



HERAT SECURITY DIALOGUE-II

A Report

Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies

Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies

Herat Security Dialogue II

Conference Report



Herat International Conference

(Herat, 4th- 6th October, 2013)

AISS



www.aiss.af

List of Contents

About AISS.....	3
A Very short introduction to the HSD Series	3
Summary of Herat Security Dialogue-II.....	4

Part I

The Conference Panels.....	5
Main Discussion Points.....	7
2014 Presidential Elections & the Transformation Decade.....	7
State Of Regional Counterterrorism Cooperation.....	10
Counterdrug Trafficking Cooperation: Seeking a Blueprint.....	10
Regional Cooperation: Opportunities and Obstacles.....	12
Inclusive Security: Cosmopolitan Community, and Islamic Sufism	13
Nowruz – From Shared Cultural Heritage Towards Political and Economic Cooperation & Integration.....	14
Justice and Enduring Peace: Afghan Peace Process.....	15
Prospects of Iran-Afghanistan-USA Cooperation.....	17
The Way Forward: Open Discussions.....	18

Part II

HSD-II main policy Recommendations	20
Conclusion.....	22

ANNEXES

The List of Participants.....	23
The Conference Agenda.....	29
Links to Conference Media Coverage	32
Video Links to the Conference.....	33
Conference Photos.....	36

Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS)

The Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS) was established in October 2012. It aims to create an intellectual space for addressing strategic issues pertaining to Afghanistan in the wider regional and international context. Promoting dialogue between and among different stakeholders will be an end as well as an integral means in attaining AISS objectives.

Board of Advisors

Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta, Chairman of the Board (Afghanistan)

Dr. Radha Kumar (India)

Dr. Barnett R. Rubin (USA)

Dr. Sima Samar (Afghanistan)

Ambassador Hikmet Çetin (Turkey)

Ambassador Kai Eide (Norway)

Dr. Ashley J. Tellis (USA)

Professor Wang Jisi (China)

Ahmad Nader Nadery (Afghanistan)

Director

Dr. Davood Moradian (Afghanistan)

Office Address

Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies, Qala Noh Borja, Kart-e-Parwan, Kabul, Afghanistan

Phone: 0093 799 840 161

[Web site: www.aiss.af](http://www.aiss.af)

A Very short introduction to the Herat Security Dialogue Series

As part of its strategic programs series, the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS) hosted its first annual international conference *Herat Security Dialogue* (HSD) in partnership with the Delhi Policy Group. Held 18-21 October 2012 in the Herat City, the conference centered on the role of regional countries and the transformation decade. Representatives from over 20 countries, officials from the Government of Afghanistan, members of parliament, non-government organizations, and representatives from civil society and the private sector were all in attendance. The conference provided the opportunity for participants to voice their opinions on issues ranging from regional economic cooperation beyond 2014, and the security and political transition. This is a report of the HSD-II conference held on 4-6 October 2013. AISS plans to conduct HSD-III early October 2014.

Summary of Herat Security Dialogue-II



The Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS) hosted the Herat Security Dialogue II (HSD-II) on 5-6 October 2013 in Herat, Afghanistan. This was the second annual international conference that AISS hosted. It was attended by government officials, international organization delegates, legislators, academic experts, distinguished journalists, business delegates, media and civil society representatives from Afghanistan, the region and wider international community.

Objective of the Conference

The conference set out to address the need for a permanent forum where both domestic and regional stakeholders may engage in dialogue aimed at developing practical and broad security cooperation, as well as overall confidence building. Committed to greater understanding and collaboration, HSD-II encouraged discussions on a variety of themes, including challenges to conventional approaches to security, normative and cross-cultural concerns with approaches to and perspectives on security, and the influences of Afghan security in a wider regional and global context. Local, national, and international participants raised their opinions, and provided comments and recommendations on a range of issues including:

- The 2014 presidential election and the transformative decade
- The state of regional counterterrorism cooperation
- A blueprint for counterdrug trafficking cooperation
- Expanding regional collaboration based on social, cultural, and economic commonalities
- How to overcome security challenges
- Afghanistan as a suitable platform for improving US-Afghan-Iranian diplomatic relations

Creative “out of the box” thinking was encouraged! HSD-II was held from 4-6 October, 2013 in the historical city of Herat, a city with a long history of creativity, connectivity, and cooperation, and a post-2001 cultural renaissance center.

The conference attracted a wide range of media coverage including local, national and international exposure. Local circuits provided online reporting, while national outlets provided special reports on the conference. International reporting included BBC Persian, Voice of America (VOA) DW Radio, and Radio Azadi, just to name a few. See appendix for full list of media coverage. The complete video clips of the conference is available in the AISS’s official website.

This report is a summary of the central ideas, and range of perspectives and recommendations identified by HSD-II participants about the aforementioned subjects. While some of the recommendations and comments mentioned in the report are personal views, others are based on consensus met during the conference.

The Conference Panels

The subjects discussed at the Herat Security Dialogue II (HSD-II) were chosen on the basis of key strategic concerns and issues for both Afghanistan and the wider region.

As we move into 2014 and the impending withdrawal of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) combat forces, Afghanistan must prepare for some major strategic changes. First, with only a handful of non-combat international advisors, Afghanistan is forced to realize the realities on the ground on its own. However, the current state of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) suggests that they are unprepared to meet the remaining insurgent groups who continue to widen their activities throughout the country, let alone take over security responsibility for the country. Second, while Afghanistan remains highly dependent on financial aid and political support to operate even its most basic administrative affairs, a reduction of funding is expected to accompany the withdrawal of forces. Finally, other challenges such as drug trafficking, terrorism, and political mistrusts continue to threaten progress in Afghanistan and overall stability for the region. While it is acknowledged that the NATO withdrawal will result in such serious challenges to progress, the impending exit strategy remains on schedule.

According to dominant views, a post-2014 Afghanistan draws on binary conclusions. On one end, there is the possibility of a return to the chaos that defined a pre-2001 Afghanistan. The likelihood of such relapse depends on how prepared the Afghan government is to deal with the realities of post-2014. On the other end of this binary, we observe the Afghan government and the international community continue to make preparation that limit the likelihood of such chaos. The Afghan government has begun serious national, regional and international programs to effectively respond to such changes, while the international community has committed to help in terms of security and developmental assistance. However, there still remains a relatively weak estimation of the challenges that lay ahead and an over optimism of the future of Afghanistan. These are positive steps but not easy tasks to accomplish. Clear, thorough, and thoughtful strategies are necessary for political progress, economic development, and cultural acceptance. During the HSD-II panel discussion on such concerns, participants provided their views and highlighted recommendations toward building a credible consensus among national, regional, and international stakeholders – one that would benefit both Afghanistan and the entire region.

First session: 2014 Presidential Election and the Transformation Decade

There is wide ranging consensus that successful administration of the 2014 elections in Afghanistan is vital for the country to both safeguard its past achievements as well as pave the way for future prosperity. As a significant concern, the upcoming election was chosen as a core topic of discussion for the first HSD-II session. Former head of the Afghan Independent Election Commission (IEC), representatives from two major Afghan civil society organizations, and the deputy head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) participated as panelists for this session. Thoughtful and comprehensive discussions centered on how best to conduct a successful election, including the examination of past concerns and a forecast of potential challenges that may lay ahead. Security threats, women participation, and technical issues were considered some of the main challenges for the upcoming elections.

