

Pakistan & Non-Aligned Movement

The Non Aligned Movement (NAM)'s purpose as declared in the Havana declaration of 1979 is to ensure the national independence sovereignty territorial integrity and security of non aligned countries in their struggle against imperialism colonialism neo colonialism apartheid racism including Zionism and all forms of foreign aggression occupation domination determination interference or hegemony as well as against a great power and bloc politics. Non Alignment is a conception that sees formal association with any alliance as reducing the freedom of a third world nation.

President Kenneth Kuanda of Zambia elaborated this conception in the following words "Non Alignment is a determination to preserve independence sovereignty and to respect that sovereignty and independence in other states and to decline to take sides in the major ideological struggles that rend the world. We will not hitch our carriage to any nation's engine and be drawn along their railway line."

The Non alignment movement presently comprises 118 members as compared to the 25 that attended the first summit held in erstwhile Yugoslavia in 1961. The movement traces its origin to the Bandung Conference of 1955 which was co sponsored by Pakistan along with India Sri Lanka Burma and Indonesia. Pakistan however did not attend the first summit due to its membership of SEATO and CENTO. Pakistan has participated in the deliberation of NAM as a guest until its assumption of full membership during 1979 Havana Summit. The 14th Summit of the Non Aligned Movement Summit meeting in 2006 ended in consensus on all issues discussed in what is seen as a renewal of this group of nations of the South with Cuba as its president for the next three years.

The defense of international law was to be its main task over the next three years. According to statements made by Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Pérez Roque in a press conference held at the closing ceremony of the Summit "Havana Summit has revived the organization". Pakistan took active part in all the aforesaid activities of the last Havana Summit. The 14th NAM Summit brought together 56 heads of state and government of member nations along with 90 foreign ministers 8 representatives from observer nations including the president of Croatia for a total of 118 nations. Of these 84 took the podium during the summit.

The 15th Summit of the Non Aligned Movement will be held in Egypt on 11 to 16 of July 2009. 118 country members of the Movement that comprises the majority of the countries of the world will discuss what have been accomplished since the 14th Summit Meeting in Havana Cuba and what they intent to achieve in the next three years under the Presidency of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Pakistan was instrumental in evolving NAM consensus positions on the following important issues In view of the unresolved Kashmir issue it has been our efforts that the NAM decisions reflect an emphasis on peaceful settlement of disputes. We have therefore consistently urged the Movement to expeditiously evolve a mechanism for conflict resolution. In this context the Final Document of the XII NAM Summit held in Durban had reiterated the need to secure a peaceful settlement of all outstanding issues in South Asia. Pakistan has fully supported NAM's principled position on the issue of global disarmament with in a time bound frame work.

Of the question of the South Asian nuclear tests the XII Summit affirmed "the need for bilateral dialogue to secure peaceful solution to all outstanding issues and the promotion of the confidence and security building measures and mutual trust". The Summit also opposed unilateral coercive or discriminatory measure being applied against Non Aligned countries. This is clear endorsement of Pakistan position that a solution to the situation arising form the nuclear tests cannot be promoted in an atmosphere of coercion and pressure.

Since NAM predominantly comprises developing countries it has consistently paid considerable attention on economic issues. The movement has maintained its long standing position on the need for conscious steps to regulate the market measures as a means to ensuring that growth in the world economy and trade is both dynamic as well as equitable. Accordingly the movement has rejected recent efforts to inject new conditional ties and protectionism such as the insertion of the labour standards issues in the world trade organization. NAM has called for the urgent convening by the United Nations of a global monetary conference to address the old and new problems of the International financial system. Pakistan desires to see NAM play an

increasingly effective role in all international for a particularly in the United Nations. It is important that the Movement safeguards and preserves the principled positions evolved by it on a wide range of international issues. For Pakistan the Summit Meeting has an additional significance.

Besides taking part in the other activities and discussion of the 15th NAM Summit Pakistan along with India would also use the margins of the summit meeting to effect thaw in their otherwise tense relations. Although Prime Minister Gailani instead of more powerful President Zardari is now attending the summit on behalf of Pakistan yet even the meeting of the Prime Minister Gailani with his Indian counterpart would go a long way in effecting some movement in the otherwise stalled peace process between the two South Asian neighbours. India and Pakistan had started a Composite Dialogue in February 2004 but New Delhi suspended it in the wake of the attacks in Mumbai stating that the parlance could only be resumed if Islamabad took credible actions against the terrorists.

Pakistan however has been seeking resumption of dialogue with India and also got support from the US with Washington stating that it would like to see the two nuclear neighbours in South Asia resolve differences through dialogue. The parley between the foreign secretaries is to precede a meeting between the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart Yousuf Raza Gilani on the sidelines of the summit.