

Selay Ghaffar, Speaker of the Afghan Civil Society Delegation

Excellences, respected delegates good morning.

The international community came to Afghanistan to fight terrorism, liberate afghan women and bring democracy. But unfortunately after 10 years still Afghanistan is on the same page asking for democracy, and a strong, stable and independent state.

The battle to defeat terrorism is only NOT solved but got more complicated. Now political settlement is going to take place which will put the life of all afghan especially women in danger. Until we can come to a consensus that terrorism is **STILL** a dangerous phenomenon for the future of Afghanistan we cannot talk **ABOUT** peace and democracy in Afghanistan.

Taliban, Haqqani or al-Qaida are not the only groups to fight against, in the current system there are elements in power that committed unforgettable international crimes and atrocities against humanity, groups that are linked with terrorists and extremist groups in this country which need to be immediately **REMOVED FROM POWER** and brought to justice.

When we talk about terrorism we should not forget to talk about opium and THE drug mafia that are SO dangerous for the country at the moment and ARE a big economic threat to the country's infrastructural development.

The opium trade, which probably makes up about one-third of the country's GDP, is one of several potential spoilers for the economy over the long term. Afghanistan is the largest producer of opium and western countries are the consumers. We can not only blame THE afghan government; the international community is also responsible for this PROBLEM. Today thousands of afghan children, youth and women are suffering from THE EFFECTS OF OPIUM ADDICTIONS.

Afghanistan ALSO needs long term infrastructural development projects THAT MEET citizen's particularly WOMEN'S NEEDS TO BRING REAL DEMOCRACY TO EVERYONE.

To end the prevailing culture of impunity THE Afghan government and International community should honestly and with full commitment end corruption, take into account prosecution of rape perpetrators and justice for victims of war. Amnesty for THOSE WHO HAVE COMMITTED rape and war crimes are like committing another crime.

The Afghan government must have a clear reporting process for the human rights instruments and international laws that it has signed and needs to demonstrate that Afghan laws are not in contradiction with its international legal commitments, particularly those related to women. Lack of Implementation of laws, policies, strategies and plans opens the door for more crimes and violation of rights against women and men of the country.

The United States of America and other international community accepted the mistake they have done to support the warlords and religious fundamentalists and this support continues even now. Even if the intention was not to support them but the corruption feed them a lot which is the result of lack of monitoring of funds arriving to the country. The international community should commit to support democratic institutes, invest on youth groups and women empowerments to make sure doors are opening for democracy in Afghanistan where all afghan men and women enjoy equal rights.