

Statement of

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Before

The Bonn Conference on Afghanistan

Delivered by

His Royal Highness Prince Abdul-Aziz Bin Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz

The Deputy Foreign Minister

Bonn

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Bism Allah Al-Rahman Al-Rahim

Mr. President

Excellency Ambassador Staffan de Mistura Special United Nations Representative to Afghanistan

Excellency Ambassador Simon Gass Special Representative of NATO to Afghanistan

Excellency Ambassador Vygaudas Usackas Special Representative of the European Union in Afghanistan

Distinguished Representatives of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me pleasure to commend the great efforts you exert in the management of this sensitive part of the world, and in spreading your message aiming at accomplishing international security and peace in our contemporary world in general, and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in particular, which regrettably suffers from different conflicts and challenges that impeded international efforts to bring about security and peace to our esteemed Afghanistan.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Since the first meeting in Saint Petersburg in 2001, what has been accomplished is really astonishing in view of the enormous difficulties confronting working groups of the international organizations operating in Afghanistan at all levels. We are gathered today to lay down a foundation for an era of civilian Afghanistan in 2014 which corresponds with the time of withdrawal of international forces from the country. It is not possible to overlook the significance of this date to the Afghan citizens because it casts a shadow over the International relations of this important Asian region.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The features of new Afghanistan emerged when the national army and the afghan police forces assumed responsibility for internal security. Such outcome was a byproduct of the conferences that were held in the ten years past. The conferences contributed to the granting of domestic and international legitimacy

to the current Afghan government as the international community will also take part in molding democracy and civic life in Afghanistan. Moreover, we cannot bypass the endeavors of the Afghan government headed by His Excellency President Hamid Karzai since assuming his office.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia made every effort and still does to provide aid and assistance to the people of Afghanistan, and to stand by their government to overcome the numerous difficulties they confronted in past years. Saudi Arabia called for a dialogue among the different factions and segments of the Afghan people. None the less, and for reasons that became known to everyone, concrete results on the ground were not reached.

The Kingdom has taken part in the international conferences that dealt with the Afghan issue, and aimed at mustering the necessary support for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and for the implementation of development and infrastructure projects. Saudi Arabia spares no effort in providing support and assistance to the people of Afghanistan. The Kingdom hopes that the Supreme Council for National Reconciliation in Afghanistan which was established by His Excellency President Hamid Karzai will be able to forge new policies that create conditions conducive to the unification of national elements, attain a comprehensive national reconciliation among all Afghan factions, and hold the Afghan national interests above any other consideration. Such matters constitute important prerequisites for the realization of security, stability, and peace and prepare the grounds for the development and progress in Afghanistan at the political, economic, and social levels.

Ladies and Gentlemen

What Afghanistan needs is a collective commitment to a political and peaceful solution agreed upon by all segments of the Afghan people, alongside support of the international community so as to achieve security, stability, and prosperity.

Accordingly, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia looks forward to the participation of the international community and its institutions to provide all forms of assistance to the Afghan government, to fulfill expectations of the Afghan people in a comprehensive national conciliation, and to bring in all moderate elements that reject terrorism and its organizations to take part in the political process. Within this perspective, the Kingdom calls upon the United Nations, the European Union, and the Organization of Islamic cooperation to intensify efforts aiming at presenting practical proposals and a comprehensive

program to reintegrate all Afghan Factions within the political process. The Kingdom stands ready to fully cooperate with these institutions to enable the Afghan people to assume a positive and peaceful role in building a unified country that is void of conflict and terrorism and lives in peace with its neighbors.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the government of Germany for hosting this conference, and to present my warmest regards to all participants in the conference expressing at the same time my admiration for selecting the pivotal subjects of the conference on Afghanistan in 2014, and wishing the friendly German people continuous security and peace.

Thank you