



Jointly build peace, stability, and development for a new win-win future

Intervention by Dr. Carlos Correa, Executive Director, South Centre at the Global South Media and Think Tank Forum, Cairo, Egypt, May 12-23, 2026

The need to jointly build peace, stability and development for a win-win future is both timeless and urgent.

In a world that is more interconnected than ever before, our destinies are no longer separate. The challenges we face—conflict, inequality, climate change, economic uncertainty—do not recognize borders. They ripple across nations and continents, affecting us all. Yet within this shared vulnerability lies a shared opportunity: the chance to prosper together.

Peace is the foundation of everything we may wish to achieve. Without peace, there can be no progress. Without peace, development is fragile and fleeting. One dimension of peace is the absence of conflict.

Regrettably, the recent military aggression against countries of the Global South represents a major setback and reversal of decades of diplomatic work towards a peaceful coexistence and respect for national sovereignty.

But the concept of 'peace' has evolved significantly. As characterized by the Norwegian father of peace research as a

science, Professor Johan Galtung, peace also has a positive dimension: a lasting peace can only be built on sustainable economic development and institutions, as well as on values and attitudes that foster peace.

Positive peace requires trust, dialogue, and mutual respect, to listen to one another especially when difficult issues are at stake. It calls on us to resolve differences not through force, but through understanding and cooperation.

Stability, in turn, is the bridge between peace and development. A stable world order allows nations to cooperate and economies to grow. Stability requires a system based on rules respected by all and grounded in equality and justice. It cannot be sustained if structural inequalities are not addressed or if it is imposed through the exercise of economic or political power.

Unilateralism and nationalism undermine stability, the very foundation of a world order that can serve the interests of all nations.

And then there is development—the promise of a better future. True development is not measured only in economic growth, but in human well-being.

It is about eradicating poverty, providing education and healthcare, creating decent jobs and incorporating innovation. It is about ensuring that no one is left behind, and that progress is not to the benefit of a few.

Policies aiming at preventing technological exchanges, disrupting global supply chains, blocking foreign investment, to ultimately slow down the development of another nation, risks affecting global development, not just that of the targeted country.

None of the three goals—peace, stability, or development—can be achieved in isolation. They are deeply interconnected, and they require collective action.

No nation, no matter how powerful, can solve global challenges alone. Likewise, no country is too small to make a meaningful contribution.

International cooperation is indispensable to protect the environment, including the oceans, ensure a green transition, respond to global health challenges, such as pandemics, and leverage the benefits of trade to lift people out of poverty.

Governments, international organizations, businesses, and civil society must come together with a common purpose. We must replace zero-sum thinking with win-win cooperation.

When one nation attempts to succeed at the expense of others, the result cannot be positive. But when they work together, they can create outcomes where everyone benefits. The impressive expansion of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the last twenty years provides a good example in this regard.

Of course, given recent developments, the road ahead will not be easy. But history has shown that progress is possible when cooperation prevails over confrontation.

The South Centre will continue to support all efforts to build up a world order where developing countries can realize their right to development through cooperation based on mutual benefit, respect for national sovereignty and solidarity.