1. Security Threats and Concerns

Insecurity arising from ongoing insurgent activities and the influence of informal power-holders and local warlords in the rural areas make free, fair, and safe elections very tough and costly for the Afghan government and its people. During this session, participants debated over the government's inability to and weak attempts at providing a safe environment on Election Day, mainly in the rural peripheries of the country. Reflecting on the experiences of IEC members during the 2009 elections, panelists and the audience alike drew a consensus view that local workers, members of the monitoring and observation teams, and voters are all potentially exposed to security concerns. Low confidence in the ability of security forces is particularly disconcerting as it may impact voter turnout.

“There are two barriers for the Afghan voters: first, security and safety on the day of election. And second, they need to know that there is no fraud. When the voters take the risk of voting, they want to know that their votes are not stolen or altered. In my view, the IEC should go the ground and assure people that their vote will be count.

Mr. Haysom, Deputy Head of UNAMA

2. Women and 2014 Election

Since 2001, increasing political participation of women has been a top priority for both the Afghan government and the international community. The international community has repeatedly conditioned the continuation of their political and financial supports on the improvements to the rights of women. During this session, panelists emphasized the significant role of women in the upcoming elections and called on both the IEC and the government to continue to consider strategies to effectively address

existing barriers to the participation of women in elections. Both the former head of IEC and UNAMA representatives pointed to the 2009 elections, observing that a number of reserved seats were left empty as not enough women candidates participated in the provincial councils' elections. UNAMA representative further vowed continued international support to resolve issues surrounding women participation in the upcoming elections.

3. Technical Challenges of the Election

Technical challenges, including fake voting cards and voting centers, insufficient monitoring and observation guidelines and teams, and challenges to navigating the administrative offices that may have a say in such arrangements were the focus of this session. Of express concern was the failure to address such issues and the potential consequential questioning around election transparency.

Reflecting on the previous election, former head of the IEC, Mr. Manavi, criticized the decision to set up additional centers for the issuance of ballot cards without sufficient monitoring and observation mechanisms in place. He argued that without such mechanisms, additional centers run the risk of fraud. He further explained that informal power holders, residing mainly in insecure areas across the country, could easily set up illegal voting centers and take advantage of the limits of monitoring and observation teams. Moreover, he questioned the credibility of the IEC requirement that presidential candidates collect a hundred thousand voting cards as a precondition for their nomination under such conditions.

“I am quite sure that some of the candidates cannot fulfill even 10 percent of the required voting cards for their nomination. In order to get the IEC approval, they collect fake voting cards – the lack of reliable oversight mechanisms makes it very difficult for IEC to distinguish fraudulent election cards from real ones.”

Fazal Ahmad Manavi, Former Chairman of the IEC

Afghanistan is one of a handful of countries that do not have clear and concise census data on its population. Protracted conflict, a weak public administration, and the tribal nature of a vast part of the country all contribute to the near impossibility of collecting reliable census data. Data that is available are based on imprecise and divergent estimations that do not reflect the realities on the ground. Panelists consider this as not only a problem for past and current elections, but also as a foreseeable problem for elections to follow.

“We don't know the exact amount of legitimate voters in Afghanistan. In the 2004 election the Afghan government estimated 12.5 million voters, which is equal to the amount declared in the 2009 election. Remember, that the

Afghan government will declare the same amount for the 2014 election as well. This is ridiculous, because no one asks why the Afghan voters do not increase or decrease during these years.”

Fazal Ahmad Manavi, Former Chairman of the IEC

Finally, Mr. Manavi pointed out concerns over the secured transportation of ballot boxes from local areas through the provinces and to Kabul. He suggested that the government consider the challenged to IEC preventing the possibility of systematic fraud during handover of ballot boxes. He argued that IEC does not have sufficient monitoring teams to observe and control the transportation process.

4. International Community Expectations of the Afghan Election

Since 2001, the Afghan government has conducted several elections with relative satisfaction. However, such achievements would have been difficult without financial, technical, and political support from the international community. As we draw near to the impending withdrawal of US and allied forces, the international communities’ articulation of its approach and scope of assistance for the upcoming elections looks quite different from the past. The Deputy Head of UNAMA highlighted the role of the UN and the international community in the upcoming elections as follows:

- The elections are a duty and responsibility of the Afghan people – the international community is here to merely support the process without interfering with the decision-making process.
- The international community will not support a particular candidate in the election.
- The international community will observe the election process and support the new election laws.
- The international community acknowledges the importance of the elections, both for the legitimacy it brings domestically and the recognition that it earns internationally.
- Elections should be conducted based on the scheduled time.
- Elections’ budget should be transparent and available.
- The Afghan IEC should ensure that technical and logistic issues are resolved before the elections.
- The IEC must prepare for more voter registrations to meet recent estimates of a 13 percent increase in voter turnout.
- Elections should be independent, transparent, and free from interference or influence from any institution.
- Inactive polling stations throughout Afghanistan should be registered and their problems resolved; all 1300 voting stations should become active and secure for the voters.
- The international community stands behind national unity at the election polls, and condemns factionalism or favoritism based on sectarian or ethnic differences.

Session Two: State Of Regional Counterterrorism Cooperation

Weak state institutions and chronic civil conflict over the last three decades made Afghanistan an attractive safe haven from which violent non-state actors could launch its terrorist attacks – such as the 9/11 attack on the United States. Arguably, it is such attack that provided the justification for the US-led operations and decade long presence in Afghanistan. As we draw near the end of these operations, Afghanistan must take responsibility for the fight against terrorism. Although a small contingent of US counterterrorism troops will remain, the scope of their operational contribution remains unclear. Additionally, as terrorism is not limited by national boundaries and can easily spillover into neighboring countries, regional cooperation is indispensable for the eradication of terrorism.

During our session on regional cooperation against terrorism, General Fared of the Afghan National Army's Special Forces department began the discussion by speaking about the nature and socio-economic roots of terrorism in Afghanistan. In addition to providing some recommendation to meet these concerns, he also provided an optimistic view of the abilities of the Afghan security force in meeting such threats. However, he suggested that continued international support in terms of logistics and technical contributions were necessary.

Panelists included Vice President of the China Institute for International Studies, Dr. Dong, Director of the Institute for Defensive Studies and Analysis, Dr. Gupta, Vice President to the Kazakh Military and Strategic Studies Center, General Koibakov, and Program Co-chair of the Carnegie Moscow Center, Dr. Alexey Malshenko.

There was overall consensus that terrorism is not contained to national boundaries, but rather is a regional and international concern. As such, it is the responsibility of the entire region to cooperate and collectively and effectively work toward developing anti-terrorism strategies to eradicate terrorism.

Session Three: Counterdrug Trafficking Cooperation: Seeking a Blueprint

Over the last two decades, Afghanistan became notorious as the largest producer and exporter of opium in the world. In addition to international disapproval, the illegal trade has had negative effects on regional relations. Although there have been a number of cooperative regional campaigns against illicit drug trafficking, the problem still persists.

For our third session, Regional representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), Mr. Lemahieu chaired, while the Deputy Minister of the Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics, Mr. Sherzad, former Governor of Helmand Province, Mr. Gulab Manghal, and Professor Amin Ahmadi from Ibni Sina University paneled the session. Beginning with critical views of current anti-narcotics strategies, they agreed that honest cooperative attempts against the threat in Afghanistan and the wider region is necessary – especially with necrotic challenges that exist throughout the region. They further suggested and encouraged effective economic and agricultural alternatives to address the underlining motives behind illicit drug trafficking.

