

Right Wing Populisms and Fundamentalisms: Critical Thinking and Actions

Asia Europe Peoples Forum (AEPF) conference on
Universal Social Protection, Labour, Security and Peace
(4th – 6th April 2019, Kathmandu, Nepal)

Conference Proceeding Report



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Abbreviations

AEPF	Asia Europe Peoples Forum
ASEM	Asia Europe Meeting
CPN	Communist Party of Nepal
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
EU	European Union
GoN	Government of Nepal
IDS Nepal	Integrated Development Society Nepal
ILO	International Labour Organization
MEP	Member of European Parliament
MP	Member of Parliament
NCP	Nepal Communist Party
RWP	Right Wing Populism
SAN	Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal
VAW	Violence Against Women

Table of Contents

Abbreviations	I
Acknowledgement	II
Declaration	IV
Summary of Conference Proceedings	VII
Chapter I: Introduction	1
Context (Right Wing Populisms and Fundamentalisms)	1
About the conference	1
About the Host Organizations	2
Chapter II: Details of Conference Proceedings	3
2.1 Opening Plenary	3
2.2 Working Sessions	6
2.1.1 <i>Session 1: Discussion on Populisms, Right Wing Populisms (RWP), Impact on Peace and Security</i>	7
2.1.2 <i>Session 2: Discussion on Different Fundamentalism and Institutions</i>	10
2.1.3 <i>Session 3: Linkages and impacts of RWP and Fundamentalisms: Migration on Peace and Security</i>	12
2.1.4 <i>Session 4: Discussion on Future Programmes, Advocacy, Communications and Resolution</i>	15
2.3 Closing Ceremony	16
Annex I: Program Schedule	18
Annex II: Working Sessions Participant's List	23

Asia Europe Peoples Forum (AEPF)

Peace and Security Thematic Circle,
International Conference
Kathmandu, Nepal, April 4-6, 2019

Right Wing Populisms, Fundamentalisms: Critical Thinking and Actions **Nepal Declaration**

Peace and security cluster of AEPF, met in Kathmandu on 4-6th April, 2019. The discussions analyzed how the rise of right wing populisms (RWP) is making a more insecure and less peaceful world, through the use of chauvinistic identity politics to get political support and mobilize people. In an increasing number of countries, governments are using authoritarian and fascistic methods to consolidate and expand their power. It's especially worrying that right wing forces work by criminalization of migrants, suppressing social movements, denying gender equality and rejecting multilateralism. The tactic of the RWP is to displace and reject the progressive and alternative discourse that arose in response to people's demands after the 2008 global crisis that questions the former hegemonic neo-liberal globalization. AEPF expresses concerns about fundamentalisms, often linked to distorted ideas of religion which are then extended to violent extremism including attacks on civilians. We do not believe that any kind of extremist movement and violent actions can be a solution to any problem in the world.

We've identified military spending, arms proliferation, financing of arms companies and the military industrial complex as key actors that influence governments to make its business more profitable. The choice of militarization as a strategy for national security is a political decision to militarise security, to securitize every aspect of life that can be susceptible of being militarized.

Peace and security is not the patrimony of the military industry and conservative ideologies. There is a need for creating a progressive discourse about peace and security, critical of militarization. Another security is possible and necessary.

RWP use the following issues to mobilise people: They want to re-organise society and separate those they consider impure and outsiders. These can be migrants, LGBT, dissenters, women, drug dependents, religious minorities,

Dalits, indigenous communities and civil society actors. They focus on Islamophobia. All these are seen as threats and national risks.

The beneficiaries of RWP are state actors, oligarchs, ruling and military elites, who benefit from neo-liberalism. RWP use the narrative of corruption and aspirations, and that given structures are not working, so re-framing social justice. They want to create and rest on new inequality and conflict.

The Peace and Security Cluster puts forward a framework for a politics of peace and security to contest RWP:

There is a need to shift from a state fused national security concept and discourse to rights based human security based on ensuring the freedom from fear (civil and political rights) and freedom from want (social and economic rights)

We call for an immediate end to the genocide, repression and forced displacement of the Rohingya community in Myanmar. All states should support a safe, voluntary and dignified return of the Rohingya. As also a just resettlement of these forcefully displaced communities.

It is important to unite as many internal factions in each country to counter RWP. There is a need to incorporate different tendencies and movements at different levels to re-capture autonomous institutions.

It is critical to attract young activists to these platforms. And especially young women and men from excluded communities and activist.

The role of progressive education and information both from internal sources nationally, regionally and internationally is critical. Training and developing youth against RW mobilisation is integral to this process. There is an urgent need to foster a next generation youth advocates and campaigners for peace. We need informal spaces of education which can disseminate ideas of peace and tolerance by countering the exclusive and hate filled discourse of the far right.

Develop understanding, provide arguments, comparison between countries as resources against RWP. We need to map the connections between RWPs/and their discourse internationally.

We need to show the connections and root causes and reasons for migrations and in order to fight phobias. We cannot just frame migrants and others in a

moral framework of human rights but also re-frame issues in material conditions, with internationalist perspectives, use of international law.

