

Statement by Mr. Najibullah Alikhail, First Secretary,
Embassy/Permanent Mission of Afghanistan,
At the 680 meeting of the Permanent Council,
on 20 September 2007

Thank you Mr. Chairman for given me the opportunity to speak very briefly in this PC meeting.

I would like to say just a few words in connection with the ongoing discussion among the Participating States on possible decision on the OSCE involvement in Afghanistan which has been proposed by the Spanish Chairmanship in its Perception Paper about the Madrid Ministerial Council meeting.

First of all, we highly appreciate this initiative which reflects the level of interest and commitment of the OSCE to Afghanistan as its Partner country for cooperation. We are also very grateful for the support of the many OSCE Participating States on this issue, including our neighbors in Central Asia.

My delegation strongly believes that the decision on the OSCE involvement in Afghanistan would be a very significant step forward in deepening our cooperation and partnership with the OSCE in terms of our common goals and purposes.

Mr. Chairman, as the result of the more than two decades of war, Afghanistan is still facing with many challenges which require a lot of efforts to overcome all of them. It is our firm believes that the OSCE with its invaluable experience and ability could play a very essential role in supporting the democratic process and strengthening the security in Afghanistan.

As we express our deep interest in the past, Afghanistan needs to learn from the OSCE and voluntarily implement its commitments. We would be very interested in stepping up cooperation with the OSCE in a number of fields : border control and management, police training, fighting the trafficking of illicit drugs and precursors, supporting the future election process in Afghanistan and study programs for junior diplomats in the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, would be among the other areas where we need assistance.

It is worth to mentioning that, the report of the OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut on his recent visit to Kabul, is a very valuable document and useful food for thought to the Participating States in their deliberation on possible OSCE assistance to Afghanistan.

Having said that, in our strong views, in order to become meaningful and remarkable achievements in our cooperation, it is essential if the activities would be carried out by the OSCE outside and inside of the territory of Afghanistan. Such approach would certainly contribute to the stability of Afghanistan and would contribute to the security of the OSCE own area.

In conclusion, we sincerely hope that the Participating States would be able to find a consensus among themselves in making decision on the OSCE involvement in Afghanistan.

Thank you for your attention.