



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Kabul Conference

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 22, 2010

The July 20 Kabul Conference was an important step in a process that works towards achieving our goals for Afghanistan: a stable and secure country, able to maintain its own security and prevent the return of Al Qaeda.

The conference allowed ordinary Afghans to see that their government has made progress and is working for them, from increasing security through local police forces and a growing National Army, to prioritizing the education of women by enrolling two and a half million girls in school, to working with the international community to employ more than 100,000 Afghans in rural development efforts.

As the first conference of its kind to be hosted by the Government of Afghanistan, the Kabul Conference marked a renewed commitment by the government to the Afghan people and served as an important, irreversible step towards a common goal: the transition to full Afghan ownership and responsibility.

This is a crucial year for Afghanistan and for all those who are working to help create a more stable situation there.

Even as we begin to transfer security responsibility to Afghans over the next year, we will sustain a robust commitment in Afghanistan going forward. We will partner with the Afghan people for the long term – towards a future of greater security, prosperity, justice, and progress.

We look forward to working with our OSCE partners to contribute to international efforts to stabilize Afghanistan. We continue to see opportunities for OSCE engagement with Afghanistan across all three dimensions of security, including in efforts to improve the security and management of Afghanistan's northern border, counter illicit drugs trafficking, promote licit trade, improve the conduct of elections, and promote human rights. We welcome the Chairmanship's stated commitment to intensifying OSCE engagement with Afghanistan and look forward to continued efforts in that regard.

As Secretary Clinton stated in her July 20 remarks, the Kabul Conference made clear that "the world is with Afghanistan." We look forward to working with the Afghan Government and the international community to see this mission through to completion.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.