Draft Conclusions of the 39th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties
(Busan, Republic of Korea, May 1, 2023)

The 39th 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") took place at the Capri Room of the Paradise Hotel Busan from 20:30 to 21:30 on May 1, 2023, on the eve of the 1st Meeting of the ICAPP Business Council (hereinafter referred to as "the IBC"), which was held in Busan, Republic of Korea between April 30 – May 3, 2023.

The list of participants and the annotated agenda of the Meeting are attached as ***Appendixes I and II.***

The Meeting was co-chaired by Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Chairperson of the ICAPP SC, and Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Co-Chairperson and Special Rapporteur of the ICAPP SC.

I. Statements Issued by the ICAPP Standing Committee (SC)

Passing Away of Hon. Prof. Hassan Ghafourifard

The SC Members had a moment of silence for the late Hon. Prof. Hassan Ghafourifard, Member of the ICAPP SC, Member of the Central Committee of Islamic *Motalefeh* Party of Iran, former Member of Parliament, former Vice President and Head of Physical Education Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who passed away in Teheran on Thursday, March 9, 2023. The SC Members expressed their respect to the late Hon. Prof. Hassan Ghafourifard, who not only believed in the causes of the ICAPP from the very beginning, but also further promoted and expanded the ICAPP activities.

In this regard, as was informed by the ICAPP Update 23-17 of March 10, 2023, a statement was issued by Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Chairperson of the ICAPP SC, and Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP SC, on behalf of the SC Members, expressing great sorrow on the news of the passing-away of Hon. Prof. Hassan Ghafouridard and recalling his unwavering devotion to his nation, and the tremendous contributions to the ICAPP as one of the SC Members. The statement on the passing away of Hon. Prof. Hassan Ghafourifard is attached as ***Appendix III-1.***

Statement of the ICAPP SC on the Terrorist Bombing in Peshawar

As was informed by the ICAPP Update 23-06 of February 1, 2023, the SC Members issued a statement regarding the brutal terrorist attack against the civilians in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar on January 30, 2023. The SC Members expressed their solidarity with the people and the government of Pakistan, and strongly condemned the entities and individuals who were involved with this unforgivable crime. The statement on the terrorist bombing in Peshawar is attached as ***Appendix III-2.***

Statement of the ICAPP SC on the Earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria

As was informed by the ICAPP Update 23-07 of February 9, 2023, the SC Members issued a statement regarding the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria on February 6, 2023. The SC Members expressed deep sympathy and condolences to the people and governments of Türkiye and Syria regarding the tremendous pain caused by the disaster, and urged the international community to demonstrate solidarity and provide assistance to the two countries in their hour of dire need. Hon. Efkan Ala, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP SC, Deputy Chairperson of *AK Parti* and Chairperson of Foreign Affairs, and Member of Parliament for Bursa of Türkiye, sent a letter of gratitude to the SC Members regarding the statement, which was circulated through the ICAPP Update 23-11 of February 23, 2023. The statement on the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria and the letter from Hon. Efkan Ala are attached as ***Appendixes III-3 and III-4.***

II. Issues Relating to the ICAPP Standing Committee

New Members of the SC

The SC Members welcomed the two new SC Members as follows:

- Hon. Erdenesuvd Derem, Secretary-General of the Democratic Party of Mongolia, appointed as the representative of the Democratic Party of Mongolia in the ICAPP SC, as was informed by the ICAPP Update 22-29 of December 16, 2022.
- Hon. Daulet Karibek, Secretary of the *Amanat* Party, appointed as the representative of the *Amanat* (Commitment) Party of Kazakhstan in the ICAPP SC, as was informed by the ICAPP Update 23-26 of April 26, 2023.

The updated list of SC Members is attached as ***Appendix IV.***

Appointment of the New Secretary-General

The SC Members welcomed the newly appointed Secretary-General of the ICAPP, Hon. Ahn Myung-soo, former Ambassador to Turkmenistan and Consul-General in Houston of the Republic of Korea. Hon. Ahn Myung-soo stated that he was glad to join the ICAPP and would do his best to provide support and assistance to the ICAPP activities.

