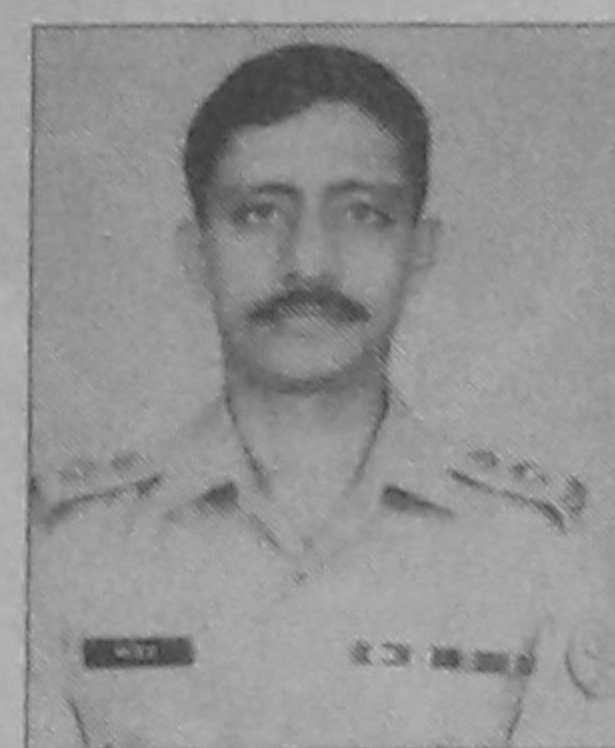


# WE PAY DEEP HOMAGE TO THE MARTYRS, THOSE WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES FOR WORLD PEACE AND STABILITY.

Bangladesh is one of the largest contributors to the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. Our Armed Forces have played a commendable role joining hands with other nations to restore world peace. Our brave and dedicated soldiers had to perform duties in risky places and in very hazardous conditions. As a result, some of them faced casualties even death in foreign lands. They are our great martyrs who laid their lives to bring laurels for our country. We are proud of their glorious sacrifice. Today we solemnly recall the event which led them to their death. They are :



**Lt Col Muhammad Faizul Karim, E Bengal**  
He died on 04 April 1989 in a road accident in Namibia (UNTAG)



**Lt Col Muhammad Hossain, Sigs**  
He died on 09 March 1996 due to Mine explosion in Georgia (UNOMIG)



**Maj Alamgir Md Sarwar Hossain, AC**  
He died on 09 May 1996 due to a road accident in Iraq (UNGCI)



**Resalder M A Harun Or Rashid, AC**  
He died on 30 Dec 1994 in an ambush laid by enemy in UNIKOM Kuwait.



**Spr Md Abdul Hai Mondal, Engrs**  
He died on 03 December 1994 due to acute heart failure in Bosnia-Herzegovina (UNPROFOR) mission area



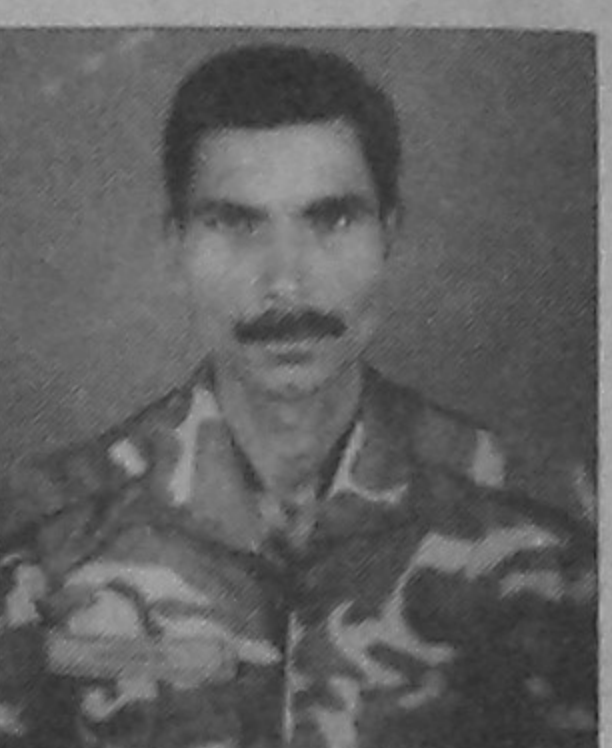
**Sep Md Ismail Hossain, E Bengal**  
He died on 13 December 1994 due to enemy missile attack on own APC while on patrol duty in Bosnia-Herzegovina (UNPROFOR)



