

## **Approach Note**

### **“Good Governance in Globalising World”**

On November 18-20, 2011 at Kolkata (West Bengal)

Present scenario is big and complex as the technology driven world has closer and is in the process of becoming a village or family. Globalization is certainly on its march. But it has to be handled with perfect understanding of its implication particularly in regard to distributive justice for deprived and marginalized sections of global society. Second aspect of this development involves civilisational aspects of human welfare. In spite of tremendous opportunities of growth, hunger, disease, poverty dominate and overwhelming majority of world population groans under heavy pressures. Gaps, fault-lines, short-comings of systemic arrangements on the one hand and monopoly of state power along with control on market forces have created a situation of alarm and imbalance. Approach and access to information are within the reach of common men, who is taking note of developments around him. Are we at the verge of new kind of mobilization and change? Likewise scores of new trends and developments are bringing people of the world closer to each other. People's power is getting converted into a mechanism for change in power equations in all walks of life.

In such a context, good governance assumes importance with global dimensions. The term governance devotes first and foremost a definitional change. It is a testimony that management of state authority has undergone a change. A legal and mechanical definition of state regulatory system is changed into a functional out-put of management of political authority. And that too in a particular context of its service and delivery system to all sections of society. Hence, governance is far larger and relevant concept and mechanism particularly in relation to marginalized and deprived sections of society.

This whole scenario calls for a serious debate as to whether the ingredients of any good governance are possibly achievable without higher civilisational and moral commitment and support? Good governance is in a way encompassing all aspects of human life,

where state authority is to be managed with elements of accountability and transparency, but to whom and towards what ends? This situation calls for a serious debate. There emerge three most important aspects of good governance: Power, ethics and accountability. These elements make the formulation easy and balancing of these three elements need to be worked out in a concerned and committed manner. There are quite strong views on the theme whether globalization has potential to work for all? For some, it is not possible as it has brought huge profits with huge implications. And, the answer for them is to abandon globalization. Nevertheless, it is engulfed the whole spectrum and hence calls for remedial plan and action. There is strong apprehension that international economic institutions like World Bank, IMF etc. hold the strings and these are meant to serve particular classes of people. Secondly, these strategies would always serve advanced nations and their cronies. But, globalization has come to stay and it has to be managed.

Governance as defined by the Commission on Global Governance is the sum total of the many ways individuals and institutions, public and private manage their common affairs. It is associated with spread of democracy and transparency in government and free market. It is opposite to arbitrary and self-seeking rule, corruption and cronyism. It also implies that states alone cannot manage global affairs, so it accords a definite role to IGO, NGOs, MNCs. Hence transnational networks, institution building, regime creation and management of global change are essential ingredients of the whole mechanism and processes. This is not possible without a proper and viable balance between power and ethics that would generate exercise of authority with elements of democratic accountability stemming from moral commitment. Hence, these areas need to be analysed from the point of view of serving the humanity with moral and ethical commitment.

The question of good governance in globalising world is to be analysed, reshaped and reformed so that it realizes its full potential. It also calls for to review the relationship between interest and moral responsibility. A stage is also ripe to create stronger

international public institutions which need to focus on collective action, transparency in decision making. Civilisational excellence of past human endeavour can never be sacrificed for material advancements. This whole exercise may call for a change in ideology of governance. Good governance is not possible without ethical commitment. In this context, Islam may be assessed to be capable to suggest the required remedial measures.

Following are the sub-themes:

1. Good Governance and Ethics
2. Governance and Development
3. Globalisation and Its Impediments
4. Governance and Social Justice
5. Good Governance in 21<sup>st</sup> Century
6. Islamic View of Good Governance