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PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
ALBANIA  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS  
VIENNA

**Statement of the Albanian Delegation by Ambassador Spiro Koçi,  
Director General of Security Issues and International Organizations in  
the MFA of Albania, at the Annual Security Review Conference 14 -16  
June 2010, Working session IV: “OSCE’s contribution to the stability of  
Afghanistan”**

**Thank you Mr. Moderator,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- We are very pleased to see that Afghanistan has topped this year’s OSCE agenda and features in a special session of this Conference. It is a further sign of our common understanding that the threats and challenges posed by Afghanistan to the OSCE community remain indeed serious.
- In this regard, credit goes to Kazakhstan that pays so much attention to the future of Afghanistan on a national capacity and most importantly as the Chair-in-Office of the OSCE.
- We believe that exploring ways to intensify the OSCE’s engagement in Afghanistan is in the best interests of all participating States, and not only those countries that are directly exposed to the threats coming from that country: the neighboring countries and those directly involved inside Afghanistan.
- Three (3) years have elapsed since the landmark decision on the OSCE’s engagement in Afghanistan was approved during the proceedings of the Madrid Ministerial Council. The OSCE’s decision to join efforts with other international actors and bodies in stabilizing that war-torn country stemmed from the conviction that long-term security and stability in Afghanistan is of utmost importance for the OSCE region and in particular for Central Asia.
- Albania believes that this conviction continues to hold true, especially in light of the situation on the ground, which remains complex and unstable, and represents a dangerous source of terrorism, illicit drugs trafficking and transnational crime.

- We note with pleasure that after the recent military operations on the ground, there is a concrete possibility to reverse the Taliban tide and weaken their grasp on several areas of the country.
- At this juncture it is absolutely crucial to capitalize on this positive momentum, and further strengthen the development component of the international presence in Afghanistan, allowing the Afghan Government and people to increasingly assume ownership and leadership of their affairs and country's future.
- For the international community to do so it is imperative to tackle the biggest challenges of today, building civilian institutions, providing training and education, building infrastructure and creating the necessary incentives.
- It is of a paramount importance that Afghanistan closely works with its neighbors, which are also OSCE participating states, to secure its borders, facilitate licit trade and prevent the flow of drugs and narcotics.
- In view of the above, the OSCE, with its unique toolkit and cross dimensional expertise, cannot stay at the sidelines of the international efforts to create a viable Afghanistan. Support could be lent to priority areas such as police training, border security and customs training, anti-corruption, integrated border management, etc.
- There is also the need to build Afghan capacity for strengthening the rule of law, civil society, respect for human rights, in particular women's rights, and democratic institutions. Potential for active involvement of the OSCE and its institutions in these areas is immense and should be fully explored.
- We should like to emphasize that the framework for the OSCE engagement rests on solid bases, starting from 2007 Madrid Ministerial Council Decision and spanning through the OSCE's strategic documents namely the Border Management Concept and the Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st century.
- Building upon these documents the participating States could agree to broaden and deepen the scope of the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan in priority areas mentioned above.
- Albania notes with interest the proposals to place the OSCE's contribution to the stability of Afghanistan high on the agenda of a possible Summit to be held by the end of this year. The Summit could provide the right venue for the participating States define basic guidelines that will orient the OSCE's future activities in support of the stability of that country.

**Dear Colleagues,**

- Allow me now to share with you Albania's national contribution in Afghanistan, as part of the International Security Assistance Force. Albania was first engaged in the post-Taliban Afghanistan back in 2002, aware that denying to terrorist groups a safe haven and contributing for a stable, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan, would be a long-term task.

- Ever since that time the Albanian Armed Forces have been present on the ground with around 1060 military personnel, 251 of whom are currently deployed in sensitive areas of the country.
- Aware of the challenges ahead of us and within the capacities of our armed forces, we have pledged to send an extra 35 combat troops that will engage in dangerous combat operations.
- As a sign of the importance that we place on the civilian development of Afghanistan and capacity building operations, Albania will provide 100 scholarships for afghan students and is going to deploy 30 experts in the Police Operational Mentor and Liaison Teams, Provisional Reconstruction Teams and NATO Training Mission Afganistan.
- Allow me to conclude my intervention by saying that as modest as these figures may seem, they provide a contribution to the overall goals the international community is trying to pursue in Afghanistan, which are also the goals the OSCE and its participating States, whose long-term interest in the stability and security of that volatile area is unquestionable.

Thank you for your kind attention.