

THE BRUSSELS CONSENSUS

A group of 35 eminent leaders from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America met at the European Parliament in Brussels on the 26-27 June 2005 at the Second International Roundtable on Constructing Peace, Deconstructing Terror. Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe in the European Parliament and Strategic Foresight Group in cooperation with Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung convened the roundtable. The group considered the Delhi Declaration on Sustainable Global Security issued in June 2004. The group discussed various aspects of the threat of terror facing humanity and made the following recommendations.

Constructing peace and deconstructing terror demands a global approach. It is not appropriate to address this issue on a selective basis. It is an issue that touches the essential fabric of all societies and faiths. This issue has multiple dimensions including political, cultural, economic and psychological, and therefore it must be addressed in its entirety.

Constructing peace and deconstructing terror demands an international agreement at the highest level of political decision makers in the world. Therefore the Brussels Roundtable calls for an international summit of world leaders. Such a summit may be preceded by regional summits to discuss this issue. The Brussels Roundtable calls on the UN Secretary General to consider this call for future action. These issues could be addressed at the Millennium Plus Five Summit in September 2005 or, if necessary, be the subject of a separate later meeting.

Constructing Peace: Principles of Sustainable Global Security

The following broad principles should be adopted as necessary normative foundations for sustainable global security in the context of terror:

Principle of Just Means: that no cause or grievance, no matter how legitimate, justifies the deliberate killing of civilians and non-combatants; any politically motivated action that is intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants constitutes an act of terror and therefore must be totally rejected.

Principle of Religious Sanctity: that all religions promote humane values and do not sanction the killing of innocent people; any entity, whether state or non-state, has no right to use religion to advocate or resort to violence; it is inappropriate and misleading to identify any religion with terrorism when religion is misappropriated by any entity for a violent purpose.

Principle of Human Liberty and Dignity: that upholding human rights, liberty and dignity is essential for promoting human security; the states must use force proportionally and on the basis of humanitarian principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions; all actions to combat terrorism must take place in

accordance with international law, and with full respect for the rule of law and civil liberties and must exclude torture, extra-judicial killing and debasing of the human being.

Principle of Peaceful Conflict Resolution: that dialogue and negotiations can best find sustainable solutions to conflict; wherever possible, multi-stakeholder dialogues between parties to conflict must be promoted to seek peaceful resolution of conflict and the end to military occupation.

Principle of the Obligation of States: that States have moral obligations to dissuade people from supporting philosophies and acts of terror. States should provide a framework to reduce inequity and eliminate poverty, disease and illiteracy.

Principle of Common Standards: international action against terrorism must be based on universal standards, though its application may vary on regional or local basis.

Principle of Harmony of Values: that freedom and justice are both essential and mutually reinforcing values for the human society; the promotion of justice should not take place at the cost of freedom and the advocacy of freedom, as a tenet of the modern society must also emphasise justice.

Deconstructing Terror: Policies for a Safer World

The global policy response to terror should be based on the following principles:

Zero tolerance for terrorist acts (defined for this purpose as 'any action intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants, when the purpose of such an act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a government or an international organisation to do or to abstain from doing any act'). These should be punished as appropriate in accordance with the criminal law of the state concerned and relevant international conventions.

Recognition that groups engaged in terrorist acts have many different stated objectives and in many cases underlying motives which may not be the same as those objectives, and that in many instances there are separate root causes lying behind and explaining those objectives and motives - and that, accordingly, policy towards different groups needs to be closely tailored, case by case, to individual situations.

Willingness to embrace strategies that are much broader than reliance on coercive police and military means, namely (as expressed by the United Nations Secretary General) dissuasion of disaffected groups from choosing terrorism as a tactic to achieving goals, denial of terrorists of the means to carry out their attacks, deterrence of states from supporting terrorists, development of state capacity to prevent terrorism and defence of human rights in the struggle against terrorism.

Support for broad transformative initiatives including:

Creating adequate educational facilities worldwide, and modernizing the existing ones, not just to achieve full literacy but also to enable people to acquire skills to cope with the demands of the modern economy.

New partnerships between the state, private sector and NGOs to create employment, especially for youth and women, in fragile societies.

Genuine commitment to empower women in efforts to construct peace and deconstruct terror, and to develop policies of gender mainstreaming.

Intra- and inter-faith dialogues at various levels to promote understanding, acceptance and proper interpretation of the teaching of all religions with regards to the means to achieve justice.

Promotion of accountability, open and democratic political space and people's participation in the institutions of governance and civil society.

Capacity building of states to deal with crime and terror in effective and just ways and to resolve conflicts.

Brussels, 27 June 2005

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Co-hosts:

Mr Graham WATSON (UK), MEP, Leader of Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe in the European Parliament

Mr Sundeep WASLEKAR (India), President of Strategic Foresight Group

Key-note Speakers at the Opening Dinner:

Dr Amre MOUSSA (Egypt), Secretary General of the League of Arab States

Karel DE GUCHT (Belgium), Minister of Foreign Affairs

Participants:

Dr Aleya El Bindari HAMMAD (Egypt), Secretary General of Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement

Anne-Marie LIZIN (Belgium), Speaker of the Senate

Annemie NEYTS (Belgium), MEP, former Minister for Finance and Federal Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dr Anwar IBRAHIM (Malaysia), former Deputy Prime Minister

Arif LALANI (Canada), Chairman, Working Group on Relations with Muslim Communities, Department of Foreign Affairs

Ehud RASSABI (Israel), Member of Knesset

Evelyn PUXLEY (Canada), Counter Terrorism Coordinator of Department of Foreign Affairs

Dr Frank Jürgen RICHTER (Germany), Independent Expert

Gareth EVANS (Australia), former Foreign Minister, President of International Crisis Group

Dr Hasyim MUZADI (Indonesia), Chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama

Hubertus VON WELCK (Germany), Regional Director in Asia, Friedrich Naumann Stiftung

Hussain Bin Ali Bin ABDULLATIF (Oman), Ambassador of Oman to UK and representative of the Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs

Ilmas FUTEHALLY (India), Vice President, Strategic Foresight Group

J R Nereus ACOSTA (Philippines), Vice Chairman of Human Rights and Foreign Affairs committees of the House of Representatives

Lord John ALDERDICE (UK), President of Liberal International and former Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly

Dr Jürgen WICKERT (Germany), Director for International Dialogue, Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung

Kamel Abu JABER (Jordan), former Foreign Minister

Katrin MATSCHKE (Germany), Executive Chairman of the board of Directors of Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung

Lamine BA (Senegal), Minister for International Cooperation and Decentralisation

Marzuki DARUSMAN (Indonesia), MP, former Attorney General and Vice Chairman of Golkar Party

Mohammad HOURANI (Palestine), Member of Legislative Council

Dr Mona MAKRAM-EBEID (Egypt), former Secretary General of Al Ghad Party

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Saban DISLI (Turkey), MP, Deputy Chairman of AK Parti

Sayyid Badr Bin Hamad Bin Hamood AL BUSAIDI (Oman), Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs (State Secretary)

Seyed Mohammad Hossein ADELI (Iran), Ambassador to the UK and former Deputy Foreign Minister

Sheikh Saif AL MASKERY (Oman), Member of Majlis and former Assistant Secretary General of Gulf Cooperation Council

Susanne HARTIG (Germany), Director Programmes, Friedrich-Naumann- Stiftung

HRH Prince Turki al Faisal AL SAUD (Saudi Arabia), Senior Ambassador

Yasar YAKIS (Turkey), MP, former Foreign Minister