(Draft) Istanbul Declaration of the 11th General Assembly of the ICAPP

As of 11 November 2022

1. We, the leaders and representatives from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, Palestine, Vietnam, and Yemen gathered here in Istanbul, the Republic of Türkiye, for the 11th General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP). The Assembly was hosted by the Justice and Development Party (*AK Parti*) of Türkiye from 17 to 20 November 2022 under the theme of "Role of Political Parties in Strengthening Dialogue for Global Peace, Prosperity, and Cooperation."

2. First of all, we reconfirmed our commitment to upholding the principles of the ICAPP enshrined in its Charter, i.e. mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence. We also reaffirmed our adherence to the declarations we had adopted at previous ICAPP General Assemblies held in Manila in 2000, Bangkok in 2002, Beijing in 2004, Seoul in 2006, Astana in 2009, Phnom Penh in 2010, Baku in 2012, Colombo in 2014, Kuala Lumpur in 2016 and Moscow in 2018.

3. We reaffirmed that political parties are endemic to democracy and the driving force to advance democratic values. They are indeed an important unifying factor in any country's social cohesion and awareness growth, as they represent peoples of different hues, classes and backgrounds on a common platform. Strengthening of political parties thus means stronger and sturdier societies, knit together by a shared vision for a better tomorrow. In this regard, we stressed that it is essential for political parties to remain open, accessible, inclusive, efficient, connected with and responsive to the people they represent, and vigilant against corruption and injustice in their societies. We also emphasized that the political parties should ensure the rights and voices of all people, the indigenous, local communities, migrants, women, and the young, to be considered and heard in the process of policy-making.

4. We noted with great satisfaction that the ICAPP is becoming a solid platform and a unique forum open to all political parties in our region across the ideological spectrum to bring out the best of Asia's unity in diversity with the vision of "building an Asian community" of peace, friendship, harmony, and co-prosperity. In particular, we reminded ourselves of this vision of an Asian community as our ultimate goal for common interest, destiny and responsibilities to strengthen cooperation among countries through expanded roles of political parties.

5. We also noted that the ICAPP has been a bridge for communication connecting political groups in Asia, Latin America, Africa, Europe, and North America. We renewed our pledge to continue such endeavors to promote cooperation with political parties in other regions and thus contribute to bringing about peace and stability on a global level through expanded dialogues and exchanges. In particular, we agreed to enhance cooperation with our inter-regional political partners such as the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin

America and the Caribbean (*COPPPAL*), the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP), and the major political groups in Europe.

Peace, Security and Stability

6. We observed that Asia and the world are at an inflection point in their history. Amidst talk of an "Asian Century," however, there are dark clouds of conflict posing a serious risk to regional and global peace and stability. We stressed the importance of avoiding bloc politics and emphasized cooperation over competition, as common challenges require a collective response. We also emphasized that meeting challenges of the 21st Century requires a conducive environment based on an unwavering commitment to peaceful coexistence, cooperation and economic and cultural connectivity, with dialogue and negotiations as the only way out for a solution to disputes.

7. In particular, we expressed our deep concern at the lingering and newly flaring up conflicts throughout our region and the world, and noted that the current territorial issues in some parts of the world pose serious potential threats to overall security to all members of the global community due to the ever-increasing interdependence and interconnectivity among the countries. In this regard, we are gravely concerned about the on-going war in Ukraine, especially its implication of enormous humanitarian catastrophe. We made it clear that we are against violence in all shapes and sizes, and urged all parties in regional and global flashpoints to lay down their weapons immediately and resume diplomatic efforts to resolve their differences peacefully, upholding international law~~s~~ and the Charter of the United Nations. We commend the work of the grain corridor on export of the Ukrainian grain via the Black Sea, brokered by Türkiye and the UN and support its ongoing implementation.

8. We stressed that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems is a threat to regional and global peace and security. We were concerned about the State-Parties' failure to adopt an outcome document at the 10th NPT Review Conference held in August this year, and particularly concerned by heightened nuclear rhetoric in recent months. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres correctly pointed out at the Review Conference, humanity is "just one misunderstanding, one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation."

9. We noted with concern that our region is also faced with grave security threats such as terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, human trafficking, environmental disasters, humanitarian catastrophe and challenges accrued from the misuse of new and emerging technologies like cyber technology and artificial intelligence for malign purposes. In particular, we recognized that the threat to cybersecurity poses serious obstacles to national and global cooperation, as it is an indispensable component of global communications, economic cooperation and trade.

10. We observed that, in modern days, crises are also coming in a multitude of forms, not just from geopolitical conflicts but also from climate change and public health emergencies. Rising prices of energy and food and disrupted global supply chains are also further aggravating global inequality, increasing the outflow of refugees and migrants, and intensifying fears of stagflation. We learned, through the last three years' siege under the COVID-19 pandemic, that the global crisis requires a global response. In this regard, we resolved that the

ICAPP, as a leading political platform in the region, should play a more pivotal role in making our region a safer and more secure place through closer and more frequent coordination and cooperation to ensure common and comprehensive strategy.

11. In this regard, we obligated ourselves to work closely with governments and parliaments in the region and also with other regional frameworks to consolidate various types of collective arrangements in our region, connecting all the sub-regional cooperation initiatives, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Asian Parliamentary Union (APU), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) and Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC).

