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BY

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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MALAYSIA**

AT

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN

**5 DECEMBER 2011
BONN, GERMANY**

**Honourable Chairman,
His Excellency Hamid Karzai,
President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first of all express our appreciation to the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for convening this important conference. We are grateful for being given this opportunity to participate in the conference and express Malaysia's support and solidarity with Afghanistan in their efforts towards rebuilding and reconstructing the country.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

2. Afghanistan has inched its way out from the morass of an unfortunate conflict and is currently undertaking commendable efforts towards rebuilding and reconstructing itself. These efforts need to be firmly supported by the international community to ensure that Afghanistan can progress further to achieve sustainable peace and stability in the country.

3. It is crucial for the international community to continue providing its support, encouragement and assistance to the Government of Afghanistan and its people particularly beyond 2014 when Afghanistan takes full charge of its security with the withdrawal of the International

Security Assistance Force (ISAF) by the end of 2014. Malaysia remains committed in Afghanistan's rebuilding efforts and joins other nations in extending the necessary assistance to the Government of Afghanistan in this regard.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

4. A peaceful and secure environment is important for Afghanistan's development. To this end, focus and attention must be given to the political process that would lead to lasting peace and stability of the country. Options other than military have to be employed to ensure success of this endeavour.

5. Malaysia believes that the Government of Afghanistan should continue to engage the insurgents, as they are a crucial component in the building blocks to achieving peace and stability in Afghanistan. We condemn the assassination of Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, who was an important partner in the reconciliation and reintegration process.

6. While his demise is very unfortunate, it should not deter efforts towards reconciliation and reintegration but instead should further spur the desire towards this end. A clear line of communication for engagement should be opened with those leaders who disagree with the Government but yet renounce violence and accept the Constitution of Afghanistan. Malaysia supports the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP) and any efforts undertaken in the reconciliation and reintegration process that is Afghan-led and Afghan-owned.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

7. From our experience immediately after our independence and faced with the threat of Communist insurgence, we learned that the well-being of the people should be given much priority to ensure peace and stability of the country. Government efforts then were geared towards winning the hearts and minds of the people through social development. Emphases were given, among others on education and healthcare.

8. We believe our experience in this regard may be worthy of sharing in our discourse on Afghanistan's rebuilding efforts.

9. As part of Malaysia's efforts in assisting Afghanistan, 40 members of the Malaysian Armed Forces Medical Contingent (MALCON) which includes women doctors and nurses were deployed to provide medical, dentistry and healthcare services to the Afghan civilian population in the Bamyan Province. The team has been extending these services since July 2010 and shall continue until 2014.

10. Malaysia also strongly believes that human capital development and capacity building are important building blocks for Afghanistan in rebuilding its country towards peace, stability and prosperity.

11. Towards this end, Malaysia has been providing support and assistance to the reconstruction of Afghanistan over the last 10 years through various technical training and capacity building programmes in broad range of areas within the ambit of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP). Afghanistan has been a beneficiary country of the MTCP since 2002.

12. I am pleased to note that as of October 2011, a total of 399 Afghans have benefited from the many MTCP courses which include in the areas of diplomacy, public administration, judiciary, banking, engineering and customs administration. We look forward to further share our experience through the MTCP as well as through the Malaysian Defence Cooperation Programme or MDCP and the Third Country Training Programme or TCTP.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

13. Malaysia is fully committed in its support for Afghanistan's reconciliation and reconstruction process and we look forward to continue playing a meaningful role in Afghanistan's development towards lasting peace, stability and prosperity.

Thank you.
