Congratulatory Remarks at the Opening Ceremony of the APPS 2025
by Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee,
and former Minister of the Republic of Korea
in Accra, Ghana on August 12, 2025

Your Excellency President John Dramani Mahama of the Republic of Ghana,

Excellencies and Distinguished Leaders of Political Parties in Africa,

It is a profound honor to address this historic gathering of political party leaders from across the African continent, on the occasion of the formal launch of the APPI, African Political Parties Initiative.

At the outset, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all participants on the successful launching of the APPI on behalf of the ICAPP, International Conference of Asian Political Parties.

I would also like to pay tribute to the visionary leadership of President John Dramani Mahama. His foresight in launching this initiative demonstrates a deep commitment to enhancing cooperation among African political parties and advancing democratic governance and economic progress across the continent.

Excellencies,

You have come together here today to chart a new course of cross-party collaboration in pursuit of peace, democracy, and prosperity in Africa. As a representative of the ICAPP, I can assure you that we firmly believe this united engagement—across ideological and partisan lines—will significantly advance the goals of *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want*.

Africa, despite its proud and diverse cultural heritage, abundant natural resources, and extraordinary human capital, has long endured an unjust and difficult history. We stand in solidarity with Africa's aspiration to break free from that past and to harness its full potential for a brighter future.

With the right leadership and collective vision, that dream is not only possible—it is already beginning to take shape. The launch of the APPI today will undoubtedly inject new momentum into these efforts, helping translate aspirations into tangible achievements.

While Africa's promise is immense, the challenges it faces remain considerable. Among the most critical is the challenge of political governance. Yet, this is not a challenge unique to Africa. In Asia too, we face similar issues. In both continents, political parties must rise to the occasion and fully embrace their central role in fostering sustainable democratic governance. The political parties are not merely vehicles for electoral victory; they are the institutions through which public will is translated into public policy, accountability is maintained, and the next generation of leadership is nurtured.

Distinguished participants,

Today, I wish to share some reflections from our own journey in Asia and how we have worked to meet these challenges together.

Many political parties across our two continents still lack the institutional foundations necessary for inclusive and democratic decision-making. Financial constraints remain a persistent obstacle, often undermining fairness and transparency. Divisive forces such as ethnic, regional, or religious extremism can suppress issue-based politics, while political pluralism is not universally accepted in every society.

It is our strong belief that these challenges are best addressed not in isolation, but through dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and mutual cooperation across national boundaries. This is why ICAPP warmly welcomes the vision behind the APPI and wholeheartedly supports the direction of this Summit.

Since its founding in 2000, the ICAPP has sought to promote sustainable peace and shared prosperity in Asia through dialogue and cooperation among political parties of all ideologies. Today, we bring together over 330 political parties from 52 countries across Asia and Oceania. Over the last two decades, we have organized 12 General Assemblies and 43 Standing Committee meetings, and established key subsidiary bodies such as the Business Council, Cultural Council, Media Forum, Youth Wing, and Women's Wing which meet regularly.

We have also worked to build intercontinental bridges, establishing regular channels of dialogue with political parties beyond our region. Our longstanding partnership with the COPPPAL, Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as with the European Parliament, is testament to our commitment to global collaboration. Since 2009, ICAPP and COPPPAL have convened joint annual sessions, while the AEPF, Asia-Europe Political Forum — co-hosted with political groups in the European Parliament — has provided a vital platform for the exchange of ideas and the strengthening of democratic practices.

Distinguished participants,

Asia and Africa share much in common. We have both emerged from the shadows of colonialism, undertaken nation-building under trying circumstances, and continue to confront the pressing global challenges of our time — from climate change and economic inequality to the deepening of ideological divides. In our increasingly interconnected world, intercontinental cooperation is no longer a choice — it is a necessity.

I am confident that this Summit will provide an invaluable platform for exchanging diverse perspectives, building lasting partnerships, and crafting a shared vision for democratic progress across Africa. ICAPP stands ready to collaborate with African political parties to build bridges of trust, solidarity, and cooperation between our two dynamic regions.

In closing, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the Government of Ghana and the AGC, Africa Governance Center, for their hard work in making this event a resounding success. Thank you all for your kind attention.