Globalization, Climate Change, Pandemic, Trade and SDGs

12. We noted with concern that the global economy is experiencing a backlash against globalization. Grievances are mounting that the globalization is not creating fresh opportunities for hundreds of millions of people as preached, but rather widening the gap between richest and poorest countries and increasing inequality within many countries. This negative perception of globalization has been magnified during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, we agreed to the need for creative thinking about how to strengthen and reform the institutions, rules and customs by which nations and peoples manage the challenge of complementing the benefits of the global market with collective efforts.

13. We also noted that climate change is posing real and immediate threats to mankind. Enormous damage has been caused by extreme weather such as super-typhoons, wildfires, heat waves, flooding, drought, landslides, desertification and even rising sea-level, which are growing in frequency and intensity. The recent devastating floods in Pakistan of epic proportions are a poignant reminder that climate change is a living global threat to people's lives and livelihoods, through no fault of the victims. The issues of climate finance and climate justice are important in alleviating the hardships of people affected by climate change. In this regard, we revisited the statement adopted at the 2021 U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP26) and the ICAPP Special Workshop on Climate Change held in December 2021, which called for governments and parliaments in the region to take bolder actions for a clearer and more ambitious policy framework to achieve the net zero emission target by 2050.

14. We recognized that COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the urgency of regional and global cooperation in the public health sector, especially on the fair and equal access to vaccines and medical supplies. We learned a precious lesson that no nation is safe until every nation is safe, and emphasized the need to build an effective regional or global network to ensure equitable distribution of vaccines and medical supplies to be more resistant to the future global health crisis. We also reaffirmed our determination to help design and implement national and regional strategies for fast and resilient post-pandemic economic recovery based

on solidarity and partnership, especially in the fields of tourism and human mobility which have been hit the hardest.

15. Against this backdrop, we confirmed that despite the global economic tumult, multilateral trading mechanisms should be preserved and strengthened to ensure a fair, predictable, and stable trade environment. We stressed the need to support the norms and practices that guard against protectionism. We stood united in our conviction that regional economic integration would also lead to greater peace and stability for the people in the region. In this vein, we welcomed the launching of the ICAPP Business Council (IBC) as a new affiliated body of the ICAPP. We expected that the IBC would contribute to promoting regional integration by creating and expanding intra-regional and inter-regional networks of business communities in our region and beyond.

16. We also renewed our commitment to supporting the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that by 2030 all people in the world enjoy peace and prosperity. We reminded ourselves that all countries have committed to prioritize progress for those who are furthest behind and to end hunger, AIDs and discrimination against women and girls. In this regard, we agreed that the creativity, knowhow, technology and financial resources from all of society are necessary to achieve the SDGs in every context.

Women, Youth, and Migrants and Refugees

17. We emphasized that much more social protection for the socially underprivileged would be needed in times of crisis than in usual times. We should ensure that women participate in a meaningful way and gender perspectives are included in the process of decision-making and policy designing. We need to upgrade our efforts to eliminate the structural barriers that prevent equal participation of women and girls to social, political and economic life. In this context, we recalled that, at the Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Women's Wing on "Women's Empowerment During and After COVID-19" held in February 2021, we called upon members to adopt gender-responsive policies and programs so that the economic stability of women be ensured through equal opportunities to access to education, work, financial assistance, and social protection mechanisms. We also noted with deep concern the immense hardship on health and safety which women and girls were facing in regions under war.

18. We recognized the need to expand the participation of young people in addressing the issues which they face in our societies. We stressed the importance of partnership with young politicians who had much potential to contribute to designing inclusive and efficient policies to address challenges such as disrupted access to education and employment of young people. In this context, we recalled the statement from the Special Conference of the ICAPP Youth Wing on "Education and Social Protection Mechanisms for Youth During and After COVID-19" held in February 2021, which called for the whole-of-society and intergenerational approaches to prevent a long-lasting and damaging impact of the pandemic on youth.

19. We noted the vulnerable situations faced by labor migrants, particularly in the aftermath of the pandemic which had caused serious disruptions in the flow of regular migration, as well as of refugees. We affirmed the need to put human rights protection at the

core of migration laws, policies, and practices and provide assistance and psychological support for forcibly displaced persons and migrants. We recognized that eliminating the root causes of migration at source countries is the best and the most sustainable solution for this phenomenon. We also recognized the need to ease the pressures on host countries of refugees through tangible support and fair burden sharing from the international community as a whole.

We reaffirmed our collective responsibility to preserve the lives of all migrants and take action to prevent loss of migrant lives and, in this context, express deep concern the inhumane treatment against migrants by some states on land and at sea.

Cooperation with the United Nations

20. We reaffirmed that, in our efforts to strengthen dialogue for global peace, prosperity, and cooperation, it is crucial to maintain and strengthen close cooperation with the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies. We agreed to continue to synchronize our activities with the United Nations' agenda and initiatives, including the SDGs, through close coordination with the U.N. Women, the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Labour Organization (ILO), World Health Organization (WHO), and other agencies. In this regard, we confirmed our continued efforts to make ICAPP an observer at the U.N. General Assembly at an early date to facilitate our communication and cooperation with the U.N.

Appreciation to the Host

21. Finally, we expressed our profound gratitude to the people and the government of Türkiye for their warm hospitality. We also thanked our host, the Justice and Development Party (*AK Parti*), for its excellent arrangements that led to the successful convocation of the 11th General Assembly of the ICAPP. Our Special thanks went to H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Chairperson of the *AK Parti* and President of Türkiye, for his initiative and support for this successful gathering.

Adopted unanimously on this 19th day of November 2022 in Istanbul, the Republic of Türkiye.

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