



DELEGATION OF AFGHANISTAN

STATEMENT

By Ambassador Khojesta Fana Ebrahimkhel

68th Joint FSC-PC Meeting on Security Sector Governance and Reform (SSG/R)

Agenda item 1:

Security Dialogue: SSG/R in the context of the OSCE - examples from participating States and the OSCE's way ahead

14 February 2018

Thank you, Chair!

Let me join previous delegates in thanking today's speakers for their insightful presentations.

Afghanistan joined the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform among the UN Member States in 2007. In 2014, we participated in the official launch of the Group of Friends of SSG/R here at the OSCE.

Ever since, the Unity Government of Afghanistan has redoubled its efforts in the area of SSG/R, including training programmes for the security forces with a view to enhancing capacities in the areas of accountability, democratic policing, human rights, gender equality and good governance.

In close co-operation with UNAMA, EUPOL and UNDP, the Afghan Ministry of Interior launched the Democratic Policing project in 2009, comprising stakeholders from law enforcement, local communities and governance councils. Furthermore, activities in the

areas of the rule of law, good governance, due process and human and women's rights have been launched. All those activities and efforts are also covered under the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and channeled under our National Priority Programs.

The Afghan Ministry of Defense adopted a counter-corruption policy in December 2017. And, as you know, the international Resolute Support Mission provides training, advice and assistance to the Afghan forces.

Dear colleagues,

Our understanding of comprehensive security encompasses contributions from all members of society, and increasingly youth and women. 8,500 women are currently serving in the Afghan security forces. However, we still need to address a grave shortage of senior women in the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces.

Recently, a programme to train female security personnel in job-applicable skills has been expanded to include the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry has also established the Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Committee and has created an Office for Human Rights, Gender and Child Rights.

Similarly, the Afghan Ministry of Defense has launched a Women's Participation Program that seeks to promote women's participation across all Afghan security forces, also by providing better safety and demanding full respect for women in the forces. The Afghan troops work closely with coalition partners and in particular the Gender Advisor Office of the Resolute Support Mission to address any harassment and abuses cases within the forces. The Ministry of Defense has also established a Directorate of Human Rights and Gender Integration.

All these efforts are backed up by Afghanistan's first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, which was adopted in 2015. The National Action Plan is a clear commitment by the Afghan Government to secure an active role of women in all areas, including governance and security.

Dear colleagues,

Afghanistan remains committed to our collective fight against transnational and intertwined threats: combating terrorism, illicit trafficking of chemical precursors and narcotics, cultivation of illegal drugs, human trafficking and other forms of international organized crime.

As you know, our security forces have to thwart attacks by the Taliban and the affiliated Haqqani network, by Al-Qaida, IS or Daesh and many other terrorist groups that sometimes mirror each other under different tags. We are thankful to all our partners contributing to the capabilities of our security forces, who are leading the fight against extremist groups that threaten Afghanistan, our region and beyond.

And let me here also highlight the centrality of Afghanistan's role in leading peace efforts, within the framework of the Kabul Process and with our efforts guided by the Afghanistan High Peace Council under its 2017 Strategic Plan, focusing on a whole-of-society-approach in the promotion of peace.

Dear colleagues,

In order to accomplish our goals set for our Transformation Decade 2015-2024, Afghanistan will require--among other things--the continued assistance towards capacity-building, training programmes, sharing of knowledge and expertise in the area of SSG/R. I look forward to collaborating with all interested OSCE delegations and colleagues from the OSCE Secretariat and institutions and structures in facilitating such assistance.

Thank you!