

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
3 February 2010

Original: English

Letter dated 2 February 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I would be very grateful if, in your role as President, you would circulate the present letter and its annexes to Council members as documents of the Security Council. The first is the Chairman's statement following the high-level meeting on Yemen held in London on 27 January (see annex I); the second is the communiqué from the Afghanistan Conference held in London on 28 January (see annex II).

(Signed) Mark Lyall Grant



Annex I to the letter dated 2 February 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Chairman's statement on the high-level meeting on Yemen

27 January 2010

- Yemen, its friends and partners have today met in London to discuss the many urgent problems which the people of Yemen face. The meeting reiterated support for a unified Yemen, respect for its sovereignty and independence, and commitment to non-interference in Yemen's internal affairs. It was clear that economic and social reform by the Government of Yemen was key to long-term stability and prosperity. It was agreed that a comprehensive approach was needed, with strong support from the international community.
- The challenges in Yemen are growing and, if not addressed, risk threatening the stability of the country and broader region. The Government of Yemen has identified the following areas which are of most concern:
 - (i) Improved international coordination and support on Yemen;
 - (ii) Working on a shared analysis of the challenges facing Yemen, including the conditions conducive to radicalization and instability, and agreement that a comprehensive approach is needed to address them; and
 - (iii) Greater support and impetus to the political and economic reform agenda, including urgent and concrete action by the Government of Yemen.
- The Government of Yemen recognizes the urgent need to address these issues, which will need sustained and focused engagement. It was agreed that responsibility for tackling these challenges lies first and foremost with the Government of Yemen, drawing on the support of the wider region and international community.
- The meeting welcomed:
 - The declared commitment of the Government of Yemen to continue to pursue its reform agenda and to initiate discussion of an International Monetary Fund programme. This will provide welcome support and help the Government to confront immediate challenges.
 - The announcement by the Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary-General that he will host a meeting of Gulf and other partners of Yemen in Riyadh on 27 and 28 February. The meeting will share analysis on the barriers to effective aid in Yemen, leading to a joint dialogue with the Government of Yemen, including on priority reforms.
 - The commitment by the international community to supporting the Government of Yemen in the fight against Al-Qaida and other forms of terrorism, and the commitment by all participants to enforce fully all relevant United Nations Sanctions Committee designations under Security Council resolution 1267 (1999).

- The determination of the international community to engage further in support of Yemeni Government efforts to build law enforcement, legislative, judicial and security capacities. Yemen's partners agreed to support Yemeni Government initiatives to strengthen their counter-terrorist capabilities, and to enhance aviation and border security. This will include work on both land and maritime borders, including on strengthening the Yemeni coast guard.
- The launch of a "Friends of Yemen" process, which will address the broad range of challenges facing Yemen. The first meeting will take place in the region in late March. The Government of Yemen and the Group of Friends will discuss ways and means of implementing Yemen's national reform agenda, including through two working groups on economy and governance; and justice and rule of law.

Annex II to the letter dated 2 February 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué of the London Conference on Afghanistan

28 January 2010

Afghan leadership, regional cooperation, international partnership

1. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the international community met today in London to renew their mutual commitment towards helping Afghanistan emerge as a secure, prosperous, and democratic nation. Today's conference represents a decisive step towards greater Afghan leadership to secure, stabilize and develop Afghanistan. The international community underlined its support for the Government of Afghanistan and its security, development and governance.
2. At the London Conference, President Hamid Karzai built on commitments set out in his inauguration speech, which articulated clear priorities for stabilizing and developing Afghanistan.
3. The international community pledged to maintain its long-term commitment to Afghanistan, as previously set out in the 2001 Bonn Agreement, in the 2002 Tokyo Conference, the 2006 Afghanistan Compact, the 2008 Paris Declaration and the 2009 Hague Conference Declaration. The international community reaffirmed its support for the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions upholding the security, stability and prosperity of Afghanistan and in particular the role of the United Nations itself in achieving this goal.
4. Conference participants emphasized that the Afghan Government and the international community are entering into a new phase on the way to full Afghan ownership. Conference participants reaffirmed the goals of greater Afghan leadership, increased regional cooperation and more effective international partnership. Together we are committed to make intensive efforts to ensure that the Afghan Government is increasingly able to meet the needs of its people through developing its own institutions and resources.
5. The London Conference will be followed by a conference in Kabul later this year, hosted by the Afghan Government, where it intends to take forward its programme with concrete plans for delivery for the Afghan people. These should be based on democratic accountability, equality, human rights, gender equality, good governance and more effective provision of government services, economic growth, as well as a common desire to live in peace under the Afghan Constitution. We remain convinced that together we will succeed.
6. The challenges in Afghanistan particularly in political, economic, development and security areas are significant and interrelated. It is in our shared interest to overcome them and we reaffirmed our commitment to doing so. The nature of international engagement in Afghanistan continues to evolve, in favour of increasingly supporting Afghan leadership in the areas of security, development, governance and economic assistance.

