The 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum
(Seoul, Republic of Korea, November 18, 2023)

ICAPP/6MF/003

Draft Seoul Statement

We, representatives of eighteen political parties and journalists of twenty-one media outlets from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkiye and Vietnam, gathered in Seoul, Republic of Korea for the 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum which was held during November 17-19, 2023 under the theme of the "role of the media in building an Asian community and political democratization."

We reaffirmed our commitment to support, and create a conducive atmosphere, for the ICAPP's goal of building an Asian community through closer interface between the political parties participating in the ICAPP and the media in the region for wider and more proactive coverage of the ICAPP activities thereby promoting understanding and cooperation among the peoples in the region, as set out at the inaugural meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum in September 2015.

In this regard, we recognized the need to help promote ICAPP's efforts to bring our vast and diverse continent into a community where every member is welcomed and respected without any discrimination, and every citizen feels better and safer without any fear. To this end, we agreed to establish the ICAPP media network which will be open to all the political parties and the media outlets in the region. We also agreed to publish a quarterly newsletter, titled "ICAPP NEWS," which includes updates on ICAPP activities, special contributions on Asian Worldview and short uplifting news on Asian Century.

We recognized that democracy, which is the dominant form of government today, depends on independent and strong media. We also recognized the evolving role of the media in the face of changing social structure and political developments, from its basic role as provider of information and a watchdog of those in power, into a more pivotal and responsible role as mediator in the society by providing and disseminating accurate, fair and objective information.

In particular, in this era of digital transformation and with the rapid advancement of new technologies such as generative AI, we welcomed the United Nations' initiative to develop a Code of Conduct for information integrity to create a healthier and more inclusive digital space, combatting the spread of disinformation while upholding the principles of human rights, freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information.

We expressed our deepest gratitude to the ICAPP Secretariat and the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea for the excellent preparations of the meeting and the warm hospitality during our stay.

Adopted unanimously on this 18th day of November 2023 in Seoul, the Republic of Korea.