V***.

Other Activities of the ICAPP

ICAPP's Cooperation with the UN

In accordance with the agreement reached at the 28th Standing Committee Meeting in 2017 underlining the importance of reviewing the approaches of the ICAPP to cooperation with the UN, the Secretary General of the ICAPP recommended that the ICAPP members take a step-by–step approach, drawing upon the experience of establishing the Cooperation Agreement with UNESCO and gaining Observer status in the General Assembly and forging a partnership with ECOSOC of the United Nations. The step-by-step approach is as follows:

1) To cooperate with the ICAPP Secretariat in order to develop various formats for cooperation, including promoting sub-regional programs and establishing a Committee on Cooperation with the UN, composed of SC members and experts; and

2) Further improve the Charter by updating it in a more systematic way from a legal perspective.

Outreach to the U.S. Congress

With a view to expanding the ICAPP activities to the global level, the ICAPP members agreed to seek channels for communication with political leaders and their parties in the U.S. and Canada. The Secretary General of the ICAPP explained his preliminary plan to sound out and set up a dialogue channel with congressmen/women and their staff.

The majority of members welcomed such an initiative and strongly supported the plan of holding the first meeting tentatively on November 18-22 in Washington D.C., with the agenda including such issues as action on climate change and promoting women's empowerment. The Secretary General explained his plan for a preliminary visit to the U.S. in late July and his willingness to share the results with the SC members for the sake of establishing such a form of dialogue in 2019.

A Preliminary Plan on Outreach to the U.S. Congress is attached as ***Appendix VI-1***.

Plan on Thematic Workshops

Based on the previous advice from the 10th General Assembly in Moscow, the Secretary General drew up several plans for the thematic workshops with each of these focusing on energy, interfaith dialogue, promotion of democracy, and youth and women empowerment in cyber security improvement respectively.

The details of the workshops would be further discussed and developed after gathering the opinions from all the SC members. A Preliminary Plan on Thematic Workshops is attached as ***Appendix VI-2***.

Proposal on Launch of a new Affiliated Body on Tourism Promotion

Hon. Dato' Seri Dr. Shahidan Kassim, pointed out the importance of increasing people to people exchanges through the promotion of tourism. He proposed a new idea of setting up a 'Tourism Promotion Affiliated Body', which might be called the 'Tourism Promotion Council'. The SC Members expressed great interest in the proposal.

The Secretary General kindly asked Hon. Dato' Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim to provide the Secretariat with a concrete written proposal in the future for the further review of this suggestion. Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed and other members also supported this proposal and the Secretary General's comment.

Appendixes:

I. 32nd Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee
- **1. List of Participants in the SC Meeting**
- **2. Annotated Agenda for the SC Meeting**

II. 3rd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum
1. **Program**
2. **List of Participants**
3. **List of Speakers**
4. **Colombo Statement**

III. Election of the Bureau
- **1. Letter from Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden**
- **2. Terms of Reference for the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF)**

IV. Future Meetings of the SC
1. **Invitation Letter from Hon. Ali Javad Ahmadov**
2. **Letter from Hon. Jose de Venecia**

V. Remarks by Hon. Khuon Sudary

VI. Other Activities of the ICAPP
1. **Preliminary Plan on Outreach to the U.S. Congress**
2. **Preliminary Plan on Thematic Workshops**

/end/