Appendix II :

DECLARATION of the 5th General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties

"TOWARDS AN ASIAN CENTURY THROUGH RENOVATION" (Astana, September 26, 2009)

We, the leaders and representatives of 63 Asian political parties from 34 countries, have gathered at the 5th General Assembly of the International Conferenceof Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, from 24 to 26 September, 2009,

- based on the fundamental documents and principles of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties:
- wishing to make a joint contribution to ensuring peace, security and stability in the region in the context of growing political multi-polarity, economic and informational globalization,
- based on the aspiration for strengthening mutual confidence, friendship and good neighbourly relations; encouragement of efficient cooperation in politics, trade and economy, science, culture, education, energy, transport, environment and other fields,
- striving for more profound and comprehensive cooperation to overcome the consequences of the global economic and financial crisis,
- adhering to the rule of law and good governance, and reconfirming the need to fight against corruption,
- acknowledging the need for Asian renovation to comply with the modern world requirements and to enhance life quality and competitiveness of Asia,
- recognizing that the ICAPP embodies a new culture of inter-party cooperation to further strengthen the close ties among the Asian peoples,
- acknowledging adherence to the generally recognized principles and regulations of international law related to maintaining peace, security and developing good neighbourly and friendly relations, as well as collaboration between countries,
- and following the principles of Manila 2000, Bangkok 2002, Beijing 2004, and Seoul 2006 Declarations, have adopted this Declaration.

1. We are determined to create a just political model of relationships between the countries. Primary importance should be attached to the interests of the whole world rather than those of individual countries. The renovated system of international relations should make no distinction between rich and poor countries, big and small nations. This new world is to become the world of general confidence and respect, partnership and dialogue.

2. We all agree on the necessity of a new approach to ensuring global security. It is of paramount importance to consolidate efforts in international disarmament and non-profileration of nuclear weapons. Therefore, we are appealing to the world community to focus the efforts on search for the ways to make the existing mechanisms of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and disarmament more efficient, including the establishment of a new universal Agreement on the general horizontal and vertical non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. We are appealing to the nuclear powers to be responsible to the world community and perform their obligations related to quantitative and qualitative reduction of their arsenals. In this connection, we welcome the recent agreements between Russia and the United States on nuclear disarmament and strategic arms limitation. We are sure that the problem of the global disarmament will only be solved when it is addressed by not only the nuclear weapons

owners but the international community as a whole. We support Kazakhstan's request addressed to the United Nations Organization for proclaiming August 29 the *World day of non-dissemination of weapons of mass destruction*.

3. We emphasize the importance of the recently adopted Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty signed by five Central Asian states: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. This is a truly historical document that has a strategic significance in nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. Signing and ratification of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty is an important decision in the field of strengthening international and regional security. We are calling other countries of the Asian continent to follow this example in the sphere of disarmament and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, and appealing to the world nuclear powers to sign the Protocol on Negative Security Assurances provided to the zone member-states which is an integral part of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty. A world, including all regions, without nuclear weapons should be ultimate objective.

4. The current risks and threats are mostly of a transnational character and, therefore, require consolidated efforts to overcome them. We support active participation in the international movement aimed at fighting against terrorism, illegal arms traffic, all kinds extremism and drug traffic, as well as racism, intolerance and discrimination.

5. The Asian political parties regard it as their historical mission to adequately respond to challenges and threats facing the states of the Asian continent in the modern world. Our joint significant contribution to the development of a large-scale international strategy of strengthening regional security might be the creation of a Charter of peace and stability in renovated Asia aimed at facilitating cooperation of countries and nations of our vast region in the face of new challenges and threats. In fact, this will be the Strategy of Asian renovation. This idea of unification complies with the interests of all the nations of the Asian continent, facilitates economic and political cooperation and inter-party dialogue. General Assembly welcomed the peaceful dialogue between Indian and Pakistan parties.

6. We are convinced that interaction and confidence-building measures in politics and ensuring of regional security are to be supported by interaction and confidence-building measures in the financial sphere. The Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) singed by twenty Asian states representing 90 per cent of the Asian continent is a good start for the activities of the Asian twenty states, A-20. Political parties in Asia highly appreciate the role of CICA and would like to make unremitting efforts to promote cooperation among Asian countries.

7. We call for a new global monetary mechanism which will enable us to closely monitor the global financial activities and prevent, or properly prepare for, forthcoming risks and challenges. We also call for specific measures to be taken by leading economies of the world to establish transparent international rules of macroeconomic and financial discipline, adopt new standards for the budgetary policy, and reduce speculative transactions in the global financial market. In this regard, we note with great interest the initiative taken by Kazakhstan to restructure the world financial system.

8. We support the efforts by the international community, particularly the United Nations, to address the challenges caused by climate change and arrest the emission of carbon dioxide, and call upon all political parties in Asia to urge their governments and parliaments to undertake massive reforestation and tree planting projects as a

way of contribution in the battle to fight environmental degradation and also as a part of economic stimulus packages to overcome the current global recession

9. We all agree with the opinion that a new, more flexible and mobile structure of international relations is being established. An increasing importance is attached to regional integration associations that are turning into independent poles of the world politics. We support the efforts taken by various regional organizations and forums whose activities are aimed at establishing an Asian community, including the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Gulf Cooperation Council, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Shanghai Cooperation Organization, ASEAN Regional Forum, Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC), East Asia Summit, Organization of the Islamic Conference, Boao Forum, APA, ECO for Asia.

