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## Forum for 21st century

### on International Assistance to Afghanistan

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has emphasized *The Forum for the 21st Century* is gathering the representatives of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, of the European Union and of the United States of America to discuss the Global Security Issue concerning the **Development Aid for Afghanistan**. This topic is of big importance to all the parties involved. As has been stated in the previous drafts of this Section, fears remain about the withdrawal of foreign troops and the termination of the ISAF Mission. As has been stated in the previous drafts many other forms of assistance will remain in the country both to help the country rebuild and to prevent it from sliding into another civil war and thus destabilizing the entire region and disrupt the Global Security.

*This Draft is a reaction to the replies to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft and tries to specify the position of the delegations and facilitate an arrival to a mutual understanding and to an agreement on comprehensive and concrete steps.*

The Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century appreciates the inputs of all the parties involved and once again invites the delegates to study the following draft and make replies to it.

#### Notes

All the parties involved emphasized the importance of **education** in the Afghan society and have presented concrete steps on how they wish to assist Afghanistan in this manner. The Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century appreciates their input and their concrete proposals. Ideas for separate gender schools in the country have been repeated.

Parties involved have also expressed their will to assist Afghanistan economically. Each proposed its own plans within their own means and own circumstances with regard to culture, to their potential and to their relationship with Afghanistan. Supporting Afghanistan's accession to the WTO has been repeated.

The **European Union** specified a plan in helping the **civilian stability** in Afghanistan while putting a lot of emphasis on civil rights, fair elections and tackling corruption.

Military security of Afghanistan and the elimination of terrorism are to be executed via the ISAF mission led by **NATO** that includes the **United States of America**, countries of the **European Union**, members of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations** and other sovereign countries.

The **Afghan National Army**, being an important link in the development of Afghanistan, will be given all the necessary **training and assistance**. Intelligence and best practices are to be share to help improve security and **civilian stability**.

The important **correlation between civilian stability and military** security is to be assured via tackling corruption, assuring fair elections and transparency. Part of this effort is a joint "International Donors' Database". This is to assure transparent aid and transparent development.



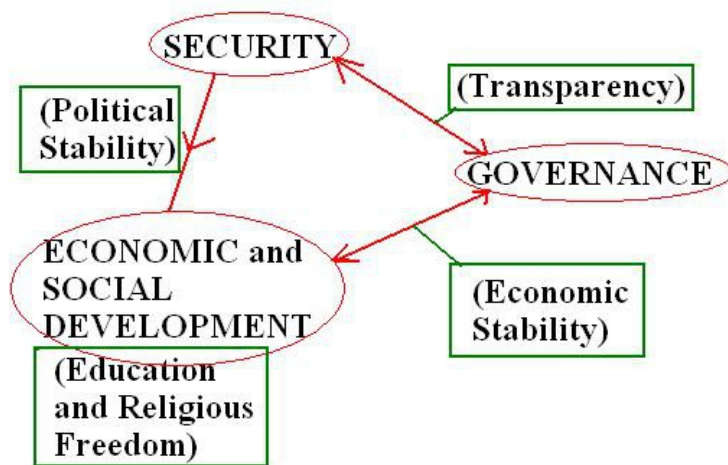
Work of local and international NGOs is to be encouraged in helping promote stability and reduce corruption.

Members of the Security Section of the Forum of the 21<sup>st</sup> century explicitly support Afghanistan's accession to a few International Organizations but they do not wish to limit any further engagement with Afghanistan wishes to have with the International Community.

#### **The “Vicious Circle” and the need for action:**

In the previous draft we have mentioned a “vicious circle” in which the Afghan society currently finds itself.

This “**vicious circle**” is caused by a lack of security caused by Taliban and Al Qaeda. This lack of **security** hinders effective **governance** by Afghanistan's **government** and also hinders **economic, social and cultural development of Afghanistan**. As a result the **Afghan National Army** and the government cannot govern well or keep stability in the country. There is almost no potential for a civil society, which further deepens corruption and makes for a low transparency. Feeling economically and politically insecure together with **corruption** the Afghan men join the Taliban to secure their families. This again further deepens the instability. Only **foreign military assistance and economic aid** has made stability and economic development more possible. However, this state of affairs **cannot last forever**.



It is in order to end this “vicious circle” and further enable stability and economic growth that the participants of the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century have proposed plans in each of the 4 key sectors: **education, civilian stability, security and economic development**. They range from multilateral to bilateral and some are very specific while others are broad.

This Draft is presenting concrete steps and plans that the participants will take in this regard.