Security

7. Conference participants expressed gratitude to Afghan citizens, Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), and those nations whose citizens and military personnel have served in Afghanistan. Conference participants expressed their sorrow for all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for a secure and stable Afghanistan. Conference participants also thanked those countries that have provided transit and related facilities to International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the ANSF.

8. Conference participants reiterated their resolve to combat terrorism, in particular Al-Qaida, and commended Afghan efforts to this end. Conference participants condemned in the strongest terms all attacks by the Taliban and their extremist allies, including improvised explosive devices, suicide attacks and abductions, targeting civilians, and Afghan and international forces. These attacks undermine stabilization, reconstruction and development efforts in Afghanistan.

9. Conference participants noted that most civilian casualties are caused by insurgent attacks. Conference participants welcomed the determination by ISAF, in partnership with the Afghan Government and ANSF, to continue to do the utmost to protect and further reduce the risk to civilians and jointly to investigate civilian casualties.

10. Conference participants welcomed the progress made by the Afghan security forces as they increasingly take responsibility for military operations. Conference participants also welcomed the Government of Afghanistan's stated goal of the ANSF taking the lead and conducting the majority of operations in the insecure areas of Afghanistan within three years and taking responsibility for physical security within five years. To help realize this, the international community committed to continue to improve the capability and effectiveness of the ANSF. Conference participants also committed to providing the necessary support to the phased growth and expansion of the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police in order to reach 171,600 and 134,000 personnel by October 2011, as approved by the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) on 20 January 2010. The international community also showed its full support for the continued development and implementation of the national police strategy. Beyond this, the Government of Afghanistan and the international community will decide if this is sufficient, based on the prevailing security situation and long-term sustainability.

11. Conference participants welcomed the decision by the North Atlantic Council, in close consultation with non-North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ISAF partners, in full agreement with the Government of Afghanistan and in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1890 (2009), to develop, by the Kabul Conference, a plan for phased transition to Afghan security lead province by province, including the conditions on which transition will be based. Further to this, Conference participants welcomed the shared commitment to create the conditions to allow for transition as rapidly as possible. This is with a view to a number of provinces transitioning to ANSF lead, providing conditions are met, by late 2010/early 2011, with ISAF moving to a supporting role within those provinces. Conference participants welcomed the intention to establish a process among the Government of Afghanistan, ISAF and other key international partners to assess progress in and monitor areas other than security that influence transition.

12. Conference participants welcomed:

- ISAF's increased focus on partnering ANSF and the principle that Afghan forces should progressively assume the leading role in all stages of operations;
- The Government of Afghanistan's determination to assume greater responsibility for detentions, in keeping with the growth of Afghan capacity, in accordance with international standards and applicable national and international law;
- The contribution the NATO training mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A) is making towards the growth and expansion of the ANSF and urged the international community to meet outstanding requirements for trainers and mentoring teams, and to continue efforts in this respect;
- The contribution made by the European Union police mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL) to monitoring, mentoring and advising the Ministry of Interior and supporting national and provincial level Afghan-led police reform and urged partners to reinforce and provide logistical support to EUPOL, especially in the provinces;
- Bilateral support to the ANSF from a range of countries and urged the international community to coordinate closely in this work with the NTM-A and EUPOL, including through the International Police Coordination Board;
- The Government of Afghanistan's commitment to continue development of a national security strategy with the support of the international community; and
- The Government of Afghanistan's commitment to devise and implement a national security policy, which is to be presented at the Kabul Conference and which outlines the security infrastructure and roles and responsibilities of the different security agencies.

