

Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting
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DECISION No. 4/11
STRENGTHENING OSCE ENGAGEMENT WITH AFGHANISTAN

The Ministerial Council,

Sharing the common objective of promoting long-term security and stability in Afghanistan, a Partner for Co-operation of the OSCE since 2003,

Convinced that long-term security and stability in Afghanistan has a direct impact on security in the OSCE region,

Acknowledging the primary role of the UN in international efforts in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan, as well as the valuable contribution of relevant regional and international organizations and institutions actively engaged in assisting Afghanistan, *inter alia*, NATO, EU, CSTO, CICA and SCO, and underscoring the importance of co-ordination of these efforts and avoiding duplication, including through making best use of existing mechanisms for co-ordination,

Welcoming the Istanbul Process on regional security and co-operation for a secure and stable Afghanistan that was launched at the Istanbul Conference for Afghanistan on 2 November 2011, as well as the results of the International Afghanistan Conference, held in Bonn on 5 December 2011,

Acknowledging the OSCE and its participating States' contributions as part of the UN-led efforts of the international community towards assisting Afghanistan in areas where the OSCE has its expertise and experience,

Stressing the particular responsibility of the Government of Afghanistan for long-term security and stability in the country, to be achieved through a process that is Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-driven,

Supporting the on-going process of transition of responsibility, including for providing comprehensive security, to the Afghan authorities in the framework of the Kabul Process, and remaining convinced that progress to be made between now and 2014, when transition will be completed, will make a decisive impact on the future course of efforts underway in Afghanistan, and being confident that the OSCE can make a tangible contribution to this end, drawing upon its expertise and experience,

Acknowledging the central role that has been played by Madrid Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/07 on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan in fostering co-operation between the OSCE and Afghanistan since 2007,

Referring to the Athens Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/09 on further OSCE efforts to address transnational threats and challenges to security and stability, which calls for intensified implementation of Madrid Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/07,

Recalling the Astana Commemorative Declaration, which acknowledges that security in the OSCE region is inextricably linked with the security of neighbouring regions, and underscores in particular the need to contribute effectively to collective international efforts to promote a stable, independent, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan,

Recognizing the threat posed by illicit production, trade, trafficking and consumption of drugs originating in Afghanistan to international peace and stability in the region and beyond, and emphasizing the importance of co-operation with Afghanistan to counter this threat and to enhance border management co-operation between Afghanistan and its neighbours in ensuring comprehensive measures for drug control,

Commending the efforts by OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation, the Secretariat and the field operations towards the implementation of Madrid Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/07 aimed at assisting Afghanistan in the fields of border security, police training, customs training, combating of drug trafficking, *inter alia* through the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe and other training facilities in the OSCE participating States,

Acknowledging with appreciation the election support that has been provided to Afghanistan by four OSCE/ODIHR election support teams, in accordance with the relevant Permanent Council decisions and upon the request of the Afghan Government, and stressing the importance that we attach to the transparent, inclusive, free and fair elections in Afghanistan, in line with its national legislation and international standards,

Noting the relevance of the participation of Afghan officials and civil society representatives in OSCE events, and reaffirming the OSCE's readiness, within its mandate and available resources, to assist Afghanistan in its voluntary implementation of OSCE norms, principles and commitments,

Welcoming the use of the Partnership Fund, in accordance with Permanent Council Decision No. 812, to foster closer relations with Afghanistan and to support increased participation by Afghan representatives in OSCE activities across the three dimensions of security,

Recognizing the important role of education for stability and development in Afghanistan, and in particular the contribution by the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, which serves as a promoter of OSCE values,

Convinced of the importance of regional co-operation between Afghanistan and the OSCE participating States in Central Asia, and of the essential role of these participating States in helping to promote long-term security and stability in Afghanistan,

Welcoming bilateral and multilateral initiatives between Afghanistan and the regional countries that could contribute to the improved regional co-operation and enhanced trust and confidence,

Wishing to enhance the co-operation between the OSCE and Afghanistan,

1. Decides to further strengthen the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan across the three dimensions and on the basis of the OSCE concept of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security, pursuant to the request of the Government of Afghanistan;
2. Invites OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation to contribute, on a voluntary basis, to the efforts of the OSCE and international community, to promote the long-term security and stability of Afghanistan;
3. Tasks the Secretary General and executive structures, in accordance with their mandates and established procedures, with continuing ongoing projects and programmes of co-operation between the OSCE and Afghanistan and with developing a new package of activities across all three dimensions of security, in consultation with participating States and in co-ordination with the UN and other relevant international and regional organizations;
4. Tasks the Secretary General to act as a focal point among all OSCE executive structures, aiming at co-ordination and coherence of implementation of Afghan related projects and programmes in the OSCE area;
5. Calls upon the OSCE executive structures, within their mandates, to facilitate a broader participation of Afghan officials and civil society representatives in relevant OSCE events, including through the use of the Partnership Fund, as appropriate;
6. Recommends to Afghanistan to establish a fixed national focal point mechanism to facilitate co-operation between the OSCE and Afghanistan aimed at enabling better implementation of, and follow-up on, OSCE projects and activities;
7. Expresses the readiness to provide election support, at the request of the Afghan Government, as appropriate, especially in the light of the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections in Afghanistan;
8. Tasks the Permanent Council with remaining seized of the matter and with researching and evaluating options for further engagement with Afghanistan, upon its request;
9. Invites participating States to continue consultations in the framework of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation with a view to develop ongoing and new OSCE activities, across the three dimensions;
10. Tasks the Secretary General to regularly report to the participating States on the implementation of this decision.