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Karachi Declaration

The participants of the South Asia Labour Conference for Peace and Regional Cooperation, belonging to workers organizations and labour support organizations in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, having met at Karachi at the invitation of PILER, Karachi - Pakistan and CEC, Delhi - India, on behalf of the South Asian Labour Forum (SALF);

Recalling and reaffirming the statement of the Kathmandu conference of May 1996 and its resolutions on a South Asian Labour Rights Charter, on Environmental Standards and Rights and on Human Rights;

adopt the following declaration, to be known as the Karachi Declaration.

We have assembled in Karachi to strengthen people's urge for peace and solidarity among the peoples of South Asian region generally and particularly the working classes of the region.

We jointly affirm and resolve:

1. That developments since 1996 have added urgency to the need for adopting the South Asian Labour Rights Charter, and resolves to formulate a SAARC Code of Conduct for Trans-National Corporations, based on ILO's Tripartite Declaration, and therefore labour organizations in the region redouble their efforts towards realizing these objectives;
2. That the people and governments of the region must press forward for the maintenance of peace, reduction of tensions of all kinds and the fostering of a climate of good and friendly neighbours;
3. To initiate a process of demilitarization and move towards global and regional denuclearisation and elimination of foreign military bases and weapons of mass destruction and the arms race and ensuring that no such bases are allowed to be set up in future in South Asia;
4. To press for immediate drastic reduction of defence budgets, in order to minimize the risks of armed conflicts and wars, and promote a sense of security and mutual confidence; and that the money saved from reducing defence budgets should be used for promoting people's needs and interests in education, housing, health and welfare;
5. To create healthy and friendly atmosphere, all outstanding international disputes shall be settled by bilateral comprehensive, continuing, political dialogue;
6. To increase people to people contacts and take part in political, economic and cultural events to promote friendship, mutual and common interests and reduce

prejudices; and in order to achieve these objectives, make travel facilities including the granting of visas easy, friendly and fast;

7. To press for an unfettered exchange of information – newspapers, magazines, books and other publications among the South Asian countries;
8. To resume, strengthen and expand regional trade ties for the maximum and equitable benefits and interests of all people of the region, which provide all safeguards necessary for the protection of comparatively smaller economies in the region;
9. To mobilize labour against all hatred, prejudices and divisions based upon ethnicity, race, caste, religion or national chauvinism;
10. To ensure the free political participation of workers and peasants and all the people, to determine their destiny;
11. That the widening gap between workers in the formal and informal sectors, caused by a huge expansion of the latter, calls for special efforts by the trade unions in these sectors to effectively coordinate among each other with a view to defending and ensuring their basic labour rights; social security, fair wages and safe working conditions;
12. To press for the right of people to move freely across the world and the region to earn livelihoods, through a system of work permits for immigrant labour; which ensures that no discrimination takes place between national and immigrant workers, and creates national legislation for the special protection of immigrant women workers;
13. To ensure that governments in the region withdraw all anti-trade union and anti-worker laws and administrative measures; and governments ensure secure employment, fair wages and safe working conditions to the workers in the unorganized sector, including those in the agricultural sector;
14. To ensure safe, fair, equal and equitable working conditions to women workers, while opening more employment opportunities to women; sexual harassment and exploitation of women and girls at the workplace must be stopped. All social laws, customs and practices militating against gender equality must be removed;
15. To eliminate Child Labour from all occupations which are hazardous or deprive a child of rights to healthy physical and mental development and to ensure that governments in the region protect the rights of the child as embodied in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
16. To fully implement all United Nations and ILO Conventions on human and democratic rights as well as social, economic and cultural rights and to ensure that

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no persons, areas or occupations are excluded from such rights; and that labour unions are promoted for implementation of such rights;

