

Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century on International Assistance to Afghanistan

## Comprehensive Agreement on International Assistance to Afghanistan of the Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century

We recognize the principle that no foreign idea of managing a country, that ignores the culture and the specifics of Afghanistan, should be imposed on the Afghan people. Equally we recognize the importance of developing and making progress in the country by the Afghans themselves. It is for this purpose that we have invited the representatives of Afghanistan to the Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

We recognize the Security and the Internal Stability of the country to be the most crucial aspect of International Assistance on which all aspects of development and progress depend.

We recognize that as the delegates present at the forum do not always have converging interests and do not always share the same point of view. Therefore we respect the interests of each party present and take all circumstances into consideration. All legally binding decisions included in this document have been taken by consensus. Experts will decide the specifics of many projects included in this agreement.

Since the question of Afghanistan's stability is a complex one with many separate issues that need to be addressed in a separate manner, the delegates present at the Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century have divided the issues of the international assistance to Afghanistan into four (4) separate categories which are the following: Education, Economic Development, Security and Civilian Stability.

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We, the participating countries and international organizations, are truly dedicated to improving the educational level of the Afghan population since we all consider it a key aspect needed for further development and further stabilization of the country. Despite the fact, that we all have different proposals and ideas on how to help improve the educational level in Afghanistan, we have all agreed on signing a joint memorandum called **"Memorandum on Supporting an Afghan Education Network"**, in which we have agreed to the following:

I. We recognize a key principle that any of our future multilateral education agreements will not interfere with existing bilateral agreements, i.e. the Fulbright Scholarship program between the governments of the United States and the government of Afghanistan.









- II. We recognize the importance of the return of Afghan citizens educated abroad via scholarships and exchange programs back to Afghanistan so that they can use the knowhow and experiences back in their home. All scholarships and exchange programs signed between Afghanistan and members of the Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century are to include such a rule.
- III. We are announcing the creation of an Afghan National Fund for Education. This Fund would be supervised by a UNICEF supervisory body of 5 delegates, 4 of whom are from the members of the Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century and one comes from a neutral third party. This Fund would fully cooperate with and coordinate its activities with the International Donor's Database, which is described further in this document. The aim of the ANFFE is to oversee an effective distribution of teachers and other resources required for education to all the regions of Afghanistan so that no region is behind the others.
- IV. The members of the Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century are creating a Common Multilateral Project, which would include primary, secondary and higher education projects in Afghanistan. This common project would also cooperate closely with the ANFFE and with the International Donor's Database. The principle in point I. is to be respected.
- V. Reacting to fears raised about the status of women in Afghanistan, the members of the Forum have agreed to a Quorum for Education of Women according to which at least one third (1/3) of the people educated by projects included in the ANFFE and the Common Project should be women. The principle of point I. also applies to this quorum.
- VI. We do not oppose and do not wish to interfere in any way in any future voluntary cooperation between Afghan higher educational institutions and higher educational institutions from any member country of the Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

We, the participating countries and international organizations, are fully dedicated to creating a safe environment that will allow true economic development in Afghanistan. Although we realize the difficulties and the challenges, we regard economic development as the key to future stability of the country as having economic alternatives would prevent Afghan citizens from joining Taliban and other terrorist networks. Within this spirit we have agreed to the following points:

I. We are signing a "Declaration on Supporting the Development of "the New Silk Road", by which we would put our support behind an initiative that would encourage trade within the region between Afghanistan and its neighbours and would deepen the economic









integration and interdependence between not only Afghanistan and its neighbours but also between all the economies of Asia within the "New Silk Road Superstructure".

- II. We all support projects leading to wider economic cooperation within the region. We believe that trade and economic integration would lead to the stabilization of the region and would lower the risk of armed conflicts and thus would lead to prosperity and stability.
- III. We all recognize the point emphasized by the European Union, which stresses the importance of building an infrastructure, which would deepen the cooperation within the region.
- IV. We recognize the fears that were raised by the European Union that it does not wish to put its businessmen to risk. Therefore we accept that the European Union does not wish to join any multilateral trade agreement, until the security and civilian stability in Afghanistan improves. The European Union however does not oppose any voluntary projects by the private sector in Afghanistan. All the other parties of the Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century share this principle and do not oppose private sector initiatives of any kind.
- V. In the same spirit the parties of the Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century are not opposed to any potential bilateral trade or investment agreement with Afghanistan as these would further deepen economic integration.
- VI. We all declare support to the accession of Afghanistan to the World Trade Organization (WTO), if the conditions of the accession are fully met. We believe this would help the Afghan economy and Afghans in particular better trade their goods and services with the rest of the world and would contribute to the improvement of their welfare.

