

CPS Webinar
“The Spectrum of Peace - Peacekeeping, Peacemaking, and Peacebuilding”
December 10, 2025



Dhaka, Bangladesh – The Center for Peace Studies (CPS) at North South University, in collaboration with the *In Peace Amr* and the University of Regina, Canada, hosted a webinar titled “The Spectrum of Peace: Peacekeeping, Peacemaking, and Peacebuilding” on December 10, 2025, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. The event brought together global experts to discuss evolving roles in preventing violence and building sustainable peace.

Dr. Amr Abdalla, Professor Emeritus at the University for Peace in Costa Rica, delivered the keynote address, exploring models of peaceful intervention and emphasizing that effective peace efforts depend on ongoing conflict analysis. He explained how conflict management reduces violence, conflict resolution uses negotiation to address deeper issues, and conflict transformation drives long-term societal change, citing the European Union as an example. He also highlighted prevention as the process of identifying and addressing conflicts early through continuous assessment and adaptation to ensure lasting peace. Dr. Amr also shared details of a proposed Winter Peacebuilding School course that the Center for Peace Studies is planning to offer at North South University in the near future.

Maj Gen (Retd) Fazle Elahi Akbar, Security Affairs Adviser to Begum Khaleda Zia, joined as the Chief Guest and reflected on the complexities of peacekeeping in Sudan. He stressed that the success of peace agreements depends on understanding underlying political and historical contexts. He highlighted the critical role of early diplomatic efforts and practical engagement with all parties, especially in resource-sharing negotiations. He commended CPS’s plan to launch the course as a timely and practical platform to strengthen Bangladesh’s peace support capabilities through structured learning and shared field experience. He expressed confidence that the program would help participants translate negotiation theory into implementable security arrangements and more credible mission leadership.

Professor Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of North South University, chaired the session and emphasized the role of universities in advancing peace through teaching, research, and structured dialogue. He highlighted the Bangladesh Army’s strong record in UN peacekeeping. Referring to lessons from Angola’s post-1975 history of prolonged conflict, he

noted how war can devastate even resource-rich societies. He urged North South University, through the Center for Peace Studies, to develop peace-focused courses and curricula with guidance from experienced practitioners to help students promote harmony and unity amid diversity.

Maj Gen Hussain Muhammad Masihur Rahman, Commandant of the Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operations Training (BIPSOT), highlighted the importance of a people-centered approach in peacekeeping missions. He emphasized that peacekeepers must first restore livelihoods, schools, and economic stability before focusing on long-term change. He stressed the need for the UN to support this approach, alongside conflict prevention, to provide communities with the security needed to move forward.

Maj Gen (Retd) Md Main Ullah Chowdhury of the Bangladesh Army highlighted Bangladesh's Blue Helmet contributions and the keynote's practical insights. He noted that peace efforts succeed when mandates are realistic, solutions are nationally owned, peacekeepers are culturally and linguistically prepared, and leaders receive timely information supported by technology.

Prof. M. Jashim Uddin, Director of CPS and the webinar's moderator, opened the session by stating that conflict is inevitable in personal, national, and international life, and that peace must begin with careful conflict analysis. He highlighted the human cost of post-Cold War conflicts and stressed the importance of understanding the peace spectrum. He repeatedly highlighted the contributions of Bangladeshi peacekeepers as a major source of national pride. At the same time, he questioned how effective UN actors and major powers really are, given that conflicts and killings continue, and suggested that political will is ultimately the decisive factor.

The webinar also featured Dr. Asadullah, Associate Professor at the University of Regina, Canada, who spoke about regional capacity building. He suggested that Bangladesh, already a peacekeeping role model, could further strengthen its capacity through a Winter Peacebuilding Institute at NSU, similar to the Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute, attracting regional participants and promoting a nonviolent mindset among scholars. In the Q&A session, Dr. Ansaruddin Anas, Assistant Professor in the Department of PSS and a member of CPS, along with students, actively participated by offering valuable comments and questions.

The CPS Winter Peacebuilding School will offer courses beginning in 2026, providing students with opportunities to develop essential skills in conflict analysis, mediation, peacekeeping, and post-conflict recovery, as well as to explore career pathways in the UN system. CPS reaffirmed North South University's commitment to peace education and practical training for future peace leaders.