As was informed by the ICAPP Update 23-14 of March 2, 2023, Hon. Ahn Myung-soo was appointed as the new Secretary-General of the ICAPP with the consent of the SC Members as of March 1, 2023. In accordance with Para 1, Article 13 of the ICAPP Charter, the appointment of the new Secretary-General shall be subject to confirmation at the 12th General Assembly to be held in 2024. Hon. Ahn Myung-soo would be in charge of the general management of the ICAPP Secretariat.

Future Meetings of the SC

Hon. Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Member of the ICAPP SC representing the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-UML), reconfirmed the Party's offer to host the 40th SC Meeting in Kathmandu,

Nepal, back-to-back with the 5th Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) during October 13-16, 2023. The SC Members welcomed the offer with appreciation.

At the 37th SC Meeting in Prague on June 11, 2022, Hon. Dr. Rajan Bhattarai proposed to host the 40th SC Meeting, back-to-back with the 5th Meeting of the AEPF, in Kathmandu, Nepal in October 2023, which was endorsed by the SC Members.

Future Meetings of the General Assembly

Hon. Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women's Affairs, Member of Central Committee of Cambodian People's Party (CPP), attending on behalf of Hon. Khuon Sudary, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP SC, Member of the Standing Committee of the CPP and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Kingdom of Cambodia, reconfirmed the CPP's offer to host the 12th General Assembly (GA) in conjunction with the 3rd Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) and the 42nd SC Meeting, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in November 2024. Hon. Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi stated that the CPP would inform the SC Members of the exact dates of the 12th GA after the general election on July 23, 2023. At the 37th SC Meeting in Prague on June 11, 2022, Hon. Suos Yara, Chairman of the Commission of Foreign Affairs, Vice-Chairman of External Relations Commission of CPP, attending on behalf of Hon. Khuon Sudary, Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP SC, had proposed to host the 12th GA in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in November 2024.

Hon. Cho Jeong-sik, Member of the ICAPP SC and Member of the National Assembly representing the *Minjoo* (Democratic) Party and Hon. Ha Tae-keung, Member of the ICAPP SC and Member of the National Assembly representing the People Power Party of the Republic of Korea, reconfirmed their offer to co-host the 13th GA in Seoul, Republic of Korea, during the second half of 2026. At the 37th SC Meeting in Prague on June 11, 2022, Hon. Cho Jeong-sik, ICAPP SC Member representing the *Minjoo* (Democratic) Party and Hon. Ha Tae-keung, Member of the ICAPP SC representing the People Power Party of the Republic of Korea, had proposed to co-host the 13th GA during the second half of 2026 in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

III. Review of the ICAPP Activities Since the 38th SC Meeting

11th General Assembly

The SC Members expressed their deepest appreciation and gratitude to the *AK Parti* of Türkiye for their warm hospitality and the excellent organization of the 11th GA held in Istanbul, between November 17-20, 2022. Hon. Afif Demirkıran, Deputy Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Department of *AK Parti,* attending on behalf of Hon. Efkan Ala, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP SC, Deputy Chairperson of *AK Parti* of the Republic of Türkiye, appreciated the SC Members for their substantial support for the success of the 11th GA.

Special Conference on "Security and Cooperation"

The ICAPP Special Conference on "Security and Cooperation: Role of Political Parties" was held in Baku, Azerbaijan during November 20-22, 2023 under the auspice of New Azerbaijan Party. The Special conference was attended by representatives of 20 political parties and special participants. The opening session of the conference was furnished with the letter from H.E.

Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan, which was read by Hon. Adalat Valiyev, Head of the Department for Relations with Political Parties and Legislative Authority of the Administration of the President of Azerbaijan. The Baku Statement was adopted at the closing session of the conference.

The program, list of participants, and the Baku Statement of the Special Conference are attached as ***Appendixes V-1, V-2, and V-3.***

IV. ICAPP Work Programs for 2023

1st Meeting of the ICAPP Business Council

Hon. Ahn Myung-soo, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, reported to the SC Members the current state of preparations of the 1st Meeting of the ICAPP Business Council (IBC) to be held in Busan, Republic of Korea during May 1-3, 2023. Hon. Ahn Myung-soo stated that, as was informed by the ICAPP Update 23-24 of April 19, 2023, 28 business leaders from 12 countries had been nominated by the SC Members to participate in the activities of the IBC.