We have to continue building solidarities of South-South as well as North-South. And build links with progressive movements internationally. The representation in multilateral institutions must be improved as these remain exclusive.

There is a need to showcase best practices, specific strategies and pro- people programmes and build international guidelines for these.

It was felt that forces of the Left and liberals had abandoned the sphere of culture and religion, while the RW have framed themselves as upholders and interpreters of religion and culture. It is proposed that the Left liberals go beyond buzzwords like secularism and multiculturalism and include with these especially, the lived experiences and issues. Of how lives of people can be bettered and associated with local cultures, traditions and folklore. The everyday issues of people's lives, from water, employment, equality and class struggles that RWP cannot deliver, should be part of the mass actions of people's groups.

We condemn and critique the extremist and fundamentalists movements who reject human values of the 'other'. We need to accept multi cultural thinking, migrants and refugees. In Europe the fundamentalist movement mainly consists of far right wing but in Asia religious extremist movements are the dominant form of RW movements.

We must recognise the role of mass media especially social media platforms to whip up xenophobia and legitimise racists discourse. We call for digital literacy programs to counter hate speech and promote an internet for the common good.

There are concrete policies that we need to critique like: Blasphemy Laws; discriminatory citizenship laws; criminalisation of migrants, and those who support migrants, dissenters. And the attempt to de-humanise them; government policies that support and are silent on vigilante violence.

We call on the Governments of Pakistan and India to start to continuous dialogue mechanism and process to resolve all bilateral issues and to support a energized South Asia.

<https://www.aepf.info/single-post/2019/04/22/Right-Wing-Populisms-Fundamentalisms-Critical-Thinking-and-Actions-Nepal-Declaration>
<https://www.aepf.info/peace-and-security>

<https://twitter.com/AEPF/status/1120248867566518272>
<https://www.facebook.com/asiaeuropepeoplesforum/posts/2137104686402380>

1. Summary of Conference Proceedings

The “Asia Europe Peoples Forum (AEPF) conference on Universal Social Protection, Labour, Security and Peace” was inaugurated on the 4th of April 2019. The conference held two-day parallel sessions of the ‘Social Justice Cluster’ and ‘Peace and Security Cluster’. The conference addressed concerns including 1) the major political shifts that are a consequence of the inequality and joblessness on account of the neo liberal agenda; 2) Backlash against progressive agendas, against women, minorities; (3) Anxiety about cultural invasion and disruption of traditional values; and (4) Resistances and challenges to fundamentalism and populisms.

Opening Plenary: The chief guest in the opening plenary was Rt. Honorable Pushpa Kamal Dahal “Prachanda”, former Prime Minister of Nepal, chairman of Nepal Communist Party (NCP). Addressing 130 Nepali delegates and 46 foreign delegates, Hon. Dahal shared his experience of political change, democratic transformation and people’s liberation in Nepal. Narayankaji Shrestha, the spokesperson of NCP and former Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal highlighted the Maoist struggle against the monarchy and parliamentary government/system to make a sovereign federal secular country and to create social justice in the state. Guest speaker and Member of European Parliament Hon. Julie Ward, Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Foreign Affairs Advisor to the PM of Nepal, Ms. Dagmar Walter, Prof. Anuradha Chenoy, Professor of Jawaharlal Nehru, Ms. Nimalka Fernando, Human Right Activist, Sri Lanka, and Hon. Daman Nath Dhungana also addressed the opening session.

Working Sessions: The four working sessions were about peace and security. The delegates discussed extensively on topics like “Populisms, Right Wing Populisms (RWP), Impact on Peace and Security”, “Different Fundamentalism and Institutions”, “Linkages and impacts of RWP and Fundamentalisms: Migration on Peace and Security”, “Future Programmes, Advocacy, Communications and Resolution”.

Closing Session: The closing session was chaired by Dr. Dinesh C. Devkota, Hon. Julie Ward. Ms. Meena Menon, Mr. Milan Dharel, Mr. Ronald Kulke, Dr. Sharad Onta and Mr. Amaar Ali Jan. The declarations from both clusters were read out and the conference was officially closed following the speeches by the chairs.

Chapter I: Introduction

Context (Right Wing Populisms and Fundamentalisms)

Two major challenges confront people's movements and peace movements in contemporary times. One: All kinds of right-wing populisms (RWP) and fundamentalisms (from religious, identity to market fundamentalisms). Two: The consequent rise of xenophobic nationalisms, centralized power, increased inequality, authoritarian governance. Country after country in Asia and Europe have elected right wing populist leaders, while xenophobic nationalist parties emerge stronger and more influential in the opposition. In most cases these RWPs have an under belly of vigilante groups that target different minorities and 'others. (Hungary, Italy, Turkey, South Asia, Philippines, US, Brazil, etc.).

