

## Official Statement of the Republic of South Africa

\*The position of the Republic of South Africa for the upcoming \*\*International Afghanistan Conference in Bonn\*\*, December 2011\*

The Republic of South Africa welcomes the positive developments that have taken place over the last few months in Afghanistan. These include the progress made in the implementation of the Kabul process (roadmap leading to Afghan institutions assuming full responsibility for security), momentum on reintegration and reconciliation efforts as well as cooperation between Afghanistan and her neighbours.

Given the magnitude of challenges that Afghanistan is still facing, the Republic of South Africa underscores a comprehensive strategy incorporating security, humanitarian considerations, good governance and socio-economic development which is mandatory. In this regard, the Republic of South Africa would like to emphasise the central role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in supporting the Government in Afghanistan and coordinating international assistance to the country. The continued role played by bilateral partners remains indispensable.

The Republic of South Africa therefore continues to support the presence and role of UNAMA in Afghanistan.

The Republic of South Africa welcomes the efforts by the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP), to deal with the re-integration of armed anti-Government individuals and groups willing to lay down their weapons.

The Republic of South Africa continues to welcome efforts to strengthen political outreach activities. Political dialogue and reconciliation among people and leaders remains critical to long-term stability in Afghanistan.