Annex I

Draft Explanatory Memorandum

I. Historical background

1. The International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) was launched by the leaders of 46 political parties of Asia in Manila in September 2000, to build bridges of political cooperation and to establish networks of mutual benefit among mainstream political parties in Asia, both ruling and in opposition. Over its first decade, the ICAPP has grown steadily in both membership and influence. As of the end of May 2011, the ICAPP's membership has reached more than 340 political parties in 53 states and 1 territory in Asia.

II. Objectives

2. Article 1 of the ICAPP Charter, adopted in September 2006 stipulates the objectives of the ICAPP as follows:

(a) To promote exchanges and cooperation between political parties with various ideologies in Asia;

(b) To enhance mutual understanding and trust among the peoples and countries in the region;

(c) To promote regional cooperation through the unique role and channel of political parties; and

(d) To create an environment for sustained peace and shared prosperity in the region.

III. Organizational structure

3. Article 2 of the ICAPP Charter stipulates that the ICAPP "shall be open to all political parties in Asia with democratically elected members in the parliaments of their respective countries, which are Member States of the United Nations." It was further agreed in November 2008 to apply in principle the following two criteria in determining eligibility of political parties in Asia to be invited to ICAPP activities:

(a) Political parties which have more than one percent of elected seats in their parliaments; or

(b) Political parties which have won more than one percent of popular votes in their latest parliamentary elections, as certified and recognized by their national election commissions.

According to the above criteria, there are 341 political parties in 53 states and 1 territory in Asia that are eligible to participate in ICAPP activities as of the end of May 2011.

4. According to Article 4 of the ICAPP Charter, a General Assembly is held once every two years on a rotational basis among its

members. In principle, it is held for three working days during the latter half of the year, and is composed of opening session, plenary session and thematic committee meetings, special workshops on specific topics as approved by the Standing Committee and closing session.

5. According to Articles 9 and 10 of the ICAPP Charter, a Standing Committee was established comprising the representatives of 18 members from an equal number of states. The Members of the Standing Committee serve for two years from the end of a General Assembly until the end of the following General Assembly. The Standing Committee makes decisions and lays out the procedures regarding the organization of the ICAPP meetings, including the General Assemblies and special conferences, as well as other issues regarding other ICAPP activities and programs.

6. The Permanent Secretariat of the ICAPP was established in Seoul, Republic of Korea in September 2009. In accordance with Article 12 of the ICAPP Charter, the Secretariat executes such functions, among others, as;

(a) To maintain and update the list of political parties and the official website;

(b) To provide necessary information and assistance to the ICAPP members; and

(c) To establish contacts and promote cooperation with other international or regional organizations.

IV. Financing

7. Article 8 of the ICAPP Charter stipulates that the political parties, hosting the General Assembly and other activities, shall bear the primary expenses of such events. The primary expenses include logistical arrangements for the General Assembly, i.e. conference facilities, domestic transportation, etc. It was further agreed in March 2009 that the budget and personnel to implement the functions of the ICAPP Secretariat shall be initially provided by the host state.

V. Activities

8. So far, six ICAPP General Assemblies have been held. The 1st GA was held in Manila in September 2000 with representatives of 46 political parties from 26 states, the 2nd GA in Bangkok in November 2002 with 77 parties from 35 states, the 3rd GA in Beijing in September 2004 with 81 parties from 35 states, the 4th GA in Seoul in September 2006 with 92 parties from 36 states, the 5th GA in Astana in September 2009 with 63 parties from 33 states, and the 6th GA in Phnom Penh in December 2010 with 90 parties from 36 states. These assemblies have brought together the Asian continent's most prominent political leaders to search for ways of co-existing in a more

peaceful, more democratic and more prosperous Asia.

9. The ICAPP Standing Committee has met at least twice a year since 2004. The ICAPP has also been annually organizing special conferences on key continental issues since May 2008, such as minimizing political corruption, strengthening legislative capacity of states, alleviating mass poverty and effectively handling natural disasters.

VI. Relations with other organizations

10. Recently, the ICAPP has been trying to reach out to other continents in the world. The first joint session was successfully held in Buenos Aires in July 2009 with the COPPPAL, the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean. After establishing fraternal linkages and cooperation with the COPPPAL, the ICAPP has been undertaking efforts to reach out to the political parties in Africa, in coordination with the COPPPAL, with a view to organizing the first trilateral meeting of political parties in Asia, Africa and Latin America in a near future.

