

# **I S T A N B U L   D E C L A R A T I O N**

**OF**

**THE SECOND CONGRESS**

**OF**

**THE ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS AND EQUIVALENT  
INSTITUTIONS**

**29 APRIL 2014, ISTANBUL, REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

1. We, the Presidents and Representatives of the members of the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions (AACC), held the Second Congress in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 28 and 29 April 2014 under four main themes of contemporary constitutional justice.
2. The Congress, realised with the participation of delegations from member and observer constitutional/supreme courts or institutions in addition to representatives of international organisations, provided us an exceptional opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience in respect of protection of fundamental and social rights by constitutional courts, the relations between the constitutional courts and parliaments, the methods of interpretation in constitutional justice, and the role of constitutional / supreme courts on protection of constitutional order.
3. In the light of our past experience and findings of the present Congress, we declare as follows:

- We confirm that constitutional adjudication and review systems, keeping the supremacy of the Constitution and constitutional values alive, have become indispensable tools for protection of fundamental rights and freedoms as well as the constitutional state order. Having witnessed the enormous developments in science and technology in the last century resulting in enlargement of the state structure, we believe that protection of the rights of individuals, socially disadvantaged and vulnerable groups should be given priority.
- Witnessing the turmoil, injustice and humiliation of human dignity throughout the world, we would like to remind that power's dominance may only be transitional, whereas the dominance of justice is eternal. Therefore, the state organs using public power should refrain from trespassing the limits of fundamental rights and freedoms.
- Recalling that during the Turkish Term Presidency, 3 new members and an observer Constitutional Court joined our Association and that "The First Summer School on constitutional adjudication" was realised successfully a new international cooperation tool, we invite sincerely the other constitutional and supreme courts in Asia to stand with us shoulder to shoulder in the AACC for protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.
- Appreciating the efforts of the Constitutional Court of Turkey for hosting the Second Congress of the AACC, we agree that the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Indonesia holds the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress within next two years.

Signed on 29 April 2014 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey by:

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Prof. Gulrahman Qazi  
President of the ICOIC of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

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Ms. Sona Salmanova  
Vice-President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan

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Dr. Hamdan Zoelva  
Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Indonesia

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Dr. Igor Rogov  
President of the Constitutional Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan

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Mr. Han-Chul Park  
President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Korea

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Mr. Tun Arifin Bin Zakaria  
Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Malaysia

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Mr. Jugnee Amarsanaa  
President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Mongolia

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Mr. Jawwad S. Khawaja  
Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan

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Prof. Gadis Gadzhiev  
Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation

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Mr. Abdulloev Abdullojon Abdurakhmanovich  
Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Tajikistan

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Mr. Charoon Intachan  
President of the Constitutional Court of the Kingdom of Thailand

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Mr. Haşim Kılıç  
President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Turkey

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Ms. Fatima Khusanova  
Judge of the Constitutional Court of Uzbekistan