

## FOREIGN POLICY RESOLUTION

India's foreign policy under the Congress Party has been based on the principles of securing India's supreme national interest and enhancing its engagement with all the regions of the world. The foreign policy has always been imbued with the philosophy of *Panchsheel* propounded by Pt. Nehru and has been a blend of idealism and firm pragmatism. Pt. Nehru, who was a global statesman, contributed immensely in building a coalition of newly independent countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America and is remembered for being the guiding spirit behind the Non-Aligned Movement. He had the vision to lead this initiative at a time when the world was divided into competing power blocs and his notable contribution in creating a new paradigm of South-South cooperation is universally acknowledged. Successive Congress Governments have remained steadfast in preserving these principles of foreign policy.

Smt Indira Gandhi inherited Jawaharlal Nehru's vision and nurtured to consolidate India's relations with the developing world. She made a notable contribution to the cause of world peace and played a leading role in the Non-Aligned Movement, chairing the 7<sup>th</sup> NAM Summit in New Delhi. India's role in strengthening the Asian-African solidarity was widely recognized and her tall stature grew in the ranks of world leaders.

Rajiv Gandhi's world vision drew strengths from Nehru's ethical foundations and steered a foreign policy which had the backing of national consensus. As part of the 5 continents initiative, he continued his efforts for disarmament, creating a positive environment for dismantling the nuclear weapons. He assumed leadership for convening the first summit of 6 nations to support a move calling for complete elimination of nuclear armaments. His contribution in preparing the Action Plan for a nuclear weapons free and non violent world order is deeply acknowledged. AICC reaffirms its commitment to the action plan on nuclear disarmament, which was brought before the UN General Assembly by Shri Rajiv Gandhi in 1988. It continues to remain the sheet anchor of India's world view of nuclear disarmament and nuclear weapon free world.

The Congress led UPA Government in the six years has successfully pursued a foreign policy, which has upheld India's engagement with all its strategic partners and major countries of the world, consolidating existing relations and forging new partnerships. In doing so, it has effectively advanced India's growing engagement with the world, which is in harmony with India's changing profile as significant global player in the 21<sup>st</sup> century world. India's external engagement has been effective and coherent in responding to a fast changing global dynamic, to ensure that India plays a leadership role in the 21<sup>st</sup> century world.

UPA government has been committed in building a peaceful South Asia and has meaningfully engaged with countries in our immediate and extended neighbourhood. India being the largest member of SAARC has the foresight to sustain an asymmetric and non-reciprocal approach towards regional cooperation. We can justifiably claim to have steered developed cooperation to the grassroots in our endeavour to transform SAARC from a declaratory phase to an implementation agenda.

The approach in our neighbourhood has been marked by a strong development orientation and we have similarly focused on infrastructure building in Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

AICC notes with satisfaction the restoration of multi-party democracy in Bangladesh and the successful visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in January 2010 has given a new dimension to this historic relationship. India remained committed to support Nepal's transition as a peaceful and stable democracy and while providing sustained support for its economic development.

The cessation of hostilities in Sri Lanka has opened a new chapter in their history and we hope that this will contribute in moving towards a peacefully negotiated settlement within the framework of united Sri Lanka, that ensures equality and dignity to the Sinhala, Tamils and other ethnic minorities. India supports the process of political devolution in Sri Lanka. AICC commends the government for India's support of Rs. 5,000 crores for rehabilitation of displaced Sri Lankan Tamils and the reconstruction of war ravaged Jaffna Peninsula.

The Indian National Congress welcomes the release of Aung San Suu Kyi. She had remained steadfast in her resolve to work for a democratic change in Myanmar, despite long years of imprisonment. We hope that this will begin a new process of reconciliation in Myanmar, leading to a broad-based inclusive political change.

India has played a significant contribution in the development and reconstruction of war ravaged Afghanistan. It has provided assistance for building infrastructure, including hospitals and educational institutions which has been appreciated by the people of Afghanistan and acknowledged by the global community. This will strengthen the ability of Afghanistan to return to normalcy in the long run.

India has remained steadfast in providing its unwavering support for the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people for a sovereign state of their own. A just settlement of the Palestinian issue and the creation of an independent and stable Palestine is an imperative for enduring peace in West Asia.

The engagement with China has been marked with a spirit of strategic cooperation and AICC welcomes the intensification of ties both at the Party and Government level, in a year which commemorates the completion of 60 years of establishment of our diplomatic relations. Being a large neighbour, and the largest trading partner, there are commonalities of interest and the future can be meaningfully rewarding through a spirit of partnership. The Memorandum of Understanding, signed between Communist Party of China and Indian National Congress has paved the way for regular leadership exchanges from both sides. AICC places on record its appreciation for the purposeful visit of Premier Wen Jiabao and his successful meetings with Prime Minister and Congress President which has helped create a better understanding between the political leadership.

