

## Austrian Statement

# Statement by Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs Johannes Kyrle

Mister Chairman, the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan,  
Dear Host, Mr. Westerwelle, Foreign Minister of Germany,  
Foreign Ministers,  
Dear Afghan Friends,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to thank the Governments of Afghanistan and Germany for organizing this Conference. Austria greatly appreciates this opportunity for a high level policy debate, a debate that is of great importance in view of important pending decisions on how to remain engaged in support of Afghanistan's future.

This is a decisive moment for Afghanistan and the International Community. Afghanistan is at a critical juncture. The Afghanistan conferences in London and Kabul have started the transition process. We agreed to strengthen Afghan responsibility and ownership of the country's own security, governance and rule of law, and social and economic development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Future efforts by the Government of Afghanistan as well as the continued engagement of the international community up to 2014 and beyond should be guided by three key principles:

- ensuring effective governance and accountability;
- strengthening the rule of law and
- protecting human rights, including women's and children's rights.

A comprehensive approach based on these three core elements as well as continued assistance in the area of security will be essential towards lasting peace, stability and democracy in Afghanistan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The intention at the beginning of the engagement of the international community was to remove the Taliban by military measures and to fill in with “good governance”. This goal has not been achieved so far. After ten years of engagement it seems to us that our support and efforts have to focus on enabling Afghan authorities to provide effective governance to the Afghan people. The Afghan people have to feel very soon that things are getting better because their government is providing for them.

I do not believe, that there will be much progress on governance and rule of law without tackling the issue of narcotics. The fight against drugs will remain crucial - for Afghanistan and for us in Europe. We need to act together, even though it may take years before success is achieved. Austria attaches great importance to the cooperation and coordination among various actors in the region in order to combat illicit drugs trafficking. We support various projects implemented by UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) in Afghanistan; one project aims at strengthening the Afghan-Iran border control and thus helps to reduce cross-border drug trafficking. The other programmes focus on capacity building in the area of criminal justice and on fighting corruption. Austria has been also supporting the so-called “Paris Pact”-Initiative from the outset.

In this respect, I would also like to refer to an important Austrian initiative in the region. The “CABSI” – the Central Asia Border Security Initiative is a forum for coordination and discussion on programme activities and strategic objectives. A ministerial conference – organized by the Austrian Ministry of Interior – will take place in the framework of CABSI next spring in Vienna.

Let me also mention the important role of OSCE in this respect. Afghanistan has been partner of OSCE in the framework of the Asian Partnership for Cooperation since 2003. Since the Madrid Ministerial Meeting in 2007 the OSCE is especially engaged in projects concerning border management, customs and police – mainly carried out in Central Asia. Austria contributes significantly, in particular in OSCE training projects to strengthen Afghan customs management.

We welcome on-going efforts of the OSCE-Chairmanship-in-Office and Afghanistan to expand the cooperation to the fields of good governance, rule of law, economic development, education, human rights, women's rights and freedom of press. Austria expects the upcoming OSCE Ministerial Council in Vilnius to agree on a decision to strengthen the cooperation with Afghanistan and thereby start the implementation of these very important new projects aiming to serve the interests of the Afghan people.

Protecting human rights is of utmost importance. The situation of women and children requires particular attention. It is our firm belief, that to succeed the reconciliation and reintegration process needs to include all segments of Afghan society. Maximum ownership and empowerment on the part of the Afghan people will be critical for the country's long-term stability, including empowerment of women.

We welcome the fact that there is increased representation of Afghan women in the Bonn Conference - as compared to previous international conferences on Afghanistan. Their meaningful participation in the political process, including in a national dialogue on reconciliation, must be further enhanced as a matter of priority. The women of Afghanistan have a very important role to play in crafting a peaceful and stable country. We need to make increased use of their valuable contributions in the socio-economic area as well as in political decision making in order to bring Afghanistan development to its full potential. In this respect, Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and succeeding resolutions on women, peace and security remain of direct relevance.

Furthermore, we must ensure that those who are bearing the brunt of the on-going conflict in Afghanistan - women and children in particular - will not be further victimized in the context of the reconciliation and reintegration process. It will therefore be critical to fully uphold the Afghan Constitution, and especially women's and children's rights, in this process.

Finally, let me stress that success in Afghanistan will also depend on the co-operation and the constructive role of its neighbours. Peace and security in Afghanistan cannot be achieved without including Afghanistan's neighbours in this process. All regional actors should play a constructive role in stepping up regional cooperation in key areas such as security, trade and transit, counter-narcotics, border management and customs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have decided on a long-haul approach. It is important that the International Community stays firmly committed to Afghanistan. We view this Conference as a clear demonstration that Afghanistan and the fate of the Afghan people will remain high on the international agenda. We welcome the commitment of the Afghan Government in rolling out Governance at all levels. There is an urgent need for tangible outcomes in this respect.

We should be neither pessimistic nor optimistic, but realistic. About our objectives, contributions and long-term responsibilities.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**Austrian Support for the Reconstruction of Afghanistan  
2009 - 2011**

Partner	Main Focus	Allocation
EUPOL	Police Training	5 Police
ISAF	Security	3 Officers
UNDOC	UNAC-Implementation	€ 50.000,-
UNODC	Anti-Corruption	€ 280.000,-
UNODC („Paris Pact Initiative“)	Fight against Drugs	ca. € 100.000,-
UNODC/EC	Fight against Drugs	€ 200.000,-
UNODC	Rule of Law	€ 50.000,-
UNODC (CABSI)	Border Management	k.A.
OSCE	Border Management	€ 325.000,-
OSCE	Education	€ 25.500,-
ODIHR	Election Support	€ 20.000,-
OSCE (Kyrgyz Republic)	Border Management	€ 108.000,-
OSCE (Tajikistan)	Education	€ 20.000,-
OSCE (Kyrgyz Republic)	Security	€ 125.000,-
HALO-Trust	Demining	€ 450.000,-
UNMAS	Demining	€ 485.000,-
Auslandskatastrophenfonds	Emergency Relief	€ 1.000.000,-