



DELEGATION OF AFGHANISTAN

Ambassador Khojesta Fana Ebrahimkhel

Invitation by the Embassy of Poland to the Award Ceremony Star of Afghanistan

On Wednesday, 5 December 2018

At 15:00

Embassy of Poland,
Hietzinger Hauptstraße 42 C,
1130 Vienna

Ambassador Jolanta Róża KOZŁOWSKA,
Dr. Wolfgang Baumann, Secretary General of the Federal Ministry of Defense
Colonel Adam Stepień,
Excellencies,

Allow me first to warmly congratulate the four awarded officers with the *Star of Afghanistan* for your excellent service in Afghanistan. We are forever grateful for your services and cooperation and will always remain friends of Afghanistan.

I thank you very much for inviting me to participate in today's award ceremony and I feel privileged and honored to be able to represent the Government of Afghanistan at this important event, here in Vienna.

We are forever grateful for the international community's support. We are grateful to our NATO and international partners for their sacrifices and for their commitment to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), which remains essential for a better future for the Afghan people. Training provided by our partners in the international community enabled the ANSF to become a reliable actor in providing democracy, respect for human rights, advancement of women's rights, freedom and security for the people of Afghanistan.

The RSM was welcomed by the UN Security Council with the unanimous adoption on 12 December 2014 of Resolution 2189, which underscores the importance of continued international support for the stability of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan greatly values the significant contributions made by **Austria** and **Poland** to the peace and stability in my country, to the ISAF mission and currently to the Resolute Support Mission (RSM). We highly appreciate the Austrian soldiers cooperating and serving on every day basis with Polish soldiers and welcome the **247 Polish troops** and the **18 Austrian troops** currently deployed in Afghanistan.

We will always remember those soldiers who were killed in action in Afghanistan and we are eternally grateful for their sacrifice.

We wish to assure our partners and friends that, while realizing the seriousness of remaining challenges, pertaining to both security and the economy, we are determined to take a brave step forward to overcome these challenges. We seek to provide Afghanistan's strategic location as an opportunity for trade, transit and connectivity in our region and beyond. Let me also reassure that we will not accept anyone using our soil to pose a threat to anyone.

Our continued partnership, including through the NATO Resolute Support Mission and with the determination of the new government of Afghanistan, our joint efforts will guarantee our success.

In closing, let me once again thank the Government of Poland for the valuable contributions made and we look forward to enhance the co-operation between our two countries, both bilaterally as well as in multilateral settings.

Thank you!