Mr. Lemahieu opened the session by sharing key findings of the UNODC research on illicit drug production and trafficking in Afghanistan and the wider region. He also provided an explanation of related socio-political and economic challenges to eradicating drug trafficking.

Mr. Sherzad blamed the Taliban for their religious justification of necrotic production and trafficking. He explained the Taliban's justification using the harvesting of grapes and the production of wine as an example. According to the Taliban, harvesting grapes is religiously reasonable, whereas producing wine from the harvest is prohibited by Islam. Similarly, such rule is applicable to drug production and its consumption by Muslims with the reasoning that production of drug is religiously legitimate while consumption by Muslims is prohibited. He argued the functionality of such religious justification and the enormous impact it has on the maintaining a culture of drug cultivation among Afghans. In summary, he called for the government, civil society institutions, religious figures, and the media to stand behind and advocate against such misinterpretation of Islam.

Mr. Sherzad also briefly highlighted recent counter-narcotics achievements, claiming that “since preparation of the afghan counterdrug policy, dozens of high profile smugglers and traders were arrested in connection with the production and trafficking of illegal drug in Afghanistan”. However, he argues that widespread corruption continues to hinder counter necrotic operations.

When considering region dimensions in the fight against the production and trafficking of drugs, Mr. Shirzad pointed the finger at regional neighbors hinting at their less than effective coordination and insufficient contribution. In particular he cited reports that argue “according to official estimates... fifteen tons of technical substances” are needed to produce the amount of heroin exported from Afghanistan each year. He further argued that Afghanistan does not have the capacity to produce such technical substances

and as a result, producers import such substances from neighboring countries. He concluded by suggesting regional partners follow the example of China when it assisted its neighbor Thailand in eliminating drug cultivation by through a program of alternating agricultural interdependence between the two nations.

Session Four: Regional Cooperation: Opportunities and Obstacles

“With respect to national sovereignty, independence and different political systems of regional countries, it is our responsibility to celebrate and protect our shared and common regional civilization. We must seek and strengthen our unity based on the political and cultural pluralism that exists in the countries of our region.”

Dr. RanginDadfarSpanta, Senior National Security Advisor to the President of Afghanistan

Over the last ten years numerous, albeit not very progressive, attempts have been made to foster greater regional cooperation. It is evident that the ongoing conflict and its regional influences, mistrust amongst neighbors, and other challenges all depend of greater regional cooperation. History has shown that Afghanistan has paid the vast portion of the costs associated with limited regional cooperation and political competition with its neighbors.

Session four addressed such concerns while suggesting avenues through which greater regional cooperation could be attained. The panel was chaired by Ambassador Mahmoud Saikal, former Deputy Minister to the Afghanistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while Ambassador Öztürk, Turkish Ambassador to Afghanistan, General P. K. Singh, Director of United Service Institution of India, Dr. Rahnamo, Department Head to the Center for Strategic Studies (under the President of Tajikistan), and Dr. Paramanov, Director of Project Central Eurasia from Uzbekistan were session speakers.

Ambassador Saikal argued that misconceptions and mistrust prove a challenge to regional cooperation. He emphasized the role of regional cultural commonalities as effective tools to meeting such challenges and the means to reaching greater regional economic and political integrity and cooperation.

Reflecting on the important geopolitical location of Afghanistan, the Turkish Ambassador to Afghanistan quoted the famous 20th century Pakistani poet, Alamah Eqbal Lahoori, who considered Afghanistan the heart of Asia. Following his recital, he propositioned and claimed that it is the duty of regional countries to keep their heart safe. He also highlighted the historical importance of Afghanistan as the ‘corridor to the region’ which connected east to west, and the Silk Road as a common link of shared regional cultural heritage. Citing a number of ongoing Turkish programs in the region, he pledged Turkey’s authentic commitment to continued support in every effort to further cooperation with an emphasis on regional

stability. He concluded his speech with hopes for the effective functionality of recently established regional organizations and initiatives, and encouraged regional countries to continue playing increasingly greater roles in regional development.

General P.K. Singh argued for greater regional economic development as a basic yet important factor for regional political stability and cooperation. As landlocked nations, he argued for the establishment of a rail network and other infrastructure projects with positive benefits for both Afghanistan and the region as a whole. Pointing to the historical function of Afghanistan as a bridge between markets in China, India, Persia and Europe, he suggested regional cooperation to revive such role.

Considering foreign direct investment, General Singh pointed to the abundance and richness of natural and energy resources within the region and the potential for private investment. With sufficient capital investment, the agricultural and mining sectors alone are capable of multitrillion dollar profits. He further stipulated that, such capital invest should include developing both internal roads as well as extending them to regional ports in order to motivate confidence and drive up demand. However, he argued there still remains a grave underestimation and ignorance of the potential investment opportunities for the region and suggested that regional countries continue to promote and encourage private sector investment.

On security concerns, General Singh considered terrorism a common regional threat and called on regional partners to stand by Afghanistan in its counterterrorism struggles. In particular, he encouraged the blocking of economic and financial resources that help to sustain such groups as an effective strategy to pacify their activities. He concluded by citing Afghanistan as both a focal point for winning the global struggle against terrorism, and a competent facilitator of regional integration and bridge to Central Asia, South Asia, Eurasia, and the Middle East.

Session Five: Inclusive Security: Cosmopolitan Community, and Islamic Sufism

Socio-political conflicts, mainly resulting from ethnic, language, and racial differences are common to the recent history of Afghanistan. Similarly, while Afghanistan historically enjoyed moderate religious ideologies and sensible sectarian tolerance, its recent history reflects one of increasing sectarian tensions. The recent surge of extremist ideologies has created a harmful socio-political challenge to the country. Recent studies indicate that religious extremist interpretations like Wahabism, Salafism, and Deobandi over the past decade have disturbed and made challenged traditional and more moderate religious beliefs and practices.

“Afghanistan was neither the origin of extremist ideologies nor familiar with such ideologies. Actually, other countries exported such ideologies to Afghanistan in order to impede moderate Islam which has been the dominant religious ideology since ages in Afghanistan.”

Mr. Wahidi, Herat Governor

In the course of this session, participants shared their views on the long-term threat of religious radicalism in Afghanistan. Overall consensus pointed to the need for the government and civil society institutions to actively participate in the eliminating radicalism. A revival of Sufi values which have a long historical root in Afghan culture and calls for doctrine based on peaceful pluralism was suggested as an effective alternative and counter to emerging extremist ideologies.

“Sufism and Mysticism are close to democratic values. Wherever there is democracy, Sufism can flourish. Wherever there is extremism and radicalism, Sufism can’t flourish. Afghans smell the fragrance of Sufism and we can foster such culture in order to curb extremist ideologies.”

Dr. Fayez, Founding President, American University of Afghanistan

Session Six: Nowruz – From Shared Cultural Heritage towards Political & Economic Cooperation & Integration

The cultural heritage shared by many regional countries can be an effective platform for forging regional collaboration and integration. Such commonalities include language, social norms and values, symbols and cultural formalities, and even historical monuments. Nowruz, celebrated on the 22nd day of March, marks the beginning of the calendar year or Hejri-Shamsi and is the first day of spring. Common to the region, it has been celebrated for thousands of years by Afghanistan, Iran, and other Central Asian countries.