13. In the context of a comprehensive, Afghan-led approach, Conference participants reinforced the need for an effective and enduring framework to create and consolidate a stable and secure environment in which Afghan men and women of all backgrounds and perspectives can contribute to the reconstruction of their country. In this context, Conference participants welcomed the plans of the Government of Afghanistan to offer an honourable place in society to those willing to renounce violence, participate in the free and open society and respect the principles that are enshrined in the Afghan Constitution, cut ties with Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups, and pursue their political goals peacefully.

14. Conference participants welcomed:

- The Government of Afghanistan's commitment to reinvigorate Afghan-led reintegration efforts by developing and implementing an effective, inclusive, transparent and sustainable national peace and reintegration programme;
- Plans to convene a Grand Peace Jirga before the Kabul Conference; and
- The international community's commitment to establish a peace and reintegration trust fund to finance the Afghan-led peace and reintegration programme. Conference participants welcomed pledges to the trust fund and encouraged all those who wish to support peacebuilding and stabilization efforts in Afghanistan to contribute to this important initiative.

15. Conference participants recognized the seriousness of the humanitarian situation in different areas of the country, particularly food insecurity. Conference participants invited the international community to support the 2010 Humanitarian Action Plan.

Development and governance

16. Afghanistan faces formidable development challenges, which require sustained, long-term support from the international community. A better coordinated and resourced civilian effort is critical to overcoming these challenges. Economic growth, respect for the rule of law and human rights alongside the creation of employment opportunities and good governance for all Afghans are also critical to counter the appeal of the insurgency, as well as being vital to greater stability in Afghanistan.

17. The international community noted the progress that the Afghan Government has made on economic development, including reaching the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which will provide Afghanistan with up to \$1.6 billion in debt relief from major creditors. This takes total debt relief to around \$11 billion. Conference participants agreed that the priority, as established by the Government of Afghanistan, is accelerated progress on agriculture, human resources development and infrastructure, and to ensure these are underpinned by expanded capacity and structural reforms. Conference participants looked forward to the new economic development plan and to the start of discussions on a new Afghan-led International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme and to continued IMF in-country engagement.

18. Conference participants welcomed the Government of Afghanistan's commitment to assume increasing financial responsibility for its own affairs, and underlined that critical reforms were needed to maximize domestic earnings, with a view to attaining fiscal sustainability over time, including:

- Increasing tax and customs revenues;
- Restructuring public enterprises in order to ensure greater accountability and efficiency;
- Pursuing the Road Map of the 2007 Enabling Environment Conference as reflected in the Afghanistan national development strategy; and
- Continuing regulatory reforms, including implementation of the new mining regulations, and bearing in mind Afghanistan's current commitments under the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

19. Conference participants welcomed:

- The Government of Afghanistan's plans for more coherent and better coordinated development. This involves aligning key ministries into development and governance clusters and refining the Afghan national development strategy development priorities, in particular infrastructure, rural development, human resources development, agriculture and the main areas of governance. It also involves developing a workplan, which should be completed by the Kabul Conference;

- Conference participants supported the ambition of the Government of Afghanistan whereby donors increase the proportion of development aid delivered through the Government of Afghanistan to 50 per cent in the next two years, including through multi-donor trust funds that support the Government budget, e.g. the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund and the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan. But this support is conditional on the Government's progress in further strengthening public financial management systems, reducing corruption, improving budget execution, developing a financing strategy and Government capacity towards the goal. Conference participants confirmed their intention to establish a detailed road map with the Government of Afghanistan, before the Kabul Conference, and to provide technical assistance to help develop the Government's capacity to achieve its goal; and
- The Government of Afghanistan's plans to implement budgetary reforms, to increase budget execution rates and to take steps to improve domestic revenue collection in parallel with enhancing anti-corruption practices and institutions with the aim of achieving fiscal sustainability.

20. Conference participants welcomed the Government of Afghanistan's commitment to develop an overall plan for more effective and accountable national civilian institutions, including the civil service. They welcomed the Government of Afghanistan's decision to approve the subnational governance policy and prepare implementing legislation in advance of the Kabul Conference. Conference participants committed to support the enhancement of subnational governance through the Government of Afghanistan's single framework of priority programmes. To facilitate its implementation, the Government of Afghanistan intends to publish the criteria for administrative boundaries. Conference Participants welcomed commitments made by the Government of Afghanistan and urged the international community to provide additional support to train 12,000 subnational civil servants in core administrative functions in support of provincial and district governors by the end of 2011.