The Secretary General reported that, as was informed by the ICAPP Update 23-02 of January 16, 2023, in accordance with the co-hosts' suggestion to pay closer attention to hydrogen's potential as clean, secure and affordable energy in the future, representatives from selected hydrogen-related corporations in Asia were invited to the 1st Meeting of the IBC, in addition to the political parties, observers, and other business leaders recommended by the SC Members. In this regard, as of May 1, 2023, 17 business leaders and their accompanying delegates, 19 business representatives of hydrogen-related corporations, and 13 representatives of the Busan Chamber and Commerce and Industry (CCI) have registered to participate in the 1st Meeting of the IBC, together with 19 Members of the ICAPP SC, 21 special participants, and 4 observers to the SC Meeting.

The SC Members reviewed the draft Busan Statement and agreed that it had well reflected the theme and the topics of the 1st Meeting of the IBC. The SC Members further agreed to include a sentence in the draft Busan Statement to express general support for the Busan Metropolitan City's bid for the World EXPO 2030 under the theme of "Transforming Our World, Navigating Toward a Better Future."

The program, list of participants, conference procedures, list of business leaders nominated by SC Members, and the final text of the Busan Statement adopted on May 2, 2023 are attached as ***Appendixes VI-1, VI-2, VI-3, VI-4 and VI-5.***

6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing

Hon. Tselmuun Manlaijav, Member of the ICAPP SC, and Head of the Foreign Relations Department of the Mongolian People's Party (MPP) of Mongolia, reaffirmed the MPP's offer to host the 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and the 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing during August 4-7, 2023.

Hon. Tselmuun Manlaijav stated that the MPP invited additional observers to the two meetings, including the Social Democratic Party (SPD) of Germany, the Labour Party of the United

Kingdom, and the Secretary-General of the Socialist International (SI), who all agreed to participate.

The SC Members welcomed the MPP's offer and the preparation progress made on the two meetings with appreciation.

As was informed by the ICAPP Update 23-04 of January 25, 2023, the MPP confirmed that the 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and the 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing would be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from Friday, August 4 to Monday, August 7, 2023, through a letter from Hon. Amarbayasgalan Dashzegve, MPP Secretary-General, dated January 20, 2023, which is attached as ***Appendix VII.***

5th Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum

Hon. Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Member of the ICAPP SC representing the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-UML) and Co-Chairperson of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF), reconfirmed the Party's offer to host the 5th Meeting of the AEPF in Kathmandu, Nepal during October 13-16, 2023, back-to-back with the 40th SC Meeting. At the 37th SC Meeting, held in Prague on June 11, 2022, Hon. Dr. Rajan Bhattarai had proposed to host the 5th Meeting of the AEPF back-to-back with the 40th SC Meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal in October 2023.

Regarding the theme of the 5th Meeting of the AEPF, Hon. Dr. Rajan Bhattarai stated that while he was open to other suggestions, he would like to propose "financial difficulties" as one of the possible themes.

Some SC Members suggested that the topic of "financial difficulties" be approached together with the related issues of climate change and the post-pandemic recovery. They stated that these three topics were not only borderless and inter-related but also inter-dependent, which would allow the participants to deal with the three topics together in a larger perspective.

V. Future Work Programs for ICAPP

6th Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum

Hon. Jan Zahradil, Co-Chairperson of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF), Member of the European Parliament, Bureau Member of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) of Czech Republic, proposed that the 6th Meeting of the AEPF, which would be held in Europe in rotation after the 5th Meeting of the AEPF in Kathmandu, Nepal, be held in Brussels, Belgium in 2024. Hon. Jan Zahradil proposed Brussels as the venue for the 6th Meeting of the AEPF, as the city is the *de facto* capital of the European Union, where all its relevant institutions were located, including the European Parliament and the European Commission. Hon. Jan Zahradil stated that the meeting in Brussels would enable the ICAPP to invite participants and speakers of high-level representatives of various groups of political parties represented in the European Parliament. The SC Members welcomed the offer and agreed that the Meeting in Brussels would provide an opportunity for more representatives of political party groups in the European Parliament to participate and discuss various ways to promote cooperation among the political parties in Asia and Europe.

