



## **JOINT STATEMENT**

### **THE 1<sup>ST</sup> JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS AND EQUIVALENT INSTITUTIONS (AACC) AND THE CONFERENCE OF CONSTITUTIONAL JURISDICTIONS OF AFRICA (CCJA)**

**Bali, Indonesia October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

We, thirty-nine member jurisdictions of the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions (AACC) and the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of Africa (CCJA), gathered at the 1<sup>st</sup> AACC-CCJA Joint Conference under the theme of “Promoting Asian-African Cooperation for the Protection of People’s Fundamental Rights” on 4 October 2022 in Bali, Indonesia.

**RECALLING** the Memorandum of Understanding between the AACC and CCJA signed on 9 August 2017 in Surakarta, Indonesia;

**RECOGNIZING** the importance of promoting cooperation between the countries of Asia and Africa, based on respect for fundamental human rights, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter; as well as on the equality of all races and the equality of all nations, large and small, as enshrined in the Bandung Declaration in 1955;

**EXPRESSING** our support to citizens in Asian and African countries who seek constitutional justice through the Constitutional Courts or equivalent institutions;

**REITERATING** the importance of building shared understanding and enhancing cooperation between the two organizations in the spirit of advancing democracy and the rule of law, protecting the people’s (persons) fundamental rights, and ensuring the adherence to the constitution;

**APPRECIATING** the goodwill of members of the two organizations and their secretariats for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding through the organization and active participation in the 1<sup>st</sup> AACC-CCJA Joint Conference.

Hereby state the following:

1. The fulfilment of people’s fundamental rights is paramount, and the implementation of protective mechanisms has become a necessity. Hence, the establishment of constitutional courts or equivalent institutions bearing similar authorities is inevitable to protect the value of the constitution, which stipulates the basic rights of citizens.
2. The conference agreed that human rights are universal and also contextual and must be respected, promoted, protected, and fulfilled on the consideration of the culture of each country. The AACC and CCJA Joint Conference Forum is also expected to be a new avenue for collaborative cooperation among constitutional institutions, especially to contribute in finding potential solutions to overcome challenges.
3. The conference further agreed that the principle of equality of all races and nations large and small as prescribed by the Bandung Declaration is the core concept behind the idea of universal human rights which must be protected by constitutional courts and equivalent institutions to ensure a just political order at both national and international levels.
4. The Conference commended the Permanent Secretariat of the AACC for Planning and Coordination in Indonesia and the Permanent Secretariat of the CCJA in Algeria for the successful convening of the 1st AACC-CCJA Joint Conference on 4 October 2022 in Bali, Indonesia.
5. The Conference invites applications for the holding of the 2nd joint AACC-CCJA conference in 2025 in a member country of the CCJA.

Done at Bali, Indonesia on: October 4<sup>th</sup> 2022

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