These ideologies and practices are based essentially on increasing inequality, opposing multiculturalism and see human rights, workers and civil society organizations as a threat. They do not believe in climate change and are bent on increasing state power and authority over all institutions. These fundamentalisms and RWPs are a threat to the peace, security and social cohesion. They increase inter-state and intra-state conflicts; promote phobias about migrants or other religions. These damage democratization, universal progressive values and challenge social justice. It is important to understand the variations, and differences between these forces across Asia and Europe, so civil society, peoples and peace movements can effectively challenge them. Peoples' movements need to use the collective methodologies and experience to address concerns from these movements. They need to strategize how activism can challenge this dangerous discourse and practice.

About the conference

AEPF Peace and Security Conference will enable an exchange of ideas and increase our networks in Nepal beyond. This will support in advocating the importance of peace and people's security and its linkages with justice and democracy. For any advocacy, we need clarity and vision. The issues of populism and fundamentalisms are linked to phobias and existential anxieties. This conference intends to produce and articulate the dangers of

these issues to both civil society and to states. We would develop an appeal to ASEM States to be wary of populism, authoritarianism and not to use religion in politics. We would like to use communication methods to propagate the idea of secular and objective state institutions. We would like to take the ideas of this conference further and request all participants to give us some form of written presentation (this can be sent to us after the discussion in the conference). We will advocate these on our website and social media. The inputs of the conference will go into documents for parliamentarians, policy makers, students and all those interested.

About the Host Organizations

The Asia Europe People's Forum (AEPF) is an interregional network of progressive civil society organizations and has held the biennial people's forum since 1996 when it has begun as a parallel initiative to the first ASEM (Asia Europe Meeting) Summit in Bangkok. It was set up as a platform to amplify the voices of people or people's agenda on the need to respect and fulfil social, economic and human rights in Europe-Asia relations. It also emphasizes the importance of inclusive approaches, equal and developing fair to territorial integrations. The AEPF opens up new political spaces for dialogue, cooperation and influence that is based on a common desire from civil society, people's organizations, neo-liberal globalization and networks across Asia and Europe. It advocates and promotes the Asian and European social movements to develop and take forward visions for alternative future towards a fair, participatory and imperishable world.

Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal (SAN) is a secular, non-political, non-partisan non-governmental organization that runs development activities and campaigns together with government to end all kinds of discrimination, slavery like practices and deprivation all over Nepal. Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal was founded to initiate freedom movement that emancipate Nepalese society from fear, deprivation and discrimination.

Integrated Development Society (IDS) Nepal was established with the aim of addressing the necessities of communities from the grassroot level. IDS Nepal is increasing its focus on advocacy and policy research.

Chapter II: Details of Conference Proceedings

2.1 Opening Plenary

List of Chairs in Opening Plenary	
Name	Position / Organization
Rt. Hon. Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda)	Former Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal; Chairman, NCP
Hon. Narayan Kaji Shrestha	Spokesperson of NCP; Former Deputy Prime Minister
Hon. Julie Ward	Member of European Parliament (MEP), S&D Labour, UK
Mr. Prakash	IDS Nepal
Dr. Dinesh C. Devkota	Former Vice Chair, NPC, Government of Nepal
Dr. Francine Mestrum	AEPF, Belgium
Dr. Sarba Raj Khadka	Conference Coordinator; IDS Nepal



The International Conference on Universal Social Protection, Labour, Security and Peace started on 4th April 2019. The opening plenary was a joint session of the Social Justice and the Peace & Security clusters. The chief guest of the ceremony was Former Prime Minister of the Democratic Federal Republic of Nepal Rt. Honorable Pushpa Kamal Dahal.

Conference Coordinator Dr. Sarba Raj Khadka from IDS Nepal hosted the opening session. The event was attended by 46 international delegates and over 130 Nepali delegates representing various sectors and arenas from grassroots level to policy workers, researchers, academia and political activists.

The chief guest of the opening ceremony, Rt. Hon. Pushpa Kamal Dahal inaugurated the conference by lighting 'Panas' lamp. In his speech, he spoke about the transition of Nepal from a nation immersed in a civil war to a country with a relative political stability and a working framework. He elaborated about the tremendous sociopolitical change in Nepal over the past three decades and how this transition of Nepal is one of the most unique peace processes in the world. Mr. Dahal shared the struggle of CPN Maoists and how Maoist represented the demands of the people of Nepal in the armed insurgency, which was aimed to overthrow the autocratic monarchy from power. He further argued that the worldview on communists has been projected as extremists but in reality, communism wants to sideline all kinds of extremism from the political scenario and introduce dynamic political stability around the globe with peaceful transformation with stability of political alliance for the country. Mr. Dahal also stressed that the present government is working tirelessly to create a peaceful environment in the country and create opportunities for the investment in national and international level. Mr. Prachanda stated that the newly drafted constitution covers all the fundamental rights, rules and the law and being one of the most inclusive constitutions, it addresses the rights of all marginalized people in Nepal. He further asserted that the government has created a favorable atmosphere for social security, justice and peace in terms of development of the country and people.

