

**Projekt wystąpienia Ministra Spraw Zagranicznych RP  
Pana Radosława Sikorskiego  
podczas II Międzynarodowej Konferencji ws. Afganistanu  
(Bonn, 5 grudnia 2011)**

- The first Bonn conference opened up a new chapter in the Afghan history. The country had just got rid of Taliban totalitarianism. Assisted by the International Community, the Afghans started rebuilding their country.
- With the process of transition of responsibility for security across the country by 2014 underway, **a new mature commitment is taking shape.**

**First**, the Afghans are assuming a decisive share of ownership for state-building.

**Second**, the commitment of the international community to assist Kabul, not least through contributing towards security expenses, has not waned.

The unity of effort by the Afghan Government in **partnership** with the international community provides the basis for a well-managed process of transition. This helps in turn to achieve a long-term objective of stabilization and sustainable development.

- Afghans, especially **women**, aspire for a better life, a sense of normalcy – no more violence; better governance; curbing

unemployment from its disconcerting rate of 40%; authentic representation in politics; including a space for civil society to influence planning and decision-making.

- Having got to know Afghans well, I believe that, just like Poles, they have **a strong enough will** to make the change happen.

Back in 1989, few believed that our own transition from communism would go smoothly and got us to where we are today: enjoying 4.2% growth, chairing the Council of the European Union, and shouldering responsibility for security with fellow NATO members.

I hope that, despite a much more problematic starting point, Afghans too will reach a high enough level of security and sustainable development to call their own transformation a success.

- Through mentorship, local projects, internships and seminars **Poland has been sharing its wholesale transformation experience** with Afghan partners.
- **My own experience with Afghanistan over the last thirty years tells me that we have to be patient**, because every change takes time and is not without pitfalls along the way.
- **A focus on security is only one side of the coin. The other side is building state institutions bound by the rule of law. Sustainability**

**of the process is best ensured if there is a balance between both tracks.**

Rebuilding an efficient and apolitical civil service, able to make good governance work is as important as strong and credible **Afghan National Security Forces**.

- The key challenge is **locking in transformation to make it irreversible.**

The political institutions must be responsible to the citizens.

Afghan citizens need to have access to fair, well-functioning law enforcement and judiciary as well as other services - free of shady backroom deals and *bakshish*.

- **Peace, reconciliation and reintegration** led by Afghan Government deserve support. The armed opponents need be told loud and clear that the future of Afghanistan is determined through the round table of negotiations (a trademark of Polish transition) rather than through an AK-47 or an IED.
- **These three elements: the commitment of the Afghan government to the Kabul Process; peace and reconciliation process; and the partnership with the international community are the building blocks for future Afghanistan:**
  - A country no longer as dependent upon external donors as today.

- A country which, thanks to regional cooperation, fostered by the international community, will feel more secure in its own neighbourhood. (The **Istanbul Conference** gave a boost to ameliorating the conditions on Afghanistan's borders.)
- A country which thanks to, especially **the Strategic Partnership Agreement with the United States and the Cooperation Agreement on Partnership and Development with the UE**, will have no reason to feel left to its own devices. Particularly, if the partnership is backed by €1 billion contributed each year – and that is just money handed out by the EU and its member states.
- **Poland will contribute to improving the well-being of residents of Ghazni.** After the military withdrawal in 2014, we will continue to build police and administrative capacity and generate projects that give people a means of livelihood and bring all children back to school.
- An Afghan proverb has Allah saying: *“start moving so that I may start blessing”*.

When I visited Afghanistan last August, I saw a lot more traffic on the streets and extensive evidence of thriving small business.

All the more reason to feel that we are moving in the right direction.