



**SPECIAL MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT ON
INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION
FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**16 – 18 March 2010
Manila, Philippines**

**Manila Declaration and Programme of Action on Interfaith
Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development**

(as adopted by the Senior Officials Meeting of the SNAMMM
in Manila on 16 March 2010)

The Ministers and other Heads of Delegations from Member Countries of the Non-Aligned Movement met in the City of Manila on 17 and 18 March 2010 to address the existing, new and emerging challenges to the promotion of a culture of peace and development and reaffirm that the common fundamental values contained in the UN Millennium Declaration of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility are essential to international relations.

1. Guided by the Founding Principles of the Non-Aligned Movement, the principles enshrined in the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture adopted in the 14th NAM Summit in Havana, the UN Charter and principles of international law;
2. Emphasizing that the present global scenario presents great challenges in the areas of peace and security, economic development and social progress, human rights and the rule of law to Non-Aligned Countries, and affirming that many new areas of concern and challenges have emerged which warrant the renewal of commitment by the international community to uphold and defend the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law;

3. Expressing determination to continue to uphold the principles of sovereignty and the sovereign equality of States, unity, territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of any State; take effective measures for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of peace, to defend, promote and encourage the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered; refrain in international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter; end foreign occupation, develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and the self-determination of peoples in their struggle against foreign occupation; achieve international cooperation based on solidarity among peoples and governments in solving international problems of a political, economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character; and promote and encourage the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion;
4. Underlining the importance of promoting understanding, tolerance and friendship among human beings in all their diversity of religion, belief, culture and language;
5. Reiterating that the world today is composed of States with diverse political, economic, social and cultural systems and religions determined by their history, traditions, values and cultural diversity, whose stability can be guaranteed by the universal recognition of their right to freely determine their own approach toward progressive development;
6. Affirming respect for freedom of religion or belief, diversity in social systems, paths of development and culture and opposing all forms of intolerance, exclusion, xenophobia or racism so that cultural, ethnic, social and religious diversities shall not lead to conflict but rather peaceful coexistence;
7. Reaffirming the commitment to promote and strengthen a culture of peace and dialogue, and resolve to achieve progress, address gaps and challenges and fulfill actions in the promotion of a culture of peace and dialogue at the local, national, regional and international levels, aimed towards the full realization of

the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

8. Reaffirming the Tehran Declaration and Programme of Action on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity adopted at the Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 3 and 4 September 2007;
9. Reaffirming the inextricable nexus between development, peace and security and the promotion and protection of all human rights which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and must all be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, bearing in mind that human rights issues must be addressed within the global context through a constructive, dialogue-based approach and with objectivity, impartiality, non-selectivity and transparency as the guiding principles, taking into account the political, historical, social, religious and cultural particularities of each country;
10. Stressing the necessity of respecting cultural diversity and maximizing its benefit, through working together to build a harmonious and productive future by putting into practice and promoting values and principles such as justice, equality and non-discrimination, democracy, fairness and friendship, tolerance and respect within and among communities and nations;
11. Cognizant that a culture of peace can be attained, inter alia, through dialogue, the promotion of inclusion, social integration, equality, justice, including social justice, and tolerance, the enhancement of mutual understanding and respect, the advancement of knowledge and appreciation of the richness and wisdom found in all civilizations, the promotion of common ground among civilizations and religions in order to address common challenges threatening shared values, universal human rights and achievements of human society in various fields, and also the enhancement of respect for cultural diversity and cultural heritage;
12. Recognizing that the promotion of a culture of peace and dialogue, in particular through the full implementation of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations and its

Programme of Action¹ and the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Culture of Peace², could contribute towards the establishment of a peaceful and prosperous world, a just and equitable world order, and an environment conducive to exchanging human experiences;