During session six panelists discussed economic concerns and the potential of using the celebration of Nowruz to facilitate greater regional collaboration. Deputy Minister of the Afghan Ministry of Tourism, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Farhai chaired the panel while Afghan poet and writer Mr. Parto Naderi, Researcher at the National Institute for Strategic Studies in Kyrgyzstan, Ms. Esengul, and Deputy Director of International Strategic Research, Dr. Colakuglu served as panelists.

Panelists drew attention to existing natural resources throughout the region, pointing out that although there is great opportunity for economic prosperity, the lack of a clear national and regional management system hinders progress. It was suggested that increased positive reforms in political and cultural

relations can motivate the regional cooperation necessary to make such program a reality. According to the speakers, shared cultural norms, such as Nowruz, is a very good and suitable platform and focal point for the furtherance of economic and political cooperation in the region. It was recommended that a research, education, and cultural institution be established to sponsor and support an annual regional celebration of Norwuz.

Session Seven: Justice and Sustainable Peace: Afghan Peace Process

Protracted conflict and insecurity in Afghanistan has made the longing for peace and stabilization in Afghanistan immensely nostalgic for the Afghan people, the government, and even the international community. Despite ongoing national and international peace building initiatives, numerous areas throughout the country remain insecure. Insurgent groups motivated and supported by the Taliban continue to disrupt governance and state building activities. Although there are attempts at reconciliation, a number of factors continue to obstruct progress, including disagreements over preconditions for negotiations to move forward. Such preconditions include 1) the acceptance and abeyance of the new Afghan constitution, severing ties with international terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda, rejecting a doctrine of violence, and greater respect for the rights of women and minority groups.

Session seven focused on peace and justice delivery, and offered a range of perspectives on peace building efforts in Afghanistan. It was chaired by the Director of the Center for Regional Studies at the Afghanistan Academy of Science. Abdul Hakim Mujahid, former High Official of the Taliban regime and a current member of Afghan High Peace Council, Mr. Kai Eide, former United Nations Special Representative (UNSR) and UNAMA Head, and Afghan MP Shah Gul Rezaie were the panel speakers.

While insurgent groups is a visible threat to peace and stability in Afghanistan, the duality of Afghan and international efforts at peace negotiations and the backing of insurgent groups by neighboring countries remain an underlining reason and fuel behind the ongoing insurgency. Moreover, neighboring countries' hostility toward internationally accepted values such as democracy, human rights, and a pluralistic society only urge on further antagonistic behavior and consequently upset chances at reconciliation.

Mr. Ghafur Liwal began the session by sharing his views on the condition of security and justice delivery while outlining some recommendations to making the peace process more effective.

Mr. Abdul Hakim Mujahid criticized both the Afghan Government and the international community for their antagonistic approach to and underestimation of the influential role sociopolitical groups such as the

Taliban could play in the state building process. He considered this as one of the main causes of the ongoing insecurity in the country. However, he renounced the Taliban's relations with terrorists and extremists groups such as al-Qaeda, Wahhabis, and Salafists who he considered as unsatisfied members of the Afghan community who seek to fulfill their rights in the country.

He conditioned the success of the peace process on the acceptance and inclusion of different sociopolitical groups. Justifying his argument and claiming to speak on behalf of the Taliban, he pledged Taliban appreciation and acceptance of internationally accepted conventions and values and the respect of women rights. However he continued, in order to accelerate the peace process the US government must release the remainder of Taliban prisoners held in Guantanamo. He also questioned the presence of nearly fifteen thousand international military forces beyond 2014, arguing that there is no terrorist left to fight in Afghanistan and that such forces should be deployed to countries that do house terrorists.

Citing international efforts over the past ten years, Mr. Kai Eide emphasized the need to seek an Afghan-based approach toward conflict resolution in Afghanistan. Rejecting purely military based efforts, he pointed to conflict affected countries such as Libya and Colombia arguing that the international community must step back and allow the peace process to be Afghan-led. He concluded by asking the Afghan government to have an inclusive policy whereby different political groups, including the Taliban, could contribute toward creating national trust.

Shah Gul Rezaie reminded both the Afghan government and the international community to not ignore women during the reconciliation process. Despite considerable improvements and opportunities for Afghan women, they remain vulnerable to both current threats and the potential of a future reversal of the gains made over the past years.

Session Eight: Prospects of Iran-Afghanistan-USA Cooperation

Afghanistan's regional and international relations have increased enormously since a democratic government was established in 2001. However, a number of obstacles to developing these relationships still remain. For example Iran remains concerned over the more than two million Afghan refugees on its soil and worries about illicit drug trafficking, sectarian tension, and the continued presence of NATO forces in the neighborhood. Additionally, tensions of the waters of Helmand stream persist.

The nature, scope and complexity of these issues vary. While concerns over the presence of US military forces in Afghanistan and allegation for supporting sectarian tension are complicated issues with

seemingly grim prospects, other concerns like illegal drug trafficking and refugee repatriation could be addressed on mutually agreed lines.

Concerning US-Iran relations, it is vital that each understand that Afghanistan will not play sides but rather aims to have a constructive role in defusing tensions and meeting the interests of all parties involved. Despite long standing political tension, the selection of a new Iranian President provides renewed hopes for the prospects of better US-Iranian relations.

AISS and its HSD series is one of the first Afghan civil institutions to provide a platform for bringing representatives from Afghanistan, Iran, and the US under one roof with the objective of seeking a new beginning in trilateral relations. During our eight session Mr. Mujahid Kakar, Head of TOLO News chaired the panel. The Afghan Ambassador to the Iran, Ambassador Noor, Lecturer at Tehran and Paris, Dr. Fahimeh Robiolle, and President of the Stimson Center, Dr. Laipson were session speakers.

Ambassador Noor began with an optimistic analysis of prospects for the three countries' diplomatic relations by referring to the recently elected President of Iran, Dr. Hassan Rohani. He argued that President Ruhani is viewed in a much more positive light compared to his predecessor, Mahmoud Admadi Nezhad. His foreign policy indicates a political will for improving diplomatic relations with the US. He points to Ruhani's famous Facebook message and phone conversations with President Barak Obama, as well as his latest speech during the UN Annual Assembly as evidence of such will. He went on to praised the rational strategies that characterized Iran during major events in recent decades, including its composure after the murder of nine Iranian diplomats in northern Afghanistan by the Taliban and the agreement to a ceasefire with Saddam Hussain which subsequently ended the eight year war. Whereas he touched on some important shared interests that could help unite the three countries, he cautioned that deterioration of such relationship will have a negative impact on the region.

He argued that keeping a contingent of NATO troops beyond 2014 is beneficial for both Afghanistan and Iran, and the region as a whole, especially in meeting the common threat of terrorism in the region. Attempting to reassure Iran, he emphasized that Afghanistan will not allow its soil to be misused against its regional neighbors, including Iran. If the US wanted to spy or attack Iran, he continued, it has better options than Afghanistan. He concluded by expressing his opinion that improved US-Iran relations will inevitably reduce Pakistan's role in the region.

Dr. Fahimeh Rabiolle, began with a brief review of the historical fluctuations in US-Iran relations from 1900 onwards. She reviewed the causal factors of to deterioration, such as the US backing of the Sadam regime during the Iran-Iraq war, political tensions over Iran’s nuclear program, and Iranian intervention in Lebanon and Syria. According to Dr. Rabiolle, the election of Dr. Hassan Rohani is a positive and hopeful sign for the future of the international relations of Iran, particularly with the United States. Such improvement could only have positive effects for Afghanistan, especially when considering that “existence of terrorist and extremist groups such as al-Qaida and Taliban are common challenges for Afghanistan, Iran and the US. Hence, seeking a shared solution by three nations can in the long term bring them closer.”

