

## PRESS RELEASE

### Bangladesh Resolution on Culture of Peace gets overwhelming support at United Nations.

New York, 21 October 2005:

A resolution on "Culture of Peace" tabled by Bangladesh received overwhelming support of the UN Membership and was adopted by the General Assembly without a vote on Thursday according to information received in Dhaka.

Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations described it as "a great victory" and stated that "this was a global acknowledgement of Bangladesh's current positive role in the international diplomatic arena". The draft resolution had 107 co-sponsors, one of the highest in the annals of recent UN's legislative history.

"Bangladesh has been at the forefront of the initiatives that promotes greater understanding and tolerance among peoples. This in our belief is achievable through dialogue and cooperation. My country was born of a bloody conflict. We, therefore, see great value in the principles of tolerance, respect for diversity, democracy, and understanding" he stated in his statement at the General Assembly while introducing the resolution.

The resolution, among other things, asks the Secretary-General to explore enhancing implementation mechanisms for this purpose within the UN system.

The Bangladesh Ambassador further said "We believe that humanity, irrespective of the individual's culture, civilization or faith, share many common values. We should focus on those to build the connecting bridges, to close the gaps and to fasten the links. It would be in our collective interest to devote our resources and capacities, intellectual and material, in favour of this campaign." He concluded by expressing the hope that the resolution would be adopted without a vote which it was.

The President of the General Assembly, Mr. Jan Eliasson also remarked on the importance of a culture of peace to forge a climate of understanding in a strife-torn world.

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