



مركز دراسات النزاع والعمل الإنساني
Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies

Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister, H.E. Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi Public Address

In the name of God, the most beneficent, the most merciful.

Praise be to God, and prayers and peace be upon the best of his creation, Muhammad, and upon his family and all his companions.

As for the following:

Lo! The noblest of you, in the sight of Allah, is the best in conduct. Lo! Allah is the Knower, Aware. **صدق الله العظيم**

Director of the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies at Doha Institute Mr. Prof. Sultan Barakat, Doha-based Ambassadors, Representatives of International Organizations and Academicians,

Assalam o Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah wa Barakathu,

First and foremost, I welcome you all, Good evening,

I am overjoyed that I see friends in Doha at a time when peace and stability has returned to Afghanistan after more than four decades of war and is under one political authority for the first time.

Doha is a connected name with the independence and peace in Afghanistan. In February 2020, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and the United States of America signed a historic agreement here, as a result of which all foreign troops withdrew from Afghanistan, our sovereignty restored and a positive change took place. I am very thankful to Prof. Sultan Barkat and his colleagues who have arranged discussions of experts and professionals regarding Afghanistan.

Distinguished Participants,



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Afghanistan passed through a crucial and historic change in the last August. The change, contrary to many analyses and calculations, took place in a peaceful way. Following two decades of legitimate resistance, we have been able to lay down the foundation of an independent Islamic order without any foreign interference.

The development was a surprise to many, because, usually when a resistance group succeeds, bloodshed and wide destruction takes place, but our forces entered Kabul city without the feeling of revenge, and with the message of peace, brotherhood, acceptance of each other and national unity. We even embraced our political and military opponents.

At the beginning we wanted to enter Kabul through talks and understanding, however, following the fleeing of the head of the former regime and his security officials, community leaders and Kabul inhabitants demanded from our forces to enter the city and provide security.

Honorable Participants,

Afghanistan gives message of positive relations to the whole world. We do not want to interfere in any country's internal affairs, and we too, expect the same that no country shall interfere in our domestic affairs. Since 1978 April coup Afghanistan has been the victim of foreign interferences, invasions, civil wars and many other miseries.

We want to turn a fresh chapter of relations with the world and good governance at home. We fully respect other country's legitimate interests and demands, and we expect the same from them. We believe one of the major reasons of long-term instability and conflicts has been foreign occupation or interferences in our political structure. Had there not been foreign interferences and imposition of models from abroad, we Afghans as a peace-loving nation, would already have reached reconciliation, peace and stability. One of the major reasons for current positive situation in Afghanistan is political independence and our peoples' own right to decision-making.

Prior to the full withdrawal of foreign troops, our negotiating team whom I also had the honor of membership, had almost two years of negotiations with the United States of America on behalf of Afghan people and finally an agreement



was signed. The Doha agreement not only paved the way for the safe withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan, rather it also opened a new chapter of positive relations between the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and the international community.

Doha agreement provides a framework in defining the relations of Afghanistan with the world, particularly with the United States of America. We believe that the complete implementation of the Doha agreement can iron out barriers for relations between the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and the United States of America. On this basis, parties must remain committed to the contents of the Doha agreement.

Dear Colleagues,

As I said before, we want positive relations with the world. We believe in a balanced foreign policy and we think it is what can rescue Afghanistan from instability and also protect ours and the world's interests.

We also want positive relations with our neighbors and the region. Relations which are based on cooperation and understanding. From a geographical perspective, Afghanistan has the status of roundabout of the region. The new government has resolve to utilize this capacity of Afghanistan and to pave the way for a great economic transformation in the region.

Afghanistan as a Muslim country wants close and positive ties with the governments and nations of the Islamic world. Afghanistan is an important part of the Islamic World. We also want special relations with the Arab and Gulf states. Afghanistan doesn't want to be part of disputes, rather we want positive relations with all sides.

We also want to have understanding and positive engagement with the European Union. Afghanistan wants to have positive engagement ending the chapter of war. The new government doesn't want its people to be encouraged or obliged to taking refuge in the Europe. The situation of refugees is not in the interest of anyone. We don't want Europe to be under the load of our refugees, Afghans must have prosperous life at their home in Afghanistan.



Distinguished participants,

We believe in political diversity in the global level. The differences of ideas, ideologies, ethnicities, languages and so on and so forth is a reality, this reality should be recognized.

Afghanistan as a country, and Afghans as a nation have similarities and dissimilarities with the rest of world nations. As we understand the dissimilarities of others with us, we expect that other nations should also understand our dissimilarities. The imposed ideologies and political models on Afghanistan from abroad has not worked. Now the Afghans have an opportunity to form a political system which is in accordance with our society, national and religious requirements, and it will be responsible at home and internationally.

The cabinet of the new government of Afghanistan is caretaker and people from different walks of life are placed in it. In order to prevent any delay in government services, our leadership decided to declare a caretaker cabinet. Reforms are undertaken both in the cabinet and ministerial level.

We have five hundred thousand civil service workers who used to work in the previous administration as well. We have started releasing their salary payments. We did not fire any government worker. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan wants to get benefit of their capacities and above all we want to utilize the existing human resource capacity in Afghanistan without any discrimination. We particularly try to give role to young educated Afghans.

Dear Colleagues,

We have been in Doha since Saturday as part of a high level delegation. We had good meetings with the United States delegation and different other sides. We believe these meetings will have positive impact in the relations of both sides.

I once again want to remind you that the season of war and pressures is over. Afghanistan is entering into a new chapter in its relations and this new chapter has certain requirements. All the parties should work on things which are common among us.



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In the end, I once again would like to thank the State of Qatar who has hosted our negotiations for years. I would also want to thank my good friend Prof. Barakat who has provided me with the opportunity to express my viewpoints. I am also very thankful to the participants who are with us here.

Thank you so much,

May you enjoy the remaining time