Honorable Narayankaji Shrestha, the spokesperson of NCP and former Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal then spoke about the strive to achieve genuine democracy in Nepal. He also urged that we have to be able to assert the sovereignty of the people and power of the people. In strive to achieve this, he mentioned that we have to safeguard our sovereignty, so no foreign intervention is possible; that we have to safeguard our democracy and we have to make our new model of democracy a success in the world. He further said that



“Democracy is not a complete concept but should be developed further and further through dialogue with the international community”. Mr. Shrestha also brought in to light that without the unification of the two major CPN parties, there was a looming danger of

further political instability which would push the nation further into a state of chaos and disorder. He claimed that to ensure economic stability, we need to ensure social justice, end of poverty and hunger, end of unemployment, promising economic growth and scientific innovation and embracing of new technology.

Honorable Julie Ward, a Member of the European Parliament spoke about Brexit and how her country UK is going through an existential crisis. She mostly emphasized in the inclusion to address the needs of marginalized people, women, refugees, children, homeless, young people, disabled people in politics, government and parliament and encouraged everyone to discover the capacity of marginalized people.

Dr. Francine Mestrum addressed the opening plenary and mentioned that many people are socially hurt and have become the victim of violence. These people needed the restoration of peace, security and social justice as their basic human right under the circumstances of unavoidable violence. She emphasized that “peace cannot be achieved easily, and peace is a constant struggle”.

Next to address was Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal, who highlighted issues in social, economic, and political scenario. He stated that the new constitution of Nepal was one of the most inclusive constitutions in the world and has included ‘dalit’, ‘madhesi’, ‘janjati’ and ‘marginalized people’s issues and guarantees the fundamental rights of oppressed minorities and has provided universal social protection such as housing, education, employment etc. He mentioned that in order to achieve economic transformation, we need international support, technology and capital.

Ms. Dagmar Walter, from ILO South Asia, addressed the session. In her speech, she provided a brief insight to the ILO’s history during the celebratory year of its centenary. Ms. Walter stated that ILO is the only organization that brings together the voices of 3 keys - the government, the workers and the employers to set the international labor standards and to promote the fundamental principles and basic labor rights. The 100-year old nobel prize-winning institution’s aim remains to ensure everyone has dignity at work, equality meaning, protection and justice.

Prof. Anuradha Chenoy, retired Professor of Jawaharlal Nehru University was the next to speak. In her speech, she mentioned that there is a need, to isolate and politically defeat the growing fascist right-wing right which had first emerged in 1920s. She listed out

several points such as rise of identity nationalism, the rise of xenophobic right and militarisms. These points were also reminders from the 1920s which were happening in the present as well. She warned that with the adoption of neo-liberalism, the phase of relative peace is again coming to a terrible end.

Next speaker Ms. Nimalka Fernando, a human rights activist from Sri Lanka shared the experiences and challenges in her country. She explained that the political trajectory in Sri Lanka has still not been able to grapple with lasting peace despite coming out of a 3-decade long civil war. She also shed light on some of the issues which Sri Lanka was facing during this transitional period. Some of which were that reconciliation and peace-building has often been taught in a very narrow sense. Therefore, she suggests that reconciliation and peace-building need to be deconstructed.



Mr. Daman Nath Dhungana, Former Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nepal, was the final speaker to address the opening plenary. He mentioned that one of the biggest concerns in Nepal in the present context is the mass migration of youth to foreign countries for labor and how Nepalese labor are being treated in some of the countries. He

stated that, with 4 million youth out of almost 30 million population are working abroad and the remittance money from these workers has played a huge role in the development of the country. He asserted that since a significant portion of the nation's population is working abroad, the ILO convention is of great importance to Nepal in order to secure the basic labor rights of these Nepalese youth working abroad.

2.2 Working Sessions

The working sessions of the conference were held on 5th and 6th April 2019. The sessions were designed in four different sessions chaired by participating delegates with

different plenary model. These sessions intensively focused on Populisms, Right Wing Populisms, Impact on Peace and Security, Different Fundamentalisms and Institutions, Linkages and Impacts of RWP and Fundamentalisms: Migration on peace and security, Future Programmes, Advocacy, Communication and Resolutions and came up with a declaration to a framework for a politics of peace and security to contest RWP through various platforms in international level. Participants were allowed to comment and raised questions in each presentation.

1. Session 1: Discussion on Populisms, Right Wing Populisms (RWP), Impact on Peace and Security
Time: 09:30 AM

Speakers of Session 1	
Name	Position / Organization
Hon. Deepak Prakash Bhatta	Member of the House of Representatives
Prof. Kamal Chenoy	Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
Amaar Ali Jan	Pakistan
Marc Batac	Philippines
Facilitators: Milan Dharel, Dorothy Guererro	

In the first session of the Peace and Security cluster, the facilitators talked about aspects of security and RWP which are misleading our participation, which are challenging and threatening to exercise democratic space at the progressive moments. The most dramatic and worrying threads within Europe and Asia are the increasing spread and normalisation of the far-right discourse, the anti-establishment nature of the new right, how governments in both regions are directly flirting with authoritarianism and enabling it, and how some

authoritarian and far-right populist regimes like in Hungary, India, Philippines, etc. are contributing to these trends.

