

CONCEPT NOTE

On

“SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT”

Robert McNamara claims that ‘Development means Security and without Security, there is no Development’. Besides, the security-development nexus is well explained by the Copenhagen School and its Critical Security Approach. They have encouraged a broadening definition of security away from the traditional emphasis on the protection of the state through military means. Barry Buzan concept of security extends beyond military security. He claims that there can be other dimensions to security such as economic, political, societal, and environmental security along with military security. The object of security extends beyond the state to encompass a range of groups and individuals. Whenever a group or individual feels under threat, it can be relevant to invoke the discourse of security. According to the critical security approach, security involves not only the protection of the territorial integrity of a state but upholding and enhancing the well-being of the people coming within the jurisdiction of a state as well as politico-military security. Hence, security and development are interrelated and play a central role in the process of national growth and societal development.

Security development is no longer limited to the military alone. It encompasses a broad range of developmental philosophies and strategies that are (directly and indirectly) influenced by (traditional and non-traditional) threats, including economic, political, social and environmental. Along with this, the concept of human security has been very important in directing attention to the various ways in which the well-being of individuals can be threatened. Traditionally, development and national security focused on the ability of the state to address underdevelopment issues as well as deter aggression against its territorial boundaries and ensure the security of individuals, political system, and institutions against internal and external threats. Since the challenges of the 21st Century are no longer defined by a single prominent threat, a state’s national security and developmental policies must cast a wider net, beyond simply relying on hard power means, to ensure national security. The concept of national security in the 21st century, however, accounts for not just military security and proactive diplomacy but also economic, political, social, human, food, energy, and environmental security. It has become necessary for states to consciously engage in national as well as global security initiatives with a wide range of security areas.

Pakistan’s regional development and internal security environment are both complex and complicated. Besides neglected developmental issues within the country’s boundaries, an important element is balancing conventional threats along the border, the state faces serious challenges of nation-building and ethnic, political, religious, and sectarian threats from multiple militant groups which have hampered the development efforts in the country. Most critical amongst these is Pakistan’s youth bulge. Young adults (ages 15-29) comprise 30% of Pakistan’s population; a demographic trend that is expected to last for another three decades. As a result, a high population growth rate inflicts tremendous pressure on the economy and the environment. Changes in precipitation, temperature, and extreme natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and droughts have become increasingly frequent in the past few decades leading to the destruction of homes, infrastructure and internal displacement of people. Moreover, in the coming decades,

water will serve to be a potential source of conflict between India, Pakistan, China, and Bangladesh, as these countries struggle to seek survival by securing their share of water from the major rivers in the region. Pakistan also faces a crippling energy crisis and will have to depend on its neighbours and regional power politics for its long-term energy security.

This conference aims to achieve four major objectives:

1. Map the developmental policies and strategies (also projects) especially in rural surroundings.
2. Seek clarity about the security challenges facing Pakistan.
3. Analyse the responses to underdevelopment and national security challenge to determine how pragmatic and relevant they are within the Pakistani context.
4. Encourage the generation of new ideas and thoughts on developmental models towards prosperity and national security that may positively influence public policy.

The expected outcome of the conference will be to inspire inquiry, initiate policy discussion and stimulate new ideas and policies on the pressing developmental and security issues of Pakistan.

Those who intend to attend the conference may register during May-September 2021.

The organisers of the said conference are Dr Farah Naz, Assistant Professor, Department of Government and Public Policy and Dr Muhammad Ammad Khan, Assistant Professor, Department of Development Studies. They are the departmental coordinator/representatives who will facilitate the 'lead person' of this conference. Further communication regarding the conference can be directed to email farahnaz@s3h.nust.edu.pk and ammad@s3h.nust.edu.pk.

Join us in October 2021.