

International Assistance to Afghanistan

Statement to the 3rd DRAFT

*United States of America express gratitude to the Forum for the 21st century for the consideration and assessment of our proposal to 3rd Draft and attach new suggestions for Global Security Issue concerning the **Development Aid for Afghanistan**. USA will continue to support development activities in Afghanistan and is willing to meet new challenges of the current position of the country. We are committed to participate in the negotiations leading to new solutions of the current situation. We hope to come to common conclusions, signing agreements which conduct to restoration of order in Afghanistan and strengthening of friendly relations between the all participating countries.*

Key principles of the international assistance

We agree with all principles of the international assistance. The principle that all the participants of this Forum are not required to agree on all the aspects and sign multilateral documents is very sympathetic in our opinion. Thanks to that the assistance can be more effective, because all the participants can build on their own bilateral relations with Afghanistan and their own projects of aid.

Cooperation between SCO and Afghanistan

Observer status will strengthen political, economic and civilian cooperation between the SCO states and Afghanistan.

With the NATO troops expected to complete their phased pull-out from Afghanistan by 2014, there are renewed concerns about security of the violence-torn country and the viability of regional initiatives. New ideas will, however, have to be contextualized to tackle fresh geopolitical settings while keeping in mind the region's interest. While most of the discourse acknowledges the relevance and utility of a regional mechanism, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is one institution which is already in place and is trying to forge dynamic and strong policies, which could go a long way in addressing the regional security concerns.

During the Soviet period, Central Asia bore the burden of casualties from the war in Afghanistan. In recent years, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) was provided bases, training and access to the arms market by the Taliban. The IMU, with the Taliban support, carried out incursions into Uzbekistan and

Kyrgyzstan. Further, refugees from the Afghan civil war in Tajikistan were influenced by developments in Afghanistan. Also, much of Afghanistan's drug production flows to Europe through Central Asia. All these factors argue for a more active role for the SCO in Afghanistan for the sake of maintaining peace and stability in the region. Moreover, when the NATO forces leave Afghanistan by 2014, Afghanistan will not yet be ready to fully assume responsibility for its own security. Security forces will need to be trained and equipped. Infrastructure projects will have to be designed to improve the quality of life and to integrate Afghanistan better so that this country could play its role as the hub between Central and South Asia.

There is, of course, no denying that India (currently an observer, which is expected to become a full member) can contribute a lot to stabilizing Afghanistan along with other SCO states. India has contributed substantially to the reconstruction of Afghanistan, which has won enormous goodwill among Afghans. But India's activities have been hampered by the deteriorating security situation and constant efforts of extremist groups to sabotage its reconstruction work in that country. Recently India signed a landmark strategic partnership agreement with Afghanistan during Afghan President Hamid Karzai's visit to India on October 4. Besides providing a framework for expanding multifarious relations between India and Afghanistan, the pact significantly envisages a role for India in providing training to the Afghan National Security Forces and the police.

Most of Central Asian SCO states bordering Afghanistan appreciate India's role in Afghanistan and have assured India their full support. New Delhi has emphasized the importance of regional cooperation as this can help in addressing trans-border issues, developing commercial and economic opportunity and ending cross-border infiltration and terrorism. Moreover, the SCO might be amenable to the idea of a co-security partnership with NATO. This is because the SCO, unlike NATO or Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), lacks the identity of a military bloc. Till date, the SCO has not planned any military involvement in Afghanistan, but now this could happen with growing security concerns related to drugs trafficking and arms smuggling.

In fact, common approaches to combating terrorism and stabilizing the situation in Afghanistan have become the basis for SCO's broader cooperation with the NATO. The trend towards cooperation between the Western powers and the SCO on the Afghan issue received an impetus after Barack Obama came to power in Washington. The SCO is now ready to cooperate with the West on the Afghan issue. This convergence of positions led to consultations that took place between the NATO and the SCO on Afghanistan. Initially, a special conference on Afghanistan was held in Moscow on March 27, 2009 under the SCO's aegis where NATO countries also participated. The conference resulted in a 'SCO-Afghanistan Action Plan' that called for closer SCO involvement in Afghanistan and wide collaboration in fighting



terrorism and drug trafficking in the region. As SCO members and observers surround Afghanistan, the action plan appears to be a roadmap to eventually draw Afghanistan into the SCO fold. The US and the SCO are already exploring ways of working together to ensure a transition from a NATO-led operation in Afghanistan to one where the regional countries take the lead.

Common documents of International Assistance (Common Donors' Database, New Silk Road, WTO, Education)

It is necessary that the money for development assistance for Afghanistan is used transparently and controlled by observers. It must be flexible and shouldn't have high administrative costs. Different countries and different organizations have their own evaluation frameworks of providing development assistance and control. The same work could be made with lower administrative costs while cooperating together which also saves time. The U.S. think that a Common Donors' Database is very important and would save all the participants billions of dollars in administration. It could help monitoring and better distribution of funds and saved money could be used for development aid. Therefore U.S. want to sing up with EU and ASEAN treaty on creating a Common International Donors' database.

The position of United States about New Silk Road has been enounced in the past. We think that it is very important for Afghanistan to maintain friendly neighborhood relations with other countries and it will help the prevalence of the trade in the region, too. According to that we highly support the development of "The New Silk Road".

Afghanistan's WTO accession negotiations accelerate. By joining the WTO Afghanistan gain competitive advantages of exporters, domestic producers and consumers, who can buy imported goods at lower prices. As a result of the liberalization competitive domestic manufacturers reduce their prices. Among other things, facilitating market access for service providers from other countries and facilitate the rules and procedures in a number of areas will positively affect multilateral economic relations. For all that United States bound to sign a declaration on supporting Afghanistan's path to a Memorandum on Foreign Trade Regime (FTR) within the WTO.

USA will continue its efforts to improve education in Afghanistan. We actively participate in developing and strengthening cooperation with Afghan schools, universities and/or educational NGOs and we are declare to sing a Memorandum on promoting an Afghan Education Network.



Cooperation between OSCE and Afghanistan

The United States would like to reaffirm the important role that the OSCE has played on Afghanistan. Since 2007, the OSCE has supported a number of initiatives focused on border security and transnational threats with Afghanistan and its neighbors. These OSCE projects have focused on increasing technical capacities and people-to-people linkages between neighboring Central Asian States. The United States has been a key supporter of the OSCE's work to lend its expertise to Afghanistan and the region to build a more stable and democratic environment as we begin to draw down the level of international forces resident in Afghanistan. We fully support more programmatic activity within Central Asia for the benefit of Afghanistan and the broader region and welcome Secretary General Zannier's vision of more value-added regional endeavors. We urge the speedy development and implementation of activities that build capacity and meet the needs of our Central Asian and Afghan friends. Ideas such as the expanded mentoring of border security officials along key trade corridors deserve our full attention.

We encourage the OSCE to align its efforts on Afghanistan with the priorities identified by the region at the "Heart of Asia" Ministerial in Kabul in June 14, 2012. The OSCE has unique experience and expertise in the implementation of confidence building measures, that can be of great benefit to Afghanistan and its region as they move towards closer cooperation. OSCE engagement with Afghanistan demonstrates the genuine impact which can be made when OSCE participating States work together with Partners for Cooperation on projects of keen interest to all involved. The OSCE has much to offer in assisting Central Asian participating States, including improved border management, countering corruption, promoting democratic values, human rights, and reducing illicit trafficking to promote legitimate trade and economic development. We support increased and improved coordination between the OSCE and participating States in order to further progress project implementation. We call on all participating and Partner States to redouble their efforts to support the OSCE assistance requests from our Afghan partners.