#### **KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE:**



**GLOBAL  
SECURITY ISSUES**  
BEZPEČNOSTNÁ  
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The participants of the Forum have agreed on a few principles in the frame of which their assistance will be provided. Some more principles that should guide the international assistance and facilitate it have also been proposed by the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Here are all the basic principles of International Assistance to Afghanistan:

- ✗ No foreign ideas of running a country, that are dogmatic or ignorant and do not reflect the real circumstances of the people, the culture and/or the geography, will be imposed on Afghanistan and the Afghans.
- ✗ The participants of this Forum are not required to agree on all the aspects and sign multilateral documents. They can build on their own bilateral relations with Afghanistan and their own projects of aid. In this manner the assistance can be more effective. All participants however are welcome to join in common efforts. This principle insists that there cannot be a “one size fits all approach”.
- ✗ We do not intend to limit Afghanistan’s engagement with the international community. Any effort from the part of Afghanistan with an international governmental body will be encouraged. This again emphasizes the **“one size does not fit all”** principle.
- ✗ International and local NGOs are all encouraged to do their activities and execute their projects in Afghanistan. This would strengthen the Afghan Civil society, which is a crucial component.
- ✗ There should be no double use of international efforts to assist Afghanistan. Such doubling of efforts leads to a waste in resources and assets and is very ineffective.
- ✗ The activities of NGOs in Afghanistan must not be illegal, the Afghan government, the ANA and the international security forces will deal with this issue.

## Proposals

Due to the difficulty of not always being able to separate individual areas of international assistance (*Education, Internal Security, Civilian Stability, and Economic Development*) some of the proposals might overlap with one another.

*(In replying to this Draft, new proposals might be suggested by all the parties. Changes to some proposals, disagreements with some of the points as well as suggesting eliminating some proposals entirely will be accepted from all the parties.)*

The proposals in this draft are more specific and many take a form of documents such as Declarations or Memorandums. The Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is proposing a single umbrella document under which all the declarations and memorandums will then be included and summarized along with the afore mentioned principles. The proposed name for this umbrella document is **“Comprehensive Agreement on international Assistance to Afghanistan”.**

## Education:



The Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century very much appreciates the inputs of all the participants in the area of education when assisting Afghanistan. The Forum would like to thank them for having proposed specific and concrete steps.

**The United States** has included Afghanistan in their **Fulbright Program**. It announced 2013-2014 Fulbright Graduate Fellowship for citizens of Afghanistan. This is a great program and will certainly improve the level of education for some Afghans.

**The European Union** has also suggested its own “Scholarship Program” for Afghan students. This program also includes a condition that the Afghans must return to their country and bring back know/how and many other skills.

**The Association of Southeast Asian Nations** has also proposed its own education program to assist the Afghans. The ASEAN has mostly emphasized the **education of teachers and women**.

It is clear that each of these education assistance programs is very specific and is made with the specific circumstances in mind. The participants ought to sign separate agreements.

However a joint memorandum called “**Memorandum on promoting an Afghan Education Network**” ought to be signed by all the parties. This memorandum would confirm and establish that all participants are truly dedicated to improving the education of the Afghans.

The memorandum does not give specific or concrete instructions to the participants, they ought to make agreements with Afghanistan themselves as those would be effective and would consider the specific circumstances. However an article that would instruct all participants to include women and future teachers to be included should be signed.

It should not be neglected that universities and educational institutions themselves from the EU, the USA or the ASEAN might themselves cooperate voluntarily with Afghan schools, universities and/or educational NGOs. This kind of cooperation should be encouraged since it is voluntary and very effective.

Finally the participants should encourage and if necessary support the activities of NGOs dedicated to education, i.e. Ayni Foundation Network.

### **Economic Development:**

The United States as the most important outside actor in Afghanistan has signed an economic development agreement with the Afghan government called the **US-Afghan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA)**. This agreement includes Afghanistan’s access to the Generalized System of Preferences when benefiting from access to the US market.

The **European Union** insists on waiting until some progress has been made in tackling security issues in Afghanistan such as corruption, drug trafficking and terrorism before opening its market to Afghanistan. The issues of drug trafficking and governance are the ones the EU is willing to actively help with.

The **ASEAN** has expressed its desire to deepen its economic partnership with Afghanistan and also give it a **non-member observer status** at the ASEAN. This is an important step since it also helps Afghanistan be more engaged with the international community. Being part of an international body will also educate Afghan policy makers and help gain know-how.

The ASEAN also supports the accession of Afghanistan to the World Trade Organization. The ASEAN wishes to support the progress of the ongoing accession process. Being closer to the WTO is also important



**GLOBAL  
SECURITY ISSUES**  
BEZPEČNOSTNÁ  
SEKCIA

since it again promotes Afghanistan's international engagement and would share best practices with and help Afghan policy makers be educated and experienced.

The participants could sign a **Declaration on proceedings of the negotiations to signing a Memorandum on Foreign Trade Regime (FTR) for Afghanistan**. A FTR would be a breakthrough for Afghanistan's path to accessing the WTO.

Another important part of the Economic Development on Afghanistan is International Trade within the region. Afghanistan must start trading with its regional neighbors. This regional economic cooperation would also stabilize the region and will be a strong factor in preventing future conflicts.

A crucial part of this aspect is the development of "**The New Silk Road**". This new approach is mostly supported by the United States. It would make trade on land from Europe, across the Middle East and Central Asia all the way to East Asia and Southeast Asia. It would include not only land transport and market exchange in the region but also energy infrastructure. The ASEAN being a body involved in his exchange ought to support such a project. The other participants, EU and the USA, could benefit from such a development of the region as well.

The Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century is proposing to the participants a "**Declaration on Supporting the Development of 'the New Silk Road'**". By signing this declaration the participants would declare support of such a development. It would not require them to any specific duty such as financing a project or supporting a specific investment. It would only declare that they openly support such a development and would put their support behind the regional governments and organizations when pursuing this project. The participants would also be free to take any further step that they wish to take in order to help this project further such as investing in it themselves. This would be in accordance with the principle of "**one size does not fit all**". An important part of the declaration is an article that the project should be transparent so as to avoid corruption and a waste of resources.

**Internal Security:**

Members of the **European Union** (it being a participant of the Forum) and the **United States of America** as members of **NATO** are the main participants of the **ISAF mission** in Afghanistan and so are mostly in charge of assuring internal security of Afghanistan. They are also the main partners of the **Afghan National Army (ANA)**, by training it and preparing it to take responsibility for Afghanistan itself.

The specific task of battling the Taliban and Al-Qaeda and eliminating terrorism is a specific task of NATO, ISAF and the ANA.

The European Union has decided to leave the responsibility for internal security to NATO. However, it has declared to further continue its **EUPOL mission**, which would strengthen security in some aspects and would combat corruption, criminality and drug trafficking, while also helping and training the Afghan police. This would directly contribute to *civilian stability* and effective governance as the Afghan police is a direct part of Afghanistan's civilian government.



**The United States of America** has already signed a strategic partnership agreement with Afghanistan called the **US – Afghan Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA)**. This agreement is specific and directly bilateral.

**The ASEAN** has proposed a sharing of best practices and of intelligence with the ANA. The European Union and the United States have not proposed a common joint intelligence and best practices sharing agreement. The NATO led ISAF mission is sharing its intelligence with the ANA and so is to a certain extent the EUPOL mission.

Thus in respecting the principles of the international assistance the ASEAN is free to sign its own agreement with the Afghan government and share its own intelligence and best practices to the extent and of the nature that it sees appropriate. This would be more effective as it would be a direct bilateral agreement and would also take into account all the specific circumstances.

Another important aspect of Afghanistan's security is its accession to the **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)**. Currently Afghanistan is a partner country. A full accession to the OSCE would further deepen Afghanistan's engagement internationally, educate its policy makers but also help regional security and Afghan civilian stability. Civilian stability would be improved by OSCE's election monitoring missions, which are regular throughout Eurasia. It would also help battle corruption and improve the governance. The post-soviet Central Asian countries are all members of the OSCE.

The Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century is proposing "**Memorandum on Afghanistan's path to full accession to the OSCE**". This memorandum ought to be signed by the European Union and the United States, which are all members of the OSCE.

Furthermore Afghanistan should continue to cooperate further with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization of which it is currently an observer. The SCO cooperates in the field of anti-terrorism. Participating at this program would help Afghanistan with its security and again deepen its international engagement.

**The Forum for the 21st century is asking the participants to express their positions on Afghanistan's relation with the SCO.**

#### **Civilian Stability:**

**The European Union** declared to further continue its **EUPOL** mission that will focus on battling corruption, drug trafficking and training the Afghan police. This is a crucial step in civilian stability.

**The United States** has included civilian stability programs in their bilateral security agreement with Afghanistan.

The significant portion of EU members' and America's involvement in the ISAF security mission is crucial to security and thus directly to stability as well.

The **international aid and donors' database** proposed by the European Union was well received by the ASEAN. This database would enhance transparency and would make it difficult or waste resources and have a double repeat of efforts, which is very ineffective.

An important part of international assistance and Afghanistan's future development is **the role of NGOs** and their aid. Nor the participants nor the Forum itself should directly support any specific NGO but encouraging them to assist and conduct their activities in Afghanistan. They could work directly with



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SECURITY ISSUES**  
BEZPEČNOSTNÁ  
SEKCIA

Afghan NGOs and thus would be more effective and would help develop the Afghan civil society. Their aid should be included in the “Common Donors’ Database” should such a database be created.

**The Forum invites the representatives of the United States of America to express its position in the idea of a Common Donors’ Database.**

Furthermore the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century proposes a **“Treaty on Creating a Common international Donors’ Database.”**

We would like to emphasize that a success in the other fields of assistance: *Education* and *Economic Development* will contribute significantly to the Internal security and the Civilian Stability.

Other crucial issues that remain are the issue of **secular governance and religious freedom** and the **status of women in the Afghan society**.

**The Forum invites the participants and the representatives of the Afghan government to present concrete steps concerning these issues.**

**“Comprehensive Agreement on International Assistance to Afghanistan”**

*Includes:*

- × **Key Principles of the International Assistance**
- × **Statements by the Participants of the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (European Union, United States of America and Association of Southeast Asian Nations)**
- × **Statement by the Representatives of the Government of Afghanistan**
- × **Documents for the specific proposals to the aspects of International Assistance:**
- × Treaty on creating a Common International Donors Database
- × Declaration on Supporting the Development of “the New Silk Road
- × Memorandum on promoting an Afghan Education Network
- × Memorandum on Afghanistan’s path to full accession to the OSCE
- × Declaration on supporting Afghanistan’s path to a Memorandum on Foreign Trade Regime (FTR) within the WTO

