

Making Our World A Better Place – A Plan For Action 2009-2012

New Delhi, 9 February 2009: “When we undertook the task, we knew we had set out to achieve a very ambitious goal. But, as ambitious as that was, we knew we had to move in that direction. We felt that a change in the international order had to come from the international community collectively.” These words by Ambassador Carlos Pascual, Vice President and Director of Foreign Policy at Brookings Institution and former US ambassador to Ukraine, urging collective global action to tackle enduring and emerging dangers, could not have been more pertinent and timely. Here in New Delhi to speak at a seminar organized on Monday afternoon by the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) in collaboration with the India International Centre (IIC), Ambassador Pascual, also a senior director on the National Security Council staff, further said that the power base of the international community had to be expanded to deal with growing transnational threats.

The seminar, A Plan of Action – Managing Global Insecurity, is part of an international initiative called Managing Global Insecurity (MGI) Project. MGI is a joint effort by the Brookings Institution, the Centre on International Cooperation at New York University and the Centre for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University. Launched in the spring of 2007, the project has focused on six global challenges – climate change, nuclear proliferation, threats to biological security, terrorism, conflict and poverty and economic instability – and aims at addressing these urgent concerns through global dialogue. The Project’s research and consultations led to the making of the Action Plan discussed at the seminar, its policy briefs and its forthcoming book – Power and Responsibility: International Order in an Era of Transnational Threats.

The Action Plan recommends a global four-pronged approach with the aim of ensuring peace, security and prosperity for the next 50 years. “This plan is the product of extraordinary minds coming together. In spite of the diversity, it was possible to reach a consensus that has challenged conventional wisdom,” said Ambassador Lalit Mansingh, former Foreign Secretary of India and MGI advisory group member, who also chaired the seminar.

A copy of the MGI Action Plan is available with the IPCS on request and can also be accessed at the website of Brookings Institution - <http://www.brookings.edu/projects/mgi.aspx>

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