The first speaker Mr. Marc Batac from Philippines presented on the RWP in South East Asia, emphasizing the case in Philippines. He presented that in the past five years, there is a discourse and discussion about the fundamental insurgency due to weak governance. He focused on a critical analysis of violent extremism trend and discourse from the global south and how we are indirectly practicing populism and how it impacts negatively in peace building process. He differentiated South East Asia with Europe and put forward the impact and remnants of colonization, corruption and mal-governance, ethno-nationalist distrust and social divides, poverty and inequality that has increased the violent conflict and terrorism in the global south. He further said that mediators and bridge builders whether individuals or collectives, are trying to address the roots of conflicts and work on cohesion and justice. However, Inter-ethnic, inter-religious social conflicts are growing that is manifesting as systematic discrimination and one-sided violence. He emphasized that we need to acknowledge the local and context-specific understanding of conflict and fundamentalist trends, as well as solutions and resources for peace. We have to listen more to the local communities, understand trends based on their own logic and experience for people's peace movement.

Hon. Deepak Prakash Bhatta, member of house of representatives talked about the RWP based on Nepalese context and peace and security. He further gave a glimpse of the history of political violence movement and how the Nepalese people suffered a decade-long Maoist insurgency where they fought against monarchy and established the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. After this struggle, the Nepalese people were able to form their own constitution, which protects the rights of each Nepalese citizen including marginalized community such as the Madhesis, women dalits and other marginalized groups.

Prof. Kamal Chenoy from India presented a paper on the Challenge from Right Wing Populism. He put forward his views that RWP has become a topic of great concern in most parts of the world. He emphasized that it is very important for academics, politicians and activists to engage with RWP and expose the activities that they are doing. He said that the RWPs have attitude full of hatred towards liberals, women, migrants, poor and do not respect intellectuals and people's movements. He explained not new but an

increasing phenomenon and it is bad for the development of integral world, South-South cooperation, South-North cooperation.

Mr. Amaar Ali Jan from Pakistan gave a brief presentation on the danger of violent fundamentalisms. He mentioned about the threat and violence that are emerging from the extremist fundamentalists of Pakistan stating that there was always this eminent danger of Muslim extremists flourishing. He elaborated more about today’s world which is confronted with various political crisis like right wing populism crisis and other non-political, economic and linguistic crisis. He warned that we no longer have the language to explain the crises that we are going through and mentioned that Right Wing Populists use the terms such as immigrants, terrorists, Muslims as expressions to promote hatred and xenophobia in society and the primary concern of the Left Wing parties is their inability to contemplate the situation. He suggested that the Left-Wing parties would need to have formative version of today’s crisis to give a vision for the future. For this to be achievable, we have to start embracing the uncertainty of our era and start looking at politics as a creative process. He mentioned that “crisis is a moment of great danger and also a great opportunity and we should embrace the opportunity.”

Group Discussion:

Discussion Points	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
<p><i>Although the rise of far-right populism was caused by historical factors and current challenges of huge inequality, increasing poverty and marginalization, what are the nationally specific strategies that we could employ to stop far-right populism from spreading further?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We need to respect each other. ● Need to identify our own strength. ● Share/adopt best practice time to time and apply it. ● Develop common regional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The forms of left change over time. ● We have to rethink and move towards other forms of liberalism and activism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Right and Left have common crisis of language. ● We need new language, new concept, and new practice. ● We all - including intellectuals - are facing the uncertainty of future and there is

<p><i>How do we build and strengthen people to people reciprocal solidarity in Asia and Europe to achieve a more equal and peaceful regions?</i></p>	<p>practices/provisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct monitoring time to time and provide feedback in national as well as international level. 		<p>a need to address the mental condition of anxiety, uncertainty.</p>
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Session 2: Discussion on Different Fundamentalism and Institutions

Speakers of Session 2	
Name	Position / Organization
Mr. Jordi Calvo Rufanges	Barcelona
Mr. Thomas Sommer-Houdeville	France
Mr. Ed Legaspi	Philippines
<p>Facilitators of Session 2 to Ms. Bui Lien Huong (Vietnam Peace and Development Foundation) and Ms. Raquel de Guzman Castillo (AEPF Asia Focal Point Co-Coordinator)</p>	

Mr. Jordi Calvo Rufanges presented on ‘Militarisms and Defense Expenditures’. He informed about the global militarization, a new, wide and deep process of militarization,

which is expanding defence budgets every year in more countries around the globe. His main focus was on how governments around the globe are investing in arms and how this trend has been profitable for the arms manufacturing companies. He mentioned that this was against the solidarity in peace and security of people around the globe. He proposed a global campaign through press conferences, protests in different parts of the world against these warmongers who sell weapons to their own government and other nations only to make profit from wars.