Referring to domestic concerns, she criticized the pointing of blame on neighboring countries for the challenges that exist in Afghanistan. She claimed that “it is not fair to fully blame neighboring countries, whereas some parts of the problems have roots at the domestic level, and neighboring countries have no involvement.” Dr. Rabiolle ended her remarks by asking Afghans to take the leadership of peace and reconciliation attempts in Afghanistan.

The final speaker of the session, Dr. Laipson, highlighted prevailing perspectives in the US about US-Iran-Afghan relations. First, there is much optimism over the political will for improving US-Iran relations, particularly since the election of Dr. Rohani. Second, as a result of shared and converging interests and concerns over narcotics trafficking, terrorism, and the refugee situation, increased cooperation between the US and Iran is mutually beneficial and good for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. However, he argued that Iran should change its view over a continued US presence in the region. The US has constructive intentions, namely to maintain stability in Afghanistan that may promote stability for the entire region. He also asked that Iran cooperation with the 5+1 world powers in resolving concerns over its nuclear program – according to him, this is the root of tensions between Iran and the West. In conclusion, he pointed out that improvements in US-Iranian relations are very important for the future of Afghanistan.

Session Nine: The Way Forward: Open Discussions

During the final session, Director of the “Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies” and chair of the HSD-II open discussion, Dr. Moradian began with a summary of the views, comments, and recommendations raised in the previous panel conference. Taking into account historical changes over the last decade, he stated his hopes for the future of the country and its effective role as a regional player. Ambassador

Prasad, former Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan, highlighted the geopolitical importance of Afghanistan for the region and the world while referring to its long-term historical significance and strategic position. According to the Ambassador, stabilization in Afghanistan is very important for the region and the world, suggesting that stability for the region relies on a stable Afghanistan. He further argued that a common regional cultural heritage can play a critical role in regional togetherness and collaboration and was critical of those who underestimate the potential of such a regional community. His criticism did not stop there. He was also critical of the US and the international community for their lack of understanding of the realities on the ground and their failure to develop a long-term and effective strategy for beyond 2014. In order to maintain the achievements of the last decade, he suggested that the international community not leave Afghanistan to its own destiny but rather to stay and support the newly established democratic system and civil rights in Afghanistan. He qualified his suggesting by arguing that “Afghanistan is still vulnerable to the growing wave of terrorism and other extremist movements in the region.” He also suggested that regional countries had a role as well and recommended that they help revive Afghanistan’s previous position as regional and international trade and transit corridor, a political and economic benefit with positive spill-over effects for the entire region. Referring to the Testimony of National Reconciliation and Conflict Management in Nepal and Bangladesh as a model for Afghan reconciliation, he concluded by asking regional countries to respect Afghan sovereignty and to support the Afghan-led reconciliation process and other political and economic efforts.

Other speakers at the final session included Afghan political commentator and University lecturer Dr. Sayed Askar Mosave, Ambassador Nuhan, the OIC envoy, and Professor William Maley, Director of Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy in Australia. There was wide spread agreement among all participants that challenges continue to threaten Afghanistan that are of consequence to the entire. Furthermore, they agreed that while this panel provided an exceptional environment for open discussions, individual meetings, and dialogues for participants from different parts of the world, there is continued need for such discussion and in particularly the HSD series in the future.

HSD-II Policy Recommendations

The following is a list and summary of major agreed upon policy recommendations raised at the HSD-II conference about the upcoming Afghan election and other topics of discussion.

- There was a broad consensus among the conference panelist and audience that only a legitimate and internationally acceptable government in Afghanistan can successfully manage the country's post-2014 situation. Moreover, in order to have such government it is the duty of the current government to provide a safe environment for free and fair elections to successfully take place.
- As the international community has acknowledged *Afghan leadership elected by Afghans*, now is the opportunity for Afghan political parties and elites, civil society institutions, and public intelligentsia to jointly take part in the effective management of the post-2014 Afghanistan, without consideration and prioritization of ethnicity, sect, race or language. In particular, Afghan political leaders and Presidential candidates must set their agendas based on national priorities, interests, and needs, rather than ethnicity, sect, race or language.
- The Afghan government and the international community must consider the upcoming election as one of the most important historical opportunity for the country to move forward. Therefore, we cannot allow elections to be rescheduled, halted or postponed.
- Information about the 2009 election failed to reach many remote areas of Afghanistan and as a result many voices were not heard. A nationwide advocacy program is critical for informing rural communities about the upcoming elections and the procedure for getting their voices heard.
- As voting identity cards are vulnerable to fraud, the IEC should establish guidelines whereby both voting identity cards and national identity cards are required on the day of election.
- During the last election, there were insufficient monitoring and observation teams to observe the election process and discourage fraud. It is indispensable that sufficient monitoring and observation

teams are in place at the local, provincial, and national level to discourage and prevent systematic fraud.

- During the last election, there were not enough women employees available throughout the election process to respond to the needs of women voters. It is recommended that the IEC consider this issue as it may influence women turnout and support on election-day. Moreover, the international community's measurement of fair elections expects the supportive inclusion of women in the election process.
- The reduction of regional mistrust and the furtherance of regional collaboration rest on finding common cultural links and shared cultural heritage. It is recommended that efforts at regional trust building focus on such common and shared cultural links.
- The completion of cross-country roads, rail networks, and gas pipelines which connect Central Asia to the Indian subcontinent are a vital first step at greater regional economic development and as such, should receive greater attention.
- Norwoz, as a common cultural tradition among our regional neighbors, has the potential of bringing our countries together and can serve as a regional trust-building activity. It is recommended that the celebration of Norwoz be jointly held and alternated yearly among regional countries. In addition to promoting cooperation, such joint celebration can provide for an exceptional cultural platform for regional partnership and togetherness.
- In order to improve Afghan-Iranian relations, civil society institutions and mass media should seek and promote the positive which exists between the two nations. Such promotion can help reduce negative public perceptions which have been institutionalized over the last twenty years.
- The Afghan government and civil society can play an important role in protecting society from the long-term threats of radical religious ideologies with carefully planned educational programs and broad public policy that encourage a return to peaceful cultural roots, such as Sufism.

Conclusion:

Although these concerns are stressed as strategic issues, these concerns ring strong in the more immediate minds of the people. They remain worried about the consequential disruption to progress the withdrawal of NATO and international support would bring; they maintain their suspicion of the Afghan's government ability to manage the country post-2014; they remain fearful of the lurking threat of terrorism and extremism; and they remain skeptical and doubtful of the foreign policy and interests of regional neighbors. In order to overcome these issues, resolve the people's deep concerns, and earn domestic trust, regional cooperation, and meet international expectations, it is vital that the Afghan government and civil society institutions make a clear, thoughtful, and honest effort toward meeting such concerns.

The Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS) and its HSD Series initiative is one of the first Afghan civil society programs to attempt to address these issues. HSD-II provided a platform for national, regional, and international representatives to share their views and recommendations toward supporting progress in Afghanistan. The efforts advanced by AISS reflect the potential of civil society institutions to have a positive and fruitful impact on the direction and future of the country. The civil nature of HSD-II provided an open environment free from the politically charged atmosphere of traditional government based conference. As a result, participants remained comfortable with raising issues they believe of significant concern for Afghanistan and the region without concerns over political, cultural, or social reprisal.

About the Author: Abdul Ahad Mohammadi is head of the Peace Studies Department in the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS).