17. To press for equitable agrarian reforms to promote rights of peasants and agricultural labour; for elimination of all exceptions contained in policies and laws; for measures to make peasant agriculture more productive and sustainable; to reject contract farming and corporatisation of agriculture; and develop institutions and policies to support and promote cooperative farming;
18. To press for evolving a suitable legal regime conferring the rights of custodianship of natural resources vis a vis water, forest and land on the labour communities which depend on them for their livelihood and evolve adequate mechanisms to protect these resources;
19. To ensure that the South Asian Governments immediately stop harassment, arbitrary arrest and indefinite detention of fish workers crossing the boundaries of maritime territories and evolve an effective permanent regional mechanism to deal with these issues. We also demand the immediate release of all the fishworkers currently under detention in these countries.
20. To pursue policies of full employment generation, by making the right to work as a fundamental right for all men and women;
21. To reject privatisation and disinvestment of Public Sector Enterprises and withdrawal of the state from social, economic, education, health, housing, civic services and welfare spheres and the ideology that private sector is more responsive and more efficient than the public sector in these fields; all public assets related to the infrastructure sold through the privatization process should be re-nationalised.
22. That the WTO perpetuates a subtle and pervasive form of re-colonisation through economic warfare and sham negotiations, which promote the stranglehold of the international economic elites upon people; therefore, the labour movement should build alliances with all progressive social forces that stand in opposition to the WTO;
23. To reject the so-called poverty reduction strategies prepared for South Asia by imperialist agencies, which are a perpetuation of the neo-liberal programmes of structural adjustment that have already intensified unemployment, mass poverty, and crushing foreign debt;
24. The imperialist debts, whose principal has been returned many times over, should be considered fully paid back.
25. To coordinate efforts of the labour movement towards these ends nationally, regionally and internationally, by expanding the Preparatory Committee of SALF

to include additional participating labour organizations at the Karachi Conference and all other organizations that endorse the South Asian Labour Rights Charter, in order to implement the Karachi Declaration and prepare an Action Plan of 2004, to be circulated to all the participating organizations for their approval.

26. To authorize the Preparatory Committee to constitute a South Asian Labour Commission of 4 to 5 eminent persons, preferably sympathetic jurists, from each of the South Asian countries, for regional oversight of implementation of ILO and UN conventions and national labour legislation.

**Lists of Participants of the South Asian "Labour for Peace" Conference,
Karachi, 1 – 2 September 2003**

INDIA

S. No.	Name Delegate	Name of Organisation
1.	Meena Menon	Focus on the Global South
2.	Surendra Mohan	HMS – Hind Mazdoor Sabha
3.	Mulla Abdul Gafoor	CITU – Centre of Indian Trade Union
4.	Panchadi Roja	CITU – Centre of Indian Trade Union
5.	Shaktiman Ghosh	Hawkers Sangram Samiti
6.	Chopra Suneet Krishna Chandra	AIAWU - All India Agricultural Workers Union
7.	Syed Qamaruzzaman	INTUC – Indian National Trade Union Congress
8.	Sajinarayanan Cheruthuruthi	BMS – Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh
9.	Om Prakash Aghi	BMS – Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh
10.	Ashok Kumar Ghosh	UTUC – United Trade Union Council
11.	K. Chandra Chakravorthy	UTUC – United Trade Union Council
12.	Ashim Roy	NTUI – New Trade Union Initiative
13.	Narayan Deoji Koli	NFF – National Fish Workers Forum
14.	Srilata Swaminathan	AICCTU - All India Central Council of Trade Unions
15.	Vijay Singh	Academic
16.	John John	CEC – Centre for Education & Communication
17.	Sindhu Menon	Labour File
18.	Pallavi Mansingh	CEC – Centre for Education & Communication
19.	Kalpana Sharma	The Hindu
20.	Poguri Chennaiah	Agricultural Workers Union
21.	Ashok Chowdhury	Forest Workers Union
22.	Subramaniam	TMKTS – Tamil Maanila Kattida Thozilalar Sangham
23.	Jaiwati Shrivastava	Ankur
24.	P.S. Parmar	AITUC – All India Trade Union Congress

BANGLADESH

S. No.	Name Delegate	Name of Organisation
1.	Abul Hossain	Bangladesh Garment Workers & Employees Federation
2.	Ms. Shirin Akhter	Karmojibi Nari
3.	Ms. Mashuda Khatun Shefali	(BGWPA) - Bangladesh Garment Workers Protection Alliance
4.	Mr. Mohammad Nur Khan	Bangladesh Jatio Sramik Jote

SRI LANKA

S. No.	Name Delegate	Name of Organisation
1.	Mr. Linus Jayatilake	United Federation of Labour
2.	Mr. Thambiyan Mahasivam	Ceylon Tamil Teachers Union.
3.	Ms. Sriyawathie Ahangamage	Women's Centre / Free Trade Zones Workers Union
4.	Ms. Gloria D'silva	CFS – Centre for Family Services

