

9 May 08

Asia-Pacific Declaration on Armed Violence and Development

We, Representatives of Asia-Pacific States gathered in Bangkok on 8 and 9 May 2008, affirm our support to the *Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development* adopted on 7 June 2006, and resolve to work to raise awareness of countries within the Asia-Pacific Region of the importance of the linkage between armed violence and development.

Recognizing that development, peace and security, and human rights as the three pillars of the United Nations, are interlinked and mutually reinforcing;

Affirming that social and economic development underpin peace, security and stability of countries within the region and help to reduce armed violence, and that the attainment of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals is an important step towards the achievement of this objective;

Underlining the importance of enhancing socio-economic equity in all its dimensions as well as enlarging opportunities for sustainable human development in order to promote social welfare and justice for all;

Recognizing the important role of women and youth in the prevention of violence, resolution of conflict and peace-building;

Acknowledging that the complex and differing manifestations of armed violence within regions and sub-regions should be taken into account;

We affirm that Governments have the primary responsibility for preventing and reducing armed violence within each jurisdiction through appropriate mechanisms and for guaranteeing the security and well-being of their people by, *inter alia*, promoting sustained and people-centered development programmes.

We acknowledge the armed violence prevention and reduction initiatives that have already been launched and implemented at the local, national, sub-regional and regional levels.

We reaffirm our support for the United Nations' efforts to promote armed violence reduction towards sustainable peace and development, in particular the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to deal effectively with the supply of, and the demand for illicit small arms and light weapons.

We agree to strengthen our efforts to integrate policies and programs as appropriate, for the prevention and reduction of armed violence into national, sub-regional, regional and international development plans and strategies, in order to reduce incidence of armed violence.

We acknowledge the importance of cooperation between governments, non-governmental organizations, sub-regional, regional and international agencies to prevent and reduce armed violence and will promote active partnerships between governments, international organizations and civil society.

We further agree to work at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels, on practical measures to promote socio-economic development that aim at reducing armed violence as well as on measures promoting security and prevent and reduce armed violence that enhance the prospects for sustainable and equitable development, by:

- Creating an enabling environment for sustained socio-economic development, through, *inter alia*, promoting confidence building measures, good governance, democratic institutions, socio-economic equity, human rights and the rule of law.
- Promoting the exchanges of views, best practices and information that highlight the linkage between armed violence and sustainable development and contribute to more effective armed violence prevention and reduction.
- Promoting initiatives to measure human, social and economic costs of armed violence and its impact on development.
- Ensuring that armed violence prevention and reduction initiatives place emphasis on specific root causes and entities within societies, both those that are affected by and those that perpetrate armed violence.
- Encouraging a culture of peace, tolerance and diversity by, *inter alia*, promoting access to education for all and by incorporating peace-oriented values into education curricula, particularly for persons from an early age.
- Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the design, decision-making processes, implementation and regular evaluation of armed violence prevention and reduction programmes.
- Actively supporting existing national, sub-regional, regional and international frameworks and initiatives that contribute to the prevention and reduction of armed violence.
- Preventing and reducing the uncontrolled circulation, illicit trade and trafficking and misuse of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition through initiatives to regulate the production, transfer, acquisition, and possession of small arms and light weapons.
- Strengthening, under the principles of human rights and the rule of law, effective and accountable public security institutions through measures such as increasing the capacities of the national statistics departments and the criminal justice system.
- Promoting confidence building measures that prevent, control and reduce armed violence, particularly violent crimes, through local structures and in rural as well as urban settings.
- Promoting cooperation and partnerships among public sector, private sector, civil society and governments at all levels to prevent and reduce armed violence and enhance development.
- Encouraging states and appropriate international, regional and sub-regional organizations to provide, if so requested, coordinated technical and financial assistance, to enhance national capacities to prevent and reduce armed violence.

In order to advance the implementation of the Asia Pacific Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, we agree to work in multi-disciplinary partnership with the development, peace and security-building, public health, humanitarian, human rights and criminal justice communities at national, sub-regional, regional and international levels.

Bangkok, 9 May 2008

Afghanistan

Australia

Bangladesh

Brunei

Cambodia*

DPR Korea

Fiji

Indonesia

Japan

Kazakhstan

Kyrgyz Republic

Malaysia

Mongolia

Myanmar*

Nauru

Nepal

Palau*

Papua New Guinea

Philippines

Republic of Korea

Samoa

Solomon Islands

Sri Lanka*

Tajikistan

Thailand

Uzbekistan

Vanuatu

- * pending confirmation