

Press Note

The Council for Social Development (CSD) and the India International Centre (IIC) are organizing the *Bandung Day Symposium* on **24 April 2025** at the India International Centre, New Delhi, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the historic Bandung Conference. The event, themed *Bandung Spirit and the Role of the Global South* will reflect on the enduring legacy of the 1955 Bandung Declaration and its relevance in addressing contemporary global challenges.

The Bandung Conference in 1955 brought together leaders of 29 Asian and African nations to forge a path of equality, solidarity, and decolonization. The resulting Bandung Declaration championed peace, disarmament, and socio-economic development while supporting liberation struggles like those in Palestine and South Africa. Seventy years later, the world continues to grapple with its core concerns, such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and violent conflicts, even as new challenges like technological monopolies and geopolitical tensions emerge. The 2025 Symposium will critically examine the Global South's progress and the Bandung Spirit's unfinished agenda. Despite achievements like the end of apartheid and reduced poverty in some regions, crises such as the wars in Ukraine and Palestine, food insecurity, and environmental degradation underscore the urgent need for renewed solidarity. The event will highlight the Global South's role in advancing peace, sustainable development, and equitable global governance.

The Symposium will focus on four critical themes that resonate with the Bandung Spirit in today's global context. First, it will examine Social Development by tackling systemic inequalities across class, gender, and racial lines while identifying sustainable ways to meet fundamental human needs. Second, discussions on Peace and Security will address current geopolitical conflicts, including renewed Cold War dynamics, emphasizing cooperative multilateral approaches. Third, the Climate Change and Sustainability segment will reconnect with Bandung's original ideals of ecological balance, confronting today's urgent environmental threats. Finally, the Global Political Economy dialogue will challenge modern technological and economic dependencies, proposing more equitable alternatives to current systems. These themes aim to revive Bandung's progressive vision for a just and sustainable world order.

The Symposium will feature seminars, a cultural programme, and a photo exhibition, offering a platform for researchers, policymakers, and activists to collaborate on actionable strategies. It will honour the Bandung visionaries' aspirations while confronting today's "gloomy" realities with resolve.