Mr. Thomas Sommer-Houdeville from France gave his speech on Experiences and Practices from Europe. He explained that the material interest of people, increasing poverty and rise of neo-liberal authoritarianism are supporting RWP in Europe. He further described that the fundamentalist of Right-Wing Parties in all Europe are rising in a rapid way and have strong positions in Poland, Denmark, Italy, Hungary and other European countries. He stated that Right wing parties don't have warm response towards neoliberalism in Europe.

Mr. Ed Legaspi presented about the role of military and institutional continuity in the context of Southeast Asia. He provided a detailed history of Thailand's military governance and civilian governance up to the recent election in 2019. He mentioned that Thailand is one of the countries that has changed its constitution time and again due to multiple coups. He mentioned that since 1932, Thailand has endured an astonishing 11 successful military coups, as well as seven attempted coups. He put some glimpse on cold war in Vietnam and Laos in terms of ideology. He talked about Malaysia's 50 years of military rule and there new experiment with democracy.

Open Discussion:

Topics discussed in open discussion:

Populisms, Right Wing Populisms (RWP), Impact on Peace and Security

One of the participants questioned towards military extremism and religious fundamentalism towards refugees like Rohingya and Cuba having starve (solidarity).

The way to approach security is through implementation of good policy, good practice, good law and local governance and establishing a nuclear free society.

How we can make a different society for such transformation from traditional approach of the security.

3. Session 3: *Linkages and impacts of RWP and Fundamentalisms: Migration on Peace and Security*

Mr. Kalle Sysikaski’s of the Peace Union of Finland, made a presentation entitled “Refugees & Migrations in Europe: Implications and Impact”. He stated that migration is the greatest challenge around the globe and more solidarity within EU is needed to ensure the protection of the refugees including through efficient and speedy family reunion and relocation. For this to be successful, the migrants and refugees including unaccomplished, survivors of gender based, and sexual violence and separated children need adequate reception and assistance. He mentioned that most of the world’s migration is a direct consequence of poverty, conflict, persecution, safety for families and to improve the standards of living. He said that the militarization of borders, is a big business for the political leaderships of Europe but what is needed is a humane policy and instructional responses to migration.

Ms. Amabella Carumba, the speaker from Philippines, presented her experiences and challenges of RWP and Conflict Resolution: the case of Mindanao, Philippines. She presented that Mindanao is lacking access to justice, going through inequality, unequal distribution of resources. In her presentation, she asserted that the promises made by the Filipino President during the elections were never fulfilled rather he has put the lives of women in danger through sexist remarks and actions. She further added that the people of Mindanao want government’s linkup and strengthen solidarities among and between people’s movement and for governments to provide mechanisms for genuine representation

Speakers of Session 3	
Name	Position / Organization

Mr. Kalle Sysikaski	Peace Union of Finland
Ms. Amabella Corumba	Philippines
Hon. Sujita Shakya	Member of Parliament, Nepal
Mr. Tur-Old Lkhagvajav	Mongolia
Facilitators: Mr. Kris Vanslambrouck, Mr. Amaar Ali Jan	

of marginalized groups in peace processes and all levels of decision-making.

The next to address the session was Hon. Sujita Shakya, Parliamentarian of Nepal. Ho. Shakya presented the historical background of women's movement for equality, justice and peace through her presentation. She further explained how women leaders were participating in socio-religious awareness campaigns against feudalism, repressive Rana regime, superstitions, inequality, injustice and patriarchal exploitation. She further talked about the government's strategy to bring women in politics, programmes and campaigns for women empowerment with self-reliance, health and reproductive rights for women, the issues regarding violence against women. She claimed that the new constitution and the Government of Nepal has inclusive federal democracy to help develop and promote social harmony, empowerment, national unity, integrity and peace.

Mr. Tur-Old Lkhagvajav from Mongolia shed light on 'Peace Movement and Sustainable Development'. He highlighted the historic timeline of global peace movement. He emphasized on Buddha who was a true champion for peace in Asia and beyond. He gave some insight on Mongolia and global movement for peace and disarmament from 1951-2019. He further put emphasis to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. He said that international security, is at risk because of new variations of Cold war tensions are rising, and global military spending is at its highest since the fall of the Berlin wall.

Open discussion and proposal for the above discussed topics:

Topics discussed in open discussion:	
<p>One of the participants asked about the rising members of killing women and indigenous people in Philippines.</p>	<p>Ms. Amabella answered that the indigenous communities (75%) in Philippines don't have their own offices to raise their voice and they are becoming the victim of killing and suppression from the government. The use of media like critical columns are also creating misconception and negative insight among people and leading towards violence.</p>
<p>Hon. Julie Ward asked about the Nepalese women empowerment, stigmatization of religion and institutionalization of religion. Her question was directed to Hon. Sujita Shakya following her presentation.</p>	<p>Hon. Sujita Shakya replied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCP has equal respect for all religion, culture and tradition. • Religion and politics are different paradigm. • Although 33% of women are part of parliament, patriarchy is coming forth to the women's movement and empowerment. • She further focused on the institutionalization of democracy by the government and how they are working on how to control on bureaucracy and qualitative leadership. • She added that from quantitative to qualitative leadership establishment is still going on and the women are being empowered and encouraged to take part in the mainstream politics of the nation.