VII. The character of the ICAPP

11. The following points should be well taken into consideration with regard to the legal status of the ICAPP:

(a) The ICAPP is unique in nature in that it is open to all political parties regardless of their political orientation;

(b) The political parties participating in ICAPP activities are either responsible for forming the governments in their respective states and making most of their policies, or eligible to become to form future governments depending on the results of elections;

(c) The ICAPP has also been channeling to the U.N. system the results of their political debates at all levels, i.e. local, national and continental, like submitting "the Kunming Declaration on Poverty Alleviation," which had been adopted at the Special ICAPP Conference in July 2010, in time for the U.N. MDG Summit held two months later; and

(d) In addition, in recent years, the ICAPP has been in close cooperation with political parties in other continents, in particular Latin America and Africa, with a view to form a global forum of political parties.

VIII. Reasons for seeking observer status in the U.N. General Assembly

12. From its inception, the ICAPP has been a staunch supporter of the United Nations and its activities. The first paragraph of the Preamble of the ICAPP Charter declares ICAPP's unequivocal commitment to the principles and objectives of the U.N. Charter. Representatives of the political parties that took part in ICAPP's 6th

General Assembly in December 2010 unanimously adopted a declaration that endorsed ICAPP's bid for observer status in the U.N. General Assembly.

13. The ICAPP will play a key and continuing role not only in Asia's inevitable movement to build an Asian community, but also in the global quest for a more peaceful and prosperous world. The ICAPP can also play a major role in forging cooperation between the United Nations and the political parties not only of Asia but also of other continents in the world in the following areas:

(a) Aggregating and channeling to the U.N. system the views of peoples in all their diversity, as expressed in political debates and discussions at all dimensions, local, national and continental;

(b) Promoting ordinary people's awareness, approval and support of international agreements reached at the United Nations and through U.N. programs;

(c) Building international consensus on U.N. action to meet key global challenges; and

(d) Providing support for political parties in the emerging democracies to increase their capacity in carrying out at local and national levels their lawmaking and oversight functions on matters subject to international cooperation at the United Nations.

14. In addition, the U.N. Secretary General has been sending his messages to all major programs of the ICAPP since 2009, including the 5th and 6th General Assemblies of the ICAPP and has provided valuable contributions and guidance to deliberations of the main themes of the conferences.

More detailed information on the ICAPP can be found on its website at www.theicapp.org.

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Officers of the ICAPP

Mr. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the ICAPP, and Former Speaker of the House of Representatives and Co-Founder of the LAKAS-CMD Party, Philippines,

Mr. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee and Secretary General of the ICAPP, and Former Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee of the Democratic Party, Republic of Korea,

Mr. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Special Rapporteur of the Standing Committee of the ICAPP, and Secretary General of Pakistan Muslim League-Q, Pakistan

Members of the ICAPP Standing Committee

Mr. Shane L. Stone, Former Federal President of the Liberal party, Australia,
Mr. Ahamdov Ali Javad, Deputy Chairman and Executive Secretary of New Azerbaijan Party, Azerbaijan,
Mr. Salah Ali Abdulrahman, Chairman of the Advisory Body of Islamic National Menbar Society, Bahrain,
Mr. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister and Member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party, Cambodia,
Mr. Ai Ping, Vice Minister of the International Department, Central Committee of the Communist Party, China,
Mr. Karan Singh, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Indian National Congress, India,
Mr. Hossein Kashefi Vahdati, President of Iran Parties House, Iran,
Mr. Theo L. Sambuaga, Vice President of the GOLKAR Party, Indonesia,
Ms Chinami Nishimura, Member of the Diet and Director General of the Democratic Party, Japan,
Mr. Nurlan Nigmatulin, First Deputy Chairman of "Nur Otan" People's Democratic Party, Kazakhstan,
Mr. Hwang Jin-ha, Member of the National Assembly and Vice Chairman of the Policy Committee of the Grand National Party, Republic of Korea,
Mr. Dato Seri Shahidan bin Kassim, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister for the Northern Region Economic Growth, United Malay National Union, Malaysia,
Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Head of the International Department of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML), Nepal,
Mr. Konstantin Kosachev, Chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the State Duma and Deputy Secretary for International Policy and Interparty Relations of the Presidium of the General Council of the United Russia Party, Russia,
Mr. Abdulkadir Emin Onen, Member of the Parliament and Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Justice and Development Party, Turkey,
Mr. Vuong Thua Phong, Vice Chairman of the Commission for External Relations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, Vietnam