

Dhaka Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Peace Conference

Dhaka, 04-05 June 2011

1. The Asia-Pacific Peace Conference organized by Bangladesh Peace Council was held in Dhaka on 04-05 June, 2011. Delegate from Australia, Vietnam, India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, World Peace Council President from Brazil and Executive Secretary from Greece and Bangladesh attended the Conference. CPAPD of China and DPRK were represented by their embassies in Dhaka. Leaders of major political parties, civil society, engineers, doctors, lawyers, journalists, environmental activists, bankers, industrialists, traders, businessmen and high government officials attended various sessions of the Conference.
2. There has been six Business Sessions on the following Topics:
 - a. Need for a new world order for sustainable peace and development.
 - b. Freezing the hot zones of conflict.
 - c. Combating rise of fundamentalism and terrorism.
 - d. Peace for Human Rights: For A Just Peace in Palestine. This session was dedicated to support the Palestinian people.
 - e. Peace for environment-friendly world.
 - f. For unity, consolidation and strengthening of Peace Movement.
3. The Conference observes that the issue of peace is dependent on the resolutopn of present economic crisis of the so-called free market economy. The global economic crisis is deepening all over the world, with severe consequences for the working people and youth. Masses of new unemployed are being added to the already unemployed, cuts in social rights, salaries and pensions are daily phenomena. The Conference observes with concern the continuing increase of military expenses in seeking through wars and military aggression to overcome the capitalist crisis. Establishment of a stable world economic and social order, based on equity and justice for all, is crucial for ensuring sustainable peace at all levels-country, region and international.
4. The growing menace of fundamentalism of all shades and terrorist activities in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh poses grave threat to the peace and stability of South Asia. In Bangladesh the activities of fundamentalists are being contained by the state and through mass mobilization by all secular democratic forces.
5. To fight Fundamentalism and terrorism, the Conference suggests the following:
 - a. The present ideological vacuum among the young generation is to be filled up with respect for human rights, and belief in a better life and future. All religion has positive elements which need to be inculcated and distortion of religious tenets are to be avoided.
 - b. Exposing the children to science, literature and culture through academic curricula at various levels; and, need for socio-economic development to ensure basic needs like food and shelter, water and sanitation, education and health care are crucially important for combating the social, economic and cultural basis of fundamentalism and terrorism. People and leaders of all faiths need to be assured of freedom of their religion and religious practices, beyond any apprehension of the common public. Here comes the role of state to ensure this aspect of life.
 - c. To campaign against arms race, arms business and arms movement; and, in favour of diverting the war budgets to development activities to achieve the MDG targets for peaceful

socio-economic and cultural progress of the billions of poor around the world - who are fighting against hunger and poverty, for shelter and health care, for education and progress.

- d. All the hotbeds of conflict including the Palestine issue need to be addressed to establish peace and justice. Playing double standard i.e. so-called fighting terrorism in one place and aiding terrorism in another place will not really help.
6. The Conference expresses deep concern about the climatic and environmental catastrophe. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Australia and Vietnam, ect are the most affected countries in the region –particularly the 400 million people of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Basins. It is estimated that even with the present rate of sea level rise, Bangladesh will have 35 million climate refugees by 2050, which will be a human catastrophe. The Conference urges on the rich countries with high Carbon emission rate to be pro-active to compensate for bringing the world to present catastrophic level. This Conference reiterates that the world population has to wage struggle for an environment-friendly world – both from physical environment as well as from socio-economic environment points of view.
7. This conference takes cognizance of the situation in Pakistan which is a potential danger for entire world peace. This conference expresses deep concern about imperialist interference in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It condemns the US Army's Drone attack on Pakistani soil and encroaching on the sovereignty of Pakistan Government. The Indo-Pakistan tension and conflict provides opportunity for imperialist intrusion in the affairs of Afghanistan and Indo-Pak-Bangladesh region. To establish sustainable peace in this region, this Conference considers the following as necessary:
 - a. complete withdrawal of USA and it's allies form the area;
 - b. end of the so called war against terrorism by USA, whose underlying objective is to capture the natural resources of this region;
 - c. fair and free elections in Afghanistan under supervision of the United Nations forces comprising of non-aligned states having no direct political interests in Afghanistan;
 - d. Discontinuation of Pakistan efforts to install a government of its choice in Afghanistan.
 - e. Resolution of disputes between India and Pakistan on the basis of democratic principles.
 - f. This Conference acknowledges with appreciation the efforts of the Bangladesh and the Indian governments to resolve differences and promote co-operation in various sectors on the basis of Equity, Fairness and No harm to either party. This process should continue and be a good example for other countries.
8. The Conference takes note that while all nations in South Asia face common problems and challenges, the ruling governments have hardly any initiatives to meet these challenges jointly. Lack of confidence building initiatives among the nations are main reasons for continuation of mistrust. In this context the conference underlined the important role of the peace and solidarity organizations of South Asia to build friendship among people to act in a way that the ruling governments will be forced to take appropriate measures to overcome existing problems through dialogue and strengthen economic and cultural cooperation for benefit of the people.
9. The conference expresses its solidarity with the people of Nepal to succeed with the peace-process-efforts to meet the aspiration of the Nepalese people and to establish a new era for peace and progress in Nepal.
10. The Conference supports the trial of the war-criminals of 1971 liberation war of Bangladesh to safeguard human rights.

