



## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> ICAPP Workshop on Human Trafficking (Phnom Penh, Cambodia, April 28-30, 2015)**

**ICAPP/WW/2W/003**

### **Phnom Penh Statement on Human Trafficking**

We, the leaders and representatives of sixteen political parties of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, East Timor, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore and Turkey participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICAPP Workshop on Human Trafficking. The workshop was convened in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from April 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Representatives of fourteen institutions, including the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and other international, national and non-governmental organizations (NGO) with a strong interest in human trafficking also attended the workshop as special guests and observers.

The workshop was also held back-to-back with the Senior Officials Meeting and the Inter-Ministerial Meeting of the COMMIT, the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking, which was launched among the governments of Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam in 2004 to combat human trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. Two ministerial representatives of the COMMIT delivered keynote speeches at the 2<sup>nd</sup> plenary session of the workshop.

The workshop was conducted under three topics, which have previously been identified as the framework of our discussions at the 1<sup>st</sup> ICAPP Workshop on Human Trafficking in Kathmandu, Nepal, in January 2014: raising public awareness on the seriousness and urgency, mapping trans-border networks of cooperation, and establishing a fast-track punishment system.

We further recognized human trafficking as a heinous crime that deprives victims of their human rights and dignity, which nobody should be allowed to violate. We also shared a common understanding that every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, whether it is a country of origin, transit or destination, making human trafficking an issue that cannot be dealt with successfully by any government alone. We further recognized that it requires a region-wide and multi-stakeholder strategy that builds on national efforts. In this regard, we renewed the commitment we made last year to expand coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to deliver a comprehensive resolution to this trans-border challenge.

We condemned trafficking in persons, which remains to be one of the most lucrative forms of organized crime, forcing millions of innocent people to suffer from the vicious system of modern-day slavery. In this regard, we expressed our strong support for the worldwide ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 55/25 in 2000 to address the tremendous threat human trafficking posed, especially to people who are economically and socially in vulnerable positions. All governments in the region were also encouraged to ratify the U.N. protocols on human trafficking. In addition, we recommended that the domestic legal frameworks within countries be upgraded for more efficient monitoring and prevention of human trafficking.

We deliberated on measures to strengthen international cooperation, especially within the realms of our unique role as political parties in our respective countries, and urged all political parties in the region to pay closer attention to, and maintain special alertness on cases of human trafficking. We

also pledged to strengthen, and share information on the legislative activities of our respective parliaments for the development of more practical strategies to combat human trafficking.

We called for the establishment of active partnerships among governments, international organizations and civil societies to provide humanitarian, legal and financial assistance to the victims of human trafficking. In this regard, we appreciated contributions made by the representatives of international organizations, including the International Justice Mission, UNDP, UN OHCHR and UN Women, at the workshop.

We agreed to continue our deliberations on the following issues, amongst others, within the framework of the ICAPP Women's Wing:

- Effective data collection, research, and sharing of information, good practices and successful stories;
- Awareness-raising activities with the help of the business sector and the media;
- Empowerment of people, especially women and children, who are common targets of trafficking, through education and vocational training;
- Effective coordination mechanism among stakeholders to mobilize joint efforts;
- Promotion of gender equality and prevention of gender-based discrimination in labor markets;
- Provision of services, including recovery treatment, training and technical assistance, to help victims and survivors reintegrate into society;
- Promotion of legal migration of skilled workers across national borders; and
- Inclusion of more stringent punitive measures in anti-human trafficking laws.

We also expressed our deepest condolences and sympathy to the people of Nepal on the devastating earthquake, which occurred on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, taking away the lives of thousands of people, and resulting in enormous damages, including the demolition of many historic relics. We also wished that Nepal would recover soon from the devastation and rebuild itself in the near future. The international community was called upon to provide immediate assistance to Nepal for relief and reconstruction.

Finally, we expressed our gratitude to two leading political parties in Cambodia, i.e. the Cambodian People's Party and the *Funcinpec* Party, for co-hosting the workshop, and our appreciation to the ICAPP Women's Wing and the ICAPP Secretariat for the successful organization of the event. We also extended our appreciation to Samdech Techo Prime Minister HUN SEN as well as the Royal Government and the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia for their warm hospitality. Furthermore, we gave special thanks to the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (*TIKA*), and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (*KOICA*) for co-sponsoring the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICAPP Workshop on Human Trafficking.

Adopted in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015.