

**STATEMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
INDONESIA
H.E. RETNO L.P. MARSUDI**

**THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL HIGH LEVEL ARRIA
FORMULA MEETING
ON THE PEACE PROCESS IN AFGHANISTAN**

20 November 2020

Your Excellency Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan,

Colleagues, Distinguished Participants,

It is indeed high time to redouble our joint effort to achieve progress on the peace process for the best interest of the Afghani people.

The disturbing rise of violence, with a recorded 6,000 civilian casualties this year, underlines the urgency to start the process.

We have no other option but to ensure that peace talks take place.

Peace talks that is Afghan-owned and Afghan-led. Peace talks that puts Afghani people at the heart of it.

I urge the International community to bolster its commitment and contribution to make peace a reality.

Against this backdrop, allow me to underline three pertinent points.

First, violence must stop.

According to SIGAR report, attacks against Afghan forces and civilians were 50% higher between July-September.

Continued violence will only erode peace effort and reduce trust of the Afghan people.

It would eventually delegitimize the process and its desired outcome.

We must not wait for it to stop. We must act quickly.

Second, our collective contribution must be amplified.

This is the time for every one of us to be part of the solution.

No matter how big or small, our contributions to make Afghanistan a better place counts.

I call on all Council members to stand united for the people of Afghanistan and put differences and national interests aside.

I also appeal to the international community to elevate their contribution for Afghanistan to create conducive conditions on the ground; to enhance their capacity to better govern themselves; and to support their economy to better cater for their people.

Third, synergy between UN system and the peace process must be strengthened.

We must guide the UN to better reinforce the peace process.

This synergy will help the UN to better protect lives on the ground, to better serve the most vulnerable people in Afghanistan;

These efforts will contribute to create a conducive environment, a pre-requisite to forge peace.

On inclusive participation to the peace process, UN's role is also important in supporting women empowerment, including in politics.

The issue of women empowerment is always in my heart.

No voice should be discounted when it comes to reconciliation and nation building.

On my last note, I would like to stress that it is in every country's best interest that peace in Afghanistan prevails.

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It will lead to progress and development, not only for Afghanistan but also for the region and beyond.

And to close, allow me Mr. President, to reiterate Indonesia's firm commitment to stand together with the Afghan people, until they achieve their long-awaited peace.

I thank you

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