



## **Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

**Dili International Conference on the Post – 2015 Development  
Agenda reform**

**Development for All: Stop Conflict, Build States and Eradicate  
Poverty**

**27-28 February, 2013, Dili, Timor-Lest**

**High Level Panel of Heads of States/Governments and Ministers:  
Possible future of Post-2015 Development**

**Elements of Discussion by**

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Your Excellency , Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Lest as a Chairman,

Your Excellency Anoto Tong, President of the Republic of Kiribati,  
Your Excellency Gordon Darcy Lilo, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands,

Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the UN-ESCAP, Dr. Noeleen Heyzer,

Excellencies Ministers, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Aslam-ul-likam, a very Good Morning and Bonjour,

It is my honour to bring to you all Members of the g7+, greetings of HE Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, my Ministers Colleagues from the Council of Ministers, Government and people of Afghanistan to all of you here in this beautiful city of Dili. Moreover, It is my distinct pleasure to be participating in this International Conference in Dili, Timor-Leste. I would like to thank the organizers of the event, Government of Timor-Leste, and particularly the g7+ Secretariat for inviting me to be here today. Let me also thank our regional and international guests, representatives from the donor community, diplomatic missions, chair and respected panelists.

### **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We are on the verge of 2015, when we review our millennium development agenda. The progress made so far across the g7+ countries in terms of achievement of the millennium goals should be an important part of our review agenda and is crucial in formulating our next steps.

Availing this opportunity, on behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, it is my pleasure and privilege to share the current state of my country, as a Least Developed, Landlocked and conflict effected country and to present here my country's priorities for the post MDGs.

Afghanistan as a late-entrant to the global development efforts, endorsed the Millennium Declaration as well as the MDGs only in March 2004. Afghanistan, however, having lost over two decades to war, has had to modify the global timetable and benchmarks to contextualize local realities. Despite challenges in other areas, we define fragility and lack of security as one of the major problems in my country. Therefore, recognizing the vital role of peace and security in achieving the rest of the MDGs, we have added this new goal: Enhance Security, to the 8 globally recognized MDGs.

Since 2001 with special assistance of international community in particular our donor partners, numerous notable accomplishments such as initiation of democratic development, media freedom, improvements in health care and immunization, expansion of primary education, construction of roads, transport and telecommunication, infrastructure, initial economic growth, community based and led rural development and training of state security forces have been made.

In particular, Afghanistan made remarkable progress in MDG 8 “developing global partnership for development”. Starting from the Bonn agreement in 2001, to pledges made in Tokyo, Berlin, London, and Paris conferences. The Bonn II conference in December 2011 followed by the Tokyo Development Conference in July 2012, Afghanistan has successfully secured extensive, predictable, and sustained international aid to meet these targets. We also developed our partnership agenda in the form of an “Aid Management Policy” to promote accountability and achieve aid effectiveness.

At the Bonn II, the International community has recognized Afghanistan as a special case. Our context is partly post conflict and partly in conflict. As the international security forces are withdrawing at the end of 2014, our challenge is to manage security transition and the economic impact of such transition. We see transition as an opportunity for Afghanistan to move toward self-reliance and manage challenges that hindered the achievement of the MDGs in the past.

## **What needs to be done post 2015 is a challenge .....**

We don't want to reinvent the wheel. MDGs have garnered political support at international and local levels and are well understood by the development actors. They are simple, concise, time bound and more importantly universal. Our focus should not be on enlarging either the number or the scope of MDGs, but rather devising an approach is country owned and is sustainable.

The current approach for delivering the MDGs is not sustainable. Peace building and state building efforts should be in the core of delivering on MDGs in fragile contexts. Direct investment in sectors linked to the MDGs is a necessity, but investment in areas that will contribute to longer term and suitable economic growth, build state institutions, and alleviate conflict is dire than ever in fragile countries. Building infrastructure, for instance, will lay down the foundation of a growing economy and create sustainable jobs.

Let me also point out the need for enhancing security to be part of the MDGs. But having an MDG for security should not translate to Militarization of aid. Developments through the military in conflict areas as known PRTs were tested in Afghanistan. The results require further analyses and in many instances could be considered mixed and or realized at the cost of undermining the civilian institutions and aid effectiveness.

The contribution of the private sector needs not to be neglected. In Afghanistan, private schools and health care facilities are sprouting in major urban centers. An increasing number of young Afghan boys and girls are attending private schools. These institutions need to be supported and strengthened so that we have genuine partners who will help us achieve the MDGs.

Sustained engagement of the international community will remains key to addressing common challenges we face today. But our global ambitions should not define our local agendas. What can be achieve and how are the two main questions best suited to be answered by decision makers and the citizens at the country level. Implementation

of MDGs should be localized, tailored to the local context and adequately reflect challenges. Furthermore, the Post MDG agenda should reflect the complexity of development that countries in fragile situation face today.

Excellencies, as we have a number of technical panels during this conference and I am sure such issues will be addressed in length, I will not dwell here but would like to conclude by thanking you all for support for the vision of g7+ and Post-2015 Development Agenda. We are sure that with the realization of New Deal and MDGs, we can reach a brighter future through our joint efforts.

I thank you,