11. The conference expressed deep concern over the deterioration in situation in Asia-Pacific. Aggressive policies of imperialism led by USA aimed at achieving world domination by intensifying arms race, especially nuclear arm race, prolonging military conflicts and aggressive wars and expanding military bases in different parts of the world, is endangering peace and security of the peoples of Asia-Pacific as well as the world. The Conference also expressed deep concern over the growing tension in Korean peninsula and South China Sea, the increase of military build-up, military spending and exercises in the region. This Conference emphasizes the urgent need of collective efforts to stop arm race and to promote effective mechanism for guaranteeing peace, security, stability and prevention of conflicts in East Asia and expresses support to peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula and the direct talks of all involved parties. The Conference demands the withdrawal of all US troops from the area and shut down of all US military Bases from the region.
12. The conference supports the struggles of the people of Burma for the restoration of democracy and for the release of all political prisoners.
13. The Conference expresses its support and sympathy for the families of the victims and to the entire Peace Movement in Japan for the devastating consequences of the tragic incidents after the accident at the Fukushima power plants.
14. The Conference expresses its full support and solidarity with the people of Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain, Jordan and Libya in their struggle for peace, democracy and progress. This Conference expresses its condemnation to the imperialist military aggression against the Libyan people carried out by the USA, France, Great Britain and NATO and demands immediate and unconditional halt of the imperialist war of aggression on Libya and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the area. The Conference rejects all forms of interventions which infringe the right of the peoples to determine their own fortunes and internal matters.
15. The Conference rejects the imperialist plan for a "Greater Middle East" which was initiated by the USA in 2003, later endorsed by the G8 and by NATO and demands the complete withdrawal of all occupation forces from Iraq and Afghanistan.
16. The Conference supports fully the campaign for the recognition of an independent State of Palestine within the borders of June 1967 and with East Jerusalem as its capital, by as many as States possible. This Conference underlines its demands for the release of all political prisoners from Israeli jails, the complete withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from all Arab lands, and, reiterates support for the right of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland - based on the UN Security Council resolution 194.
17. The Conference rejects categorically any plan to deploy new US military Bases in Latin America and the Caribbean as an act of threat to peace and the sovereignty of the peoples and countries of the region as well as an effort to interfere in the political developments of the region, like in the cases of Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia. This Conference demands the withdrawal of the 4th US Fleet from the area, which is an instrument to terrorize peoples and for future imperialist aggressions. This Conference express its strong support and solidarity with the people of Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador and other countries in Latin America in their struggle for national sovereignty, dignity and social progress. The Conference demands that the US immediately stops blockade against Cuba, shuts down Guantanamo military base, returns this territory back to Cuba, and, stops ongoing attack against national oil company of Venezuela.
18. The conference supports the demands of the World Peace Council for complete abolition of Nuclear Weapons, and, the right of each nation – big and small for peaceful use of nuclear technology.
19. The conference calls upon all peace and solidarity organizations, all mass organizations of students, youth, trade Unions and other civil society organization to build a strong movement against the policies of imperialist globalizations and war and to build Asia-Pacific a continent of peace, stability, democracy,

human rights, justice, equality and developments as well as get rid of foreign bases, colonization, terrorism, fundamentalism and weapons of mass destructions of all kinds.

20. To achieve the above objectives, the conference urges on the Peace and Solidarity Committees of various regions in Asia-Pacific to take initiative to form peace and solidarity networks and formulate the functioning modalities of such network – in persuasion to resolution taken in Joint Communiqué of the Nepal Declaration in March, 2011.
21. The Conference acknowledges the existence of strong progressive intelligentsia and a conscious media in all Asia-Pacific countries which is considered as a guarantee of carrying forward the struggle for peace and security, solidarity, co-operation and progress. There lies the opportunity.
22. This Conference expresses deep gratitude to print and electronic media for their support at all stages of the Conference.
23. Finally, the Conference expresses sincere most gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh who has been kind to inaugurate the Conference. The Conference also expresses sincere most gratitude to His Excellency Md. Zillur Rahman, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for being kind to the grace the Closing Session as Chief Guest. The Conference also acknowledges, with deep appreciation, the support and inspiration given by the Ministries, agencies and individuals to make this Conference success.
24. World Peace Council and the attending delegates from various Peace and Solidarity Committees thank the Bangladesh Peace Council for organizing this Conference at a very important juncture of history.

05 June 2011.