21. Conference participants acknowledged the Government of Afghanistan's increasing efforts to implement the national justice programme with a view to making more transparent, fair and accessible provision of justice available to all Afghans equally.

22. Conference participants commended the Government of Afghanistan's commitment to improve access to justice and respect for human rights, including through its justice and human rights programme, political and financial support for the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the adoption and implementation of a new national policy as soon as possible on relations between the formal justice system and dispute resolution councils. The Government of Afghanistan reiterated its commitment to protect and promote the human rights of all Afghan citizens and to make Afghanistan a place where men and women enjoy security, equal rights, and equal opportunities in all spheres of life. Conference participants also committed to strengthening the role of civil society.

23. Conference participants welcomed the Government of Afghanistan's whole-of-government approach to fighting corruption and its ongoing work to mount a concerted effort to tackle the key drivers of corruption, through the development of

clear and objective benchmarks and implementation plans, in advance of the Kabul Conference, including but not limited to:

- Empowering an independent High Office of Oversight to investigate and sanction corrupt officials and lead the fight against corruption, through decree within one month;
- During 2010, establishing a statutory basis for related anti-corruption bodies, including the Major Crimes Task Force and the Anti-Corruption Tribunal, guaranteeing their long-term independence;
- Enhancing the effectiveness of the senior civil service appointments and vetting process and revising the civil service code. This will include, by the time of the Kabul Conference, identifying the top level civil service appointments;
- The intention of the President to issue a decree prohibiting close relatives of ministers, ministerial advisers, members of Parliament, governors and some deputy ministers from serving in customs and revenue collection departments throughout government;
- As a priority during 2010, adopting a comprehensive legislation agenda to make Afghan laws consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including the Anti-Corruption Penal Code, to expand provisions related to asset declaration; and
- Inviting Afghan and other eminent experts to participate in an independent ad hoc monitoring and evaluation mission, which will make its first monitoring visit to Afghanistan within three months, develop clear and objective benchmarks for progress and prepare periodic reports on national and international activity for the Afghan President, Parliament and people, as well as the international community.

24. Conference participants committed to helping the Government of Afghanistan's anti-corruption efforts by providing assistance to the new institutions and committed to increasing the transparency and effectiveness of its own aid in line with the June 2008 Paris Conference Declaration and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. In particular, Conference participants agreed to:

- Work with the proposed anti-corruption bodies to review existing procedures and investigate instances of corruption that involve internationals; and
- Work with the Government to improve procurement processes, including establishing additional measures to ensure due diligence in international contracting procedures.

25. Conference participants noted the decision by the Afghan Independent Election Commission to postpone parliamentary elections until 18 September in accordance with the Afghan Constitution and electoral law. In this regard, Conference participants welcomed the Government of Afghanistan's commitment to ensuring the integrity of the 2010 parliamentary elections and to preventing any irregularities and misconduct. Conference participants also welcomed the Government of Afghanistan's commitment to work closely with the United Nations to build on the lessons learned from the 2009 elections to deliver improvements to the electoral process in 2010 and beyond.

26. The international community welcomed the Government of Afghanistan's commitment to implement the National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan and the Elimination of Violence Against Women Law. Conference participants welcomed the Government of Afghanistan's commitment to strengthen the participation of women in all Afghan governance institutions, including elected and appointed bodies and the civil service.

27. Conference participants emphasized the pernicious links between the narcotics trade, the insurgency and other criminal activity, including corruption and human trafficking. Conference participants therefore welcomed:

- The recent progress the Government of Afghanistan has made, including the 22 per cent reduction in poppy cultivation last year and the increase in the number of poppy-free provinces from 6 in 2006 to 20 in 2009;
- The undertaking by the Government of Afghanistan to update the national drugs control strategy during 2010, which will include targeted programmes of agricultural development and the reduction of poppy cultivation;
- The ongoing support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the international community to support the Government of Afghanistan to counter this trade;
- The continuation of the "Paris-Moscow" process in counteracting the illegal production, consumption and trafficking of narcotics and the elimination of poppy crops, drug laboratories and stores, as well as the interception of drug convoys and the continuation of consultations on the marking of precursors and greater bilateral regional cooperation; and
- The contribution to multilateral anti-narcotics efforts by the Plan of Action of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization members, adopted in March 2009 by the Special Conference on Afghanistan in Moscow.

