

Canadian Delegation to the  
Organization for Security & Cooperation  
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de  
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération  
en Europe

ENGLISH only

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE  
STATEMENT DELIVERED BY  
YVES BEAULIEU, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
AGENDA ITEM: OTHER ISSUES  
Afghanistan: The London Conference and implications for the OSCE's work**

**795<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
25 FEBRUARY 2010**

Mr. Chairman:

Canada thanks the United Kingdom for hosting the timely London Conference on Afghanistan, whose conclusions and outcomes have implications for the OSCE's future work with Afghanistan and neighbouring countries of the OSCE region. It is clear that the focus of the international community should be on helping Afghans reach their goal of a more prosperous and stable Afghanistan.

Collectively, we have suffered many casualties in our efforts to help the people of Afghanistan. The legacy of these sacrifices must be realized through our continued collective work to bring peace and prosperity for Afghanistan and the region. Addressing the regional dimension of the Afghanistan challenge - together with our regional actors and partners - is a G8 priority during Canada's G8 Chairmanship this year.

We welcome the proposals put forward by Afghanistan at the London Conference. Reconciliation and reintegration will play a critical complementary role to stabilization and development efforts. In this context, we welcome President Karzai's emphasis on these key elements for moving forward.

We also support the commitment of the Kazakh OSCE Chairman-in-Office (CiO) to an increased OSCE engagement with respect to Afghanistan, and especially where our Organization - through its capacity-building assistance - can make a difference. I am thinking of such key areas of OSCE expertise as: border security, counter-narcotics, policing, good governance and democracy-building.

To be truly effective, however, Canada strongly believes that the OSCE should be allowed to work inside Afghanistan and that this work should be carried out in close coordination with other relevant international organizations. You can continue to count on Canada's firm support for the OSCE's important work and role for Central Asia and Afghanistan, in building security and cooperation.

Merci!