



City of Belgrade



The European Center for Peace and Development



University for Peace  
Universidad para la Paz



OUR HOPE FOR PEACE



North Atlantic  
Treaty Organization

# THE THIRD ECPD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE RECONCILIATION AND HUMAN SECURITY IN THE BALKANS

*Belgrade, October 26-27, 2007*

*Belgrade City Hall  
Dragoslava Jovanovića Street N° 2*

## OPENING ADDRESS

*Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentleman,*

*It is my pleasant duty to declare open International Conference 2007 on “Reconciliation and Human Security”.*

*This years Conference is a continuation of the last years’ Conference on “Reconciliation and Human Security”.*

*Preceding the Conference, 3<sup>rd</sup> session of International Permanent Study Group was convened in Prizren, Kosovo, at the time when future of Kosovo was under serious consideration and the general atmosphere was fraught with political imminence. But the deliberation at the session of the Study Group was carried out with overall spirit of understanding and shared responsibility, in spite of occasional expression of heightened emotion. It was supported and highly appreciated by UNMIK and the Institution of Provisional Administration of Kosovo. The 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Study Group was held yesterday in Belgrade.*

*They discussed the most pressing issues in preparation for the Conference and produced Draft Agenda of the Conference as well as adopting tentative programme of work for the study Group in 2007 and beyond. It was agreed that, in the process of reconciliation, concept of human security can play an important role, and that in every country and region of the West Balkan Region, it should be firmly established in all spheres of life for the sake of securing human right and human development of individuals, which will be the basis of peace and stability not only in the Balkans but also in Europe as a whole.*

*It was also agreed that the Conference 2007 will be devoted to a detailed discussion of the importance of the principles implicit in human security and that a concrete scheme should be prepared to better identify problems and tasks to be carried out for the formulations of concrete research plans and projects through collaboration with governments, regional administration and all other relevant organizations, in order to meet the needs and special requirements for the individual cases and situations.*



Government of  
Montenegro



Universal Peace  
Federation

**FEC**

Friendship Exchange  
Council

**TCF**

Tokyo Club  
Foundation



Japan Foundation



City of Belgrade



The European Center for Peace and Development



University for Peace  
Universidad para la Paz



OUR HOPE FOR PEACE



North Atlantic  
Treaty Organization

*In this connection, an imaginative scheme of formulating a project in Bosnia Herzegovina for strengthening entrepreneurship through prior study and consultation with local authorities and peoples was presented. It is aimed at ascertaining local needs and building bridge of trust by involving people of different communities in the region so that business and entrepreneurship in the region can be supported by them and difficulties that may arise could be overcome by their help. Basically, it is a scheme for achieving reconciliation through economic development. It received a full support of the members of the Study Group, and it was discussed that other projects for strengthening health, education and economic development in other regions including Kosovo might also be contemplated within the framework of such a scheme. Importance of sports and cultural activities in bringing peoples of different ethnic groups together to create harmony among them was stressed.*

*Thus, this years' Conference will make a solid groundwork for the concrete formulation of researches and projects for reconciliation, and on the basis of it, the Conference in 2008 will produce concrete result with researches and by making recommendation for the implementation of the projects for reconciliation and human security.*

*If this process is successfully implemented by the Conference 2008, the last Conference in 2009 will adopt a declaration reaffirming the principle of human security for the Balkan region, and appeal to the governments, regional administrations and other entities to make a priority in their policy decisions to implement the concrete result and conclusions arrived at in 2007 and 2008 Conferences.*

*The participation of high officials from the UN Human Security Commission and other UN bodies as well as of EU and other international organizations concerned will be very important.*

*This could be a unique attempt in order to firmly establish principles of human security through 5 years of sustained efforts and deliberations, not only in the Balkans, but also throughout Europe, and it may offer a model to be applied to other conflict areas throughout the world.*

*Now, I would like to dwell briefly on the principles of human security, about its history and its importance as one of the new paradigms of the post cold war world order.*

*The concept of Human Security was introduced in the UNDP "Report on Human Development" of 1994 which stressed that, up to this moment, the concept of development put too much emphasis on states and national economy, and that there is a need for the development of individuals.*

*This concept was further analyzed and elaborated in the Report of the Commission on Human Security of 2003.*

*Human security focuses on people – not on states. In post Cold War world, destruction of environment, poverty, domestic wars and ethnic conflicts, terrorism, diseases are greater sources of threats than inter-states conflicts. State remains to be the fundamental purveyor of security, yet it often fails to fulfil its security obligations, and at times has become a source of threat to its own people. That is why attention must shift from the security of the state to the security of the people – human security.*



Government of  
Montenegro



Universal Peace  
Federation

**FEC**

Friendship Exchange  
Council

**TCF**

Tokyo Club  
Foundation



Japan Foundation



City of Belgrade



The European Center for Peace and Development



University for Peace  
Universidad para la Paz



OUR HOPE FOR PEACE



North Atlantic  
Treaty Organization

*Protection and empowerment are two important approaches.*

*To protect people, their basic human right and freedom must be protected through concerted efforts to develop national and international norms and institutions, and through coordination of activities of states, international organizations and NGOs in partnership.*

*Empowerment is explained in following terms. People's ability to act on their own behalf – and on behalf of others – is the second key to human security. Empowerment is important because people develop their potential as individuals and as communities. Strengthening peoples' abilities to act on their own behalf is also instrumental to human security. People empowered can demand respect for their dignity when it is violated. Supporting peoples' ability to act on their own behalf means providing education and information so that they can scrutinize social arrangements and take collective action.*

*The Government of Japan adopted the concept of human security as one of the pillars of its foreign policy. At its proposal, UN Human Security Fund was created in 1999 and International Human Security Commission was established in 2001 with Mrs. Sadako Ogata, former UNHCR, and Mr. Amartyr Sen, Rector of Trinity College, Cambridge, as co-chairpersons.*

*Japan revised the basic policy of ODA (Official Development AID) to adopt the concept of human security as a second pillar, and she would carry out ODA in order to deal with direct threat to people in conflicts and contagious diseases for protection and empowerment of individuals.*

*Canada and Nordic countries are also putting priority on human security in their foreign policy, and last year, Japan and EU had a high level talk and it was agreed that the concept of human security should be firmly established in Europe as a whole.*

*Now, we are conducting our Conference once again in a tense situation around the future of Kosovo. The horrid human tragedy in the last decade of the last century in the West Balkan Region is far from being relegated to history. I sincerely hope that the solution of the problem will be arrived at in a manner that leaves no cause for animosity among the peoples of the region. Our endeavour at this Conference is also dedicated to the same end. At the same time, I hope that through our efforts, message can be transmitted to those who have so gravely suffered in the recent past that we are living in a totally different international environment. European integration is an undeniable reality, and all out efforts are being carried out through UN and other organizations for peace building and post conflict solution of problems. There is an ocean of good will to help in the difficult situation. I sincerely hope that peace not war will be the order of the day, to which our Conference today will be dedicated, and I shall count on active contribution of all the good willed participants to this end.*

*Thank you for your attention.*



Government of  
Montenegro



Universal Peace  
Federation

**FEC**

Friendship Exchange  
Council

**TCF**

Tokyo Club  
Foundation



Japan Foundation