South Asian Labour for Peace Conference
1-2 September 2003 Karachi

Pakistani delegates

No	Organisation	Acronym	Delegate	City	Status
1	Irtiqa Institute of Social Sciences	IISS	Rahat Saeed	KHI	
2	Sungi Development Foundation	SUNGI	Shahid Aziz	Abot'bad	confirmed
3	Pakistan Sugar Mills W'rs Fed.	PSMWF	Abdus Salam Memon	Badin	confirmed
4	Dandot Cement Emp Union		Yousuf Naz	Dandot	confirmed
5	Crescent Sugar Mills	CSMEU	Aslam Meraj	F'abad	confirmed
6	Crescent Textile Mills	CTMEU	Shahid muneer	F'abad	confirmed
7	Pakistan Sugar Mills W'rs Fed.	PSMWF	Aslam Wafa	F'abad	confirmed
8	Hazara Labour Federation	HLF	Lala Ehsanullah Qureshi	Hazara	confirmed
9	A. P. Federation of Trade Unions	APFTU	Latif Nizamani	HYD	confirmed
10	Azad Hari Union	AHU	Master Lalji	HYD	confirmed
11	Bhandar Hari Sangat	BHS	Shahina Ramzan	HYD	confirmed
12	Human Rights Com. of Pakistan	HRCP	Aftab Ahmed	HYD	confirmed
13	Human Rights Com. of Pakistan	HRCP	Nasreen Pathan	HYD	confirmed
14	Labour Rights Center	LRC	Gulzar Shiekh	HYD	confirmed
15	Muttahida Labour Federation	MLF	Qamoos Gul Khatttak	HYD	confirmed
16	Pakistan Sugar Mills W'rs Fed.	PSMWF	Bashir Ahmed	HYD	confirmed
17	Sindh Hari Committee	SHC	Amir Chachro	HYD	confirmed
18	Sindhi Porihat Sangat	S.P.S	Ayaz Hakro	HYD	confirmed
19	Women against violence	WAVE	Edna Haroon	HYD	confirmed
20	Sustainable Dev. Policy Institute	SDPI	Saba Gul Khattak	I'abad	confirmed
21	Peoples Rights Movement	PRM	Asim Sajjad	Is'bd	confirmed
22	Sazda Staff Union	SSU	Amjad Lashari	Khairpur	confirmed
23	A. P. Federation of Trade Unions	APFTU	Jalil Shah	KHI	confirmed
24	A. P. Trade Unions Federation	APTUF	Naseem Rao	KHI	confirmed
25	A. P. Trade Unions Organisation	APTUO	Said Pasha Lodhi	KHI	confirmed
26	All Pakistan Federation of Labour	APFOL	Khalil ur Rehman	KHI	confirmed
27	All Pakistan Federation of Labour	APFOL	Waqar Memon	KHI	confirmed
28	Communication Workers Welfare As		Ghulam Rasool	KHI	confirmed
29	Daily Jasarat		Qazi Siraj	KHI	confirmed
30	Habib Bank Ltd. Workers' Front	HBLWF	Habibuddin Junaidi	KHI	confirmed
31	Human Rights Com. of Pakistan	HRCP	Syed Ahmad Khan	KHI	confirmed
32	Human Rights Com. of Pakistan	HRCP	Abdul Hai	KHI	confirmed
33	Labour Rights Center	LRC	Riffat Sultana	KHI	confirmed
34	Mazdoor Muhaze Amal	MMA	Mirza Maqsood	KHI	confirmed
35	Mazdoor Muhaze Amal	MMA	M. Yousuf Khattak	KHI	confirmed
36	Municipal Employees		Farid Awan	KHI	confirmed
37	Muslim Commercial Bank E' Union	MCBEU	Saeed Ghani	KHI	confirmed
38	Muttahida Labour Federation	MLF	Shafiq Qureshi	KHI	confirmed
39	National Labour Federation	NLF	Rana Mohammad Haneef	KHI	confirmed
40	National Labour Federation	NLF	Mohammad Iqbal	KHI	confirmed
41	National Trade Unions Federation	NTUF	Saleem Raza	KHI	confirmed
42	National Trade Unions Federation	NTUF	Shafiq Ghauri	KHI	confirmed
43	National Trade Unions Federation	NTUF	Musarrat Jabeen	KHI	confirmed
44	Pak Telecom Emp. Union		Zia uddin	KHI	confirmed
45	Pakistan Federal Union of J'nalists	PFUJ	Ahfazur Rahman	KHI	confirmed
46	Pakistan Federal Union of J'nalists	PFUJ	Qamarullah Chaudhry	KHI	confirmed
47	Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum	PFF	Saeed Baloch	KHI	confirmed
48	Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum	PFF		KHI	confirmed