13. Underlining that the process of globalization constitutes a powerful and dynamic force which should be harnessed for the benefit, development and prosperity of all countries, without any exclusion, and recognizing that respect for cultural and religious diversity in an increasingly globalising world enriches national identity, contributes to regional and international cooperation, promotes dialogue among civilizations and helps create an environment conducive to the promotion of a culture of peace, human rights and human dignity;
14. Mindful of the positive contributions of migration and increased people-to-people contacts in increasing understanding, and fostering tolerance and cooperation among cultures and religions, and reaffirming the responsibility of Governments to safeguard and protect the rights of all migrants against illegal acts, in particular acts of incitement to ethnic, racial and religious discrimination, hostility or violence and crimes perpetrated with racist or xenophobic motivation by individuals or groups;
15. Acknowledging the ever-increasing significance and relevance of a culture of living in harmony with nature, which is inherent in nomadic civilization, in today's world, and welcoming the efforts of States to preserve and develop nomadic culture and traditions in modern societies;
16. Acknowledging also the importance of promoting the rights of indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities to manifest, practice, develop and teach their spiritual, cultural and religious traditions;
17. Convinced that a culture of peace can be significantly enhanced by interfaith, inter-cultural and inter-civilizational dialogue and cooperation, which further promote mutual understanding, respect and tolerance among religions, cultures and peoples;

¹ A/Res/56/6 (2001)

² A/Res/53/243 (1999)

18. Reaffirming that dialogue among cultures, civilizations and religions should be a durable process and that, in the current international environment, it is not an option but an imperative, sound and productive tool to promote economic and social development, peace and security, and human rights and the rule of law in guaranteeing a better life for all. We further reaffirm in this context that tolerance is a fundamental value of international relations;
19. Cognizant of the valuable contributions of all religions and beliefs to modern civilization and the contribution that dialogue among cultures and religions can make to an improved awareness and understanding of common values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence;
20. Reiterating the need to continue working towards the promotion of dialogue and understanding among civilizations, cultures and religions, and reaffirming the commitment to work together to prevent cultural homogenization and domination or incitement to hatred and discrimination, combat defamation of religions and develop better ways of promoting tolerance, respect for and protection of the freedom of religion and belief, including the right to preserve one's cultural identity, stressing the role which the General Assembly and the relevant UN organs can play in that respect in particular through furthering the much-needed dialogue on those important and sensitive issues;
21. Reiterating, in this regard, the importance of promoting full respect of all religions and cultures among all States, with a view to promoting and ensuring the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression while preventing abuses and incitement to religious hatred that could contribute to undermining the ongoing efforts to foster a culture of peace based on mutual respect and tolerance among religions, cultures and civilizations, as provided for in the international human rights instruments to which States are parties;
22. Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in building interfaith and intercultural dialogue and partnerships at the national and regional levels in support of conflict prevention, peacebuilding efforts, nuclear disarmament, and the overarching goals of peace and development;
23. Welcoming the fruitful efforts of the NAM Member Countries, including the initiatives by the Kingdom of

Bahrain, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Lebanon, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of the Philippines, the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Senegal and the Sudan in exploring the opportunities for coexistence and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations through holding conferences and fora in order to identify and develop strategies and programmes, at the national, regional, and international levels, that contribute to rapprochement among religions, cultures and civilizations, including other inter-governmental processes and initiatives such as the Annual Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and the High-Level Dialogue of the General Assembly on Inter-religious and Intercultural Cooperation for Peace in 2007;

24. Taking note in particular of the initiative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to convene the high-level meeting during the Sixty-third Session of the UN General Assembly in 2008 which emphasized the importance of encouraging dialogue, understanding and tolerance among peoples and respect their religions, cultures and different beliefs;
25. Recognizing the important role in strengthening the dialogue among civilizations, culture of peace and intercultural dialogue being played by initiatives such as, inter alia, the Global Agenda for the Dialogue among Civilizations and the Alliance of Civilizations;
26. Acknowledging bilateral and regional efforts at promoting interfaith and intercultural dialogue and understanding for peace and development; and
27. Acknowledging the important and significant role civil society, faith-based non-governmental organizations and media could play in promoting interfaith and intercultural dialogue and understanding towards fostering social justice, and, in particular, the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

Adopted the following Programme of Action on the active promotion of dialogue, in particular, interfaith dialogue, to strengthen a culture of peace and development:

A. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Ministers and other Heads of Delegations from Member Countries of NAM, committed to continue to enhance the efforts of NAM Members in promoting the culture of peace, and dialogue among civilizations, religions and cultures, in particular interfaith dialogue, through various activities, including international and regional conferences and fora, agreed to base their steps inter alia on the following:

