

PCSW&HR's Participation in the Meeting "Fostering Inclusive Societies in South Asia. The role of Religious Leaders and Actors held at Bangkok – Thailand 29-30 November

On the special invitation of United Nations office on the Prevention of Genocide and Responsibility to Protect, Chairman Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori Participated in the Meeting "Fostering Inclusive Societies in South Asia. The role of Religious Leaders and Actors held at Bangkok –Thailand 29-30 November 2017, organized by the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect. The World Council of Churches (WCC) and The Network for Religious, Traditional Peacemakers and KAICIID Dialogue Center were also host of this meeting.

The theme of that meeting was to bring together religious leaders and actors, scholars and faith based organizations from different South Asian countries, so that participants would review good practices from the region and develop recommendations for religious leaders, actors and institutions in South Asia to enhance respect for diversity and the fundamental rights of all peoples as tools to prevent incitement to violence and protect populations from atrocity crimes (genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity).

The Bangkok meeting was as a follow up of regional meeting with religious leaders and actors from the Asia-Pacific region on their role in preventing incitement to violence that could lead to atrocity crimes, which took place in Bangkok on 6-7 December 2016. Under Secretary General United Nations Mr. Adama Dieng, Special Adviser to UN Secretary General on Genocide Prevention, Ms. Simona Cruciani Political Affairs Officer of UN Office of Genocide Prevention and Responsibility to Protect, Ms. Azza Karam UNFPA Senior Adviser on Culture, Mr. Gillian Kitley Head of Office, Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, Dr. Mohamed Elsanoussi Director Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers also participated in the meeting. \

Address of His Excellency Dr. Adama Dieng Under General Secretary General UN

In his opening address during the Bangkok meeting His Excellency Dr. Adama Dieng Under General Secretary General United Nations and Special Adviser of UN Secretary General on Genocide Prevention said that to eliminate poverty in south Asian countries and for sustainable human & social development, good governance, fostering of better societies, sustainable peace



His Excellency Dr. Adama Dieng Under Secretary General addressing during the Bangkok Meeting

and regional stability we have to promote the interfaith harmony, tolerance and human respect in the region. He said that violence and assassination of humanity on the name of religion is worst act and non tolerable, modern world can't forgive this crime. Assassination of Rohngia Muslims in Myanmar is condemnable act and not acceptable for world, this act badly damaged the interfaith relations, religious tolerance, however the Pope Francis has set a great example to raise the voices in favor of Rohngia Muslims proved that 1st we are humanity and then belong to any religion. He further said that freedom of expression, religious co-existence and peace are necessary for fostering and peaceful society. In South Asia Region all stakeholders of human development in which Governments, political & religious leadership, Media, Civil Society etc have to create a unity to establish the fostering and peaceful society in the region. He emphasized on actions and implementation of the plan of action and he said that we can bring the change in the society with our strong actions.

The meeting was consisted on briefings, panel discussions and brainstorming sessions. During the meeting the participants discussed the respect for diversity and the fundamental rights of all peoples in South Asia, including challenges and opportunities, analyzed the specific role of religious leaders, actors and institutions in this regard. The participants also discuss how to enhance the respect for diversity and the fundamental rights of all peoples those can contribute to more just, peaceful and inclusive societies and increase resilience to atrocity crimes in South Asia. During the meeting the participants also identified the range of measures for religious leaders, actors and institutions may be adopted to enhance respect for diversity and the fundamental rights of all people as tools to prevent incitement to violence, protect populations from atrocity crimes and foster just, peaceful and inclusive societies in South Asia.



