



DELEGATION OF AFGHANISTAN

WRITTEN CONTRIBUTION

By the Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Mr. Noorullah Kaleem

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Mr. Chairperson,

Regrettably and due to a previously arranged commitment, I was unable to participate in today's meeting of the Permanent Council.

Firstly, I wish to express my appreciation for expressing your condolences, dear Ambassador Koja, to the families and friends of the victims of the terrorist attack in Kabul on 7 February 2017. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani called the attack “inhumane and unforgivable”. 21 people were killed and more than 40 people got injured.

We also condemn in the strongest possible terms yesterday's dreadful attack against staff members of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Jowzjan province, where six aid workers lost their precious lives and two others have been abducted. Their selfless acts of humanity will never be forgotten. Our hearts and thoughts are with the victims and their loved ones. Security forces are conducting search operations and it is our hope that the two hostages will be freed soon and that the suspects will be arrested.

Let me now thank the Chairs of the three PC committees for their presentations and I wish to state our full support to the presented agendas. We share the Chairs' approaches and defined priorities, in line with those set out by the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship.

As far as the work of the Security Committee is concerned, we will actively contribute in discussing current threats and challenges, including radicalization, terrorism, as well as a comprehensive and balanced approach towards the world drug problem, tackling both demand and supply as well as aspects of transit, chemical precursors, while addressing interlinkages

between international terrorism, the world drug problem, money-laundering and other forms of organized crime.

The work of the Economic and Environmental Committee (EEC) is also of great importance to us and we intend to give much room to EEC issues during the meetings of the Asian Contact Group in 2017. Regional co-operation, connectivity, good governance and anti-corruption efforts, business development, transport and trade facilitation, energy security and water management, as well as migration management are all vital to realize our common goals as encoded in the Sustainable Development Goals.

The protection of fundamental rights and freedoms will guide our activities in the Human Dimension Committee and we will actively contribute to all activities towards fostering of democratic structures and human rights.

The OSCE's broad concept of security is inherently open to a cross-topical and cross-dimensional approach and we welcome the organization of joint meetings of the Committees as many of our topics are intertwined.

In conclusion, let me state that Afghanistan joins the many other delegations that expressed their wish to promote mainstreaming of gender aspects across all three Committees.

Thank you