# Concept Paper

## Background

At the 33rd 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"), held in Terengganu, Malaysia, on December 13, 2019, the representative of the Mongolian People's Party (MPP) offered to host the 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and the 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on behalf of Hon. Amarbayasgalan Dashzegve, Secretary-General of the MPP.

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the meetings had to be postponed twice. Given the precarious social and economic challenges faced by youth and women during the pandemic, in February 2021, the ICAPP organized a Special Video Conferences on "Education and Social Protection Mechanisms for Youth During and After COVID-19," and on "Women's Empowerment During and After COVID-19."

At the 35th and 36th SC online meetings on April 21st and September 3rd of 2021, the MPP confirmed its offer to host the meetings. At the 37th and 38th SC Meetings held on June 11th, 2022 in Prague, Czech Republic and on November 17th, 2022 in Istanbul, Türkiye respectively, the MPP reaffirmed their offer to host the two meetings in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in August 2023.

On January 20th 2023, Secretary-General of the MPP Hon. Amarbayasgalan Dashzegve on behalf of MPP sent a confirmation letter to Hon. Chung Eui-Young, Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, to host the 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and the 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia during August 4-7, 2023.

The previous five in-person meetings of the ICAPP Youth Wing have been held in Kuala Lumpur (2012), Baku (2013 & 2019), Colombo (2014), and Moscow (2018). In addition, the previous six in-person meetings of the ICAPP Women's Wing have been held in Baku (2013, 2015 & 2019), Colombo (2014), , Kuala Lumpur (2016), and Moscow (2018)

## Objectives

The International Labour Organization (ILO), in its Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022, stated that young people had been disproportionately affected by the economic and employment consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the recovery pace of youth labor market in general is falling behind compared to the labor market for older workers. The report further pointed out that the difficulties faced by young people had recently been compounded by a surge in inflation and less favorable financing conditions. The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) emphasized in December 2020 that young people were less at risk of severe complications from COVID-19 but would be the most affected by the long-term consequences of the pandemic.

Thus, there should be policies to ensure that the youth's voices are included in the process of updating labor legislation and that their basic human rights and social protection are secured.

As the Member States of the U.N. committed to in 1995 through the U.N. General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/50/81) for the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), "The capacity for progress of our societies is based, among other elements, on their capacity to incorporate the contribution and responsibility of youth in the building and designing of the future" (Para. 104).

The pandemic has resulted in major ramifications on women as well. The OECD Policy Response to Coronavirus published in December 2021 pointed out that the recession shadowing the COVID-19 pandemic had been frequently and simplistically labeled as "*shecession*," implying disproportionate negative effects on women. The UN Development Programme in July 2021 reported that COVID-19's effects were not gender-neutral as women had a limited decision-making role in health-related policy-making process. The Report warned that leaving women out of decision-making process in critical times threatens the inclusivity and smooth recovery from the pandemic.

Furthermore, women are notably under-represented in the public sphere. According to the Gender Snapshot 2022 published by UN Women, the world is far behind on achieving gender equality by 2030. Among other things, women's representation in the positions of power and decision-making remained below parity. Globally, women make up 46% of the public sector workforce but remained chronically underrepresented. Similarly, political institutions are far from achieving gender parity, particularly at the highest levels of executive and legislative power. According to the latest available data, women comprise just 26.4% of parliamentarians globally and 34.3% of local government representatives. Disproportionately small representation of women in leadership positions increases the risk of overlooking the specific needs of women. Thus, to achieve a gender-responsive post-pandemic recovery, efforts to establish an inclusive environment that supports the active political participation of women are critical.

To tackle these issues, the 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and the 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing will be held under the following topics:

6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing:
*"Engaging Young People in Social and Political Dialogue for Post-Pandemic Socio-Economic Progress"*

7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing:
*"Promoting Women's Leadership to Achieve a Gender-Responsive Post-Pandemic Recovery"*

The "Ulaanbaatar Statement" for the 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and the "Ulaanbaatar Statement" for the 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing that reflect the key outcomes of the meetings will be adopted at the closing sessions of each meeting.