

Statement at the UN Security Council Arria Formula Meeting

on November 20, 2020

**“What can the Security Council do to support
the peace process in Afghanistan?”**

by

H.E. Pekka Haavisto, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Your Excellencies,

Members of the Security Council,

Finland is honoured to co-sponsor this meeting. I would like to thank Estonia and also the other co-sponsors for arranging this topical event.

Finland aligns with the statement on behalf of the Nordic Countries presented by Norway.

It is essential that the Security Council, according to its mandate, pays sustained attention to the Afghanistan peace process.

Your Excellencies,

Afghanistan is Finland’s largest development cooperation partner. We have been an active member of the international community in Afghanistan since 2002.

The start of the Afghanistan peace negotiations is a welcome opportunity to finally put an end to four decades of conflict. But the road to peace is long and arduous. We are devoted to stand with the people of Afghanistan at this important junction of peace and stability.

The current level of violence by Taliban, especially against civilian population, is unacceptable. It undermines the ongoing negotiations and the will and right of the Afghan people to lead a peaceful life. Immediate and permanent ceasefire is urgently

needed and the negotiations must be inclusive, with equal and meaningful participation of women at all stages.

Your Excellencies,

Finland is proud to co-host the Afghanistan Conference at this historic time. The Conference offers an opportunity to demonstrate our continued commitment to the security and wellbeing of all Afghan people, especially women and girls, and their right to choose their country's future.

The Conference will have three outcomes: new aid architecture, political communiqué and pledges of aid.

Firstly, with the new aid architecture called the Afghanistan Partnership Framework, the Government of Afghanistan and donors set joint development priorities for the next four years.

Secondly, the political communiqué of the Conference is the first occasion for the international community to express a view on the peace negotiations. Finland remains confident that the international community can agree on joint messages.

Thirdly, we hope that all participating countries will contribute with aid pledges corresponding with the historic occasion. Afghanistan needs our long-standing support more than ever in preserving and building on the progress achieved in the past 19 years.

I look forward to the briefers' valuable insight and discussion.

Thank you.