Regional cooperation/international architecture

28. Conference participants reaffirmed their support for a stable, secure and democratic Afghanistan, acknowledged Afghanistan's potential role as a land bridge between South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and the Far East and renewed their pledge to work together actively to this end. Conference participants underscored that regionally owned and steered initiatives stood the best chance of success and welcomed a number of recent initiatives that showed the need for neighbouring and regional partners to work constructively together. In this context, Conference participants noted the recent regional Summit on Friendship and Cooperation in the "Heart of Asia" held in Istanbul and its statement. This regional cooperation includes reaffirming the principles of the Declaration on Good-Neighbourly Relations of 2002, and working actively for:

- Afghan sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity;
- Non-intervention in Afghanistan's internal affairs and mutual non-interference;
- Afghan-led peace, reintegration and reconciliation efforts;
- Ending support wherever it occurs on each other's territory for illegally armed groups, parallel structures and illegal financing directed towards destabilizing Afghanistan or individual neighbours;

- Combating terrorism including but not limited to increased intelligence-sharing, dismantling logistical, financial and ideological support for terrorist networks and tackling the causes of radicalization;
- Development of transregional trade and transit, including work on infrastructure and progress on energy, power transmission lines and transport infrastructure, including railway networks;
- Conducive conditions for the return of Afghan refugees;
- Transregional cooperation against the narcotics trade; and
- Supporting people-to-people contact, including interaction and exchanges between civil society, academia, the media and the private sector.

29. Conference participants welcomed the fact that Afghanistan and its regional partners would have opportunities in 2010 to develop and coordinate contributions to advance these principles. Conference participants noted the value of a more coherent and structured approach to individual initiatives. In this respect, Conference participants welcomed the fact that Afghanistan has invited the relevant regional bodies (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan, Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Economic Cooperation Organization in accordance with their respective mandates) and others, including the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to develop as soon as possible a coordinated plan for Afghanistan's regional engagement. Conference participants invited the countries, regional organizations and forums concerned to offer regular updates, including at the Kabul Conference.

30. Emphasizing the theme of enriching regional cooperation, Conference participants welcomed the contribution made by specific bilateral and regional projects, including that of the OIC on education and tackling radicalization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Afghanistan-Pakistan Cooperation Workshop (Dubai process) on border management. Conference participants were grateful for the information given by several countries on bilateral initiatives, including the Afghanistan-Pakistan Trade and Transit Agreement, on which they welcomed progress achieved and looked forward to a timely conclusion, and the Indonesian programmes for capacity-building, including technical cooperation in the fields of education, health, agriculture, poverty reduction, renewable energy and small and medium-sized enterprises.

31. Conference participants recalled that the international community was engaged in Afghanistan in support of the Government of Afghanistan. Until such time as the Government of Afghanistan is able to assume the responsibility, Conference participants noted with appreciation that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) continues to be the primary international organization for coordinating international support in line with Security Council resolution 1868 (2009). Conference participants welcomed:

- The Afghan Government's presentation of clear priorities;
- The international community's commitment to more effective and properly resourced civilian engagement to support the Afghan Government in order to improve the impact of international civilian assistance;

- The international community's commitment to align its assistance more closely with Afghan priorities, in keeping with Paris Principles on aid effectiveness, thereby increasing Afghan Government capacity;
- The international community's intention to work closely with UNAMA to reinvigorate civilian delivery;
- The appointment of a new NATO Senior Civilian Representative; and
- The decision of the European Union to strengthen its presence in Kabul under one single representative.

32. Conference participants welcomed the decision by the United Nations Secretary-General to appoint Staffan de Mistura; the decision by the NATO Secretary-General to appoint Mark Sedwill; and the forthcoming appointment from the European Union High Representative; and looked forward to their taking up their jobs in the first few months of 2010. Conference participants invited them to work closely together to ensure closer coordination in Kabul. Furthermore, while noting recent improvements in the functioning of the JCMB, Conference participants invited the co-chairs of the JCMB to recommend to its members additional measures to make the JCMB ever more effective.

33. Conference participants took the opportunity to thank the incumbents: Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General Kai Eide, NATO Senior Civilian Representative Fernando Gentilini and European Union Special Representative Ettore Sequi and Head of the European Commission Delegation Hansjörg Kretschmer for their invaluable work and commitment to Afghanistan.

34. We look forward to reviewing mutual progress on commitments at the Kabul Conference later this year.
