



**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT ON CHALLENGES LINKED TO AFGHANISTAN AFTER 2014

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile  
to the 52<sup>nd</sup> Joint Meeting of Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-Operation,  
Vienna, 11 July 2013

Mr. Chairman,

I join previous speakers in warmly welcoming the three distinguished speakers to this joint FSC/PC meeting and I thank them for their comprehensive reports and for providing us with a thorough overview of the challenges ahead.

Mr. Chairman,

Yesterday the OSCE Ambassadors had a first discussion on possible deliverables for the upcoming Kyiv Ministerial Meeting. There was broad support for the Chairmanship's proposal on a declaration on promoting cooperation with Afghanistan in the area of combatting transnational threats.

The proposal also has the full support of my authorities. And indeed, now, when the international engagement in Afghanistan stands at a crossroads it is important that also the OSCE makes a contribution towards strengthening the security and stability in that country. A stable Afghanistan is important not only to the people of that country and to its OSCE neighbours, but to all of us.

Mr. Chairman,

Norway remains committed to the long-term support of Afghanistan. We therefore intend to extend our support into the transformation decade following the 2014 ISAF withdrawal. This commitment is embedded in the bilateral strategic partnership agreement signed by Prime Minister Stoltenberg and president Karzai earlier this year.

At the moment Norway contributes military personnel to ISAF in Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif, and we are prepared to continue our military engagement in prioritized areas and functions after 2014.

This specific contribution is however dependent on NATO's decision regarding the initiation of mission "Resolute Support" from 2015.

At the July 2012 Tokyo ministerial, Norway undertook to provide 126 million US dollars annually to Afghanistan between 2014 and 2017. Our assistance is primarily geared towards good governance, human rights, including women's rights, rural development and education. In addition, we have also committed ourselves to support the Afghan security forces with 25 million US dollars yearly in the same period.

Mr. Chairman,

Our partnership is based on the credible mutual commitments we agreed on at the Bonn and Tokyo conferences. In return for the international community's long-term support, we expect the Afghan government to honour its promise to continue vigorous reform efforts. We agreed in Tokyo that inadequate implementation would have consequences with regards to the size and scope of international assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

As we have made clear on several occasions, most recently at the meeting of the International Contact group in New York, Norway is disappointed with the slow and uneven progress of Afghan reforms. We are of the opinion that more could and should have been done during the year and a half since Tokyo.

We are especially concerned with the slow progress as regards human rights, including women's rights, and the fight against corruption. In particular, the recent spate of violent attacks, abductions and murders of prominent female politicians and police officers is cause for the utmost concern.

The general increase in violence against women represents a serious step backwards in the effort to build an Afghanistan safe for all. We therefore strongly urge Afghan authorities to strengthen their efforts to consolidate women's rights.

Moreover, we underscore the importance of a credible presidential election in Afghanistan next year. The conduct of those elections will affect our own debate on the future size, scope and time frame of our assistance to Afghanistan.

Finally, long-term stability is dependent on a political solution to the conflict. The reconciliation process is crucial to this end. Norway is disappointed that the

Qatar process has ground to a halt. We urge renewed efforts by all engaged parties. Norway will continue to support this process.

Mr. Chairman,

Bearing in mind the mutual nature of commitments, Norwegian authorities have decided to reduce our civilian assistance for 2014 by 8.3 USD (50 million NOK). A renewed assessment will be made in advance of next year's ministerial meeting on the follow-up to Tokyo. To ensure a positive outcome of that meeting we urge Afghan authorities to strengthen their efforts to fulfil the Tokyo commitments.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.