Annexes

Annex 1: List of HSD-II Participants

Name	Position	Organization
Afghanistan		
Ahmadi, Mohammad Nabi	Professor	Ibn Sina University
Akbar, Shaharзад	Representative	Movement of Afghanistan 1400
Andish, Aziza Khair	Head of Herat Office	Institute for Civil Society and Human Rights
Ansari, Farooq	Professor	Kabul Higher Education Centers
Ayoobi, Mirwais	Professor	Herat University
Azad, Raihana	Member	Parliament
Bahadori, Monawar Sha	Member	Parliament
Balkhi, Sediqa	Member	Afghan Senate / High Peace Council
Baluch Zada, Ajmal	Activist	Civil Society
Dadshani	Deputy Minister	Parliamentarian Affairs
Eqbal, Sonia	President	Movement of Afghanistan 1400
Faiz, Abdullah	Director	Herat e Bastan Association
Fakhre	Deputy	National Directorate of Security
Farahi, Ghulam Nabi	Deputy Minister	Culture and Information Ministry

Farid, National Army	General	Special Forces Afghan
Farid, Naheed	Member	Parliament
Fayez, Dr. Sharif	Founder	American University of Afghanistan
Fedayi, Haleem Government	Former Governor	Maidan Wardak
Ghani, Sima Commission	Representative	Anti-Corruption
Ghoriyani, Nesar Ahmad	Member	Parliament
Hashemi, Fardin Education	Professor	Afghanistan Institute for Higher
Humayoon, Haseeb	President	Qara Group
Jaami, Aseeludin	Deputy	Herat Governor
Jahed, Taj Mohammad	Commander	Zafar Corps 207

Afghanistan

Javadi, Fatema Security	Director	National Directorate of
Kakar, Mojahid	Head	Tolo/Moby Group TOLONews
Kargar, Rangina	Member	Parliament
Kawa, Parwiz	Director and Editor in Chief	8 Sobh Newspaper
Khaleq, Haji Mir Abdul	Deputy	Herat Veterans Council
Khaliq, BG Nawroz	Director	of Strategy Ministry of Interior Affairs
Khatibi, Sa'd	Chief Herat	Commerce and Industry Chambers
Khursand, Khaleda	Activist	Civil Society
Khushiwal, Nematullah	General	Ministry of National Defense
Lewal, Abdul Ghafoor	Chief	Center for Regional Studies
Mahnavi, Fazel Ahmad	Former Chief	Independent Election Commission
Mangal, Mohammad Gulab	Former Governor	Hilmand Province
Masomi, Daadullah Affairs	Deputy of Police Affairs	Ministry of Interior
Masoud, Ahmad Wali	Director	Ahmad Shah Massoud Foundation
Mirzai, Abdul Qadir	Journalist	Ariana TV
Mirzai, Makai	Journalist	Ariana TV
Mobarez, Dr. Neelab	Spokesperson	UNAMA

Mousavi, Dr. Sayed Askar	Professor	UMEF
Mujahed, Abdul Hakim	Deputy, Executive Directorate	High Peace Council
Mukhles, Abdul Rauf	Professor	Herat University
Naderi, Partaw	Writer/Poet	Civil Society
Noor, H.E. Dr. Naseer Ahmad	Afghan Ambassador	Iran
Piroz, Mahnaaz	Head	Youth and Culture Department
Qetali, Sayed Abdul Wahid	Chief	Herat Provincial Council
Rafat, Ahmad Zia	Professor	Kabul University
Rafeei, Aziz	Chief	Civil Society and Human Rights Network
Rahimi, Sayed Abdul Qader	Head	Regional Office, West Afghanistan's
IHRC		
Ramesh, Somaya	Representative	Nawandishan Civic Foundation
Raufian, Aria	Head	Herat Office Ministry of Information and Culture
Rezayi, Shah Gul	Member	Parliament
Roshan, Najib	Advisor	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sadat, Sayed Amirsha	Director,	Herat National Directorate of Security
Afghanistan		
Saeedi, Dr. Mihan	Academic	Civil Society
Safi, Rahmatullah	Police Chief Government	Herat Province
Saikal, Mahmood	Former Deputy Minister	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Shirzad, Haroon Al-Rashid	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Counter Narcotics
Sobhrang, Soraya	Commissioner	Human Rights Commission
Spanta, Dr. Rangin Dadfar	National Security Advisor	The President Government
Tarin, Mohammad Wali	Deputy Director	Monitoring and Evaluation, Attorney General
Tauhidi, Sediqullah	Chief Nai	Organization
Tawakuli, Hujjat-ul-Islam	Professor	Sadeqiya Society
Wahidi, Sayed Fazlullah	Herat Governor	Government
Yarmand, Mirza Mohammad	Former Deputy Minister	Ministry of Interior Affairs
Zarif, Haroon	Representative	Anti-Corruption Network
Australia		
Maley, Prof. William	Director	Asia Pacific college of Diplomacy
Morrison, Adrian	Charge Affairs	Australian Embassy
China		

Dong, Dr. Manyuan	director	China Institute for international studies
Li, Dr. Xinwei	Researcher	Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Wu, Prof. Dahui	Director	Centre for Eurasian Strategic Studies, Tsinghua University

Egypt

Abdelrahman, H.E. Mr. Maged	Ambassador	Egyptian Embassy
-----------------------------	------------	------------------

France

Aichouba, Kouider	Representative	French Embassy
Balmer, Joël	Representative	French Embassy
Chahuerdi, Guilda	Representative	French Institute for Afghanistan
Chaudet, Didier	Research Fellow	institute for Prospective and Security Studies in Europe
Garcia, Pierre-Antoine	Representative	French Embassy
Hostalier, Jouan	President	Association France-Afghanistan
Manville, Yves	Representative	French Embassy
Marlaud, H.E. Mr. Jean-Michel	Ambassador	French Embassy
Robiolle, Fahimeh	Director	Fahimeh ROBIOLLE Consulting and Training
Sice, Col Patrick	Representative	French Embassy

Germany

Wagner, Christian	Head	Research Division Area
Owca, Oliver	Deputy Ambassador	German Embassy
Ackermann, Dr. Philipp -	Head of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Task Force	-German Foreign Office – Berlin
Wixler, Thomas	representative	germen ministry of foreign Affairs

India

Gupta, Dr. Arvind	Director General	Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses
Katoch, Lt Gen (Retd) Prakash	Elected Member	United Services Institution of India Council
Prasad, Jayant	Former Ambassador	Indian Embassy
Sareen, Sushant	Senior Fellow	Vivekanda International Foundation
Sawhney, Lt Gen (Retd) Ravi	Distinguished Fellow	Vivekanda International Foundation
Singh, Amarjit	Consul-General, Herat	Indian Embassy
Singh, Lt Gen (Retd) Parmendra Kumar	Director	United Services Institution of India
Sinha, H.E. Mr. Amar	Ambassador	Indian Embassy

Iran

Robiolle, Fahimeh Tadjbakhsh, Prof. Shahrbanou Political-Sciences, Paris	Director Head of Specialization on Human Security	Fahimeh ROBIOLLE Consulting and Training Institute of
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------

Italy

Costanza, Couns. Stefania Romussi, Andrea Salmaso, Mauro	Deputy Representative Representative	Chief of Mission of Embassy of Italy Italian Embassy Italian Embassy
----------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------