1. Emphasis on the need to continue strengthening the dialogue among civilizations, culture of peace and inter-cultural dialogue, inter alia through the Global Agenda for the Dialogue among Civilizations and the Alliance of Civilizations;
2. Solid determination to strive to prevent and mitigate cultural homogenization as well as unculturalism in the context of globalization, through increased intercultural dialogue and exchange guided by enhancing respect for and observance of cultural diversity;
3. Promoting respect for the diversity of religions, beliefs, cultures and societies, and for prophets, religious symbols and Personalities, as part of the universal respect for peoples and civilizations and common heritage belonging to humankind;

B. In recognition of the importance of implementing and developing sustainable, practical, and action-oriented projects and policies at all levels and across all sectors that will contribute to the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, development, a culture of peace, dialogue, tolerance, understanding, respect for diversity and peaceful coexistence within the constitutional order and particularities of each country, the Ministers and other Heads of Delegations from NAM Member Countries agree to undertake the following measures, among others:

4. Call on governments to promote and respect the freedom of religion and belief in ways that will encourage interfaith dialogue;
5. Call for the respect of the sanctity and status of all religious sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and allow access to them by all worshippers without hindrances at all times, in accordance with international law and relevant UN resolutions.

6. Recommend seeking the assistance of religious and spiritual leaders of standing in resolving intercommunal conflicts and tensions when and where applicable;
7. Recommend the development of mechanisms by which the role of women in interfaith activity can be further recognized, including through the establishment of women's interfaith fora and by providing training and support;
8. Recommend strengthening multi-religious youth networks across regions, encouraging cooperation, including through exchange programs, camps and training programs;
9. Encourage, as appropriate, the development and incorporation of "interfaith studies for peace and development" in school curricula;
10. Encourage the establishment of centers for interfaith studies in universities where appropriate, and regional and international networking among these centers;
11. Support the newly established Center for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, for Contemporary Islamic studies and the dialogue among civilizations located in Imam Mohammed Bin Saud University in Riyadh;
12. Encourage the initiative made by Lebanon to establish in Beirut an international center for the dialogue among civilizations and cultures;
13. Encourage the establishment of educators-training programs centered on teaching the importance of tolerance and respect for cultural and religious diversity;
14. Promote touristic destinations and activities that aim to increase awareness of and better appreciation of other cultures and religions;
15. Promote interfaith dialogue at the grassroots level to serve as an instrument of promoting sustainable livelihoods and community cohesiveness or unity;
16. Acknowledge the value of contemplative spiritual practices as an aid to promoting peace and resolving conflict;
17. Encourage faith-based non-governmental organizations and civil society to support the efforts of governments as well as to develop

- partnerships among each other, in order to cooperate for social and economic justice, for all within the society;
18. Endorse further exchanges between people (e.g. youth, students, teachers, religious leaders, academics) of different faiths, within and between countries, and at the grassroots communal levels;
 19. Encourage media programs and initiatives that allow for better understanding of other cultures and religions, including training programmes for media practitioners to be sensitive on these matters;
 20. Encourage cooperation between and among NAM Member Countries in building a network of interfaith and intercultural dialogue partnerships at all levels and involving various sectors of society;
 21. Resolve to translate the shared values of peace, compassion, tolerance and solidarity into practical actions within our societies at local and national levels by: acknowledging and respecting the differences within and among the religions and faiths, acknowledging the linkages between religions and cultures and promoting shared values that will strengthen harmony and understanding in society;
 22. Draw on the positive experiences of peaceful coexistence and cooperation of multiethnic and multi-religious communities and encourage those experiences to help diffuse tensions and build confidence in conflict situations;
 23. Incorporate dialogue among religions and between religions and the State as appropriate into national plans and strategies on different themes, including sustainable development, in order to ensure that followers of all religions equally benefit from economic development and progress;
 24. Initiate discussions with a view to elaborating an international instrument on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance, including ways to eliminate defamation of religions and prophets, and discrimination based on religion or belief;
 25. Contribute to the implementation of the Tehran Declaration and Programme of Action on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity and the present Declaration.

The Ministers and other Heads of Delegation encourage NAM Member Countries to share information on the development of the Programme of Action of the Manila Declaration in their respective countries at NAM's relevant meetings.