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KAZAKHSTAN FOR AFGHANISTAN, AT THE 2010 ANNUAL  
SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 14 to 16 June 2010

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

Mr. Chairperson,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all I should like to thank the organizers of this event for their invitation and the opportunity to address this representative audience.

Kazakhstan is interested in stabilizing the situation in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as quickly as possible and establishing it as a peaceful and democratic country.

We firmly believe there is a need to put into place a multilateral mechanism for co-operation among the relevant international agencies and regional associations to resolve the Afghan question.

Efforts being made by the United Nations, the OSCE, the European Union, NATO, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, the Shanghai Co-operation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and other international agencies continue to be of key importance here.

Our country supports the efforts being taken by the international community to rehabilitate Afghanistan. An important stage in the rehabilitation of that country was the International Conference on Afghanistan held in London on 28 January of this year, in which a Kazakh delegation headed by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Secretary of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Kanat Saudabayev, participated.

As you are aware, the current situation in Afghanistan is evolving against the background of the planned withdrawal of foreign troops and the transfer of responsibility for maintaining security to the Afghan national army and police force.

This factor has three components: military, political and economic. With the first two, there is clarity in terms of the methods and goals, although there is an absence of complete

confidence in their success. The third component does not as yet have a clearly formalized character.

The military component involves an increase in the foreign troop strength to 38,000 (including 30,000 servicemen and women from the United States of America) and maximum pressure on the armed opposition in Afghanistan and Pakistan so as to reduce their potential and force an end to the armed confrontation.

A major military operation to pry out and destroy armed Taliban battalions in Kandahar province is planned for the summer or autumn of this year. At the same time, training is being stepped up for members of the Afghan army and the police force, new training centres are being established, and foreign instructors are being sent to Afghanistan. A schedule is being elaborated for the gradual (province by province) withdrawal of foreign troops.

For its part, the Taliban Movement is increasing its terrorist activities. For example, during the first four months of this year, foreign troop losses already exceeded the levels for the same period of last year. By the end of May of this year, the total number of American soldiers killed during the period 2001 to 2009 exceeded 1,000.

The political component involves the implementation of the programme proposed by Hamid Karzai for reconciliation and the reintegration of Taliban fighters into peaceful life. The Loya Jirga (council of tribal elders) held in Kabul from 2 to 4 June of this year is called upon on behalf of the Afghan people to establish conditions for reconciliation and reintegration of this kind. As you are aware, the key aspects of these conditions are the severing of ties with extremist organizations, an end to armed warfare and recognition of the current Constitution. The Afghan leadership is also proposing an end to the so-called "black lists" of the United Nations Security Council so as to pave the way for negotiations with Taliban leaders.

So far the Taliban leaders have rejected the preliminary conditions, insisting that any negotiations will start only after a complete withdrawal of the foreign troops from Afghanistan.

In our view, regardless of the success of the first and second components, we need to begin drafting a comprehensive programme for the implementation of large and medium-sized projects in the productive sector of Afghanistan's economy. This will, in turn, help to bring about progress in questions connected with military and political stability.

As you are aware, at the Kabul conference planned for 20 July 2010, the Afghan leadership intends to ask the international community for 14 billion dollars over the next three years. The Afghan leadership itself has not yet provided a clear plan as to how these funds will be used.

At the present time, a number of small-scale social projects are under way to repair roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and administrative buildings.

Following the overthrow of the Taliban regime in 2001, the Afghan population had high expectations, but many Afghans are now disappointed. Major projects are needed to restore this trust. For example, the construction of a trans-Afghan railway would make it

possible to exploit the country's potential as a transit link between Central and South Asia. For this purpose, use could be made of international financial structures. Co-operation with the Asian Development Bank is a positive example in this regard.

Kazakhstan is proposing that the international community, together with the Afghan Government, should draw up a list of projects for the productive economy, creating added value and jobs. A programme of this kind could be implemented on the basis of bilateral agreements, whereby donor countries would enlist national companies, helping them with co-financing, investment insurance and guaranteed credit for these projects.

These projects could involve the restoration and reconstruction of gas extraction and production companies in northern Afghanistan, irrigation facilities in Nangarhar, Kunar and Helmand, housing projects in Kabul and cement factories. It is suggested that donor resources should be targeted at projects relating to the manufacturing infrastructure, energy, oil and gas, mining, irrigation and the construction industry.

Distinguished Conference participants,

As the holder of the OSCE Chairmanship, Kazakhstan intends to make more active use of the Organization's potential to restore a peaceful and productive life in Afghanistan. We agree with our OSCE partners on the need to adopt urgent and targeted measures for Afghanistan's rehabilitation.

Kazakhstan is providing active support to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. On 29 December 2009, Mr. Kanat Saudabayev, Secretary of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, signed an agreement on the conditions for the overland transport of NATO freight in support of the ISAF, opening up an alternative route for the Alliance to provide its troops with rear-guard support.

We are assisting Afghanistan through various international bodies. In 2009 Kazakhstan transferred one million dollars to the Islamic Solidarity Fund of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, part of which was destined for the rehabilitation of Afghanistan.

The Kazakh Government has allocated five million dollars for the repair of schools, hospitals and roads. More than 10,000 tons of food have been sent as humanitarian aid.

Kazakhstan has developed an educational programme for the training of Afghan citizens at Kazakh educational establishments during the period 2010 to 2020. An intergovernmental agreement establishing the legal basis for the implementation of this programme was signed in Kabul in November 2009.

Beginning in 2010, Kazakhstan is willing to receive annually over the next five years 200 Afghan citizens at Kazakh institutions of higher education. Training will be provided in such areas as public health, agriculture, internal law and order, the humanitarian field, journalism, State border security, engineering and teaching.

Distinguished Conference participants,

Afghanistan continues to be a source of a global drug threat. Kazakhstan is making its contribution to combating this evil through co-operation with that country and other States of the region.

During an official visit by Mr. Saudabayev, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, to Afghanistan on 17 May of this year, an intergovernmental agreement was signed between the two countries on co-operation in combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues and precursors, and drug abuse.

In December 2009, the Central Asian Regional Information and Co-ordination Centre was opened in Almaty, the aim of which is to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors.

We believe that in order to counter this evil the active participation by Afghanistan in structures being developed to ensure Asian security is essential. Today Afghanistan is one of the 22 member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, acting as joint co-ordinator for confidence-building measures to combat illicit trafficking in drugs (with Iran) and new threats and challenges (with Turkey).

I should like once again to stress the importance of drawing up common approaches to assess the situation in Afghanistan with a view to achieving peace and tranquillity not only in that country but in the region as a whole.

In co-operating with Afghanistan, we regard the following areas as priorities: development of constructive political dialogue based on trust, promotion of commercial and economic ties as one way of helping to stabilize the situation in Afghanistan, encouragement of investment in the Afghan economy, support for cultural and humanitarian co-operation, and assistance provided free of charge in various areas.

All of the above once again confirms the relevance of the initiative by our Head of State to hold an OSCE summit in 2010, the principal theme of which could be Afghanistan.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished Conference participants,

In conclusion I should like to mention that since we regard Afghanistan as an integral part of Central Asia, Kazakhstan is firmly committed to working to assist in the reconstruction of that country during the period ahead in partnership with the Afghan authorities and other members of the international community.

Thank you for your attention.