A view of group discussion during the Bangkok meeting



Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori giving his input during the one of session of Bangkok meeting

On 2nd day of the meeting Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori Chairman Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights also availed the opportunity to sit as panelist in the discussion “The Role of Religious Leaders and Actors in Fostering Inclusive Societies in South Asia” with Mr. Martine Miller, Director for Asia, Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, Mr. Anders Frantzen Programme Director KAICIID Dialogue Centre, Bishop Ven. Keerthisiri Fernando Archdeacon of Nuwara Eliya Diocese of Colombo Sri Lanka and Ms. Renata Nelson, Assistant to Senior Adviser, KAICIID Dialogue Center. The session was moderated by Dr. Mohamed El Sanoussi Director Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers

As panelist while sharing his experience Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori said that role of all Religions having great teachings to change the world as well as South Asia, all of religions having great practices and values to promote justice, peace and equality, the religions are still great tool to change the human attitudes, if the genuine religious leadership play its vital role to change the human mindset under the great values of the religions, all religions particularly in practice in the South East Asia are carrying the thousand years religious traditions of universal brotherhood, non violence and human dignity, but unfortunately we have big gap between the teachings and actions and this gap only fill through the active role of religious leadership with flourishing the religious values, In South East Asia where we have lot of common communal traditions since many years and problems are almost same in the all countries like bad governance, corruption, lack of quality education, weak democracy, religious motivated violence & extremism, poverty, inequality, injustice, human rights & minorities issues and solutions are also common like strengthening of civil society, strong democracies, mobilization of the civil societies and all stakeholders of the society, we have our own examples in Pakistan that when we established our organization Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights with the



Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori expressing his views during as panelist during the panel discussion on The Role of Religious Leaders and Actors in Fostering Inclusive Societies in South Asia



A view of participants during the panel discussion

mandate of Interfaith & cultural harmony, co-existence, human & minorities rights etc it was assumed and called “Western Agenda” from the different quarters of our conservative society at that time, but when the religious leadership and actors of both side from Muslims & Christians joined our struggle on continue basis and we started the process of dialogue and advocacy with our communities now this is not a “Western Agenda” Now it is our National Agenda, it was power of interfaith engagement due to that we were able to change the small part of our society and we are continuing our efforts we are able to change the socio economic condition of more than 4000 women through our women empowerment project, we were able to support the more than 5000 people of earth quick hit areas in Pakistan with our Interfaith Engagements. We were able to contribute in the field of human rights, education, health, child rights and women rights with our interfaith engagements. Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori further said that we have lot of teachings in our religion, lot of resolutions at United Nations level, plan of action but matter is implementation, we can change the South East Asia with the implementation of plan of action and strategies adopted by world community and Governments. He said that we are gathering in Bangkok to make some guidelines and unite ourselves but we have to leave Bangkok with the resolve of implementation and action. He said that South Asia is a wonderful region with the rich heritage, old civilization, traditions and cultural diversities, cultural diversity is power & beauty of the region, it is not burden on the region we can use our great civilization and cultural diversities as tool of grater change in the region in the great interest of our own people.

Outcomes of Meeting:-

Participants assessed current challenges and opportunities in the region and reviewed good practices and lesson learnt on ways to build and strengthen just, peaceful and inclusive societies. In this context, participants also developed recommendations for religious leaders, actors and institutions on ways to enhance respect for diversity and the fundamental rights of all peoples as tools to prevent incitement to violence and protect populations from atrocity crimes. The Participants of the meeting also developed options for implementation of the recommendations suggested during the meeting.



A group Photo of participants of Bangkok Meeting 29-30 November 2017



A group photo of Dr. Mohammad Mohamed ElSanoussi, Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori, Ms. Azza Karam, Ms. Gillian Kitley, Ms. Jillian Maria Aballe and Mr. Iqtidar Cheema during the Bangkok Meeting

During the Bangkok meeting Chairman Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights also presented the official souvenir to His Excellency Dr. Adama Dieng Under Secretary General, Special Adviser of the UN Secretary General on the Prevention of Genocide and Responsibility to Protect and Ms. Simona Cruciani Political Affairs Officer, Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect to organizing this wonderful event and providing the opportunity to religious leaders and civil society organizations to participate in the valuable event. Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori also presented the Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights report on Interfaith Engagement for Sustainable Development.



Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori are presenting the thanks giving official Shield to His Excellency Dr. Adam Dieng Under Secretary Genral and Ms. Ms. Simona Cruciani during the Bangkok Meeting



Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori are presenting PCSW&HR Initiatives Report to His Excellency Dr. Adam Dieng Under Secretary Genral and Ms. Ms. Simona Cruciani



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