

Distinguished Colleagues,

Dear Friends,

It holds a particular meaning that for the second time Germany hosts this important gathering. The conference in 2001 and the current one will undoubtedly become landmark events in terms of the commitment to the common cause of international community to bring peace and stability to Afghanistan.

Today's impressive presence at the conference speaks to the fact that the distance is not an issue of all of our countries, no matter how close or far they are, when it comes to support of Afghanistan.

Armenia along with its partners came to Afghanistan to bring its commensurate contribution to our common efforts to assist Afghanistan to be in peace with itself, its neighbors, and the international community, to prevent those destructive forces of terror that ravage not only their own soil but at times spread far away as mercenaries. We, in our region, experienced it and we know what does it mean.

It is evident that during this period we together put on record achievements in bringing noticeable degree of security to the Afghan land, succeeded to plant the seeds of future development of the Afghan society. The positive dynamic is evident. But what should we do to be more sure that this process is irreversible?

While looking how to address these challenges we have to be prepared not only for the handover of the responsibility of security to the Afghan authorities, but also to recommit ourselves in strong partnership with Afghanistan beyond this handover.

We share the common goal of transforming Afghanistan in a way that it will not serve as a source of constant concern to its neighbors and far beyond, but become a positive factor, positive driving force for the whole region, to use its own riches for the sustainable benefit of Afghan people and others.

We should continue our support, remain dedicated to train, build and assist. Armenia reiterates its engagement in this process.

Thank you.