



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL PEACE AMIDST WAR AND CONFLICT

Special Report



Upcoming Event

**INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE**



“Global Peace amidst War and Conflict”
17th-18th September, 2018
Islamabad, Pakistan



Hira A. Shafi
Senior Research Analyst



On the 17th-18th of September, The Center for Peace, Security and Development Studies (CPSD) hosted an International conference on Global Peace amidst War and Conflict in Islamabad.

The seminar focused on an array of critical dimensions namely; The evolving Global Order, Geo-politics and transforming statecraft, transforming socio-economic order, International security in the light of traditional and non-traditional security threats and hybrid applications impinging upon National Security.

Ambassador Zamir Akram, former Pakistan permanent representative to the UN in Geneva offered his remarks, presenting his view that the distinction between traditional and non-traditional threats is artificial. Amidst the transitions of global orders from bi-polarity to uni-polarity and towards multi-polarity- states continue to remain at the epicenter of global politics. He stated that in the time of unipolarity, US maintained a sacrosanct role in ensuring global peace and stability. However, there is a need to introspect on the actual performance of the superpower in this regard. He also pointed out to the dangerous trends of undermining multilateral commitments in the emerging multipolar world.

Dr Suba Chandran, Professor at National Institute of Advanced Studies, India spoke about the new security stresses and the challenges posed to South Asian states. He highlighted issues stemming from demographic changes and the youth bulge in South Asia. He stated that the most integral structures in ensuring effective management of the youth are embedded in education and health sectors. Thus, there is a need to reform and improve these sectors. He also pointed out to the increasing urban-rural gaps in South Asian states, the slumification of urban areas such as Karachi and New Delhi. In his view, these migration trends add stresses to the existing socio-economic structures of urban areas and enhance the complex intertwining of non-traditional and traditional security threats. He raised the issue of Water scarcity in South Asia, and stressed the need to view this issue as a humanitarian crisis as opposed to a traditional security issue. He highlighted that South Asian states suffer from lack of proper water governance and distribution mechanisms, lack of public education on water abuse and lastly a lack of meaningful dialogue on the issues

of water facing the entire region. In his conclusions, he called for creating the spirit of a South Asian identity and for the regional states to deliberate on collective pursuance of economic and development projects emerging in the region.

Dr S Gulden Aymen, Professor at Istanbul University Turkey, spoke about the complex interaction between traditional and non-traditional security.

She spoke the emerging global competition which is giving birth to various economic projects and corridors. She stated that these connectivity trends outdate the concept of hard states. In her view, the core issue with hard states is their inability to ensure broad based political representation to its citizens, this expands the space for traditional and non-traditional threats. The non-traditional threats of a hard state are also usually transmitted regionally, creating ripples of instability.

Focusing on the case of Turkey, she highlighted how the new wars have diluted not only the concept of hard borders but national identity itself, due to issues stemming from refugee influxes. She stated that this cross border migration impacts demography, and even impacts religious and ethnic compositions of societies. She further highlighted that refugees usually lack basic human needs and do not have adequate mechanisms to integrate with the new society- this structural violence then creates space for other security threats, such as refugees joining criminal activities or terrorist groups. She then highlighted the issue of non-efficient registration processes of refugees, which make it more complex to understand the new demographic changes and reform national structures and capacities accordingly.

Dr Tughral Yamin, Associate Dean, Dept. of Peace and Conflict Studies spoke about Non Traditional threats in the domain of Cyber security. He stated that today's security threats encapsulate all kinetic and non-kinetic measures, thus means to tackle these threats needs to evolve. He stated that psychological operations aimed to lower national morale have been rampant, and cyberwarfare has become integral to psyops. Cyber warfare can be used for propaganda, information theft and targeting emotional and behavioral responses of a nation. He stated that cyber space is used to tarnish Pakistan's global image and generate religious, ethnic and political propaganda internally.

He stated that Pakistan is the most cyber-spied national today and thus there is a need to establish counter mechanisms in this domain.

Lt Gen Naeem Khalid Lodhi,retd, Former caretaker Minister of Defence Pakistan, spoke about Hybrid war and its impacts on Pakistani society. He stated that Hybrid warfare is the employment of all science and forms of warfare, traditional and nontraditional- Ways means, and ends have morphed. It is essentially aimed to impact behavior and emotions of a target group. He stated that in hybrid warfare, economy is impacted in a way to ensure stresses on middle and poor classes. Social structures become stressed and engulf middle and rich classes. religious systems of people and their will is targeted. The techniques of hybrid warfare entail- finding a pre-existing weakness, use media to carry out propaganda and lastly carry out a false flag operation against the victim state.

Symptoms of hybrid warfare on a society entail, - enhanced political rivalry, institutional rifts, improper prioritizing of resources and poor finance management. In his conclusion he stated that in Pakistan ethnic and sectarian conflicts and anti- CPEC propaganda are examples of hybrid warfare.

Mr Ammar Jafferi, Former Additional DG FIA, spoke about cyber warfare and challenges facing Pakistan. He stated that we live in an era of unstructured data. There is a need to focus on criminal activities taking place in the dark and deep web. He stated that the four integral pillars of cyber space include: data, comprehension technologies, info analysis and information interaction.

Dr Zafar Jaspal, Associate professor at Quaid-e-Azam University, spoke about Hybrid warfare and implications for Pakistan's national security he discussed the extended domain of warfare, exploitation of pre-existing weaknesses and stressed on the need to counter these threats.