

PC.DEL/995/08
14 November 2008

ENGLISH only



Delegation of Afghanistan

STATEMENT BY MR. WAHID MONAWAR ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AFGHANISTAN TO THE OSCE, AT THE 739th PERMANENT COUNCIL

13 November 2008

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I am delighted to see you all back in Vienna after a successful trip to Afghanistan. I wish to express, once again my delegation's gratitude to the Finnish Chairmanship for the significant efforts undertaken over the past year for the benefit of the OSCE. Equally, let me thank the Spanish delegation for chairing the Asian Contact Group in such an outstanding manner. I would also like to commend the OSCE Secretary General H. E. Ambassador Brichambaut and his Secretariat for their role in this historic conference.

Mr. Chairman,

Taking the debate of security to Afghanistan shows the fundamental direction that this institution is headed towards. Looking back to the beginning of this year, we had among ourselves nay Sayers and doubters, some even looking for the guarantee of safety. Our dedication to the promotion of democracy and our commitment to the Afghan people won the day. Five years have passed since Afghanistan became an Asian Partner for Co-operation and the country, along with our fellow Asian Partners, continues to strive to make its contribution to the implementation of OSCE's standards and values to enhance our participation in its activities. On 9 and 10 November 2008, the Afghan government co-hosted the first-ever OSCE-Afghanistan Conference in Kabul, dedicated to strengthening regional security. I believe that the conference achieved its goals and I trust that our work will continue towards broad applicability of the perceptions and recommendations stemming from this event.

Mr. Chairman,

The OSCE plays a remarkable role as a catalyst for change. Its major contributions towards democracy and peace across Europe are now spreading to other areas where people share the desire for liberty and security. Our agenda for the coming years is ambitious and we must seize every opportunity to face our challenges and meet our goals.

The OSCE-Afghanistan Conference represented such a challenge that we overcame, strengthening our partnership and building towards our future endeavors. Lack of security in Afghanistan and the region bears massive and global ramifications, and the tyrannies of terrorism and illegal drug trade constitute direct and constant threats to the stability and interests of all states.

Our response must be multi-dimensional, steadfast and comprehensive using every tool and resource available to us.

Allow me Mr. Chairman to seize this opportunity and thank the Russian Federation and the Strategic Police Matters Unit of the secretariat to collaborate in training twelve Afghan police officers in a drugs-fighting training course, organized by the OSCE with the International Drugs-fighting Training Centre of the Russian Advanced Police Academy in *Domodedovo*, outside Moscow.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, I wish to thank all the delegates for their valuable contributions and ideas brought up during the Conference. I hope that many of these ideas may be taken into account in the deliberations of our future meetings dealing with the challenges of security.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman