

**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN  
AND  
THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND**

The Governments of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Finland (hereinafter referred to as the Parties),

*Based on* the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

*Reaffirming* their commitment to peace, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law;

*Recognising* the need for continued collaboration between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and its regional and international partners in order to reach the goal of a stable and secure Afghanistan in a stable and secure region;

*Reiterating* the mutual commitments made by the Parties to stability and sustainable development in Afghanistan in a series of international conferences, including the Bonn Conference of December 2011, the Chicago Summit of May 2012, and the Tokyo Conference of July 2012;

*Appreciating* the tradition of friendship and cooperation between the Parties, and *underscoring* their determination to develop a long-term partnership;

*Reaffirming* the commitment to respect the general principles of international law, including respect for national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity; and

*Recognising* that enduring stability in Afghanistan is dependent on political, economic and social development, and that regional cooperation is also critical in providing a conducive environment for Afghanistan's stability and economic growth;

Accordingly, based on mutual respect between the two sovereign states and their shared interests, have agreed to establish a long-term partnership covering the following areas:

**Article 1**

**POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

1. The Parties stress the need to exchange views and develop joint approaches to issues of common concern.
2. Recognising that enduring stability in Afghanistan can only be achieved through a comprehensive and inclusive political process that includes all Afghans, the Finnish Government will continue to support the Afghan Government in its efforts to achieve reconciliation through a comprehensive and inclusive political process that includes all Afghans. The Finnish Government will also support the efforts of the High Peace Council in this connection. The Parties agree that the political process must be Afghan led and Afghan owned and must be based on the principles of the Afghan Constitution, including the human rights norms and guarantees therein, including women's rights.

3. The Parties reaffirm their commitment to international law and to the peaceful settlement of disputes between states. They are united in their determination to prevent the threats of terrorism and violent extremism to Afghanistan and beyond.

4. The Parties recognise the importance of international assistance to improve security in Afghanistan. They are in agreement on the need to continue the efforts to build sustainable and professional Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) that act in accordance with the Afghan Constitution, and respect international human rights standards. The Finnish Government will continue to support this process through the international structures developed to this end. Consistent with its commitment at the NATO-ISAF Summit in Chicago in May 2012, the Finnish Government will provide financial contribution to the development of the ANSF.

## **Article 2**

### **DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

1. Proceeding from the mutual commitments made at the Kabul, Bonn and Tokyo conferences, development cooperation between the Parties will seek to strengthen Afghan democracy, promote good governance and the rule-of-law principle through, inter alia, developing regional and local governance, improve the conditions for Afghanistan's own economic activity and participatory economic growth as well as sustainable use of natural resources. Issues related to human rights and equality as well as education and especially the education of girls, are high on the agenda. The ultimate goal is a society where all Afghans can build a better, safer and more prosperous country.

2. In accordance with its commitments at Tokyo, the Finnish Government will support Afghanistan for long term by providing development assistance to Afghanistan subject to Parliamentary approval, beyond 2014 and into the Transformation Decade. The commitment of the Finnish Government is conditional on progress in the implementation of the full range of undertakings entered into by the Afghan Government at the Kabul, Bonn and Tokyo conferences as outlined in the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework.

3. In line with the Kabul commitments to support the development priorities of the Afghan Government, and in accordance with the Tokyo Declaration, the Finnish Government will provide at least 50 % of its assistance through the national budget. The Finnish Government will also align 80% of its assistance with National Priority Programs (NPPs), and provide aid in accordance with the government of Afghan Aid Management Policy (2013), as a way that improves effectiveness.

4. The Finnish Government will continue to channel some of its funding through NGOs, and commits itself to continuing to provide a substantial level of humanitarian assistance.

5. Other areas of development cooperation will be identified through a separate Memorandum of Understanding.

### **Article 3**

#### **GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW**

1. The Parties reaffirm their mutual commitment to the aims and principles enshrined in the Kabul Process, Towards Self Reliance Strategy that was presented in Tokyo and Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework on the issues of good governance and the fight against corruption. The Parties underscore the need for Afghanistan to develop strong, transparent and accountable institutions at both national and sub-national levels.
2. Both Parties reaffirm their commitment to democracy and human rights, including freedom of expression, and to promoting the rights of women to ensure that they have an equal position in society, including the right to education, the right to work and the right to take part in social, political and cultural life. The Parties remain committed to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions on women, peace and security (1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960). Based on mutual trust and co-operation the parties have agreed on twinning co-operation related to aforementioned UNSC resolutions. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the parties on 20 June 2011 and it was updated on 3 September 2012.
3. Afghanistan reaffirms its strong commitment to inclusive and pluralistic democratic government, including, inclusive and transparent elections with a legitimate outcome. Reaffirming its commitments at the 2011 Bonn Conference, Afghanistan will strengthen and improve its electoral process.
4. The Finnish Government will support Afghanistan's efforts towards reform, institution-building and the delivery of basic services by remaining a long-term, predictable and consistent partner. The Finnish Government will also support initiatives to strengthen the role of Afghan women and youth in society, especially with regard to participation in political decision making processes and economic activities.
5. The Parties recognise that a stable and secure Afghanistan based on the rule of law requires an efficient and accountable civilian police force that can meet the fundamental security requirements of the Afghan people. The Afghan Government commits itself to continuing its efforts to build such a police force. The Finnish Government will continue to support this process by channelling part of its civilian assistance to Afghanistan through the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) managed by the United Nations Development Programme.

### **Article 4**

#### **ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

1. The Parties recognise that economic development, the creation of jobs and the alleviation of poverty are preconditions for a stable and secure Afghanistan. To that end, the Parties will cooperate on improving the conditions for investment and participatory economic growth in Afghanistan. The Afghan Government recognises that this requires creating an environment amenable to foreign investments, including appropriate and effective legal frameworks, increased tax revenues and sound economic and financial management of the economy, as well as infrastructure development and improved security. It will take the appropriate steps to this end.

2. The Finnish Government will help promote sustainable development, and seek to support the capacity of the Afghan Government to sustainably develop Afghanistan's own natural resources for the benefit of the Afghan people. The Parties agree to strengthen cooperation and capacity building on exploitation, development, processing and marketing of natural resources.

3. Other areas of economic cooperation will be identified through a separate Memorandum of Understanding.

## **Article 5**

### **REGIONAL COOPERATION**

1. The Parties recognise that the aim of a stable and secure Afghanistan requires a conducive regional framework. Accordingly, they agree to cooperate on promoting regional cooperation to enhance Afghanistan's role in the various regional organisations, processes and fora.

2. The Parties share the view that the Istanbul Process is a crucial initiative in the context of building confidence and promoting cooperation between Afghanistan and its near and extended neighbours. In this context, they welcome the outcome of the Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference in Kabul on 14 June 2012, and agree that the Istanbul process must primarily be developed by the countries directly concerned. Accordingly they call on the Heart of Asia countries to enter into a comprehensive regional cooperation based on the principles agreed in Istanbul in November 2011. The Finnish Government will support the development of the Istanbul process.

## **Article 6**

### **MIGRATION**

The Parties will work in partnership to tackle the trafficking and smuggling of human beings. The Parties will continue to engage in close cooperation aimed at preventing illegal immigration and the illegal presence of physical persons of Afghan and Finnish nationality in the other Party's territory and will facilitate the return of such illegally present persons to their country of origin. To this end the Parties aim at concluding a Memorandum of Understanding covering detailed arrangements of the return.

## **Article 7**

### **FINAL PROVISION**

1. This Agreement shall be in force until 31 December 2024 or until terminated in writing by either Party or replaced by a new Partnership Agreement. Both Parties will meet at least once a year, at senior level to review the implementation of this Agreement.

2. The amounts and objectives of Finland's bilateral development assistance will be reviewed at regular intervals. Such review will be based on an assessment of progress with regard to the implementation of the commitments made by the Parties, including the commitments by the Government of Afghanistan towards good governance, transparency, human rights, democratisation and the rule of law.

This Agreement shall enter into force on the 30<sup>th</sup> day following the date of receipt of the last notification between the Parties, through diplomatic channels, that the internal legal procedures for this Agreement to enter into force have been fulfilled.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Agreement

Done at ..... on ..... in duplicate, in the Dari, Pashto, Finnish and English languages, all four texts being equally authentic. In case of divergent interpretations the English text shall prevail.

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For the Government of the  
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

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For the Government of the  
Republic of Finland