

FIFTH ECPD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

NATIONAL AND INTER-ETHNIC RECONCILIATION, RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE AND HUMAN SECURITY IN THE BALKANS

DECLARATION

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Implementation of the Human Security concept in the Balkan countries

1. Appeal

We, internationally known scientific and public workers rallied here in Brioni, Croatia, at the Fifth ECPD International conference on National and Inter-ethnic reconciliation, inter-religious tolerance and Human security, call-upon leaders of all Balkan countries to implement the UN Human Security Concept in their own countries.

2. Concept of Human Security: history and development

The concept of Human security is an evolving and holistic concept, which was first introduced in UNDP “Human Development Report 1994”, stressing that, up to that moment, the concept of development had put too much emphasis on states and national economy, and that there was a need for the development of individuals. There were too many threats in the world hindering such development and there was a need for assuring Human Security in economy, food, health, environment, individuals, regional societies and politics. This concept was further analyzed and elaborated in the Report of the Commission on Human Security of 2003, “Human Security Now”. The Commission was chaired by Mrs. Sadako Ogata, former UNHCR and Dr. Amartya Sen, then Nobel laureate Rector of Trinity College, Cambridge University. An Advisory Board on Human Security was established to follow up on the result of this Commission.

Human Security focuses on individuals and not on states. According to the HS concept, individuals should live in a democratic society with dignity, while states should be the main guarantor of their security. Yet they often fail to fulfil their security obligations – and at times they become sources of threats to their own peoples. That is why attention must now shift from the security of state to the security of people – to Human Security. The Report also presented an important approach to protection and empowerment. Protection of people, their basic rights and freedoms requires concerted efforts to develop national and international norms, processes and institutions, which must address insecurities in ways that are systematic not makeshift, comprehensive not compartmentalized, preventive and not reactive. HS helps to identify gaps in the infrastructures of protection as well as to strengthen or improve it.

Empowerment is explained in following terms. People’s ability to act on their own behalf – and on behalf of others – is the second key to human security. Empowerment is important because people develop their potential as individuals and as communities. Strengthening people’s abilities to act on their behalf is also instrumental to HS. People empowered can demand respect for their dignity when it is violated. Supporting people's ability to act on their own behalf means providing education and information so that they can scrutinize social arrangements and take collective actions.

Protection and empowerment are mutually reinforcing. People protected can exercise many choices. And people empowered can avoid some risks and make improvements to the system of protection.

The purpose of HS is realizing a society in which people can live in dignity and enjoy Freedom from Fear and Freedom from Want. The approaches to achieve HS in those societies would be protecting individuals and communities as well as empowering them so that they can mobilize their potentials to cope with threats by themselves. Concrete modalities include first a bottom up approach to meet the real needs on the ground. Second, a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach to address various threats. Third, cooperation and coordination among various stakeholders, local government, International Organizations, NGOs, and civil society organizations on the ground.

3. Human Security and international actions

The Human Security Network was established in 1998 to maintain a dialogue on questions pertaining to HS at the level of Foreign Ministers. The Network includes Austria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland and Thailand, and South Africa is an observer. The Network has a unique inter-regional and multiple agenda perspective with strong links to civil society and academia. The Network emerged from the landmines campaign and formally launched at Ministerial

meeting in Bergen, Norway in 1999, followed by Ministerial Conferences at Foreign Ministers level in Lucerne, Switzerland (2000), Petra, Jordan (2001), Santiago, Chile (2002), Graz, Austria (2003), Bamako, Mali (2004), Ottawa, Canada (2005), Bangkok, Thailand (2006), Ljubljana, Slovenia (2007) and Athens, Greece (2008). By applying a human security perspective to international problems, the Network aims to energize political processes aimed at preventing or solving conflicts and promoting peace and development. In 2005, the World Summit was held in New York in September. In the General Assembly Resolution called "World Summit Outcome Document", the following paragraph was included: "We stress the rights of people to live free from poverty and despair. We recognize that all individuals, in particular the vulnerable people, are entitled to Freedom from Fear and Freedom from Want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential. To this end, we commit ourselves to discuss and define the notion of HS in the General Assembly." Following this outcome document, a group of country representatives Friend of HS in New York was established to promote the together HS concept. The first meeting was held in October 2006 and 35 Countries and 13 UN organizations participated. In this way, HS concept has been further developed and applied by a larger number of countries and international organizations throughout the world and has been recognized as a worthy paradigm in the post cold war world especially in the 21st century. It should be recognized and implemented in the Balkan region as well.

4. Human Security implementation in the Balkans

Human security with its two goals: Freedom from Fear and Freedom from Want (poverty, privation) should be implemented in all countries in the world, but its implementation in the Balkans is especially necessary because of recent past and current situation.

Human security is a practical concept. It has been under implementation in many countries and various parts of the world. It is an important part of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) agenda, as well as the agenda of the European Union. Fairly large number of countries have been included in the Human Security Network. The UN Trust Fund for Human Security, which was established in 1999, has been financing about 30 different projects in the OSCE region.

The concept of human security is designed for people – for them to live in dignity and to enjoy freedoms from fear and from want. But responsibility for its implementation lies in national authorities and international community alike, and they are called-upon, to enable its implementation. The first step which should be taken is organization, the second is identification of crucial threats to peace and human security, and the third is action.

In the Balkans there are many problems which hamper development and threaten regional peace and stability which require energetic measures in a way of Human Security concept implementation.

Let's mention just a few.

- Armed conflicts consequences, such as refugees, displaced and missing people are problems which should be resolved as soon as possible;
- Existing tensions between states and state entities should be overcome by intensification of inter-states and regional meetings and intensification of mutual cooperation;
- Recently the Balkans has been divided by integrated and non-integrated. Speeding up accession of all West Balkan countries to the Euro-Atlantic integration is the matter of the time;
- In the ten-year wars, the inter-ethnic and inter-religious disputes, hatred and animosity deepened, and without reconciliation and tolerance, stable peace and sustainable development hardly could be expected;
- The present peace in the Western Balkans is kept by presence of international forces and the international community deterrence. However, it is well known that peace kept by force cannot be stable and durable. Building stable peace and security through education on peace is in fully in line with the concept of HS.

In the Balkans, the concept of HS, with its complexity and enormous significance, should be considered as a conceptual project and a far-reaching strategic goal to which each individual Balkan country should strive for. Governments of Slovenia and Greece do have important experiences in Human Security Network, promotion of projects and securing financial support. Therefore, they are called-up to be leaders in the concept promotion and implementation of Human Security in the Balkans.

Brioni, October 30, 2009