In light of the controversial plans to build six mega dams in the Pakistan-occupied Gilgit-Baltistan, this conference discussed the resulting environmental degradation and its impacts for Gilgit-Baltistan and beyond the region, as well as human rights violations perpetrated by the Government of Pakistan. Against this background, the participants of this conference adopted the following declaration:

Whereas Pakistan has no right to build any dam in an area which is disputed under United Nations Security Council resolution and whose fate is still to be settled under international law;

Whereas the major development projects by Pakistan in Gilgit-Baltistan are causing severe environmental degradation, damaging sensitive ecosystems; displacing local population; destroying historical sites and changing demography in the wider region;

Whereas the people of Gilgit-Baltistan have the legitimate right to protest peacefully against the construction of development projects in the region until they are granted full participation in decision-making;

We urge the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to:

Refrain from use of the oppressive measures leading to human rights violations against the people of Gilgit-Baltistan and further demand that the perpetrators of human rights violations within the military, paramilitary and police units of the state and non-state actors should be brought to justice;

Release all political prisoners, including more than 100 peaceful protesters arrested and charged [November 2016] for terrorism for demanding religious freedom for Shias;

Pay compensation to residents whose lands have already been used to build the Diamer-Bhasha dam and the Karakoram Highway;

Halt the construction of the Diamer-Bhasha dam, which is posing a serious threat to the community and wider region; and

Finally, we appeal to the European Commission to significantly review its trade incentives to Pakistan, in the framework of Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) plus, and suspend it until Islamabad fulfils its human rights obligations and withdraws from Gilgit-Baltistan.