



The Non-Aligned Movement, Afghanistan in the past, present and future

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Afghanistan was impartial during the First and Second World War and this factor paved the way for Afghanistan to be a member of the Non-Aligned Movement. Afghanistan, unlike Pakistan and Iran, did not accept to enter into military alliance with the West.

Afghanistan attended the Non-Aligned Movement Conferences held in Bandung, Indonesia in April 1955. This gathering brought together the independent Asian and African States although it was not the first gathering of the Non-Aligned Movement, though it created the spirit of anti-colonialism, which is considered one of the pillars of the Non-Aligned Movement.

In those years, Asian and African personalities such as Jamal Nasser, Jawher Nehru, Soekarno were considered prominent leaders. Although Marshal Tito, President of Yugoslavia was the follower of socialism, he did not enjoy good relationships with the Soviet Union leaders at that time. That is why he restored a friendly relationship with the Asian and African leaders.

The progress phases of the NAM emerged. Following this meeting a preparatory meeting for the First NAM Summit was held in Cairo in June 1961, where the Afghan Foreign Minister, Sardar Mohammad Naim, attended.

In the first of September 1961, the first Conference of Non-Aligned Heads of State or Government was held in Belgrade by the invitation of Marshal Tito in the Capital of Yugoslavia, where Afghanistan's Prime Minister, Sardar Mohammad Duad attended. Prominent leaders such as Jawher Lal Nehru, Jamal Abdul Nasser, Hela Salasee emperor of Jeshu and Afghan delegates, Abdul Rahman Pajwak, and Sayed Qasim Rashteya

attended this gathering. (Dr. Rawan Farhadi, who was the manager of international affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was also part of the Afghan delegation). Iran and Pakistan could not attend the Belgrade Conference due to their membership into military alliance.

The second Conference of NAM Heads of State or Government was held in 1964 in Cairo. Afghanistan's head of delegation was Dr. Mohammad Yusef and Abdul Rahman Pajwak, Sayed Qasim Rashteya and Dr. Rawan Farhadi were members of the Afghan Delegation.

In September 1970, the third NAM Conference was held in Losaka and the head of Afghan delegation was Noor Ahmad Etemadi, Prime Minister of Afghanistan. Mr Ghulam Ali Ayeen, Sayed Qasim Rashteya and Dr. Rawan Farhadi were the members of the Afghan delegation.

A conference of world leaders on non alignment was held in September 1973 in Algeria as well as in Colombo in August 1976

On September 1979, a conference attended by world leaders on non alignment was held in Havana (Cuba). Afghanistan was then under the dominance of Khalq and Parcham Group. Noor Mohamad Taraki the communist leader tried to promulgate on Saur Revolution.

A conference attended by world leaders on non alignment was held in September 1992 in Jakarta Indonesia, Prof. Rabani, Ex- president of Afghanistan was also a participant.

Following the cold war and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the concept of non alignment movement changed. The situation changed completely and US was thought to be the Super power. On the other hand, a number of non aligned countries had close relations with USA. Due to this, the movement of nonalignment despite for Cuba being opposed to USA and part of the movement went on. The final declaration of the world leaders of the non aligned countries also witnessed an impact from other countries such as Group 77 and the Islamic conferences organizations. The Islamic republic of Iran also joined the non aligned countries movement with Pakistan being added later. At present, the movement of non aligned countries meets regularly however they do not have a regional or permanent office. Each year at UN summit, the foreign ministers of these countries come together to meet and discuss related issues. At present, the non aligned countries make two thirds of the UN members and therefore they play an important role in UN. Non aligned countries also hold meetings at Security Council. In a response to a question, Mr. Rawan Farhadi Said" the participation of Afghanistan in the meetings that are attended by the foreign ministers of non aligned countries is very important step for Afghanistan since this way Afghanistan will be included in the international politics and will be able to reaffirm its rights in terms of human rights, democracy and give an end to imperialism as well as maintain its status within this movement.

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