# Draft Agenda For The Consideration Of Nature-Human Centric Peoples Movement In Every Member Country Of The South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation

**I. SAARC's Miserable Performance**

South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is the largest regional organisation in the world by population, covering approximately 1.50 billion people. SAARC is an economic organisation of seven countries in Southern Asia. The organisation was established on December 8, 1985 by India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives and Bhutan.

The most notable ground reality of SAARC is its paradoxical state of affairs in the present-day world. On the one hand, it presents a great developmental potential in its human and natural resources and, on the other, it constitutes the poorest and the most backward area of the world. On its positive side, it is characterised by a geographical contiguity, one-fourth of human community with a single root, shared history and socio-ethnic affinity, 700 million effective consumers, second largest railway network (more than 92,256 km) after US, the largest irrigated land in the world (about 680 million hectares), a large number of scientific and technological personnel, surpassing even certain developed areas and rich stock of bio-diversity and natural resources. All these helpful characteristics can become the basis for developing a prosperous South Asian community and contented societies within SAARC countries. Yet, despite the above potential, the region as a whole and its individual countries present a pathetic picture all around. Compared with other developing countries of the world at the beginning of this century, the South Asian nations are now caught in a two-dimensional crisis, human and environmental, pushing their people to a sub-human living. As regards the human factor, over 500 million South Asians live on less than $1 a day. All of them just subsist on the poverty line. More than 41 percent South Asian people are illiterate, one-third houseless, 40 percent under-employed, one-third deprived of safe drinking water and other health care facilities and three-fourth do not have access to latrines. 53 percent of children below 5 year are underweight. About 100 million children in the 5-14 age group work as labourers. The condition of women is highly distressing. South Asia tops in gender based violence, the world over. The average annual income of the people at $680 is even far below $700 of Africa's sub-Saharan region, the most deprived region of the world three decades ago. Countrywise also, national income is among the lowest in the world, ranging from Bhutan $250 to India $640. The problem of poverty is further aggravated by various other social deprivations. For example, South Asia requires primary schools for 140 million children, health care for 750 million and safe drinking water for 990 million people, adequate nutrition for 87 million children and provision of family planning services for more than 287 million married couple. The region also contains the world's largest conflict-affected population: that is, some 71 million people in South Asian countries. As regards dreadful diseases, the region is marked by HIV/AIDS, cancer, and TB with higher numbers than other regions. The region has witnessed an extensive erosion of its natural resources over the last five decades. As a result of rapid deforestation, the forest cover of the region has declined to 15 percent of the land area. Some of the worst natural disasters, like floods and drought, are directly linked to the pressure on its eco-system. Global warming caused by the greenhouse gases effect is bound to have serious implications for all coastal regions, with the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh being the most vulnerable.

**II. Where Does Lie The Cause Of SAARC's Disgusting Performance?**

It rests with a two-fold reason. One is that India's "Big Brother" approach and bullying methods have kept all the rest of the smaller countries (comprising about one-third of India's population) in a

terror-stricken state. For example, India and Pakistan have been confronting each other on the question of securing Jammu-Kashmir's accession in their respective favour for the last 60 years. During this period, they had fought four deadly wars, but the issue still remains unresolved. For the last 17 years, a militant struggle against New Delhi is going on in Kashmir valley, with no end in sight as yet. However, since 2004, a positive development in regard to Indo-Pak confrontation on Jammu-Kashmir has been the beginning of a bilateral Indo-Pak peace process marked by a series of confidence building measures on both sides. Some compromising ideas have been put forth by the two sides, but their political compulsions still continue to hinder the sorting out of a just and realistic solution.

Besides Jammu-Kashmir dispute, other Indo-Pak tension-ridden issues include: Sir Creek, Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan, Wullar Barrage and Siachain Glacier. Next, India and Bangladesh are tense with each other on the questions relating to Ganga waters, Chakma tribal issue in Bangladesh, disputing points on the Indo-Bangla border, Bangladesh's refusal of transit facilities to India for sending necessary goods and material to India's eastern territories, issue of Bangladeshi immigrants to India, etc. Indo-Sri Lankan relations, despite apparently having a normal appearance, lack mutual trust. Because, it was India which, in the beginning, helped Tamil militancy to start its anti-Sinhala struggle in Sri Lanka and which presently takes a soft approach on Lankan Tamils relations with Indian Tamils. Another controversial issue between India and Sri Lanka is the issue of fishing in each other's sphere in the Indian Ocean, etc. Nepal's uneasy relations with India pertain to 1950 Indo-Nepal friendship treaty which, following the British pattern, empowers India to act as a regional super-power. Besides, the question of Kalapani as well as water sharing and power projects related problems have also caused tensions. Bhutan is displeased with India on the latter's refusal to help the former in his stringent action against the Nepali settlers in Bhutan and on India's foisting of a colonial type servile treaty on Bhutan (which has been marginally amended in January 2007). Maldives is worried that India totally ignores its security concerns. The basic reason for SAARC's failure to achieve its objective lies in its contradictory corporate theory and practice. While it stood for the development of trade and other socio-economic issues in the region (all of which needed a mutual friendly politics, economy and culture), its members, in practice, followed hostility in the trade and economic sphere, confrontation on political issues and religion-oriented approach in cultural matters amongst themselves. Hence, no significant achievement could be obtained in any field and SAARC remained a marginal player as compared with other corporate regional associations.

