



د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت | جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان
د جمهور رئیس د ویاند دفتر | دفتر سخنگوی رئیس جمهور

Mr. Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of people of Afghanistan, it is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you to this milestone conference, marking a new phase in the deepening and broadening of our international partnership. Your presence is a manifestation of your collective will to support us in securing a brighter future for our country. As Afghans, we are moved by the sacrifices of your sons and daughters who are helping us to defend our common security and to strengthen Afghanistan's institutions of governance.

[A Unique Opportunity for state effectiveness](#)

Excellencies,

We face a vicious common enemy that violates every Islamic and international norm to break our unity of effort. They would like nothing better than to create uncertainty, to force our publics to doubt staying power and our determination. Today, I invite us to elevate our vision above the din of the battle with our common enemies and to focus on our noble goal: a peaceful, prosperous and stable Afghanistan. We have a unique opportunity to make the Afghan state effective by using our national consensus, our assets, our national will and our international partnerships to lift our people from poverty to prosperity and from insecurity to stability. The Afghanistan of the future will be the nexus of regional economic cooperation and will fully participate in the international community based on the rights and obligations of a 21st century state.

[The New Asian Roundabout](#)

Afghanistan is reemerging as the "Asian Roundabout," a central point of interconnection of goods, ideas, services and people in the fast expanding Asian economy. Our vision is to be the peaceful meeting-place of civilizations. Our location in the centre of the new Silk Road makes us a convergence point of regional and global economic

interests. The “Roundabout” vision is not a dream – it is being built. In 2009, our trade with our neighbors was \$13 billion, with less than half due to NATO demand. Imports from Pakistan have grown from \$26 million in 2001 to just over \$4 billion today—a further illustration of the positive impact of our development on our neighbors. The signing of PATTA is a very welcome step for which we also thank Secretary Clinton for her help and encouragement.

[New Phase of Partnership](#)

We all agree that steady transition to Afghan leadership and ownership is the key to sustainability. Despite the difficult global economic environment, sufficient financial resources have been pledged and committed to Afghanistan for the next three years. We have confidence in the assurances of President Obama and other world leaders that lasting state-to-state partnerships in economic and security cooperation will extend beyond the short term. We are grateful for your generosity during these hard times.

[Lessons Learned](#)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite some noteworthy achievements, we have learned together that delivering our resources through hundreds of isolated projects will not generate the desired results, achieve public visibility, or support the establishment of good governance. It is time to concentrate our efforts on a limited number of national programs and projects to transform the lives of our people, reinforce the social compact between state and citizens, and create mechanisms of mutual accountability between the state and our international partners. The feasibility of this approach is demonstrated through the National Solidarity Program of rural development through which 23,000 of our villages have utilized over \$1 billion in state and international support to implement over 40,000 projects. We have applied this same approach to Health, Education, Telecommunication, Finance, and the National Army - with impressive institutional results.

[National Consensus](#)

My conversations with the Afghan people often reflect their desire for justice and the importance of good governance. The Peace Jirga, which voiced the unanimous desire of the Afghan people for peace, identified poor governance, as marked by the abuse of authority, as one of the causes of instability.

Mandate for Renewal

Honorable Guests,

Having received a mandate for peace and reconciliation, my government is determined to renew the state as the just and effective instrument for realizing our objectives. This requires confronting three questions directly: can we afford a modern state, do we have the political will to make our vision a reality, and can we secure the realignment of the international community behind our efforts. I'll answer each of these questions directly.

Affordability

Afghanistan is potentially a rich country. A geological survey has estimated 30% of our mineral wealth at one to three trillion dollars. Whatever the exact total, these resources are real and very substantial. Properly harnessed, these assets make state-building affordable. Our mineral wealth justifies a level of investment in infrastructure that will not only knit our national space into a unified economic system but will also connect us to regional and global markets. We have a strategy to create value chains around our mineral wealth, oil and gas, thereby providing both jobs and sustained revenue generation. Our investment

in infrastructure will yield tens of billions of dollars in the coming years. By creating the enabling environment for a public-private partnership in our cities, we'll be able to build many new homes and commercial enterprises, laying the foundation of a dynamic service sector and a revenue base for our municipalities. We also have national programs for energy, agriculture, and management of water resources to bring stability and increasing prosperity to our rural areas. Getting agriculture right is essential for overcoming poverty and exclusion.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Four key areas will test our political resolve in translating our vision into reality. These are: structural reform; law and order; peace and reconciliation; and constitutionalism.

Political Will

Structural Reform

We are committed to creating a lean, effective, and appropriately paid public service. Our vision is of a renewed state apparatus, dedicated to creating public value, governed by a coherent set of reinforcing rules and regulations, intent on delivering services to our citizens, and

staffed by competent civil servants. Retirement with a “golden handshake” for some of our civil servants and an intensified program of investment in youth are the keys to this endeavor. I have ordered an austerity program across the government to make savings to invest in scholarships for our youth to study in countries in the region.

Fully aware of both the benefits and problems of natural resources wealth, we are determined to manage these resources as the treasure and property of our future generations, and are committed to creating and enforcing good and transparent management of our natural wealth.

Given the proven successes of national programs, my government has put forward a series of such programs that we believe can deliver effective services to the Afghan people, and that can be the primary vehicle of support by the international community. The governance of each of these programs will be designed with our national stakeholders and international partners, to ensure the highest standards of accountability and transparency.

On anti-corruption, we are taking the following measures. Our appointed and elected officials are now required by law to disclose their assets. I have instructed the amendment of the criminal law to increase the penalties for failure to disclose assets.

We will simplify those processes of government where our people are enduring corruption and abuse. The High Office of Oversight for Government Accountability will be strengthened. All obstacles within the government to the speedy prosecution of offenders will be removed. With your support, we will ensure that our other anti-crime and anti-corruption institutions, such as the Major Crimes Task Force and anti-corruption prosecutors and judges have the legal basis and resources required to act swiftly and decisively.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We view a legitimate competitive private sector as the engine for the creation of sustainable jobs for our people. Our entrepreneurs have demonstrated that they can thrive in a regional and globalized economy. The challenge is to create the enabling environment for partnership between the private and public sectors. I am therefore

announcing the creation of a commission to find ways to bring the public and private sector together.

Global experience has shown that developing an effective and competitive construction industry is critical to successfully harnessing domestic revenue and foreign assistance. I am therefore requesting our partners to join us in promoting a private-public partnership in the construction industry that can implement the infrastructure that we need to become the "Asian Roundabout".

Law and Order

Ladies and Gentlemen

We appreciate the advances made by the National Army. I remain determined that our Afghan National Security Forces will be responsible for all military and law enforcement operations throughout our country by 2014. Our National Police and National Directorate of Security have also shown progress. Our goal is to transform the three organs of our national security forces into trusted national institutions dedicated to fulfilling their constitutional duty of ensuring the integrity and security of our country. To this end, we welcome our partnership with NATO and the other nations. We look forward in the coming months to establishing agreed modalities for

the transition to full security responsibilities to the Afghan Government.

The legitimacy of the state requires that its use of force be framed within the rule of law. We shall strive to create a culture of accountability in our security institutions. We must acknowledge that historically abuse of force by persons occupying state positions has alienated the public from the government. Legality in use of force is particularly relevant in the context of conflict. In the court of public opinion, the government must continually win the verdict regarding the legitimacy of use of force.

[Peace and Reconciliation](#)

Excellencies

Our Peace Jirga has expressed a national consensus for peace and has framed the terms on which we must reach out to those of our armed opponents who will be willing to accept our constitution and renounce ties to al-Qaeda's network of terror. We hope those who have taken arms against our country will see the wisdom of pursuing their legitimate aspirations through peaceful means. We expect our international partners to endorse and support our peace initiatives

Constitutionalism

Our constitution, a harmonious blend of our Islamic values of justice and the universal principles of human rights, is our most important achievement of the last nine years. To ensure collective recognition and endorsement of the constitution as the principal source of rule of law, we need to enhance the checks and balances among the three branches of the state.

I am pleased to acknowledge the steady progress made by the Supreme Court in strengthening the rule of law and in professionalizing the judiciary. The executive branch is fully committed to providing the resources requested by the Supreme Court for implementing its comprehensive program of reform to ensure that judges are appropriately compensated, protected, and held to high standards of professional behavior. We are also committed to strengthening Parliament as an institution. I will work with the future Parliament to strengthen their constitutional role.

Realignment

Excellencies,

To answer the third question: can we secure the realignment of the international community behind our efforts? We have engaged in a deep examination of our challenges and opportunities as part of the Kabul Process. I have concentrated my remarks on our vision and our commitment to you. We are engaged in a common quest to harness our assets and capabilities so that Afghan leadership and ownership become a reality.

Realignment is about putting into practice the accepted principles of Paris, Accra, and Dili. It will entail shifting away from parallel organizations, dual bureaucracies and multiple uncoordinated projects, towards agreement on implementing the Afghan national programs. I therefore request the international community to deepen engagement around the following principles:

First, we are pleased that the international community in general and the United States, in particular, have committed to channel 50% of their assistance through the Afghan budget in the next two years. However, we need to agree on a system of financial management that can satisfy **our** criteria for channeling resources through the government budget. Our systems are strong and improving, and we

are committed to working with donors to give them the confidence needed to channel resources through the Afghan budget.

Second, given that contracting has been identified as a source of corruption, I am requesting that all contracts awarded by our international partners- whether civilian or military- be disclosed to ensure that neither high government officials themselves nor their relatives are unlawfully privileged.

We must work together to agree on common norms, standards, rules and codes of conduct on contracting. This is especially important in the domain of private security companies whose very existence undermines and threatens our combined efforts to strengthen the Afghan government .

Third, a focus on quick impact projects is not providing our public with visible results of the immense resources spent on our well-being by our partners. We therefore invite our international partners to create and support an institution with the capability to design and monitor the implementation of programs and large-scale developmental projects. Let us together focus less on short-term

projects we term “stabilization” efforts whose effects are often not lasting, and concentrate more on the programs that deliver long-term sustainable economic development.

Fourth, narcotics have been a blight that has mainly profited international criminal networks and have contributed to ongoing instability. Our international partners could help immensely by supporting the creation of agricultural value chains that can economically outperform poppy production. I am therefore requesting our partners to provide us with market access and help us create the financial instruments, supply chains and value chains to make our farmers stakeholders in the legal economy, in addition to the necessary law enforcement assistance.

Fifth, the existence of parallel organizations has led to problems of coordination. I am requesting NATO to expedite the incorporation of PRTS activities into our national administrative system. Civil society organizations have played an important role in the delivery of social services. To promote transparency, we are requesting civil society organizations and NGOs to adopt a common framework on budgeting and reporting and disclose the information to the public.

The adoption of a One UN Program in some countries has resulted in enhanced coordination between the government and UN agencies. We are, therefore requesting the UN Agencies to create a One UN Program in Afghanistan. Our adoption of the successful national program model draws on the spirit of the Marshall Plan where agreement between partners on the criteria and rules was critical to the success of the effort. Today, I invite our international partners to support and work through our national programs.

Finally and most importantly, I want to call attention to our challenge in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Every year, thousands of our women die in childbirth. Despite the massive progress we have made in increasing primary education, 6 million of our children are still unable to enter school. Over 11 million of our people are illiterate, approximately 1 million are disabled, and there are thousands of female-headed households. The success of our partnership is ultimately going to be measured by improvement in the lives of the most vulnerable of our citizens. They are the true victims of conflict and reminders of the tragedy of hubris and abuse of power.

I invite the international community to join us to find effective ways to make the excluded and the poor stakeholders in Afghan society.

Excellencies, on behalf of the Afghan people, I sincerely thank you for the assistance that you have given to Afghanistan. I want to conclude by praising the courage of the soldiers and civilians - both yours and ours- who have sacrificed their lives so that we may strive for peace and stability. I also want to highlight the patience and dignity with which our civilian population has borne the brunt of the conflict and the attacks of our common enemies. But do not mistake our will to overcome them. Let our friends and partners be assured of the justness of our cause. With your support and commitment, Afghanistan will further strengthen its rightful place in the community of nations; and we thank you for this.