



## **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

### **International Afghanistan Conference**

#### **Statement by Ambassador Lamberto Zannier Secretary General**

*Bonn, 5 December 2011*

Dear Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The OSCE welcomes the opportunity to address this conference.

Afghanistan has been an OSCE Partner for Co-operation since 2003. Since then, the Organization has deployed four Election Support Teams to assist with national elections. It has implemented – and is still implementing - training and capacity-building initiatives to strengthen the country's border, customs and law enforcement agencies.

Tomorrow, in Vilnius at the OSCE's annual Ministerial Council engagement with Afghanistan will be high on the agenda.

In particular, I look forward to the adoption of a decision on Strengthening OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan. Our goal is to intensify the OSCE's concrete support for international and regional efforts to promote a stable, independent, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan.

A new and more strategic OSCE approach will rest on three inter-related pillars:

- First, while building on its efforts to date to build the capacities of Afghan law enforcement and border control agencies, the OSCE will seek to expand the thematic scope of its co-operation, taking full advantage of the Organization's experience, and its comprehensive and cross-dimensional concept of security.
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- Second, the OSCE will continue to promote regional and bilateral co-operation, in particular between Afghanistan and our own participating States in Central Asia, convinced of the essential role of these states in building long-term security and stability in Afghanistan.
- Finally, the OSCE will work to integrate its engagement with Afghanistan more closely into the wider assistance efforts of the international community, under the leading role of the United Nations.

In this context, the OSCE strongly supports the results of today's Conference, and of the Regional Conference on Afghanistan held in Istanbul on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November. It is my hope and expectation that OSCE Foreign Ministers, as they gather in Vilnius over the next two days, will seize the opportunity to build upon the momentum that has been generated through these events.

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