



**THE ENDURING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP DOCUMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN  
AND  
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

1. The Governments of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) share a commitment to peace, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law. Both governments share an interest in a secure, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan in a more stable region, playing its full part in the community of nations.
2. Recalling the 2005 Joint Declaration of an Enduring Relationship between the UK and Afghanistan and 2006 Development Partnership Arrangement, and recognising the need for continuing collaboration between the Afghan Government and the international community in the context of the London, Kabul, Lisbon and 2011 Bonn Conferences and the commitments made at those conferences, both governments reaffirm their commitment to long term partnership and friendship based on the mutual respect of sovereign states and shared interests in the following areas:

**POLITICAL DIALOGUE**

3. Both the Afghan and UK Governments reaffirm their respect for the principles of national sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and the principle of non-interference in internal affairs, in accordance with international law.
4. The UK Government will support the work of the Afghan Government to secure and maintain an inclusive and durable political settlement in Afghanistan, which safeguards the interests of all Afghan people, based on respect for the Afghan Constitution, the renunciation of violence and links to terrorism.
5. The Afghan Government has established the High Peace Council to help to reach out to the Taliban, address their grievances, and encourage them to renounce violence and re-enter society. The UK Government will continue to support the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme to help foster the conditions necessary to bring about and maintain peace in Afghanistan.
6. Both governments recognise the importance of a stable Afghanistan for an increasingly secure, peaceful, prosperous and mutually supportive region. They recall the principles of the 2002 Declaration on Good Neighbourly Relations and welcome the outcomes of the 2011 Istanbul Conference. The Afghan and UK Governments will work together to support Afghan participation in regional and international organisations and respect for commitments under international treaties and conventions.

## **SECURITY**

7. Both the Afghan and UK Governments reaffirm their commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes between states. Both Governments recognise the threat posed by terrorism and violent extremism, particularly from Al-Qaeda, will strive unceasingly to ensure that Afghanistan never again becomes a safe haven for any insurgent or terrorist groups, and will promote the national security of Afghanistan during and after the transition of lead responsibility for security to the Afghan Government. In support of these aims, the Afghan and UK Governments will work together in accordance with the principles of international law to:
  - develop long term cooperation on tackling shared national security challenges, including appropriate access for UK security and service personnel, in agreement with the Afghan Government;
  - continue to support the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) including the National Directorate of Security (NDS), building capacity and compliance with international human rights standards, to enable close cooperation against those shared security challenges over the long term;
  - agree a programme of professional development for members of the ANSF, including the establishment of the Afghan National Army's Officer Academy and the continuation of training for Afghan security personnel at UK defence institutions;
  - promote the importance of long term financial support for the ANSF from the international community.

## **GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW**

8. In line with the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and the commitments of the Kabul Conference, both governments recognise the need for strong, transparent and accountable institutions to deliver services to the Afghan people in all provinces. In support of these aims, in partnership with international organisations and subject to progress on key reforms, the Afghan and UK Governments will work together in their shared commitment to:
  - deliver reform of public administration, public financial management systems and the civil service, in order to increase the quality of Afghanistan's civil servants, build more accountable and responsive services and to help tackle corruption and reduce the scope for misuse of funds;
  - assist the Afghan Government in achieving improved alignment between different levels and functions of government.
9. Both countries reaffirm their commitment to democracy and human rights, including freedom of expression. In pursuit of these aims, the UK Government will support the Afghan Government to:
  - promote reform of the electoral system and the development of democratic bodies in Afghanistan, including Parliament;
  - support the development of an independent media;
  - support the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the development of a strong civil society, with the aim of improving the accountability, responsiveness, and respect for human rights in Afghanistan's institutions, including those of Afghanistan's women and minorities.

10. Both Governments recognise the right of their people to live in a society governed by the rule of law. In support of this aim, the Afghan and UK Governments will work in partnership to:

- improve the leadership and capability of the Afghan National Police;
- tackle corruption through institutional reform and law enforcement;
- promote access to justice and the development of a professional justice sector in accordance with the Afghan Constitution;
- counter the narcotics trade through cooperation on interdiction and law enforcement, and a more effective regional approach to counter-narcotics, in coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other donors;
- continue to develop detention policy and provide appropriate detention facilities and support as necessary and work with the NDS and Afghan security ministries to support compliance with international human rights standards, particularly on detentions issues;
- tackle trafficking and smuggling in human beings.

