



**MISSION PERMANENTE DU NIGER
AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES**
417 EAST 50TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10022
Tél : (212)421-3260/61/86 Fax: (212)753-6931
Email : nigermission@ymail.com

Remarks by Ambassador Abdou Abarry

**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Niger to the United
Nations**

**The United Nations Security Council Arria Formula Meeting on
the Peace Process in Afghanistan**

20 November 2020 9.00 – 12.00 (EST)

Venue: Videoconference (supported by Global Virtual Solutions)

**Excellency Mr. President Ghani,
Excellencies Mrs. and Mr. Foreign Affairs Ministers,
Madame SRSG,
Distinguished Briefers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me to join previous speakers in condemning, in the strongest possible terms, the recent terrorist attack that took place at Kabul University, and the Kabul Education Center, and extend our heartfelt condolences to the victims, their families and the people of Afghanistan, while hoping for a smooth recovery for the injured.

In line with the press statement issued by the Security Council in the aftermath of these attacks, I would like to reiterate that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and we ought to bring any and all of these perpetrators to justice.

If need be, these attacks are a stark reminder that the road will be long and rocky to a comprehensive and lasting peace in Afghanistan. The ongoing peace talks represent a crucial step for the future of Afghanistan and my delegation would like to

assure the government and the people of Afghanistan of our full support.

Mr. Chair,

Ending the war in Afghanistan would require much more than just talks. Indeed, to fully transition to peace, it is necessary that we establish solid foundation for a comprehensive peace process.

To that effect the inclusion of all key stakeholders, especially diverse sectors of civil society, women, youth, minorities, and journalists is essential. Niger supports such inclusiveness, as history has shown that any time these stakeholders are engaged and given a meaningful place at the table, lasting peace, and sustainable development follow.

We must support the Afghan government in not only fostering and enhancing the rights of women and other groups but also solidify the gains made in the past two decades, as mentioned by the Secretary General in his report, so that their vision for the future of Afghanistan is fully taken into account.

Mr. Chair,

Supporting the Afghan peace process also means supporting the Afghan government in developing a comprehensive capacity building and professionalization of the security sector, and building a national public consensus on the future relations between diverse groups, as suggested by experts.

Finally, as we know too well, building a sustainable peace always lies in addressing the roots causes of conflict. In that regard, the role of a healthy economy cannot be underestimate. We would like to stress the importance of the international community's commitment to the Afghan people, especially to mitigate the dramatic effects of covid19, and encourage the United Nations System, Afghanistan's friends and donor countries to continue their much-needed support at a crucial moment in the country's history.

I thank you,