



**Statement by the
Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations
The United Nations Security Council Arria Formula Meeting
on the Peace Process in Afghanistan
20 November 2020**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset let me express my sincere gratitude to organizers for today's important Arria-Formula Meeting on the Peace Process in Afghanistan. I would also like to thank the distinguished briefers for their contributions of the matter.

Georgia welcomes the peace process between the Afghan Government and the Taliban, which should pave the way to Afghan reconciliation, ending the decades-long violence and ensuring peaceful and stable situation in the country. Over the years, we have been witnessing that Afghanistan is no longer a safe-haven for international terrorists. To the greater extent, this has been achieved through consolidated efforts and full-fledged engagement of the international community. However, we must not forget that the prospects for the sustaining peace in the country remains precarious. A case in point is the latest report of the Secretary General on the situation in Afghanistan (A/74/993-S/2020/809), stating that during the reporting period, there were more than 2,000 incidents of armed clashes, exerting heavy toll on the most vulnerable parts of the population.

Against this background, we believe that building the sustaining peace in Afghanistan will significantly contribute to the regional stability and strengthen the global peace and security. With this in mind, Georgia will remain strongly committed to the peace-building process in Afghanistan.

Over the years, we have been playing significant part in ensuring the sustaining peace and stability in Afghanistan. As an aspirant country for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Georgia had been one of the largest troop contributors to the NATO-led ISAF mission in Afghanistan from 2004 to 2014. Since 2015, Georgia has been also providing financial assistance to Afghanistan's security forces and institutions through the NATO-run Afghan National Army (ANA) Trust Fund.

As of today, Georgia is the largest per capita troop contributor to the ongoing Resolute Support Mission (RSM) in Afghanistan with approximately 900 personnel on the ground. Regrettably, throughout the 16 years of dedicated service, Georgian military has suffered significant losses, as 32 brave servicemen have lost their lives while serving in gravely-dangerous provinces of Afghanistan.

Georgia will continue to provide assistance to Afghan armed forces, including by sharing experience in the defense field and by participating in the training process of Afghan military

servicemen. In addition, we reiterate our strong commitment to encourage enhanced cooperation between the law enforcement and security structures of the two countries.

We also express our readiness to share experience and best practices with Afghanistan in implementation of economic reforms and strengthening the protection of human rights.

Lastly, we believe that the untapped transport and transit potential of Afghanistan should be fully exploited. In this regard, it is worth to highlight the importance of regional economic integration and trade based connectivity between Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey through Lapis Lazuli Transit, Trade and Transport Route Corridor.

I would like to conclude my remarks by stating that Georgia will continue its contribution to the collective efforts of the international community aimed at sustaining peace and security in Afghanistan, and to assist the country in developing the self-sustaining institutions for the prosperous and peaceful future of its citizens.

Thank you.