**Sep Md Yousuf Ali, E Bengal**  
He died on 28 March 1993 due to Maxillofacial injury RT side by enemy rocket splinter in Cambodia (UNTAC)



**Sep Md Akbar Hossain, E Bengal**  
He died on 29 December 1993 due to road accident in Somalia (UNOSOM)



**Nk. Abdul Aziz, Engrs**  
He died on 03 August 2000 in East Timor (UNTAET) in a mine clearing operation

**Lnk Md Abdur Rahim**  
He died on 24 January 1996 due to serious injury caused by a road accident in Haiti (HAITI)

**Lnk Sarwar Hossain Mia**  
He died on 15 August 1993 due to electric shock in Mozambique (UNUMOZ)

**Sep Md Alauddin**  
He died on 03 April 1994 due to acute Cardiac Failure in UNIKOM (Kuwait)

**Lnk Md Faiz Ahmed**  
He died on 01 February 1997 due to road accident in UNIKOM (Kuwait)

## BANGLADESH CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS

From Supplement 1st Page

As per the report of UN Department of Peacekeeping as on 31 March 1996, Bangladesh secured the highest position among the contributing countries in peace missions. Such statistics bear the testimony of credible performance of the Armed Forces.

Our experience gained through peacekeeping operations is invaluable. Individual and collective involvement in multi-dimensional assignments have created a wide spectrum of knowledge and experience of professional value. These are varied in nature and their cumulative effect on our organisational efficiency has manifold implications. Interaction with the members of the most modern armies has offered unique opportunity to train and groom up our officers and soldiers. Each mission area has proved to be a testing ground of professional expertise and sustenance. The decision making, handling crisis at every level, surviving in extreme adverse condition, operating under coalition forces and many other facets of professional development has been possible. Such exposure and performance analysis have proved that our Army is capable of adapting and operating in many difficult parts of the world. The Army, today, has inculcated a professional culture and is more practical oriented and competent than before.

We achieved our independence through a long political struggle that culminated into War of Liberation in 1971. We know the pains and sufferings of the people that are caused by war. This experience has made it possible for us to consciously make genuine efforts in peace support operations anywhere in the world. The Father of the Nation BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN dreamt to see that world recognises our values and Bengalees occupy their appropriate position in the world community with honour and dignity. Today we are proud to pronounce that his dream has come true. The spirit of the war of Liberation and the supreme sacrifices of the millions will continue to remain as the source of inspiration for our total commitment to peace and stability of the world.

### UN Peace Support Operations

Immediately after World War-II, the concept of collective security was revitalised which led to the creation of the United Nations in 1945. After the demise of Cold War, the world is undergoing significant changes with more of brutal persecution, ethnic cleansing, religious, social, cultural and linguistic conflicts, which are posing continuous threat to international peace and stability. International community and the UN made relentless efforts to resolve these disputes through diplomacy and other means including peace support operations.

Peacekeeping and peacemaking are intended to contain, reduce and eventually stop conflicts. In the past, peacekeeping was largely limited to "standing in the middle" between warring factions; today its meaning has been changed, its roles widened and its responsibilities broadened. Presently, the UN undertakes variety of specialised operations like peace making, peacekeeping, peace enforcing, peace observing and humanitarian support operations. All inclusive may be Peace Support Operations.

### Bangladesh Contribution to UN Peace Support Operations

Bangladesh's contribution to peace support operations is indeed a matter of pride for the nation. Participation of Bangladesh in different UN Peace Support Operation has reiterated our commitment and the courage to sacrifice for peace and stability in the new millennium. It may be worth mentioning that today Bangladesh is the fourth largest troop contributing nation in the UN. From the inception till to date the UN has undertaken a total of 54 Peace Support Operations across the globe. Bangladesh, within thirty years of her independence, has participated in 26 Peace Support Operations with utmost sincerity and devotion.