## III. Overall Experience Of Other Corporate Economic Or Trading Blocs In The World

The forgoing account, however, does not imply that, while SAARC's performance had been poor, the various other corporate regional trade or economic combinations in the world had attained such a progress as had served the interests of regional or world-wide human community. It only means that other regional trade or economic combinations in the world had correctly handled the relationship between the main item of their corporate agenda (i.e., corporate trade or economy) and its two co-relates, i.e., corporate politics and culture. Their progress, in fact, pertains to three main corporate sectors: (a) growth of trade, (b) decrease in regional political tensions, and (c) formation of a liberal multi-culture. Growth of trade increased their respective volume of corporate capital. Decrease in their regional political tensions widened their respective mutual corporate commercial and cultural relations. And formation of a liberal multi-culture further strengthened their corporate social affinity. Collectively, all the three measures served to develop the concerned regional and global corporate capital and its socio-economic structure.

Coming to the net effect of their performance on the human community, they have, while pursuing their corporate-centric agenda, increased the stock of their corporate capital to a high degree, on the one hand, but created deadly and dangerous challenges before mankind, on the other. The challenges are so dreadful that, if not combated realistically and collectively in time by the entire human race, they will finally lead to a total destruction of all living things within a short period.

## IV. Challenges Created By Various Corporate

**Regional Or Trading Blocs Before Mankind**

These challenges may be classified into three categories. The first category consists of two most destructive challenges, the second grouping includes nine dangerous challenges and the third variety embraces nine harmful challenges concerning human social life.

**First Category Challenges**

The first set of the top most killing challenges to all types of bio-life on our earth is highest lethal.

Here, the first challenge, offering the most fatal and deadly threat to mankind and all types of bio-life existing on our planet, arises from increasing environmental degradation on our planet earth. This environmental perversion is mainly produced by the Greenhouse gases, 95 percent of which are being generated by the corporate capitalist energy generating system. The level of environmental pollution has gone so high that it, if not contained in time, can wipe-off all forms of life on our earth by the close of 21st century. The challenge may take a practical shape even after one or two decades and may probably last for centuries. There is no escape from it unless human society throws out the prevailing corporate system, its agenda and apparatus lock, stock and barrel and builds a fundamentally different type of society with a new realistic and practical agenda to save different forms of planetary life. The above-mentioned state of our environment has been stated in the recent report of a UN appointed Inter-Governmental Penal Of World Scientists On Climatic Change, released in February 2007.

The second challenge exists in the possibility of a nuclear war for which 8 nuclear powers (i.e., five super-powers which are permanent members of the UN Security Council, i.e., USA, UK, Russia, China and France and three regional powers, i.e., India, Pakistan and Israel) are desperately producing and manufacturing more and more perilous type of nuclear weapons and forming mutually rival alliances among themselves and also with other big non-nuclear power countries. The two biggest nuclear super-powers of our world—the US and China—are even in the competition of nuclear weaponisation of outer space.

**Second Category Challenges**

The second category of highly dangerous challenges to human society too is sufficiently harmful, damaging and hurtful.

Here, the first challenge comes from the theory and practice of corporate individualism which has made man self-centric. Acting on the theoretical proposition of its propounder, Adam Smith, that "man is selfish by nature", corporate capitalism has tried every device to generate and develop the tendency of selfishness as the exclusive nature of every human, thus distorting the historically evolved two-sided nature of man, i.e., bio-social. Which means that man is individualistic in his biological living, but inter-dependent in his collective or social life (may it be a family, rural community, urban populace or world people).

The second challenge, arising from the prevailing human tendency of individualism, is the evil inclination of sex perversion as expressed in the practice of homo-sexuality, gay-marriages, single member families, harming the natural process of evolution through opposite genders as a form of human progeny.

The third challenge emerges from the disorder created by the corporate state terrorism (chiefly the US) which is guided by the irresponsible and silly theory of the "clash of civilisations" and has been directing its attack on Muslim community by branding it as fundamentalist, while surreptitiously encouraging all other varieties of religious fundamentalism and their fundamentalist forces.

The fourth challenge arises from corporate individual-centric system's monopoly of nuclear weapons by five super and three regional powers.

The fifth challenge originates from increasing population which will present a serious threat to human society by 2050, when population will reach more than 8 billion, while the carrying capacity of the earth is 6.5 billion.

The sixth challenge springs forth from the rising crisis in agri-culture and consequently the possibility of a big gap between slowly growing food production and constantly rising human food needs.

The seventh challenge rises from the increasing concentration of world wealth in a few hands. Here, 2 percent of corporators control 50 percent of the world wealth and 10 percent own 85 percent