Mr. Kalle emphasized on the need of organizations to deal with migrants and multicultural communities while Mr. Tur-Od talked about the fake news and misinformation on social media against citizens in the digital area

Group Discussion:

Discussion Points	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
<i>What are the key issues and flashpoints that are used by RWPs to threaten peace and stability?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration / Immigration South to North (Asia to Europe) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divide and rule strategy among marginalized groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reorganizing the society and separating marginalized people
<i>How can people's movements play an effective role promoting peace in the face of RWP and global instability?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious fundamentalism • Social media hatred • Militarization / arms race • Climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy to the people's fundamental needs in regional, national and international ways is necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spreading Islamophobia. • Narrative of corruption, aspiration and structure is not working to reflect social demands.

4. Session 4: Discussion on Future Programmes, Advocacy, Communications and Resolution

The final session was conducted to discuss future events, advocacy, communications and resolution as well as to put forward and finalize the declaration from the Peace and

Security cluster. Ms. Corazon Fabros reflected the list of relevant existing campaigns that AEPF peace facilitated second session and security can contribute and support around the globe.

Ms. Bui Lien Huong thanked the organizers in her closing speech and said that the conference has brought fruitful and positive changes in us for solidarity and peace building process.

Later on, various participants put forward some solution, explanation and ideas for the solidarity of peace building process around the globe.

Mr. Thomas mentioned that we needed to map the connection between RWP and their discourse. We also needed a correction in root cause of immigration phobias because migrants are not phobias, but the people have phobias with migrants.

Mr. Tur-Od explained and clarified that we need to promote and engage more with the next generation of youth activists for peace and security (national security as well as human security).

Hon. Julie Ward focused on reference to education: we need informal education that really helps empowerment along with formal education. On the other hand, media is creating phobia about migrants and other thing through misleading and fake news. She suggests that we have to critique the media who present news in negative ways.

Mr. Milan Dharel provided his insight that the peace process should not be negatively exploited.

2.3 Closing Ceremony

Closing ceremony was also a joint session of the Social Justice and the Peace & Security thematic clusters, which was addressed by Dr. Sarba Raj Khadka. In this closing ceremony, the delegates from Asia and Europe discussed and endorse the declaration drafted by two different clusters.

Dr. Sharad Onta read the declaration draft prepared by the Social Justice Cluster. while welcoming other suggestions and inputs. The next speaker was Mr. Amaar ali Jan who shared the declaration from Peace and Security Cluster.

Mr. Ronald Kulke reflected the impression on the AEPF conference. He suggested everyone to think about the next steps, how we can politicize our network against the opposition to social justice and peace. Through this statement, he directly pointed towards the people’s movements as well as state sovereignty, which is under threat from NECO liberal economic system.

List of Chairs in Opening Plenary	
Name	Position / Organization
Dr. Dinesh C. Devkota	Former Vice Chair, NPC, Government of Nepal
Ms. Meena Menon	
Mr. Milan Dharel	Swatantrata Abhiyaan
Mr. Ronald Kulke	
Dr. Sharad Onta	Social Justice Cluster
Mr. Amaar ali Jan	Peace and Security Cluster

Hon. Julie Ward, MEP shared her impression on 3-days of the AEPF conference. She emphasized on the inclusive circle of young people and women and empowering them to power. She said that arts and culture is a tool for change, empowerment as tool for social transformation, and need to access art and culture in national and international levels. She spoke on the need for occupational literacy along with digital and media literacy.

Mr. Milan Dharel, speaking about the growth of AEPF over the years, also stated that the solidarity has become much stronger and the exchanges of views, ideas, and perspectives. He mentioned that the conference has been successful to alert the leaders of Nepal how the world is watching Nepal. He further said, although most of the people are denied and deprived of getting information about AEPF, we have alternative campaigns to attract young people to this Forum.

Ms. Meena Menon praised the amazing democratic methodologies that were followed and consultative process to build the constitution of Nepal. She also explained about AEPF -

which is an important and interesting platform for the people of Asia and Europe to talk together and build live connections between movements, between ideas now as well as in future.

Lastly, Dr. Dinesh C. Devkota congratulated and thanked all the contributors of the conference in Kathmandu as he closed the ceremony officially.