**Completed Missions.** The details of completed missions are mentioned below:

**United Nations Iran Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIMOG).** The mission was established on 20 August 1988 primarily to establish and monitor cease-fire. This was Bangladesh Army's first ever participation in the UN Peace Support Operations. 31 Bangladeshi observers took part in this mission from August 1988 - February 1991. In this mission, a Bangladeshi Army Officer held the appointment of Deputy Chief Military Observer for a considerable period.

**United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG).** UNTAG was set up in April 1989, to ensure the early independence of Namibia through free and fair election under supervision and control of UN. 25 Bangladeshi observers participated in this mission from April 1989 to March 1990. **United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).** It was established in February 1992, to ensure the implementation of the Paris Agreement and conduct free and fair election. Bangladesh Army's first contingent (officers and troops) participated in UN sponsored peace support mission. 38 Bangladeshi observers/staff and a military contingent of 965 personnel totaling 1003 participated in this mission from March 1992 to August 1993.

**United Nations Operations in Somalia (UNOSOM II).** In this mission, Bangladesh Army provided two Infantry Battalions in tandem and 26 observers/staffs totalling 1987 persons from April 1992 to August 1994. Bangladesh Army performed their tasks under extremely difficult and hostile condition to control violent opposing forces' actions. It may be worth mentioning that despite the withdrawal of US contingent under difficult security situation, Bangladesh contingent held fast with extreme patience and determination till the time mission was finally closed.

**United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ).** This mission was set up in December 1992, to implement General Peace Agreement of Rome to end long drawn conflict between President of Mozambique and the opposition leader of RENAMO (Resistencia Nacional Mocambicana). Two Bangladeshi Infantry Battalions along with Engineer, Logistic and Medical elements with 100 staffs and observers totalling 2468 participated in this mission from December 1992 to May 1994. Bangladeshi Army offi-

cers held the appointments of Force Commander and Deputy Force Commander of this mission.

**United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).** It was established on 21 February 1992 to create conditions for peace and security required for the negotiation of an overall settlement of the former Yugoslavia crisis. Bangladesh provided a Mechanized Infantry Battalion of 1,239 personnel along with another 142 observers/staffs totaling 1381 in this mission from March 1992 to November 1995. It was one of the fiercest mission in the history of the peace support operations ever undertaken by UN. Bangladesh Forces faced the situation with valour, courage and dedication and upheld the national image in an unfriendly terrain and weather and extremely volatile security condition.

**United Nations Angola Verification Missions (UNAVEM III).** This mission came into effect in February 1995 primarily to supervise, control and verify the disengagement of forces and monitor the ceasefire. Bangladesh Army participated with a contingent of 413 Engineer personnel and 54 observers/staffs totaling 467 upto April 1999.

**United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti (UNMIH).** This mission established in September 1994 to implement agreement between Haitian Government and Haitian Military leadership. Two Bangladeshi contingents of 1901 personnel in rotation along with 39 observers/staffs, totaling 1940 were deployed in this mission from September 1994 to July 1996. Bangladesh was entrusted with the prestigious task of guarding the Presidential Palace as well as the main port Port-Au-Prince, the two most important strategic points.

**United Nations Observer Mission in Uganda - Rwanda (UNOMUR).** This mission was established on 22 June 1993. Bangladesh provided 20 military observers in this mission. The primary task of the observers was to monitor the violation of border between Uganda and Rwanda and verify no military assistance was being provided from across the borders.

**United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR).** It was established on 05 October 1993, to monitor the demilitarised zone and security situation during final period of the transitional Government's mandate leading to elections and assist in mine clearing operations. Bangladesh provided 107 military observers, 29 staff officers and a contingent with 824 strength between 1993 to 1994 in this mission. Bangladesh contingent was assigned to ensure the security of the capital city Kigali, Rwanda under adverse security situations.

