



DELEGATION OF AFGHANISTAN

STATEMENT

1188th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda item 1.

Report by the High Commissioner on National Minorities

7 June 2018

Thank you, Mr. Chair!

The Afghan delegation warmly welcomes the High Commissioner on National Minorities, Ambassador Lamberto Zannier back to the Permanent Council, and we thank him for his comprehensive report. We attach great importance to the role of the High Commissioner and his office and we are striving to make full use of the valuable recommendations provided.

Afghanistan is home to numerous ethnic groups and the Government is committed to ensure equal rights and opportunities and to build trust among all communities. Vulnerable groups such as national minorities deserve particular protection of their human rights. The promotion of interethnic relations and exchange can help foster ethnic equality among our diverse population, while empowering minority groups to maintain and develop their identities.

The HCNM is very active in Central Asia and Afghanistan would be interested to participate in educational and similar programmes, including on the role of the media, civil society and women mediators.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that the Afghan delegation has great regard for the work of the HCNM and we look forward to our future co-operation with a view to both building confidence among communities and curbing any kind of discrimination.

Thank you, Mr. Chair!