Kazakhstan

Akzholov, Yermek Imangalyev, Lt Col Nurzhan Koibakov, Gen Seitzhan Center	Military Attaché Member Vice President	Kazakh Embassy Ministry of Defense Kazakh Military and Strategic Studies
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Kyrgyzstan

Abdurazakov, H.E. Mr. Avazbek Esengul, Chinara Studies	Ambassador Researcher	Kyrgyz Embassy National Institute of Strategic
--------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------	---------------------------------------------------

Norway

Eide, Kai A.	Former Head	UNAMA
--------------	-------------	-------

Pakistan

Note: **Seven Pakistani Participants either declined or cancelled their participation**

Russia

Levitan, Ilya Afghanistan	Official Representative	the Russian Counternarcotics Agency in
Malashenko, Dr. Alexey	Program Co-Chair	Camegie Moscow Center
Timokhov. Ilya	first Secretary	Russian Embassy

Spain

Berenguer, Francisco	Defense Attache Office	Spanish Embassy
Uzquiano, Femando	Deputy Defense Attache	Spanish Embassy

Sweden

Berg von Linde, Alexandra	Counsellor, Political Affairs	Swedish Embassy
---------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------

Koepke, Dr. Bruce Senior Researcher, Armed Conflict And conflict management Program --
Stockholm International Peace Research Institution

Semneby, H.E.Mr.Peter Ambassador Swedish Embassy

Tajikistan

Mulloev, Dilshod Associate Professor Institute of State and Law, Academy of
Science of Tajikistan

Rahnamo, Dr. Abdullohi Hakim Head of Department of Foreign Policy Center for Strategic
Studies

Turkmenistan

Owezow, Khoja Turkmen Consul-General Government

Turkey

Bozkurt, Abdullah Ankara Representative Today's Zaman

Colakoglu, Selcuk Deputy Director International Strategic Research-
Organization (USAK)

Dogan, Kemal PA Turkish Embassy

Erol, Mehmet Seyfettin Head Ankara's International Strategic and
Security Research Center (USGAM)

Oztork, H.E.Mr. Basat Ambassador Turkish Embassy

United Kingdom

Stagg, H.E. Sir Richard (Tentative) Ambassador UK Embassy

United States of America

Arsalan, Hamid Program Officer, Middle East and North Africa National Endowment for
Democracy

Dunne, Petra Associate, PMO Afghanistan Asia Foundation

Kryzer, Mark Country Director Asia Foundation

Laipson, Dr. Ellen President and CEO Stimson Center in Washington, D.C

Uzbekistan

Pramanov, Vladimir Eurasia	Director	Project Central
-------------------------------	----------	-----------------

Aga Khan Foundation

Nori, Ikhlas Foundation	Operation's Director	Aga Khan
----------------------------	----------------------	----------

Asia Foundation

Ahmadzai, Abdullah	Deputy Country representative	Asia Foundation
Dunne, Petra	Associate, PMO Afghanistan	Asia Foundation
Kryzer, Mark	Country Director	Asia Foundation

European Union

Mellbin, H.E Mr. Franz- Michael	ambassador, Senior Representative	European Union
Tropiano, Valentina	Political Advisor	European Union

Organization for Islamic Cooperation

Nurhan, Aydin	Ambassador	OIC
---------------	------------	-----

UNAMA

Gaitanis, Ari	Senior Public Information Officer	UNAMA
Haysom, Nicholas	DSRSG Political Affairs	UNAMA
Kane, Sean	Special Assistant	UNAMA
MacGregor, Andrew	Head of Western Regional Office	UNAMA
Mobarez, Dr. Neelab	Spokesperson	UNAMA

UNODC

Bajwa, Madeeha	Evaluation Officer	UNODC
Lemahieu, Jean-Luc	Regional Representative for Afghanistan	UNODC
Wahdatyar, Hashim	Analyst	UNODC

UNRCCA

Pupols, Armands

Political Affairs Officer

UNRCCA

Annex 2: The Conference Agenda

October 4 19:00-21:00	Guests' Arrival to Herat (throughout the day) Cultural Program & Reception by Herat's Provincial Council and Taraghi T.V.
October 5 08:30-09:30	(DAY 1) Holy Koran Recitation, Afghan National Anthem, Hymn of Peir Herat Welcoming remarks by AISS Director General – Dr. Moradian Welcoming remarks by the Governor of Herat – Mr. Wahidi Keynote Speaker: Afghan National Security Advisor – Dr. Spanta
09:30-11:00	<i>Panel I: 2014 Presidential Elections and the Transformation Decade.</i> <i>Chair:</i> Mr. Abdullah Ahmadzai, Deputy Country Rep. Asia Foundation <i>Speakers:</i> 1. Mr. Fazl Ahmad Mahnavi, former Chief, Afghanistan Independent Election Commission 2. Mr. Haysom, Ass. SG & Deputy SRSG, UNAMA 3. H.E. Ambassador Mellbin, European Union Senior Representative 4. Ambassador Ahmad Wali Massood, Chairperson of Massood Foundation 5. Dr. Ackermann, Head of Taskforce Afghanistan/Pakistan, German Foreign Office
11:00-11:30	TEA BREAK
11:30-13:00	<i>Panel II: State Of Regional Counterterrorism Cooperation.</i> <i>Chair:</i> General Fareed, Afghan National Army, Special Forces <i>Speakers:</i> 1. Dr. Dong, VP, China Institute of International Studies 2. Dr. Gupta, Director, Institute for Defensive Studies and Analyses, India 3. Gen. Koibakov, VP, Kazakh Military and Strategic Studies Center 4. Dr. Alexey Malashenko, Program co-chair, the Carnegie Moscow Center, Russia
13:00-14:00	LUNCH
14:00-15:30	<i>Panel III: Counterdrug Trafficking Cooperation: Seeking A Blueprint.</i> <i>Chair:</i> Mr. Lemahieu, Regional Representative, UNODC <i>Speakers:</i>

1. Mr. Sherzad, Deputy Minister, Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics
2. Mr. Ahmadi, Professor, Ibn Sina University
3. Governor Mr. Gulab Manghal, former Governor, Helmand Province

15:30-16:00 TEA BREAK

16:00-17:30 ***Panel IV: Regional Cooperation: Opportunities & Obstacles.***

Chair: Ambassador Mahmoud Saikal, Former Deputy Minister, Afghanistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Speakers:

1. H.E. Ambassador Öztürk, Turkish Ambassador to Afghanistan
2. Lt. Gen. P. K. Singh (Retd.), Director, United Service Institution of India
3. Dr. Rahnamo, Department Head, Center for Strategic Studies (under the President of Tajikistan)
4. Dr. Paramanov, Director, Project Central Eurasia, Uzbekistan

19:00-21:00 Governor of Herat – Official Reception at the Governor’s Residence

October 6 (DAY 2)

08:30-08:45 Sufi Music

08:45-10:00 ***Panel V: Inclusive Security: Cosmopolitan Community, Islamic Sufism.***

Chair: Dr. Koepke, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

Speakers:

1. Dr. Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh, Professor, Institute of Political Studies, Paris
2. Dr. Fayez, Founding President, American University of Afghanistan
3. Ms. Sonia Eqbal, President, Afghanistan 1400

10:00-10:30 TEA BREAK

10:30-12:00 ***Panel VI: Nowruz – From Shared Cultural Heritage Towards Political & Economic Cooperation & Integration.***

Chair: Mr. GhulamNabiFarahi, Deputy Minister of Tourism, Afghanistan Ministry of Culture and Information

Speakers:

1. Mr. Parto Naderi, Writer/Poet, Afghanistan
2. Ms. Esengul, Researcher, National Institute of Strategic Studies, Kyrgyzstan
3. Dr. Colakuglu, Deputy Director, International Strategic Research Organization, Turkey

12:00-13:00 LUNCH

- 13:00-14:30 ***Panel VII: Justice and Enduring Peace: Afghan Peace Process.***
- Chair:* Mr. Ghafur Liwal, Director, Center for Regional Studies,
Afghanistan Academy of Science
- Speakers:*
1. Mr. Abdul Hakim Mujahid, Deputy, Afghanistan High Peace Council
 2. Mr. Kai Eide, Former UNSR & UNAMA Head, Norway
 3. Ms. Shah Gul Rezahe, Member of Afghan Parliament
- 14:30-15:00 TEA BREAK
- 15:00-16:30 ***Panel VIII: Prospects of Iran-Afghanistan-USA Cooperation.***
- Chair:* Mr. Mujahid Kakar, Head of TOLO News, Tolo/Moby Group
- Speakers:*
1. H.E. Ambassador Dr. Noor, Afghan Ambassador to the I.R. of Iran
 2. Dr. Fahimeh Robiolle, University Lecturer, Tehran/Paris University
 3. Dr. Laipson, President, The Stimson Center, Washington D.C., USA
- 16:30-18:00 ***The Way Forward: Open Discussions.***
- Chair:* Dr. Moradian, Director AISS
- Speakers:*
1. H.E. Ambassador Prasad, former Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan
 2. Ambassador Nurhan, Envoy, Organization of Islamic Cooperation
 3. Prof. Maley, Director, Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy, Australia
 4. Dr. Sayed Askar Mosave, University Lecturer/Political Commentator,
Afghanistan

Annex 2: Links of the National and International Medias covered The Conference

International Media

- DW Persian Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://www.dw.de/%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%85%DB%8C%D9%86-%DA%A9%D9%86%>
- BBC Persian Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/afghanistan/2013/10/131005_k02-herat-security-talks.shtml
- AVA Press Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://www.avapress.com/vdcd5s05.yt09n6me2y.html>
- Ghatreh Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://www.ghatreh.com/news/nn15953452/%D9%86%D8%B4%D8%B3%D8%AA>

- Iranian Media Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://www3.bandarabbas.irna.ir/fa/News/80845694/%D8%AE%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%AC%DB%>
- IRIB NEWS Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://www.iribnews.ir/NewsText.aspx?ID=2095604>
- EUPOL Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://www.eupol-afg.eu/?q=node/362>
- UNAMA Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://unama.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?ctl=Details&tabid=12330&mid=15756&ItemID=37338>
- MetroTvNews Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://www.metrotvnews.com/metronews/read/2013/10/05/7/186296/-Penasihat-Karzai-Serukan-Upaya-Kolektif-Tangkal-Terrorisme-dan-Narkotika>
- Global Times:Overcoming terrorism at Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/815660.shtml#.UluOnrxhOCQ>
- AfPak Foreign policy Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
http://afpak.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2013/10/08/afghanistans_crowded_electoral_roster
- Today's Zaman Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://www.todayszaman.com/news-328718-iran-hampers-trade-link-between-turkey-and-afghanistan.html>
- Fars NEWS Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13920707000559>
- Xinhua News Agency (China) Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/28/c_132758708.htm
- Turkish Weekly Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/157414/usak-was-represented-at-the-herat-security-dialogue-ii-in-afghanistan.html>
- Arnheminkart Reports on "Herat Security Dialogue 2"

<http://www.arnheminkkaart.nl/?q=node/3386>

- Smrklja Block Reports on "Herat Security Dialogue 2"

<http://blog.smrklja.si/node/97683>

- South Asia Revealed Reports on "Herat Security Dialogue 2"

<http://southasiarevealed.com/2013/10/09/iranian-embassy-rejects-meeting-with-afghan-envoys/>

- Sina English Reports on "Herat Security Dialogue 2"

<http://english.sina.com/world/2013/1005/634370.html>

Video link of HSD-II in the National Media

- Tolo NEWS Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2

<http://www.tolonews.com/en/afghanistan/12099-aiss-to-hold-international-security-conference-in-herat>

- Etilaat Roz Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2

<http://www.etilaatroz.com/%D9%86%D8%B4%D8%B3%D8%AA-%DA%AF%D9%81%D8%AA%DA%AF%D9%88%D9%87%D8%A7%DB%8C->

- Kabul Press Reports on Herat Security Dialogue

<http://kabulpress.org/my/spip.php?article176402>

- Afghan Paper Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2

<http://www.afghanpaper.com/nbody.php?id=59015>

- 8 a.m Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2

<http://8am.af/1392/07/14/herat-security-talk-trust/>

- Al-Arabiya Farsi Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2

<http://farsi.alarabiya.net/fa/afghanistan/2013/10/05/%D9%86%D8%B4%D8%B3%D8%AA-%D8%AC%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%86%DB%8C>

- Azadi Radio Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2

http://da.azadiradio.org/archive/local_news/20131006/1090/2118.html?id=25128142

- Azad Vatan Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2

<http://www.azadvatan.com/ReturnNews.aspx?item=iqapK7182g%5e%5egM3cDMzMjN1UzVI0ULFzM4kjM1VGazF2asNFTeaGaa32hsh>

- Misaq-e-Wahdat Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://misaq-e-wahdat.com/shnews.php?id=996>
- Bakhtar News Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/dari/political-news/item/22495-%DA%AF%D8%B4%D8%A7%DB%8C%D8%B4>
- Welcome Home Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
http://www.welcomehome.af/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=954:1392-07-14-04-31-52&catid=1:1389-02-29-04-49-51&Itemid=76
- Welcome Home Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
http://www.welcomehome.af/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=954:1392-07-14-04-31-52&catid=1:1389-02-29-04-49-51&Itemid=76
- RTA Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://www.rta.org.af/dari/news/2013-04-03-04-15-24/political/476-2013-10-08-06-04-00>
- Kohandazh Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://kohandazh.com/%D8%B3%DB%8C%D8%A7%D8%B3%DB%8C/%D8%A8%D8%B1%DA%AF%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%B1%DB%8C-%D9%82%D8%B1%DB%8C%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D9%82%D9%88%D8%B9->
- RIA Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://pe.ria.ru/afghanistan/20130929/130971996.html>
- Radio Kocha Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://radiokoocheh.com/article/223486>
- Jara Today Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://jaratoday.com/Item.aspx?Parameter=30416>
- Jomhor Agency Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2
<http://www.jomhornews.com/doc/news/fa/40479/>

- TKG Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2

<http://tkg.af/dari/afghanistan-news/west/12038-%D8%A8%D8%B1%DA%AF%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%B1%DB%8C-%D9%86%D8%B4%D8%B3%D8%AA>

- Payam-e-Aftab Reports on Herat Security Dialogue 2

<http://www.payam-aftab.com/fa/news/24533/%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%88%D8%AF-%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AF%DB%8C%D8%A7%D9%86:-%D9%86%D8%B4%D8%B3%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%86%DB%8C%D8%AA%DB%8C->

Annex 3: HSD-II logo and photos

HSD-II logo:



Annex 4: Sample of the Conference Photos

Photo 1



HSD-II, 5th October, 2013

Photo 2



HSD-II, 6th October, 2013

End



AISS

Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies, Qala Noh Borja , Kart-e-Parwan, Kabul, Afghanistan

Phone: 0093 799 840 161

Web site: www.aiss.af

