

Staff Reporter

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali has said an inclusive and participatory democracy that empowers people at the core can ensure sustainable peace, security and development for Bangladesh in the post-2015 development era.

“In Bangladesh, we strongly believe that democracy and an inclusive and participatory democracy that empowers people at the core can ensure sustainable peace, security and development in the post-2015 era,” he said.

The Foreign Minister made the remark at a high-level forum on the Culture of Peace at the United Nations in New York on Tuesday, according to a Foreign Ministry media note issued on Wednesday.

Bangladesh tabled the UN General Assembly Resolution on a Culture of Peace in 1997, and since then continues to steer this Resolution in the UNGA every year.

The high-level forum was convened by the President of the 68th UN General Assembly Ambassador John W Ashe who appreciated Bangladesh’s lead role in spearheading the UNGA Resolution on a Culture of Peace.

The Opening Session was also addressed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate LeymahGwobee of Liberia.

Mahmood Ali also said development and progress pacify the challenges posed to democracy, human rights and good governance, among others. “So, the best bet to neutralize threats to peace is adoption of development policies based on social justice and consciously nurturing a culture of peace.”

He also spoke on the values and ethos that guide Bangladesh to remind the world every year “to believe in peace, say ‘no’ to war and give peace a chance”.

Referring to the ongoing work at the UN on the post-2015 development agenda, Mahmood Ali expressed his satisfaction at the inclusion of the ‘Culture of Peace’ in the final report of the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

Bangladesh’s Permanent Representative to the UN in New York Ambassador Dr AK Abdul Momen will chair the closing session of the high-level forum.