## **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

11. In line with the ANDS and the commitments of the Kabul Conference, both Governments recognise the importance of sustainable Afghan economic development that promotes the creation of employment, the reduction of poverty and supports social progress. In pursuit of these aims, in partnership with international organisations and subject to progress on key reforms, the Afghan and UK Governments will work together in their shared commitment to support Afghanistan to:

- increase tax revenues, via an expanded and more equitable tax base;
- develop sound economic and financial management of the economy;
- encourage the development of a strong private sector that contributes to job creation and sustainable employment;
- maximise trade and investment, including through an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement and a UK-Afghanistan double taxation agreement;
- increase employment opportunities for young men and women, including increasing technical and vocational training so they have the skills for work;
- promote sustainable development, including in the field of rural development and alternative livelihoods;
- upgrade and develop key transport infrastructure to increase access to markets and links between key population areas;
- support the capacity of the Afghan Government to develop Afghanistan's natural resources for the benefit of the Afghan people;
- promote children's education (girls and boys), particularly the provision of teachers, material resources and appropriate curricula;
- promote regional economic co-operation and integration.

## **CULTURAL LINKS**

12. Both governments recognise the warm cultural and people-to-people links between Afghanistan and the UK, which will form an important part of their long term relationship. They commit to continuing collaboration on:

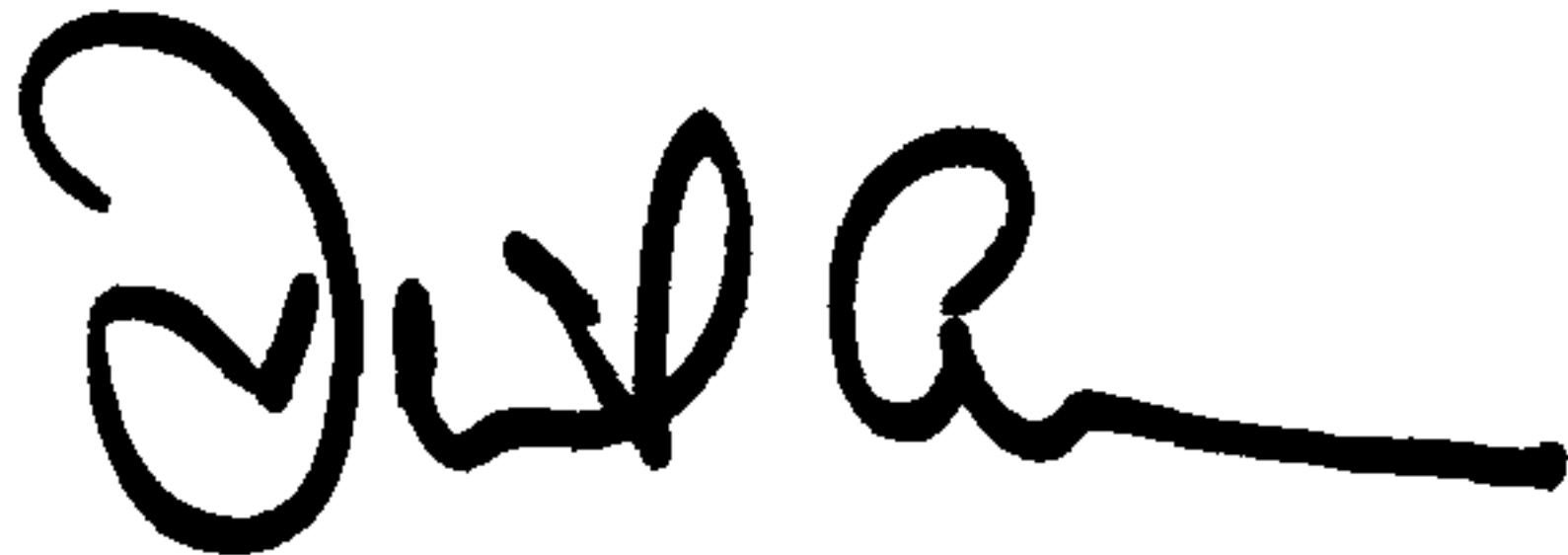
- the preservation and promotion of Afghan cultural identity;

- promoting leadership in Afghan schools, universities and the civil service and encouraging youth leadership;
- English language training for Afghan English language teachers and professional groups;
- promoting greater transport links between Afghanistan and the UK;
- building direct links between people;
- educational scholarships, including the Chevening Scholarship Programme.

## REVIEW

13. Both Governments commit to a joint commission at senior level to review the implementation of this Enduring Strategic Partnership Document at least once a year. Both Governments also commit to a full strategic review of their future cooperation in ten years from the signature of this Enduring Strategic Partnership Document. This Enduring Strategic Partnership Document will remain in effect until terminated in writing by either Government or replaced by a new Partnership Document.
14. Signed in duplicate at Chequers, United Kingdom on 28 January 2012 in the English, Dari and Pashto languages, with all versions being of equal standing.
15. The foregoing record represents the understanding of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan upon the matters referred to herein.

The Right Honourable David Cameron, MP  
Prime Minister



For the Government of the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland

His Excellency, Hamid Karzai  
President



For the Government of the  
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan