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AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO  
AFGHANISTAN, AT THE 2010 ANNUAL SECURITY  
REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 16 June 2010

**Working Session IV: Threats and challenges stemming from the territory  
of Afghanistan and the OSCE's contribution to stability in the region**

**Comprehensive programme for the socio-economic development of Afghanistan with a  
view to developing the country's economic self-sufficiency and independence**

Distinguished Conference participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Although many of the countries in our Organization find themselves in a difficult crisis of sovereign debts and are cutting spending, Kazakhstan still believes it is necessary to devise a comprehensive programme for the socio-economic rehabilitation of Afghanistan.

Europe has already lost almost 20 per cent of the value of the euro, and stock market rates and oil prices are falling. In general, this debt crisis is threatening to halt to the recovery of the world economy after the serious crisis of 2008. In order to find a way out of this crisis, preserve the stability of the single currency and balance their macroeconomic indicators, the euro zone countries have adopted a package of credit guarantees worth 750 billion euros. A total of 120 billion euros is being allocated to Greece.

I would venture to say that the threats emanating from Afghanistan are no less dangerous and that we need to begin to create an income-generating economy for that country, otherwise we will have to keep on allocating massive funding to maintain the State apparatus, army and police and provide humanitarian aid.

One of the main causes of the continuing war in Afghanistan is its primitive economy and the lack of permanent jobs and a steady source of income for the country's inhabitants. Many people taking part in military operations do so because they are unable to feed their families by working.

If we are to put an end to the war in Afghanistan and restore peace we need as a matter of priority to resolve its economic and social problems and devise a comprehensive plan with specific economic projects for the agro-industrial sector and the extractive and manufacturing industries. Such projects will stimulate economic development and create jobs for thousands of people.

Kazakhstan is proposing that within the OSCE we draw up a non-military programme of assistance for Afghanistan with the large-scale involvement of international business to implement specific economic projects with the aid of financial donors and with security provided by NATO and Coalition forces. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities should be involved in this work.

This programme could be discussed as part of an agenda item on Afghanistan at the OSCE summit in Astana. The majority of the OSCE countries calling for a “demilitarization” of the solution of the Afghan problem would probably support such a programme.

In the first instance, the situation in Afghanistan could be stabilized through the electrification and construction of railways across the entire country. This would speed up economic development and enhance the transit potential of a country at the heart of the region. If the heart beats steadily, the entire body of the region will be healthy. And this needs to be done in spite of all the threats and challenges.

At the forthcoming international conference in Kabul, the Afghan Government intends to propose five major projects:

- The construction of a power line from Central Asia to Pakistan and India;
- The construction of a Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline;
- The construction of a railway line from the border with Tajikistan through northern Afghanistan to the city of Herat and on to Iran;
- The construction of Jalalabad-Torkham and Kandahar-Spin-Boldak branch railway lines with access to the railways of Pakistan.

The international community will be asked to finance around 20 dam construction projects to provide the country’s population with electricity and to irrigate the land.

The conferences on Afghanistan are, however, one-off events. The prestigious Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which brings together 56 countries from Europe and Asia, could assume a permanent co-ordinating role in the implementation of a comprehensive programme of this kind. I should like to point out that in view of their activities and geographic representation other organizations are not in a position to assume such role.

With the agreement of the Afghan Government, the programme could include the following development projects:

1. Restoration of the Jalalabad irrigation canal;
2. Restoration and construction of a complete cascade of electric power stations on the Kabul river, and the construction of reservoirs along the river;
3. Renovation of the hydroelectric dam in Baglan province, which was built 60 years ago by German engineers. The upper dam is unsafe, water is leaking out and it may collapse

under the pressure of the water, resulting in the destruction of the lower dam and flooding of the surrounding land. The city of Puli-Humri would suffer;

4. Restoration of olive tree plantations and the establishment of a factory to produce olive oil (Nangarhar province);
5. Creation of rose plantations and a factory for the production of perfume products from roses (Nangarhar province);
6. Construction of vegetable canning factories;
7. Renovation of citrus fruit farms for the cultivation of lemons, oranges, tangerines and grapefruit (Nangarhar province);
8. Creation of pomegranate farms and factories for the production of pomegranate juice;
9. Creation of sunflower plantations and factories for the production of sunflower oil;
10. Creation of plantations for the cultivation of saffron;
11. Creation of specialized agricultural equipment workshops to help farmers with land cultivation and harvesting;
12. Construction of vehicle repair workshops, furniture factories, factories for the production of dried fruit, and other facilities in Kabul;
13. Assistance in expediting preparation of tender documentation and the awarding of tenders to involve foreign investment in the extraction of natural resources on the territory of Afghanistan (copper, iron, lead, zinc, molybdenum, tungsten, tin, beryllium, mercury, oil and gas, coal, gold, bauxite, baryte, chromite, lapis lazuli, emeralds and rubies). In this case the country's population would probably protect them and make a stand against terrorists and extremists;
14. Creation of State companies for the purchase, processing and export of saffron, mint, grain and fruit, along with warehousing and transport facilities. These companies could subsequently be privatized;
15. Construction of a factory for the smelting of metals and manufacture of fittings. There are around one million tons of scrap metal in Afghanistan;
16. Construction of a factory for glass production (raw materials available in Balch);
17. Industrial parks in Bagram, Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif, Kamachi and Nangarhar;
18. Restoration of the Milli Bas municipal transport company in Kabul;
19. Assistance in the establishment and development of a State enterprise for the development of improved seeds;
20. Assistance in the creation of a complete cycle for the development of gas fields in Afghanistan.