



REPUBLIC OF POLAND
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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UN Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting
On the Peace Process in Afghanistan
What can the Security Council do to support
the peace process in Afghanistan
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Mr. President,

Poland welcomes the Afghanistan Peace Negotiations and the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan and of all other Afghan actors to advance towards a sustainable political solution. The intra-Afghan talks that started in September 2020 in Doha offer a genuine opportunity in this regard in spite of many obstacles and risks. We are aware that the talks will be long and difficult, and that the final agreement may be further than closer, but the process has started and this raises hope for reaching a peaceful solution to the conflict in the future. We hope that current impasse will be overcome shortly and talks will resume.

We also recognize the support of all regional and international partners of Afghanistan for this process. In the spirit of EU's development partnership with the Afghan Government we underscore the importance of concluding the intra-Afghan talks with an agreement that guarantees peace, sustainable development, rule of law, protection of human rights and equal rights for all citizens.

Mr. President,

protection of civilians remains a crucial area of Poland's commitment. We are deeply concerned about current human security situation in Afghanistan as we observe growing levels of violence and terrorist attacks targeting civilians, conducted mainly by the Taliban. If not stopped, the violence may derail the whole peace process. We hope for decisive actions to be taken in order to put an end to this human suffering. Security of people needs to be placed at the heart of peacebuilding if we want to ensure Afghanistan's peaceful, sustainable and prosperous future.

Ahead of the 2020 Afghanistan Conference we remain committed to support Afghanistan in its efforts to pave the way towards lasting peace and prosperity that leaves no one behind. Poland has been present in Afghanistan for almost two decades. In that period we have contributed to the international stabilization efforts in the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Ghazni province and our military contingent has been actively involved in the International Security Assistance Force and in NATO's 'Resolute Support' Mission. Since 2002 Poland has contributed almost 30 mln euro to the development of Afghanistan and well-being of Afghan society.

Poland remains resolute to support the Government and people of Afghanistan in building self-reliant, sovereign and democratic state with transparent, inclusive and good governance. To enhance professional capabilities of the Afghan public administration, last year Poland organized a training for Afghan civil servants. We are planning to hold a similar event next year with special focus on ethics, management and fight against corruption. Additionally, we are considering a possibility to organize training courses for Afghan specialists in preservation of art objects. Poland continuously endorses all forms of aid and assistance to Afghanistan aimed at bringing peace, stability and ensuring better life for all Afghans.

We highlight that engagement of women and recognition of the unique contributions of many female peacebuilders is a prerequisite for a truly Afghan-owned peace process and a cornerstone of sustainable peace. Poland strongly advocates for the inclusive, meaningful participation of women in all phases of peace process, including official negotiations. We need to ensure that their outcome recognizes, protects and promotes the role of Afghan women in all spheres of life. To this end Poland has joined the Group of Friends of Women in Afghanistan. Equally, the comprehensive peace cannot be achieved without the ethnic and religious minorities, as well as youth, being a legitimate part of the peace process.

Poland underlines the crucial role of close coordination among the Afghan Government and other international actors. The interlinked nature of today's challenges for Afghanistan requires holistic approach and joint efforts encompassing peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and humanitarian work. We are also aware of the impact of health challenges and climate change on sustainable development. In this vein, Poland welcomes the presentation by the Government of Afghanistan of the draft Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework for 2021-2025.

Mr. President,

Allow me in closing to voice Poland's strong support for intra-Afghan peace-negotiations and once again emphasize its crucial role in the future of Afghanistan.

I thank you.

Thank you