## **UNTERNAL SECURITY & CIVILIAN STABILITY**

We, the participating countries and international organizations, are fully dedicated to support Afghanistan's national security and civilian stability. We believe that Afghanistan needs to assure its civilian stability so that it can assure its economic and social development. We recognize that it is hard to fully separate the issue of internal security from civilian stability and we realize that many steps that need to be taken overlap with one another and many issues are closely linked. Taking all considerations and principles into account, we have agreed on the following:

× We declare full support to Afghanistan's desire to cooperate more closely with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which could lead to Afghanistan's possible future membership in the OSCE, after fulfilling all the membership conditions. We believe that being a full member of the OSCE will help Afghanistan tackle





corruption, assure fair elections and combat terrorism as well as assure stable relations with all its neighbours in the region.

- × We declare full support to Afghanistan's efforts to expand its cooperation with other international organizations on voluntary basis. We believe that any further integration by Afghanistan to the International Community will help its diplomats be more experienced and will make Afghanistan more stable.
- × After the withdrawal of the ISAF mission from Afghanistan and the gradual transfer of responsibility to the Afghan National Army, Afghanistan does not wish for any further presence of foreign combat troops and wishes only a presence of international assistance in the form of training, exchange of information and exchange of best practices.
- × The European Union is able to prolong the presence of the EUPOL until 2017 under the condition of assurances by the Afghan National Army. The EUPOL mission would continue training Afghan police and judges and which would further deepen the civilian stability of the country.
- × The ASEAN countries have declared to offer the sharing of best practices with Afghan Security Forces, which would benefit from such sharing and could become more effective.
- × The bilateral strategic partnership between the USA and Afghanistan will be revised after 2015 on bilateral basis.
- × We all declare the willingness to combat human and drug trafficking by means of an expert committee, which will create a report with concrete suggestions within one year.
- × We all express our support to the World Afghan Professionals Organization's (WAPO) Initiative concerning 5000 Afghan professionals from abroad, who would return to Afghanistan.
- × We have agreed on creating the International Donor's Database as an international project implemented by the UNDP whose purpose is to consolidate all relevant data about all forms of international financial donations including the donors, the recipients, the sums of money and the purpose of the projects.

The Members of the Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century are thus signing a **"Treaty on Creating a Common International Donors' Database"**. This database was first proposed by the European Union and revised and considered by the other members of the Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century.









The purpose of this database, which would be managed equally by experts from the nongovernmental sector, i.e., Transparency International, is to register where the financial aid from the Donors comes from, what is its purpose and whether it has been received in its entirety and used for the stated purpose. The database is to include all aid coming from governmental and non-governmental donors alike.

It is encouraged that all the aid provided by the donors is to be sent, directly to the citizens of Afghanistan to whom it is destined for specific purposes. This way, by avoiding the central government of Afghanistan the aid is more direct, more efficient and more transparent. All the potential misuse of funds should thus be made least likely possible.

The Donors are not required to join the database or avoid the central government of Afghanistan. They are however encouraged to do so.

If any misuse or abuse of financial resources is discovered, the recipient or another party or subject responsible will be punished by making the negative discovery concerning them public and by being denied funds.

In case of the guilt by the donor, the donor subject shall be put on a black list. Until the end of an investigation and until the implementation of necessary measures, the subject would not receive any aid from any donors.

The International Donor's Database is the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century's most ambitious and though through project so far. Experts would decide the exact details of its implementation. This agreement only presents the basic framework by which the members suggest its functioning.

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This Document, which is known as the "**Comprehensive Agreement on International Assistance to Afghanistan**" includes all the legally abiding declarations by the members of the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and also the following three documents that specify some of those declarations:

- 1. "Memorandum on Supporting an Afghan Education Network"
- 2. "Declaration on Supporting the Development of "the New Silk Road"
- 3. "Treaty on Creating a Common international Donors' Database"

By signing this comprehensive agreement the parties also agree to those mentioned which are integral parts of this agreement.

In Bratislava, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations

The European Union

The United States of America

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