The Congress led UPA Government has given a renewed thrust to the traditionally friendly ties with the Russian Federation and this period has been intense bilateral engagement and also within the framework of BRIC. This period was marked by high level visits from Russia, both of Prime Minister Putin and President Medvedev.

INC commends the Government's strong initiative for enhancing its engagement with the East Asian region, which is home to a vibrant and dynamic group of nations with a growing economic profile. Trade and investment relations with the economies of East Asia will get a renewed thrust with the signing of the Trade in Goods Agreement with the vibrant economic community of ASEAN and Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with Korea. The conclusion of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Japan and Malaysia has sent a strong signal to the global community that at a time of the unprecedented global recession India is prepared to engage with the world. The strategic dimension of engagement with East Asian region cannot be over-emphasized and the fact that India is now a full dialogue partner in the East Asia Summit will contribute to growing synergies in this region. In the years to come, we will see a greater economic integration of East Asia and the emergence of a comprehensive economic partnership in East Asia. India's engagement is increasingly recognized as being central to the larger economic integration of Asia.

Since the days of freedom struggle, India has always shared a special bond with the people of Africa and supported their liberation struggles from colonialism and apartheid. Our approach to Africa was inspired by the ideology of Mahatma Gandhi. Pt. Nehru nurtured this relationship and India stood steadfast in solidarity with the people of Africa in their times of adversity and provided material and moral support in their fight against the repressive colonial regime and the abominable practice of apartheid. Rajiv Gandhi continued providing strong political material and moral support to the African National Congress and SWAPO of Namibia. His efforts saw him emerge as a leading crusader in the struggle against apartheid. He mobilized support of the international community for imposing mandatory sanctions against racist South Africa regime. He is respected for his initiative in establishment of the AFRICA (Action for Resisting Invasion Colonialism and Apartheid) Fund at the Non-Aligned Summit in Harare. The people of India rejoiced in the freedom of the African people.

Congress led UPA Government consolidated the historic relationship with Africa and institutionalised these bonds through an institutional cooperation with African Union under the overarching umbrella of Framework of India-Africa Forum Summit. This Summit conceived in a spirit of partnership with African Union has prepared a blueprint for sustained partnership between India and Africa in the 21st century. The UPA

government has provided consistent support for the economic and human development of the people of Africa and the Least Developed Countries through capacity building programmes and supported the efforts of institution building in these countries. The pan African E-Network project is a shining symbol of our cooperation with Africa, embracing 47 countries in its fold, to prepare Africa for bridging the digital divide.

The AICC applauds the institutionalization of the historic ties between Indian National Congress and African National Congress of South Africa for sustained party level exchanges, including those of the Youth and Women Wings. It will provide greater depth to this political engagement between India and South Africa, which has no parallel in the world.

The consolidation of relationship with Africa were manifested in important high level visits by the South African President Zuma, Namibian President Pohamba, AU President Bingu Mutharika.

It is a matter of satisfaction that IBSA has evolved as an important political formation, bringing together India, Brazil and South Africa, the three vibrant democracies and emerging economies from the continents of Asia, Latin America and Africa for a robust partnership. The institution has a strategic significance in the changing global economic and political architecture. The emergence of BRIC as a formation of four emerging economies – Brazil, Russia, India and China has underscored the growing economic profile of India.

AICC notes with satisfaction the growing engagement with the European Union through an annual summit level dialogue. EU has emerged as India's largest trading partner and the efforts of the government for bringing negotiations for a broad-based trade and investment agreement, is indeed commendable. India and EU are bound by shared values of democracy, respect for human rights and rule of law and a strategic engagement with EU, therefore, assumes special significance.

India has entered into strategic partnership with all major countries of the world, including France, Russia, UK, USA, Japan, South Africa, Brazil, Nigeria, EU, Germany, China and Saudi Arabia.

India's engagement with United States has seen a major transformation and AICC congratulates the Government in securing a firm endorsement to India's candidature for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. The visit of President Obama has underscored a strong bipartisan support for elevating this strategic engagement between the two largest democracies of the world.

The civil nuclear energy cooperation agreement was a major milestone in international diplomacy and marked the acceptance of India in the global mainstream, ending the three decade nuclear isolation. It was an acknowledgement of India's impeccable credentials on non-proliferation. We have now begun to operationalise agreements for civil nuclear energy cooperation with all major countries of the world which will help us in addressing the twin challenge of energy security and climate change.

In terms of strengthening bilateral relations, this year has seen high level visits of Heads of State/Government from all P-5 countries – USA, UK, France, Russia and China.

AICC places on record its appreciation for the successful visit of President of France Sarkozy, Prime Minister of UK David Cameron. These visits demonstrated the strategic nature of a growing bilateral engagement with major powers. A strong endorsement by them for India's candidature for a permanent seat in UN Security Council and the deepening of civil nuclear cooperation was an important development.