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Pakistani delegates

	Organisation	Acronym	Delegate	City	Status
49	Pakistan Machine Tool Factory	PMTF	Ghulam Mustafa Hshmani	KHI	confirmed
50	Pakistan Trade Unions Federation	PTUF	Kaneez Fatima	KHI	confirmed
51	Pakistan Trade Unions Federation	PTUF	Noor Mohammad	KHI	confirmed
52	Pearl Continental Emp. Federation	PCWU	Ghulam Mahboob	KHI	confirmed
53	Peoples Labour Bureau	PLB	Shaikh Majeed	KHI	confirmed
54	Peoples Labour Bureau	PLB	Dhani Bukhsh Sammo	KHI	confirmed
55	PTCL Employees' Federation		Haji Younus	KHI	confirmed
56	PTCL Workers Union		M. Farooq	KHI	confirmed
57	Railway Inqilabi Union		Manzoor Razi	KHI	confirmed
58	Railway Workers Union	RWU	Junaid Awan	KHI	confirmed
59	S. A. Multinational Trade Unions	SAMTU	Bakht Zameen	KHI	confirmed
60	State Bank Employees Union	SBEU	Liaqat Sahi	KHI	confirmed
61	Textile & Garment Federation	TGWF	Malik Rafiq	KHI	confirmed
62	United Bank Ltd. Employees Union	UBLEU	Wahab Baloch	KHI	confirmed
63	United Labour Federation	ULF	Baqar Hussain	KHI	confirmed
64	United Labour Federation	ULF	Pervaiz Alam	KHI	confirmed
65	United Labour Federation	ULF	Hilaluddin Javed	KHI	confirmed
66	Women Association for RDA	WARDA	Shamsunnisa	KHI	confirmed
67	Watan Dost Mazdoor Federation	WDMF	Aziz Abbasi	Larkana	confirmed
68	A. P. Trade Unions Federation	APTUF	Gulzar Chaudhry	LHR	confirmed
69	Activist		Sadaf Tanveer	LHR	confirmed
70	All Pakistan Fed. Of Trade Unions	APFTU	Osama Tariq	LHR	confirmed
71	Bank Employees	NBP		LHR	confirmed
72	Labour Rights Committee	LRC	Shamim Akhter	LHR	confirmed
73	Labour Rights Committee	LRC	Asma Rehman	LHR	confirmed
74	Labour Rights Committee	LRC	Naila Shaheen	LHR	confirmed
75	Labour Rights Committee	LRC	Farah Naz	LHR	confirmed
76	Labour Rights Committee	LRC	Razia	LHR	confirmed
77	Labour Rights Committee	LRC	Kausar Perveen	LHR	confirmed
78	Labour Rights Committee	LRC	Shaheen	LHR	confirmed
79	Labour Rights Committee	LRC	Perveen Bibi	LHR	confirmed
80	Labour Rights Committee	LRC	Tahir	LHR	confirmed
81	Labour Rights Committee	LRC	Shakila	LHR	confirmed
82	Labour Rights Committee	LRC	Arshad Bibi	LHR	confirmed
83	Labour Rights Committee	LRC	Farhana	LHR	confirmed
84	Muttahida Labour Federation	MLF	Muhammad Yaqoob	LHR	confirmed
85	Muttahida Labour Federation	MLF	Muhammad Akbar	LHR	confirmed
86	Muttahida Labour Federation	MLF	Altaf Baloch	LHR	confirmed
87	Muttahida Labour Federation	MLF	Baji Naseem	LHR	confirmed
88	Muttahida Labour Federation	MLF	Sadaf Mahar	LHR	confirmed
89	Pakistan Institute of Lab. Ed & Res.	PILER	Tariq Awan	LHR	confirmed
90	Pakistan Institute of Lab. Ed & Res.	PILER	Haneef Ramay	LHR	confirmed
91	Pakistan Institute of Lab. Ed & Res.	PILER	Zafar Malik	LHR	confirmed
92	Pakistan Institute of Lab. Ed & Res.	PILER	Fouzia Noreen	LHR	confirmed
93	Pakistan Trade Unions Federation	PTUF	Malik Aslam	LHR	confirmed
94	Pakistan Workers Confederation	PWC	Khursheed Ahmad	LHR	confirmed
95	Politician	PPP	Shahida Jabeen	LHR	confirmed
96	Railway Workers Union		Fazale Wahid	LHR	confirmed

