

# We join Mir Italy and FOR USA in urging the SWEFOR to appeal to their government to desist from joining NATO

May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022

Message from FOR India

OUR INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP – WE STAND WITH YOU SWEFOR AND HOPE SWEDEN WILL CONTINUE AS A NON-ALIGNED NATION

Our truths vary depending on our perspectives and geographical locations. The only one constant is that we believe in nonviolence as being the right and the most appropriate way and means to usher in change from power and dominance through militarisation which we see all around. Most of us live in societies where there is an assimilation of modernity and tradition in every aspect of our everyday life.

The pandemic and the war at Ukraine have challenged us to re-examine several of our beliefs in the capacity of the state to deal with supply chain and trade disruptions, energy interdependence and the future of warfare. We are forced to think about the limits of state sovereignty and the credibility of the United Nations Charter to protect nations states.

Among the developed nations all over the world we are witnessing the backlash against globalisation which had mainly two forms - the economic and cultural. The unemployed and the poor in the developed world have begun to feel that they have no stake in the globalised system and demanded from their own governments why government policies benefited people from other parts of the world with what used to be 'their jobs'. The growing inequality within their society made its way to a desire to go back to the security of the older and more familiar economic systems where each generation assumed that they would earn more and live better than their parents did.

The cultural back lash derived from the same resentment and led to hostility towards foreigners and increasing sections of people in the developed world sought the comforts of traditional identity and ways of life. Globalisation brought in a new set of liberal politics, technocrats, trade agreements, cosmopolitans, immigration, secularism, and multiculturalism which suited a small section of society while the great majority of the society turned back to cultural rootedness, religious or ethnic identity and national authenticity as the way to their future.

Several leaders from the Americas and Europe have seized the opportunity to tap into both the economic and cultural backlash against globalisation and some of them have won their electoral battles and a few have come close enough to shift the national discourse.

It is in this context we from our Asian part of the world see Sweden and Finland moving out of their space as nonaligned countries and moving towards the NATO military alliance. In our vulnerable world every action of the developed world whether it be trade sanctions or military alliances gives out a new message that no useful help can be expected from any country and that national interests is the choice over international cooperation. Britain leaving the EU, the US leaving the Paris climate agreement, President Trump pulling the US out of the WHO are some of the moves which took place which had impact on the underdeveloped or developing world.

We from the Fellowship in India join voice with Mir Italy and US FOR to urge the Swedish Government to continue as a nonaligned nation. The world must live and work together again and the idea of our common humanity made real. Sweden and Finland have a unique position in this effort.

In fellowship,  
Mathew George

FOR India