



THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

by H.E. Ambassador Dang Dinh Quy
Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
at the Arria-Formula Meeting on the Peace Process in Afghanistan

New York, 20 November 2020

Mr. Chair, Your Excellency Urmas Reinsalu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia,

I welcome the presence of His Excellency Ashraf Ghani, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and other distinguished participants. I thank Estonia, Afghanistan, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Norway and Qatar for co-hosting this important meeting and the panelists for their presentations.

Mr. Chair,

The year 2020 marks a historic year for the people of Afghanistan. The start of intra-Afghan peace negotiations in Doha in September opened the pathway for the pursuit of long-term peace in the country. Viet Nam reiterates our strong support for the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned inclusive peace process and welcomes the consistent efforts of President Ghani and the Afghan Government in this regard. We also commend UNAMA, regional and international partners for contributing to peace and development in the country.

While significant progress has been made, lasting peace is still far from being guaranteed. We are concerned about the increasing level of violence and civilian casualties, including many women and children in the past few weeks. We condemn attacks on civilian objects, particularly schools and hospitals. We share our deepest condolences to the families of the victims in the tragic incident at Kabul University on 2 November.

I would like to make three points:

First, the intra-Afghan peace negotiations need a stable and conducive environment. A timely permanent ceasefire must be reached to put an end to the ongoing violence. We urge all parties to fully respect international humanitarian law and allow unhindered access to humanitarian services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Second, efforts in protecting vulnerable groups, including displaced persons, must be strengthened. We welcome and encourage efforts to facilitate meaningful participation of women and youth in the peace process and the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Such participation should be promoted, not prevented.

Third, the economic and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan must be improved. More than 12 million people, over one-third of the country's population are severely food insecure, with an alarming increase of 800.000 people in emergency level compared to last year. We call on the international community to step up assistance for Afghanistan and look forward to a successful outcome of the 2020 Afghanistan Conference on civilian assistance in Geneva next week.

Thank you./.