The UPA Government has effectively brought the threat of terrorism on the global agenda and has mobilized global support in condemning sponsorship of terrorism as an instrument of state policy. In particular, the syndicate of terror operating from the soil of Pakistan was exposed in the international community.

The dastardly terrorist attack in Mumbai outraged the nation and shocked the entire world community, which unequivocally condemned it and expressed solidarity with India. The attack negatively impacted the relationship between India and Pakistan in which we have invested a great deal over the years for the sake of peace in our region. Pakistan must deliver with sincerity in its assurances to dismantle the terror outfits,

not to allow the use of its territory for terror attacks in India and bring to justice the perpetrators masterminds responsible for the Mumbai carnage.

India' has moved a comprehensive convention in United Nations on international terrorism and has built a large coalition of support for the same. India has now become a full member of the Financial Action Task Force which is a major step in checking the financing of terror and money laundering.

India is now part of the international security dialogue including the ARF, SICA and is engaged with all major strategic partners through the instrumentality of joint working groups to collectively fight and defeat the forces of terror, which threaten the establishment of a democratic global order.

AICC congratulates the UPA Government for enhancing India's stature in the global community and the constructive role played by it in G-20. India's voice is today heard with respect in all international forums established to tackle global challenges. The Congress led UPA government has shown leadership in re-drawing the international financial architecture at a time when the world was faced with the worst economic crisis ever.

AICC congratulates PM Dr. Manmohan Singh for his successful participation in major global Summits, including G-20, India-ASEAN, IBSA, BRIC, East-Asia and India-EU Summits. His wise counsel was respected by the leaders of the world in collectively shaping a response to the global economic crisis. His leadership saw initiation of reform of multilateral financial institutions. UPA Government galvanized India's bilateral engagement with all major countries of the world while also strengthening the traditional relationship with our traditional allies in the developing world.

UPA government has shown leadership in its engagement for establishment of a world trade regime which seeks to address the distortions of history and create a rule based economic order. Both in its engagement at WTO and Climate Change negotiations, India has served as a bridge between the 'developing' and the 'developed' world. India has stood for the interests of the Least Developed Countries and its coalition partners in the developing world. The emergence of BASIC - Brazil, South Africa, India and China – has altered the nature of discourse in climate change negotiations.

AICC notes with appreciation the multi-pronged strategy of government in addressing the challenge of energy security to fuel the demands of a growing economy. The expansion of energy cooperation with different regions of the world in Asia, Middle East, Africa and Latin America deserves commendation. The expansion of the renewable energy programme and the thrust of collaborative international efforts to upscale this initiative are timely.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century world has seen momentous changes and re-balancing of global geo-political power. In the last two decades, the world has clearly moved towards a multi-polar order, manifested in EU, African Union, India, China, Brazil and South Africa. Therefore, the reform of global political and financial institutions to reflect the contemporary global realities has become an imperative to inspire global confidence. These institutions, which came up in the post World War era need to be made more democratic and representative to remain relevant in modern times.

AICC commends the Government for mobilizing global support for comprehensive reforms in multilateral institutions, including the restructuring of the UN Security Council, with expansion both in permanent and non-permanent categories. India is of this considered view that the composition of the reformed Council should be democratic and inclusive in character, reflecting contemporary global reality. The UPA government has been successful in garnering support from large majority of countries for India's deserving candidature for a permanent seat in the Security Council, being the largest democracy in the world. This has received a strong endorsement from major developed countries, regional political groupings including African Union and the European Union.

AICC also commends the initiative of Congress President and Prime Minister for mobilizing global support for the unanimous adoption of India's resolution at the United Nations General Assembly to declare October 2, as the International Day of Non-Violence. This declaration on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's martyrdom and the Centenary of Satyagraha movement had a momentous significance not just for the Party, but for all the people of India.

AICC recognizes the growing contribution of Indian Diaspora to the global cultural, economic and political institutions whilst maintaining their bonds with the mother country. AICC commends the government's move to extend the right to vote to overseas Indian community.

India being the civilisational country has a rich cultural heritage, which over a period of time, has permeated to different regions of the world. While India's economic profile is increasing, it is equally important to nurture the cultural bridges with the rest of the world. AICC commends the government's successful programmes through the ICCR and the Public Diplomacy Department for taking Indian culture to different parts of the globe, where the interest in it continues to grow.

This session of the AICC has noted with satisfaction and considerable appreciation the government's efforts to enhance India's stature in the comity of nations. The traditional leadership role of India in leading from the front the Third World and movements for emancipation of Asia and Africa has evolved into a 21st century leadership for an equitable global order. India is committed to contributing in terms of capacity as well as delivery. Beyond the past we want to look to the future but a future that is shared in terms of justice and equality. Indian National Congress congratulates the Government for its remarkable achievements and the deft handling of foreign policy.

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