

Rebuilding Afghanistan

Peace and Stability

Petersberg - 2 December 2002



We, the participants in the 2002 Bonn Talks on Afghanistan,

Bearing in mind the continuing need to promote

National reconciliation, lasting peace, stability and respect for human rights in Afghanistan as outlined in the Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions (the Bonn Agreement) of December 5, 2001, as well as the ongoing need to support the rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction of Afghanistan as outlined in the Government's National Development Framework and endorsed by the meetings of the Implementation Group.

Note with satisfaction the progress made thus far in Afghanistan, including

The establishment of an Interim Authority and an Interim Administration and the convening of an Emergency Loya Jirga;

The election through the Emergency Loya Jirga by secret ballot of President Karzai as Head of State and the establishment of the Afghan Transitional Administration (ATA), which has taken over the conduct of the affairs of state in order to rehabilitate the country and strengthen and promote stability, democracy and prosperity in Afghanistan;

The establishment by the ATA of a Judicial Commission and of a Human Rights Commission;

The establishment by the ATA of a Central Bank and the issue of new currency;

The establishment by the ATA of a drafting committee as a precursor to the Constitutional Commission, which will prepare a draft constitution for eventual submission to a Constitutional Loya Jirga;

The proposal by the ATA of a National Development Framework to guide the reconstruction and promote the prosperity of the country; and

Welcome the efforts by the Operation Enduring Freedom Coalition, led by the United States, to liberate Afghanistan and by the United Kingdom and Turkey, as well as other troop contributors, to provide security in Kabul through the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

Share the view of the Afghan people,

That while security concerns remain in parts of Afghanistan, there has nevertheless been considerable improvement in security and stability in much of the country, and an Afghan National Army and Police Force are being formed.

That economic reconstruction remains an important priority as part of a concerted international effort aimed at bringing long-term stability to Afghanistan, requiring donors to come forward with contributions to advance this goal.

That they are experiencing restored liberties and opportunities after twenty-three years of conflict.

To this end, agree

1. That the work of the Commissions and the ATA, in accordance with the Bonn Agreement, to achieve a series of institutional reforms in five domains - security, administrative, judicial, financial, and socio-economic – is vital and should be supported in order to lay the foundation for stability, peace and prosperity in Afghanistan.
2. In particular, to strongly endorse the decision taken by the ATA annexed herewith (Annex 1), to create an Afghan National Army (ANA) and achieve the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants (DDR) into civilian life. The participants underscore the importance of the principles, outlined in the ATA decision, which will guide the creation of the ANA and the DDR process, and commit themselves to supporting the Government in achieving the full implementation of its decision.
3. That efforts to establish a multi-ethnic, sustainable and professional Police Service throughout Afghanistan, which is fully committed to the rule of law and supported by special police for counter-narcotics and by border police, are vital to the stability and security of the country.
4. That the ATA with the assistance of the International Community should intensify efforts to combat the illicit production and trafficking of drugs, in particular with regard to the 2003 poppy crop, including measures to support farmers with alternative livelihood programmes.
5. On the need to develop a culture of respect for human rights in Afghanistan, and that the strengthening of the national independent Human Rights Commission's capacity for human rights monitoring and investigations of violations of human rights remains fundamental, as does the development of domestic human rights and civil society institutions. The goal of promoting human rights, in particular those of women and minorities, could be reinforced through international assistance.
6. That the establishment of favourable conditions for the development of independent media is vital to the development of Afghanistan.

7. That the ATA should continue to work to create a legal and institutional framework conducive to economic development.
8. That the international community will contribute, through its programs and aid, to the strengthening of ownership by the ATA of the reconstruction and development process, and endorse the use of the budget as a central tool of policy making and welcome the contributions made by members of the international community to help Afghanistan clear its arrears to the international financial institutions.
9. On the importance of establishing clear benchmarks and timelines to ensure the full implementation of the Bonn Agreement, as well as to promote development in the five domains beyond the timeframe and scope of the Agreement; and that close consultation should take place between the ATA and the International Community to that effect.
10. Furthermore, that to fulfil the remaining provisions of the Bonn Agreement, the preparation of a new constitution and the preparation for free and fair elections by June, 2004 through which a broad-based, gender-sensitive, multi-ethnic and fully representative government can be established will be critical in order to establish a more democratic and representative government.

Reaffirm on this basis our commitment

To support the Bonn process and the Afghan people's aspirations for an effective, transparent and accountable government, through which they may realise their legitimate hopes and aspiration for peace and prosperity.

To support and foster regional co-operation, welcoming, in particular, the intent of Afghanistan and neighbouring states to meet in Kabul on 22 December to decide on a declaration of good neighbourly relations, affirming the principals of territorial integrity, mutual respect, friendly relations, co-operation and non-interference in each others' internal affairs.

15:00, 2 December 2002