Hon. Jan Zahradil suggested early April, 2024 for the 6th AEPF Meeting, saying that it would be prior to the campaign for the election of the European Parliament scheduled in late May 2024. Hon. Jan Zahradil also stated that the 41st SC Meeting could be held back-to-back with the 6th Meeting of the AEPF in Brussels in April 2024. In this regard, SC Members from the Republic of Korea said that the suggested time for the meeting would not be appropriate for their delegation because of the scheduled general elections in mid-April. It was agreed that the exact dates for the 6th AEPF would be decided after further consultation between the ICAPP Secretariat and the ECR Secretariat.

The SC Members appreciated the efforts and achievements made by the ECR Group to advance the political dialogue between Asia and Europe. They also expressed their hope to have a wider participation from the political party groups in the European Parliament in the future AEPF meetings. In this regard, they requested both the ICAPP Secretariat and the ECR Secretariat to coordinate to invite various political party groups in the European Parliament to participate in the 5th Meeting of the AEPF to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal as well.

Proposal for ICAPP Special Conference or Workshop

The ICAPP Special Conferences have been held on specific topics since 2008. In light of the fact that climate change remains to be the most serious global challenge despite enormous efforts on the national, regional and global levels, some SC Members have proposed to hold another ICAPP Special Conference or a smaller-scale workshop on the topic of climate challenges in the near future, even before the end of 2023.

In this regard, the SC Members were reminded that the latest ICAPP deliberation on the topic was conducted at a virtual Special Workshop on Climate Change on December 8, 2021, which adopted the Statement of the Special Workshop on Climate Change, which is attached as ***Appendix VIII.***

Regarding the proposal, some SC Members stated that the topic on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) would be more inclusive and relative. Other SC Members suggested that future special conferences should be more focused on guiding people's behavior in an environmentally responsive way instead of the climate change itself.

In addition, some SC Members suggested to consider "ICAPP's role in Post-COVID era" as another topic for future ICAPP special conferences or workshops. They pointed out that the global public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 virus had left an unprecedented impact. It had not only raised the alarm as to the global public health risks around the world, but also exposed the vulnerabilities in the socioeconomic structures in our societies and the loopholes of globalization which has worsened the polarization not only within but also among the countries. It was also noted that as an extension to the ICAPP's previous discussions on COVID-19 and the dialogue on enhancing economic security to weather the unpredictable risks in the post-pandemic era, as well as in pursuance of our efforts to devise a collective response to global challenges, the economic and social challenges facing Asia in the wake of COVID-19 and the ICAPP's role in addressing them could be a topic for the ICAPP to keep in mind for its future activities.

Due to the lack of consensus, the SC Members agreed to continue consultations on the possibility of holding an ICAPP Special Conference or a smaller-scale Workshop in the near future.

VI. Other Issues

Cooperation with Council of African Political Parties (CAPP)

At the 38th SC Meeting held in Istanbul, Türkiye on November 17, 2022, the SC Members had acknowledged the difficulties that the CAPP Secretariat was facing to properly function as a communication hub for political parties in Africa due to the political instability in Sudan. Under the circumstances, the SC Members had recognized the need to reach out to political parties in Africa directly rather than to do so through the CAPP Secretariat.

In this regard, the SC Members agreed to assist the ICAPP Secretariat in the efforts to expand contacts with the political parties in Africa and upgrade the cooperation between political parties in Asia and Africa by making use of the extensive networks of their respective parties, instead of solely relying on the CAPP Secretariat based in Khartoum, Sudan.

Appendixes:

I. List of Participants in the 39th SC Meeting
II. Annotated Agenda for the 39th SC Meeting
III. Statements Issued by the ICAPP SC
1. *Condolence Statement on the Passing Away of Hon. Prof. Hassan Ghafourifard*
2. *Statement of the ICAPP SC on the Terrorist Bombing in Peshawar*
3. *Statement of the ICAPP SC on the Earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria*
4. *Letter from Deputy Chairperson of* AK Parti *of Türkiye*

IV. Updated List of SC Members
V. Special Conference on "Security and Cooperation: Role of Political Parties"
1. *Program*
2. *List of Participants*
3. *Baku Statement*

VI. 1st Meeting of the IBC
1. *Program*
2. *List of Participants*
3. *Conference Procedures*
4. *List of Business Leaders Nominated by SC Members*
5. *Busan Statement*

VII. Letter from Secretary-General of the Mongolian People's Party
VIII. Statement of the Special Workshop on Climate Change