Himalayan Consensus Declaration for SAARC

Himalayan Consensus is a holistic economic development paradigm that emphasizes the integrity of planetary eco-systems as an indispensable basis for socio-economic development.

The three principles of Himalayan Consensus are:

1) Protecting cultural identity;
2) Through sustainable business requiring innovative financial models;
3) While emphasizing the importance of environmental protection.

Himalayan Consensus applies Himalayan traditions of compassion and community towards contemporary challenges while prioritizing and harmonizing the concerns of human communities, commercial enterprise, and the natural environment. It expands the innovative solutions of social entrepreneurs and micro-financiers of the Himalayan region into globally relevant models for environmentally enhancing economic development and community empowerment.

Himalayan Consensus recognizes that conflict arises from identity loss and economic marginalization. To reduce and prevent conflict, people’s identity needs to be respected and communities economically empowered. Innovative approaches to social enterprise, micro and community finance can contribute to long-term community integrity, balanced economic and environmental sustainability thereby preventing conflict and violence.

Himalayan Consensus offers a fresh, holistic, and pragmatic approach to realize both inclusivity and sustainability. It arose sequentially and collectively through the innovative efforts of many community leaders, social entrepreneurs and micro-financiers across the SAARC region as they sought to solve real challenges facing their communities in a pragmatic way.

All of the SAARC nations are connected by the ecological integration of the glacial and river systems of the Himalayas. Climate change is threatening glacial melt, affecting downstream communities and in turn threatening island states as the oceans rise. The crisis of climate change is of paramount priority to SAARC. Himalayan Consensus offers an approach whereby business and policy solutions must prioritize community empowerment, renewable energy, organic agriculture, protection of community integrity and identity, and careful management of water resources for long-term security of mountain, coastal and island states.