**United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL).** UNOMIL was established on 22 September 1993, to monitor the implementation procedures of 'Cotonou Peace Agreement'. In this mission, Bangladesh contributed 42 military observers and Engineer contingent with 87 manpower. The main tasks of Engineer contingent were to reconstruct/repair the roads/tracks and clearance of mines from the area where UN personnel operated.

**United Nations Transitional**

**Administrations for Eastern Slovenia (UNTAES).** This mission was established on 15 January 1996 to supervise and facilitate the demilitarization of the region and also ensure safe return of refugees and displaced persons to their home. Bangladesh contributed 17 officers as observers in this mission between 1996 and 1999.

**United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP).** This mission was established on 31 October 1988 to monitor the withdrawal of Soviet forces stationed in Afghanistan. Two military officers from Bangladesh served in this mission from 1997 to 1999.

**United Nations Preventive Deployment Force in Macedonia (UNPREDEP).** It was established on 31 March 1995 as a distinct operating entity in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Bangladesh provided 04 military observers in this mission between 1996 and 1999. Their main tasks were monitoring and reporting on the situation along the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Albania.

**United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT).** This mission was established on 16 December 1994 to monitor the effectiveness of ceasefire agreement, national reconciliation and promotion of democracy in Tajikistan. Bangladesh contributed 34 military observers in this mission from 1994 and 2000.

**On-going Missions.** Bangladesh Army is presently participating in the following UN Missions:

**United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).** This was established in April 1991 to implement the "Settlement Proposal" as accepted by Morocco and POLISARIO for reaffirming the right of the people of Western Sahara. Out of total 319 military personnel, 06 Bangladeshi observers are currently deployed in this mission. So far, a total of 48 Observers have participated in the mission.

**United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM).** UNIKOM was established in April 1991 to monitor withdrawal of Iraqi forces from occupied Kuwait unconditionally. Out of 1,120 military personnel, Bangladesh provides 5 military observers and Contingents of Army 772, Navy Boat Crew 08 and Air Force 35- totaling 820 personnel at a time. Since April 1991, a total of 5,483 have participated from Bangladesh Army. The figure includes military observers and consecutive rotation of seven Mechanized Infantry Battalions. The primary task of Bangladesh Battalion is to monitor and patrol the demilitarised zone between Iraq and Kuwait including manning of checkpoints along the border.

**United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG).** This was established in August 1993 to end the conflict between Abkhaz separatists and the Georgians. Out of total 136 military observers, 5 Bangladeshi observers are deployed at a time in this mission. Since November 1993, 45 observers have already participated in the mission.

**United Nations Transitional**

**Assistance in East Timor (UNTAET).** UNTAET was established in 1999 to organize and conduct popular consultation inside and outside the territory and ascertain whether the people of East Timor accept or reject a proposed constitutional framework providing for special autonomy for East Timor within the unitary Republic of INDONESIA. Out of 200 military observers 30 Bangladeshi observers are presently deployed in this mission. Bangladesh Army has also provided 21 officers in the Force HQ. In addition, Bangladesh army has contributed one Engineer Battalion Group to UNTAET with 525 manpower and equipment. The primary task of Multi-role Engineer Battalion is to reconstruct the war ravaged East Timor.

**United Nations Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL).** UNAMSIL was established in July 1998. Since 1999, ten military observers along with three staff officers and one non-commissioned officer are deployed in Sierra Leone. Bangladesh Army has also contributed one Protected Infantry Battalion Group as BANBAT-1. The battalion with 776 manpower and Country Owned Equipment (COE) has been deployed in Sierra Leone. Bangladesh Battalion has been assigned to guard and protect the Lungi International Airport in Sierra Leone, the hub of all communications with outside world.

**United Nations Guard Contingent in Iraq (UNGCI).** The UNGCI was established in 1995 and since then total 66 UN Guards from Bangladesh have participated in this mission including 09 UN Guards presently deployed in Iraq. Guarding UN personnel and property, patrolling and escort duties are the main duties of UN Guards in Iraq.

