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DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN

**Statement by H.E. Minister Aurelia Frick**  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Liechtenstein**  
**International Afghanistan Conference**  
Bonn, 5 December 2011

Dear colleagues,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

„BY the Afghans, WITH the Afghans, and FOR Afghanistan“. This motto has served as a guideline for the various high-level colloquia which the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination at Princeton University has held on Afghanistan. It also seems an adequate point of reference for my statement today. At this time of transition, we need to emphasize both ownership and self-determination of the Afghan people and the sustained engagement of the international community.

Let me focus on three topics which are of particular importance to Liechtenstein.

**Full participation of women**

First, Liechtenstein strongly advocates an inclusive political process in Afghanistan which entails the full and active participation of women. Women's political participation is fundamental to democracy and essential to the achievement of sustainable development and peace.

Significant gains have been made over the past years with respect to the inclusion of women in political processes. Securing these gains and expanding on them will be one of the key challenges of transition. I am convinced that this must be a central aspect of international involvement in the future.

In order to assist in these discussions, my Government, together with the Liechtenstein Institute will be hosting a workshop on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Afghanistan next January. The purpose of the workshop is to contribute to the discussions leading to the renewal of the mandate of UNAMA due in March, with a view to having the Women, Peace and Security Agenda firmly anchored in it.

The strong emphasis that we put on the role of women is also visible in the work of our Development Service. For many years now, Afghanistan has been a priority country of Liechtenstein's development cooperation. Nearly half of our projects aim at the improvement of the position of woman in Afghan society.

**Good governance and the rule of law**

Second, Liechtenstein stresses the need for good governance and the rule of law. The promotion of the rule of law is a key element of our foreign policy engagement. We therefore welcome the clear statements from the Afghan authorities that show a commitment to the rule of law and good governance, including in the fight against corruption. We are interested in sharing the significant expertise we have acquired in particular in that area. Good governance will require both a sustained commitment from the Afghan Government and capacity-building from the international community, in order to increase the responsiveness to the needs of the Afghan people and to enhance accountability. We hope that genuine accountability mechanisms will be part of the transition process that has just begun.

### **International support of sustainable economic development**

Thirdly, Liechtenstein places high importance on continuous international engagement. Afghanistan is now in a transition process in the course of which the Afghan people will gradually assume full responsibility, sovereignty and leadership. The long-term commitment of the international community should concentrate on sustainable economic development of the country. Afghanistan disposes of considerable untapped potential in agriculture. Up to 70 percent of the territory is lacking access to water or electricity. It could be our goal to reduce this percentage significantly and thereby also create jobs and secure a livelihood for the next generation. Especially in light of the expected reduction of the international presence in 2014, it will be of chief importance to give young Afghans a perspective for a safe and better future. Economic development is key to stability and security.

For our part, we are committed to make our contribution to this end. Liechtenstein will remain a reliable partner and invest in the future of your country.

Thank you for your attention.