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No	Organisation	Acronym	Delegate	City	Status
97	Working Women Organisation	WWO	Rubina Islam	LHR	confirmed
98	Working Women's Organisation	WWO	Rubina Jamil	LHR	confirmed
99	Swat Welfare Society		M. Khaliq Sagar	Mangora	confirmed
100		MNA	Zulfiqar Gondal	M'di Bah'din	confirmed
101	Labour Rights Center	LRC	Zahida Detho	Mirpurkhas	confirmed
102	Muttahida Labour Federation	MLF	Ashiq Bhutta	Multan	confirmed
103	Anjuman Muzareen Punjab	AMP	Liaqat Arain	Okara	confirmed
104	Anjuman Muzareen Punjab	AMP	General Secretary	Okara	confirmed
105	Labour Rights Committee	LRC	Wesal Khan	PESH	confirmed
106	Labour Rights Committee	LRC	Nausheen	PESH	confirmed
107	Labour Rights Committee	LRC	Farah Naz	PESH	confirmed
108	Labour Rights Committee	LRC	Zahida Detho	PESH	confirmed
109	Muttahida Labour Federation	MLF	Liaqat Bacha	PESH	confirmed
110	Pakistan Cement Emp. Federation	CEF	Mohammad Iqbal	PESH	confirmed
111	Pakistan Workers Confederation	PWC	Gul Rahman	PESH	confirmed
112		MNA	Chaudhri Manzoor Ahmad	Qasoor	confirmed
113	Balochistan Labour Federation	BLF	Khan Zaman	QTA	confirmed
114	Blochistan Labour Federation	BLF	Mohammad Hassan	QTA	confirmed
115	Mines Labour Federation of Pakistan	MLFP	Sultan Khan	QTA	confirmed
116	Railway Workers Union	RWU	S.Nadir Khan	QTA	confirmed
117	A. P. Trade Unions Organisation	APTUO	Maula Bukhsh	Rohri	confirmed
118	Pakistan Federal Union of J'nalists	PFUJ	Fouzia Shahid	R'pindi	confirmed
119	Pakistan Federal Union of J'nalists	PFUJ	C,R. Shamsi	R'pindi	confirmed
120	Lever Brothers Emp. Federation	LBEF	Said Zaman	RYK	confirmed
121	Labour Rights Center	LRC	Falak Naz	Sukkur	confirmed
122	Labour Rights Center	LRC	Ghazala Anjum	Sukkur	confirmed
123	POF Workmen Association	CASPER	Mukhtar Ali Makhfi	Wah	confirmed
124	Nauroz Welfare Society		Niaz Ahmed Baloch		confirmed
125	A. P. Newspaper Employees' C'ncil	APNEC	Abdul Hameed Chhapra	KHI	
126	All Karachi Hosiery Garment L.A	AKHGLA	Sagheer Shah	KHI	
127	All Karachi Hosiery Garment L.A	AKHGLA		KHI	
128	All Pakistan Clerks Association	APCA	Zulfiqar Qaimkhani	KHI	
129	All Pakistan Trade Unions Congress	APTUC	Shaukat Ali	KHI	
130	Parliamentarians	MNA	Farooq Sattar	KHI	
131	Power Loom Workers Union	PLWU	Abdul Shakoor	KHI	
132	Intellectual		Tahira Mazhar Ali	LHR	
133	Muttahida Labour Federation	MLF		Multan	
134	Pakistan Federal Union of J'nalists	PFUJ	Fauzia Shahid	R'pindi	
135	Labour Rights Committee	LRC	Sarwar Sailro	Shahdadk't	
136	A. P. Newspaper Employees' C'ncil	APNEC			
137	All Pakistan Trade Unions Congress	APTUC			
138	Pakistan National Fed. Of T.Unions	PNFTU			
139	Pakistan National Fed. Of T.Unions	PNFTU			
140	Sindhi Hari Tehreek	S.H.T			
141	Sindhi Mazdoor Tehreek	SMT			
142	Sindhiani Tehreek				
143					
144		MNA	Qamar Zaman		