**United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).** This mission was established in June 1999 for promoting the establishment of substantial autonomy and self-government in Kosovo. So far, Bangladesh has contributed two observers in this mission. Their main task is to establish and maintain liaison and coordinating efforts of UNMIK with international security presence.

**United Nations Organisations Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC).** This mission was established on 06 August 1999 to establish contact and maintain liaison with the Joint Military Commission and all parties to the agreement. Since its inception, Bangladesh provided 09 military observers and 07 staff officers in the Mission Headquarters.

### "Price for Peace" by Bangladesh

From the day Bangladesh started participation in different peacekeeping missions, many of our officers and soldiers made supreme sacrifices for the cause of restoring peace in the world. So far, 13 Bangladeshi suffered casualties in terms of death and 31 suffered in terms of injuries while performing their tasks in various peacekeeping missions. Though the family members of Bangladeshi Peacekeepers, who have embraced martyrdom or have been physically handicapped due to injury, continue to suffer the agonies of life, yet the nation as a whole has been glorified. We also sympathise deeply with the sorrows of these

families.

### Conclusion

Bangladesh continued to support the UN effort and achieved considerable success in the fields of maintaining peace and security around the globe. The UN Secretary General Mr. Kofi

A. Annan commented that, "Bangladesh is a model member of the UN, providing leadership amongst the least developed countries, and in the General Assembly and other UN forum, and contributing substantially to peacekeeping and humanitarian operations." The underlying causes of this

success stem from dedication and sincerity of the Bangladeshi peacekeepers on assigned tasks, their discipline and professional competence. Bangladesh is always prepared to respond to the UN's peace initiatives as stated unequivocally by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

## THE ROLE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN UN PEACEKEEPING : THE BANGLADESH PERSPECTIVE

C. M. Shafi Sami

The Charter of the United Nations entrusts the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security with the Security Council. In other words, this primary responsibility to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" is shouldered by this supreme UN organ which has the mandate to make the difference between life and death. As provided in Article 43 of the UN Charter, member States at their national discretion share the responsibility for the maintenance of global peace and security by contributing troops and services and fulfilling the mandates of UN's peace-keeping missions. It is pertinent however, to remember that it is in the Security Council, which is essentially a political body, only 15 member States, and not the UN Secretary General or the remaining 174 member States, have the political responsibility to decide or reject the need, the size, the mandate, overall objectives and duration of a particular peace-keeping mission. The end of the cold war constraints has marked the beginning of a qualitative and quantitative change in the work of the UN Security Council and has given way for a much more proactive, participatory and transparent Council particularly on the very vital question of peace-keeping. With record high numbers of informal consultations and resolutions on the question of PKOs during the decade of the 90s, compared to record low numbers between 1946-90, each of the non-permanent member State of the Council, is in a much enabling position today than ever before, to contribute most actively and objectively to the shaping of decisions concerning PKOs. They contribute heavily in making that crucial difference between life and death, on an equal footing with the permanent five members, who need the support of a majority of non-permanent members for any substantive decision to get through.

Bangladesh, which is constitutionally committed to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, has been destined to play a respectful role and earn the confidence of the international community in matters of global peace, since the day Father of the Nation iterated the basic tenets of our foreign policy at the UN General Assembly 26 years ago. It is Bangabandhu's noble principle of "peace and friendship with all nations" and the introduction of multi-lateralism in 1974 in Bangladesh's foreign policy that set the stage for Bangladesh's subsequent participation in the UNPKOs and emergence as a leading troop contributor throughout the 90's. Giving due consideration to Bangladesh's increasing involvement in UN peace keeping and the central role played by the Security Council in matters of international peace and security and in shaping the UNPKOs, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina decided to float Bangladesh's candidature to the Council in 1996 immediately after assuming Office. In October 1999 Bangladesh was

unanimously elected to the UN Security Council for the term 2000-2001 securing 100% vote by the UNGA. Our election was indeed a vindication of the confidence the international community reposes on us in matters of peace and security.