10. We welcome the chairmanship of Kazakhstan in OSCE in 2010 that represents the Asian sub-continent with predominantly Muslim population. We are convinced that it will facilitate the settlement of issues related to arms reduction, ensuring environmental safety, maintaining energy and food stability, as well as strengthening inter-ethnic, intercultural, and inter-confessional harmony. We believe that Kazakhstan's chairmanship in OSCE will contribute to the settlement of problems of the Asian region and enhancement of its cooperation with Europe, as well as joint settlement of Afghanistan's and Palestinian problems.

11. We are sure that the priority area of Asian renovation is integration in the industrial and innovation field. Cooperation in the innovation sphere is to be focused on consolidation of scientific and manufacturing resources, establishment of joint funds, and creation of the system of advanced technology exchange. We support joint involvement in large-scale high-technology projects in the field of information and communication, nuclear and nanotechnologies, power engineering and energy saving, biotechnologies and agricultural technologies. An important area is integration in the scientific and educational sphere. It is necessary to expand cooperation between universities and exchange of professors and students, organize joint scientific and educational research.

12. We are interested in attracting the attention of international financial institutions to the creation of transcontinental transport corridor between Europe and Asia as continuation of the Silk Road traditions. We are determined to turn the Silk Road which used to tie us in ancient times into a highway promoting more intense contacts with regions of the world.

13. We call for an integrated approach in utilizing water resources and maximizing its potential in our region. We agree that the efficient use of water resources is a prerequisite for self-sufficiency in food and energy in the region and call for intergovernmental collaboration. We also agree, in particular, to take urgent measures to prevent ecological crises in the basins of trans-boundary rivers to ensure safe use for water supply, irrigation and power generating. In this regard, we take a special note of the need for large-scale assistance of the international community to improve environment in the Aral Sea Basin.

14. Being aware of our citizens' right to work and better life, we recognize the necessity of free movement of human resources. We also recognize the need for taking joint efforts to reduce poverty and social inequality being objective prerequisites for mass and illegal citizens' migration.

15. We are firmly convinced that discrimination against women violates the principles of equal rights and respect of human dignity, and impedes women's participation in the political, social, economic, and cultural life in their countries, we are calling for elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

16. We support the fundamental regulations of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as other international acts aimed at combating the employment of children. We are calling for taking an immediate efficient action for prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including slavery and forced labor, traffic in children and recruitment for participation in armed conflicts, child prostitution and pornography, production and sale of drugs, as well as work that may damage children's health, safety or morality. We are for taking efficient measures to eliminate the worst forms of child labor and prevent its new forms. Such measures are to include children's rehabilitation and access to free education and medical care, social protection and cultural development.

17. We recognize the need for active work with young people since the process of Asian renovation cannot be implemented without extensive involvement of young generation. The Asian political parties are to work out their own youth policies as a strategy of competition for youth. It is necessary to create the appropriate conditions for young people to obtain positive social experience in such important spheres as education, public recognition, employment, family.

18. We are for spiritual renovation based on maintaining an efficient dialogue of cultures in the framework of various ethnic and confessional traditions and values. Ensuring religious harmony, peaceful coexistence of ethnic groups is an important priority of Asian renovation. We all agree on the opinion that inter-confessional and inter-ethnic harmony is the pillar stone of universal security, stability, and progressive economic and political development of countries. We welcome the decision taken at the 3rd Congress of World and Traditional Religions Leaders held on July 1-2, 2009 in Astana, and intend to take efforts to fully implement it. We support the idea of giving right and correct religious knowledge. We are appealing to all stakeholders to take the relevant measures to ensure comprehensive and universal celebration of the International year of cultural convergence in 2010.

19. We agree that the ICAPP has become the pivot of inter-party dialogue and cooperation in our region. We take note with pride and satisfaction that, in less than a decade since its inception in 2000, the ICAPP has expanded rapidly and emerged as a major factor on the Asian horizon building on its own success. We recognize that the ICAPP has made substantive progress in addressing various issues of the region, political, social and economic, through such programs and initiatives as General Assemblies, Standing Committee meetings, Special Workshops and Joint Sessions with other regional political institutions, including the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL). We believe that, through increased exchanges and interactions among political parties in the region, we can build an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding among all the peoples in Asia, promote democratic values and institutions throughout the region, and more effectively implement our mission of Asian renovation. In this regard, we support the joint initiative of the ICAPP and the COPPPAL to reach out to political parties in other regions of the world, especially in Africa. We can proudly state that the ICAPP has indeed become the political bridge between Asia and Latin America, and Asia and Africa.

20. We declare that the ICAPP is an open forum for all political parties in Asia which support close dialogue and cooperation to achieve our common goal of sustained peace and shared prosperity in the region. We hope that all the political parties in Asia will

join our Forum as full-fledged members or observers and further strengthen the ICAPP as a truly continent-wide inter-party institution to unite the whole region and create an environment where all people of the region flourish. We declare the ICAPP is open for all political parties committed to cooperation and common development that are eligible according to the ICAPP charter.

Finally, we express our most sincere gratitude to the President of Kazakhstan, Chairman of the People's Democratic Party "Nur Otan" H.E. Nursultan Nazarbaev for hosting this historic General Assembly of the ICAPP. We also thank the government and the people of Kazakhstan for their support and warm hospitality.

Adopted on September 26, 2009 in Astana City, Republic of Kazakhstan