Annexes

Annex I: Program Schedule

Asia Europe Peoples Forum (AEPF)

Peace and Security Thematic Circle, Nepal, April 4-6, 2019

Right Wing Populisms and Fundamentalisms: Critical Thinking and Actions

Program: 4th – 6th April 2019

Venue: Hotel Yellow Pagoda, Jamal, Kathmandu Nepal

Time	Content	Note
	<p style="text-align: center;">4th April 2019, Thursday Day 1: COMMON PLENARY <i>Facilitators: Social Justice + Peace & Security</i></p>	
15:30 – 14:00:	Registration of All Delegates	

OPENING

14:00 - 17:00:

The Journey to Peace, Security and Social Justice: Collective Experiences, Challenges, Opportunities and Way Forward

Welcome: Dr. Sarba Khadka, Conference Coordinator, IDS Nepal

Inauguration: Rt. Hon. Pushpa Kamal Dahal,

Former Prime Minister of Nepal, NCP

Hon. Julie Ward, MEP, S & D Labour, U.K

Narayankaji Shrestha, Spokesperson of NCP, Nepal

Hon. Xavier Benito Ziluaga, MEP, GUE Podemos, Spain

Pryanca Radhakrishnan, MP, Labour, New Zealand

Facilitation: Dr. Dinesh Devkota & Dr. Francine Mestrum

Tea/Coffee Break

14:00

17:00

<p>17:10 19:00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17:00 - 19:00:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘Universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice’ (ILO Constitution, Preamble)</p> <p>Keynote speaker:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dagmar Walter, ILO South Asia</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Foreign Affairs Advisor to Prime Minister of Nepal.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Anuradha Chenoy, Professor Jawaharlal Nehru University, India</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nimalka Fernando, Human Rights activist, Sri Lanka</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hon. Daman Nath Dhungana, House of Representatives, Nepal</p> <p>Facilitators: <i>Meena Menon (India) & Bui Lien Huong (Vietnam)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TBC</p>
<p>19:00</p>	<p>Snacks / Conclusion of Day 1</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">5th April 2019, Friday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Day 2: PARALLEL SESSIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Facilitators: Peace & Security Cluster</i></p>		

<p>Morning</p> <p>09:00</p> <p>13:00</p>	<p>SESSION 1</p> <p>09:00 – 13:00</p> <p>Discussion on Populisms, Right Wing Populisms (RWP), impact on peace and Security:</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Prof. Kamal Chenoy (India): The Challenge from Right wing populism</p> <p>Hon. Deepak Prakash Bhatta, Member of House of Representatives</p> <p>Amaar Ali Jan (Pakistan): The Danger of Violent Fundamentalisms</p> <p>Marc Batac (Philippines): RWP in South East Asia</p> <p>Facilitators: Dorothy Guerrerro and Milan Dharel</p>	
<p>13:00</p> <p>14:00</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>	
<p>Afternoon</p> <p>14:00</p> <p>18:00</p>	<p>SESSION 2</p> <p>14:00 – 18:00</p> <p>Discussion on Different Fundamentalisms and Institutions:</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Jordi Calvo Rufanges (Barcelona): Militarisms and Defence Expenditures</p> <p>Seema Mustafa (India): Role of the Media in Fundamentalism and RWP</p> <p>Thomas Sommer Houdeville (France): Experiences and Practices from</p>	

Europe

Facilitators: Andy Rutherford and Bui Lien Huong

6th April 2019, Saturday

Day 3: CONCLUDING SESSIONS & CLOSING

Facilitators: Peace & Security + Social Justice

<p>Morning</p> <p>09:00</p> <p>13:00</p>	<p>SESSION 3</p> <p>09:00 – 13:00</p> <p>Linkages and Impacts of RWP and fundamentalisms: Migration on peace and security</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Kalle Sysikaski: “Refugees & Migrations in Europe: Implications & Impact</p> <p>Amabella Carumba (The Philippines): RWP and conflict Resolution: The Case of Mindanao</p> <p>Tur Od Lkhagvajav (Mongolia): Peace Movement & Sustainable Development</p> <p>Hon: Sujita Shakya: Women and Security in Rise of Populism and Fundamentalism</p> <p>Facilitators: Kris Vanslambrouk and Amaar Ali Jan</p>	
<p>13:00</p> <p>14:00</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>	
<p>Afternoon</p> <p>14:00</p> <p>15:30</p>	<p>SESSION 4</p> <p>14:00 – 15:30</p> <p>Discussion on Future Programs, Discussion on Advocacy and Communications: Resolutions Drafted and Passed:</p> <p>Facilitator: Corazon Fabros</p> <p>Resolutions: Bui Lien Huong</p>	
<p>15:30</p> <p>16:30</p>	<p>Tea Break</p>	

<p>16:30</p> <p>18:00</p>	<p>CLOSING SESSION</p> <p>Facilitator:</p> <p> Dr. Sarba Khadka, Conference Coordinator, IDS Nepal</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p> Dr. Dinesh Devkota</p> <p> Ms. Meena Menon</p> <p> Hon. Julie Ward, MEP, S & D Labour, U.K</p> <p> Mr. Milan Dharel, Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal</p> <p>SUMMARY FROM PARALLEL SESSIONS</p> <p>Mr. Onta: Summary from Social Justice Cluster</p> <p>Mr. Amaar Ali Jan: Summary from Peace and Security Cluster</p> <p>PRESS RELEASE</p> <p><i>Vote of Thanks to Organizers:</i></p>	

Annex II: Working Sessions Participant's List

Annex III: Presentations

Annex IV: Papers



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