In January 2000, Bangladesh assumed membership in the council in the backdrop of 14 ongoing conflict situations with major peace-keeping missions, 6 in Africa, 4 in Europe, 2 in the Middle East and 2 in Asia. From the beginning of her membership in the Council Bangladesh carved its position as an active, constructive and consensus builder State engaging maximum efforts towards enhancing the capacity of the UN in conflict prevention, peace-keeping, peace-enforcement and post-conflict peace-building. We have also put continued emphasis on the political will and commitment of the Council members and the broader membership to let the Council assume the primary role in matters of peace-keeping, peace-building and conflict prevention. We underlined that an effective and transparent Council is critically important for preventing conflict, particularly in the developing countries in Africa and Asia. During its first nine months in the Council, Bangladesh has made active contributions to the crucial decision making process in some of the most significant and largest peace-keeping missions in the history of the UN including in East Timor, Sierra Leone and Congo. At the same time under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh's troops contribution reached an all time high of 2300, in UN peace missions worldwide during the course of these nine months. Being at the Council provides Bangladesh the opportunity to be able to offer its troops to a mission at the earliest possible stage of its inception. Bangladesh's expected participation in some of the upcoming missions including in Ethiopia-Eritrea, Lebanon and expanded UNAMSIL is one such example.

During the thematic debates at the Council on the issue of peace-keeping, Bangladesh since assuming its membership in the Council, has been putting forward specific recommendations for enhancing and streamlining the UN's peace-keeping capacity in operational as well as in logistics and financial terms. On the issue of conflict prevention, Bangladesh has emphasized the need to evolve an Early Warning Mechanism so that indications of conflicts can be nipped before they erupt into serious situations. We also stressed the need for a well defined, united command and control structure for each peace-keeping mission and have called on the Secretariat to hold consultations with troops contributing countries with the involvement of the Council, from an early stage of planning to ensure an effective Mission. The need to ensure congruity of mandates, resources and objectives while formulating and implementing the mandates of operations has

also been stressed by Bangladesh. We have strongly supported the establishment of a Rapid Deployment Mission Headquarters (RDMHQ) at the earliest opportunity and reiterated its importance in significantly reducing the preparation time in deploying troops in Missions that call for unwarranted deployment and strengthening at the shortest notice. In this context Bangladesh has called upon the Council to give due consideration to the principle of equitable geographical representation in respect of recruitment of personnel for the RDMHQ. In the Council Bangladesh has been particularly stressing the importance of developing at an early date an agreed guideline on the principles governing the role of Civilian Police Personnel (CIVPOLs) in the UNPKOs as we believe CIVPOLs can play a major role in restoration of civil order in post-conflict. As the next NAM Chairman-designate at the NAM Caucus of the Council, Bangladesh has underscored the NAM principles on peace-keeping including respect for basic principles such as consent of parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence for ensuring success of a Mission. At the single initiative of Bangladesh, the Security Council has introduced a standard paragraph in all resolutions on UNPKOs calling for protection of peace-keeping personnel from the HIV/AIDS virus during their tour of duty. As a major troops contributor, Bangladesh introduced such a theme during its March Presidency of the Council that formulated the basis for the thematic debate among the Council members on the critical question of protection of UN peace-keeping and humanitarian personnel during peace Mission. In his Presidential Statement Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Bangladesh called upon the Council to recognise that the primary responsibility to ensure safety of UN personnel in conflicts lies with the host State. Bangladesh welcomed the Brahimi Panel Report on improving UNPKOs and called for an in-depth consideration of the recommendations contained therein.

In her address at the second ever Security Council Summit held in New York on 7 September 2000, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reaffirmed Bangladesh's unwavering commitment to the cause of peace and UN peace-keeping and has underscored the need for the Security Council to remain as the principal body in the maintenance of peace and security. In keeping with her deep commitment to peace and development she called upon the Council to focus on conflict prevention and address the root causes of conflict such as poverty and intolerance and build a culture of peace in every mind for achieving a durable peace. Bangladesh would continue to remain fully committed to serve in the UN Security Council and in various capacities in response to UN peace-keeping missions in manifestation of our unequivocal commitment to peace, humanity and development.