12th General Assembly of the
International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP)
and the 3rd Asian Cultural Council
(Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, November 21-24, 2024)

ICAPP/3ACC/000

Phnom Penh Statement

We, the representatives of 49 political parties from 28 countries in the region gathered in Phnom Penh, Cambodia for the 3rd Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), held on November 23, 2024, on the sideline of the 12th General Assembly of the ICAPP, under the theme of "**Civilizational Connectivity, Intergenerational Solidarity, and Cultural Diversity for Promoting Peace and Reconciliation**."

We reaffirmed the values of the *Siem Reap Declaration for Culture of Peace, Sustainable Development, Human Connectivity, and Innovation,* adopted on January 15, 2019 and the *Phnom Penh Declaration on Cultural Cooperation and Innovation for Shared Prosperity during COVID-19 and Beyond,* adopted on March 19, 2021. We also acknowledged with gratitude the significant contributions of the ACC to promoting cultural exchanges among the countries in the region under the leadership of Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Honorary Founding Chairman of the ACC.

We reiterated the significance of global and regional cooperation in enhancing civilizational connectivity, inter-generational solidarity and cultural diversity, by transforming cultural assets into resources for peace and reconciliation, and through technological innovation for the greater good of mankind.

We supported UNESCO in its endeavours to encourage all stakeholders to adhere to their duty of ensuring the identification, protection, and conservation of their cultural and natural heritage for future generations, by upholding a culture of respect of civilizations as a compass for a humane future. In particular, we emphasized that the Silk Roads are millennia-old routes of exchanges of trade, culture, and religion, as well as dialogues and knowledge between the East and the West that have contributed greatly to the common prosperity of humankind. In this regard, we welcomed the conclusion and extension of the Cooperation Agreement between UNESCO and ICAPP.

We recognized the lack of intercultural understanding and interfaith dialogues as the root causes of extremism and other forms of conflicts, intolerance, discrimination, social tensions and political instability in recent years, and emphasized the importance of the multilateral framework as a mechanism to enhance cultural dialogues in promoting better understanding of civilizations.

We acknowledged that cultural policies have a great impact on creativity and a flow of ideas, and as such, encouraged members of the ACC to initiate and promote their respective cultural policies that are conducive to the enhancement and appreciation of civilizations in the form of a broader dissemination of diversified cultural and creative industries at the local, regional and global levels.

We emphasized the need to strengthen inter-generational solidarity by leveraging the full potential of all generations through a whole-of-society approach as a means to enhance social harmony and connectivity, and urged members of the ACC to help address stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination directed towards aging people so that they can reach their full potential and comprehensively contribute to their communities and nations.

We recognized that a culture of innovation is best understood as the adoption of novel solutions, practices and processes to address existing problems and emerging challenges, with the ultimate aim of securing peace and promoting sustainable development. In this regard, we stressed that digital technology and digitalization can contribute to promoting better appreciation of various civilizations as a foundation of a shared humanity.

We agreed that education can play a vital role in promoting civilizational connectivity, inter-generational solidarity and cultural diversity, and in helping younger generations better understand history that will lead to acceptance of cultural differences as the foundation for promoting peace and reconciliation among societies.

Last but not least, we recognized Cambodia's comprehensive development approach, namely TECHO (Technology and Thought, Education and Ecology, Culture and Community, Humanity and History, and Organic and Original) as well as its implementing mechanism, the 100 Model Villages Project as one of the most viable initiatives for preservation of cultural heritage.

We expressed our deepest gratitude to the Cambodian People's Party and the ICAPP Secretariat for the excellent preparations of the meeting and the warm hospitality during our stay.

Adopted unanimously on this 23rd day of November 2024 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.