



Delegation of Afghanistan

**STATEMENT BY MR. WAHID MONAWAR ACTING PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AFGHANISTAN TO THE
OSCE, AT 724th PERMANENT COUNCIL**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the adoption of the decision on the agenda of the 2008 OSCE-Afghanistan conference.

We are grateful to the Finnish Chairmanship for giving Afghanistan the privilege of priority on the 2008 agenda. I would like to also express our appreciation to the Spanish chairmanship of the Asian group for their part.

Mr. Chairman,

Today, as we recess for summer, it presents an excellent opportunity to reflect on the issues we have discussed so far the first half of 2008.

Throughout the year on numerous occasions I spoke about the challenges that Afghanistan is facing on its path to democracy. Despite enormous achievements we have a long way to go, our government institutions are still weak, there are extensive corruptions and the fight against narcotics is unproductive in the areas where security is a challenge. Terrorism and extremism constantly and continuously receive major support from our neighbors to impede the democratization process.

This last June the Paris conference in support of Afghanistan gave us a chance to realign some of our strategies and to explore a better solution for the challenges that our young democracy encounter.

Last year at the Madrid Ministerial council, an important decision was reached to help alleviate some of Afghanistan's problems. Decision 4/07 addressed key issues, and encourages enhanced and stronger OSCE involvement and engagement with Afghanistan.

The OSCE engagement with Afghanistan has particular importance in tackling the common challenges facing Afghanistan and the region. Once again, my delegation is deeply grateful for Secretary General and his team's dedication and hard work to materialize and translate this decision into detailed programs that will benefit the poor and needy Afghans.

It is also worth mentioning that French Foreign Minister H.E Mr. Kouchner in this very same Permanent Council promulgated that the need for a successful Afghanistan is to have Afghans on the driver seat of projects and to Afghanize the theme of success.

As I articulated several times my government's position, in respect to the Ministerial Council's decision on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan, we are of the belief that it will not serve the purpose of the decision if the programs presented by Secretary General are partially implemented. Consequently, my government will not endorse programs 1 through 14, if programs 15a and 16 are excluded, it does not serve a purpose and it will handicap a decision taken in Madrid.

Mr. Chairman,

In the first half of this year, I spoke about the gap between the magnitude of the challenges and the smallness of politics that we experience as we debate and seek solutions in this institution.

My delegation understands that, despite some consensus and goodwill among many in this council, there are a few that will cater to the smallness of politics.

It is rather troubling to know that these few would take away from a poor and needy to address the intricate notion of their meager politics. Of course, they practice contrary to what they preach.

Nonetheless, I wish that those who are comfortable to take away from poor and needy Afghans, would continue with this believe and to not inundate us at other forums such as NATO, so they could receive a piece of pie.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished colleagues,

Once again, on behalf of the people of Afghanistan who have suffered tremendously in the past 30 years, I thank you so very much for you continuing support, we appreciate your partnership and sacrifices and look forward to extend the Afghan hospitality to you at the OSCE-Afghanistan conference later this year in Kabul.

With that note, I wish you all a pleasant summer recess and god willing, see you all in September.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.