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Subject: Council Conclusions on Afghanistan

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At its meeting on 23 June 2014, the Council adopted the Council Conclusions set out in the annex to this note.

**Council Conclusions on Afghanistan**

1. The European Union welcomes the second round of the presidential elections held on 14 June. The democratic transition to a new president will be a historic moment for Afghanistan. The Council pays tribute to the courage and bravery of the Afghan people, and in particular Afghan women, in their determination to have their rightful say in the election.
2. It will be vital that the will of the people is reflected. The Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) must ensure that their workings are transparent, in particular the timely online publication of results from individual polling stations and the consistent application of its guidelines for the recounting and auditing of votes. It is important that both candidates act responsibly and direct any complaints through the appropriate mechanisms. Statements that prematurely claim victory or risk inflaming tensions should be avoided.
3. The EU has made an exceptional commitment to Afghanistan over the past 12 years to work with Afghans and the wider international community to support the development of a state that could better control its territory, reduce the threat posed by terrorism, address the needs and fulfil the rights of its people. Real progress has been made. But there are still considerable challenges to be overcome to help Afghanistan become a stable and functioning democracy able to offer the sort of future to its people that they want and deserve. The EU supports an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process as a foundation for peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region.
4. The EU remains committed to Afghanistan for the long-term. Afghanistan continues to receive more than €1 billion a year in aid from the EU and Member States, making it the largest beneficiary of EU assistance in the world. This commitment is in line with the international aid pledges made at the Tokyo conference. To benefit from the full extent of those pledges requires a reciprocal and lasting commitment. The EU calls on the new Afghan authorities to take ownership and enact the political and economic reforms set out in the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF).

5. The EU calls on the new president to reach out to all Afghans and neighbouring countries to invite them to contribute to the development of a stable, prosperous and fully sovereign Afghanistan, including through intensifying engagement in the Heart Of Asia process. The new president will face a number of significant challenges. Two of the most urgent challenges are security and the economy. Early conclusion of the Bilateral Security Agreement with the United States and the Status of Forces Agreement with NATO remain vital to ensuring a conducive security environment for economic growth and ongoing international support. The Council agrees in principle to an extension of EUPOL Afghanistan until the end of 2016. Urgent action to restore economic confidence, establish a platform for growth and jobs, and maximise revenue collection is imperative. The Council calls on the new president to send a clear, early signal of his commitment to ethnic and religious diversity, good governance, human rights, in particular the rights of women, and systemic action on drug trafficking and corruption.
  
6. The EU wants to work in close cooperation with the new government and international partners, including the UN and NATO, to maintain the progress that has been made and support and incentivise urgently needed reforms. The EU remains committed to a comprehensive approach in deepening its long-term partnership with Afghanistan. The Council calls for the early finalisation of the Cooperation Agreement for Partnership and Development (CAPD). The annexed strategy and implementation plan set out our goal of supporting the development of Afghanistan's institutions to provide the resilience needed to safeguard progress to date and provide the platform for a more effective and ultimately sustainable Afghan state, focusing on the objectives of: promoting peace, security and regional stability; reinforcing democracy; encouraging economic and human development; and fostering the rule of law and human rights.



**AFGHANISTAN: EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY 2014-16**

**A. Purpose**

1. The EU's overarching strategic goal for 2014-16 will be the development of Afghanistan's institutions to provide the resilience needed to safeguard progress to date and provide the platform for a more effective and ultimately sustainable Afghan state. This document provides a framework to better coordinate EU and Member States' civilian engagement in Afghanistan from mid-2014 to 2016, setting out the EU's objectives and outlining the actions and initiatives planned to achieve those objectives. The strategy is sufficiently flexible to both influence and respond appropriately to the range of potential scenarios in Afghanistan.
2. The Council stresses the importance of the related implementation plan in ensuring the coordination and coherence of EU and Member States' actions and initiatives. The Council agrees that, at least once a year, the EU Heads of Mission will: report against progress made against each sub-objective of the Strategy; coordinate forward planning based on indicative future commitments at the level of sub-objectives; and update the list of sector initiatives and division of labour.

**B. Political context**

3. Afghanistan has made considerable political, security, economic and developmental progress over the past decade. But the gains made are mostly fragile and reversible. The country faces critical challenges over the coming three years to safeguard progress made and put in place the necessary reforms and structures to enable Afghanistan to meet its eventual goal of a fully sustainable state.

4. Firm predictions about Afghanistan in 2016 are difficult to make. Even in the most optimistic scenario, Afghanistan will continue to be a fragile state with some of the lowest human development indicators globally, dependent on international financial assistance and prone to outbreaks of violent conflict. The central government will need to mitigate the threats posed by the insurgency, corruption and the criminalisation of the state — in particular from drug money — and maintain security and service delivery in sparsely populated rural areas, if it is to retain credibility and popular support.
5. Afghanistan is located in a complex and unstable region. The peace process in Afghanistan should be Afghan-owned and Afghan-led, but it is clear that all regional actors have important roles to play in both facilitating and supporting a successful peace process and guaranteeing or maintaining any resulting peace agreement, which would benefit not just Afghanistan, but also the wider region. Increased regional cooperation and interdependence can play an important role in underpinning a political process by creating incentives for countries in the region to benefit from a more stable Afghanistan, in particular through promoting increased trade and commercial activities.
6. In the short term, the ongoing insurgency and the transition of responsibility for security compound a difficult political and economic situation. In the absence of an inclusive peace deal, it is likely that significant divergences in the operating environment in different areas of the country may require flexible and different approaches, from a spectrum of more stable areas continuing to develop more normalised state-building relationships to some conflict-afflicted areas reverting to humanitarian-led approaches. Over 600,000 people have been internally displaced due to the conflict. Neighbouring countries, especially Iran and Pakistan, continue to host large numbers of refugees from Afghanistan. Humanitarian needs among the most vulnerable segments of the Afghan population will persist for the foreseeable future. Continued progress will depend largely on the ability of the new government to: make progress in negotiating an inclusive political settlement with all major insurgent and militia groups; maintain security; tackle corruption; and enact key economic and political reforms.

7. The credibility and success of the transition depend as much on strengthening democratic and accountable governance in Afghanistan at all levels, as on the capability of the security forces. This is a long-term, generational task, but progress in the next three years can both prevent backsliding and provide an important foundation for further advances in years to come. There is a major risk that Afghanistan will face severe economic contraction if the government is unable to generate the necessary confidence to attract investment and stem capital flight as the international presence and assistance contracts reduce. In particular, there is the need to create jobs for some 400 000 Afghans entering the workforce each year. If this demand is not met, there is a risk of a new generation of underemployed and alienated youth which may lead to an increased pool for insurgent recruitment and uncontrolled and illegal immigration to neighbouring countries and Europe. Well managed legal migration can bring benefits, while further increases of uncontrolled and illegal immigration would exacerbate pressure on a number of EU Member States.

### **C. Objectives**

8. The EU's strategy focuses on the areas critical to achieving progress in Afghanistan up to 2016, taking account of the frameworks established by international conferences in 2011 and 2012, in particular the *Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF)*, which will continue to be the basis for the relationship between the wider international community and the Government of Afghanistan for most of this period.
9. The EU will continue to champion the principles of the *TMAF*, aligning assistance with government priorities, cooperating closely with international partners and using the collective leverage of the EU's diplomatic engagement and funding to support and incentivise reform. The strategy will also be a platform for implementing the *Cooperation Agreement for Partnership and Development (CAPD)*, which will provide the legal framework for the EU's long-term engagement, subject to the finalisation of negotiations and the draft agreement being signed by the incoming administration.

10. Achieving the overarching strategic goal leads to four objectives which focus the EU's engagement on the areas where it can most add value and reinforce shared values between Europeans and Afghans, including democracy, rule of law and human rights. Tackling corruption, addressing the problem of narcotics and advancing women's rights will be central to our engagement and mainstreamed across all objectives. The objectives have been drawn up to be mutually reinforcing. For example, effective civilian policing is clearly both a key component for and dependent on the existence of the rule of law and respect for human rights. Across all areas of the EU's strategy in Afghanistan, success will depend on close cooperation with international partners and, principally, on creating Afghan ownership. The objectives will be:
- a) Promoting peace, security and regional stability, by advocating an inclusive peace process, mitigating threats from drugs, trafficking and organised crime, tackling illegal migration and supporting the development of a professional and accountable civilian police service;
  - b) Reinforcing democracy: functioning democracy needs to be embedded through democratic oversight at national, provincial and district levels, inclusive and transparent elections, and capacity-building in key institutions of governance;
  - c) Encouraging economic and human development including creating a transparent economic framework to encourage investment, raise revenue, allocate finances, strengthen resilience and improve access to health and education, including for the most vulnerable segments of the population;
  - d) Fostering the rule of law and respect for human rights, in particular the rights of women and children, by advocating respect for human rights (including in particular the full implementation of statutory protections for the rights of women and girls), supporting greater equality before the law of all citizens and assisting with the development of a comprehensive framework to strengthen and reform the justice sector.

*(a) Promoting peace, security and regional stability*

11. Lasting security will require an inclusive peace process with insurgent groups, that leads to a break in ties between these groups and international terrorist groups, a significant reduction in the incidence of conflict and violence in the country, and acceptance of the Afghan constitutional framework. The EU will look to work with others in the international community to promote an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned inclusive process and, respond as opportunities allow, to support conflict resolution. Regional cooperation can play an important role in ensuring stability and neighbouring countries should play a full part in promoting peace and security. Peace, stability and security will be key to addressing growing migratory pressures and tackling organised crime and the pervasive influence of drugs and the illicit monies from their trafficking.
  
12. In the interim, the capability of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) will be vital in containing the insurgency and laying the foundation for security. The 2012 Chicago summit set out a number of commitments from the international community to support the development of ANSF capability. This EU strategy focuses exclusively on the development and professionalisation of civilian policing, in close coordination with the Afghan authorities and international partners, building on the results from the ongoing EUPOL Afghanistan mission, substantial support provided under the EU Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) and Member States' activities.



13. The EU will use its engagement and instruments, as appropriate, to:

*Sub-objectives*

- support an inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process leading to a political settlement in which all parties eschew violence, disavow any link with terrorism, and respect human rights, in particular the rights of women;
- enhance political and economic cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbours, supporting mutually reinforcing cooperation initiatives with neighbouring countries and international organisations;
- support the regional solution strategy for the reintegration of Afghan refugees, based on principles of voluntary repatriation and sustainability;
- strengthen Afghan-led efforts to increase the quality and sustainability of civilian policing, as an integral part of the justice system, leading to wider rule of law;
- strengthen Afghan and regional efforts to reduce organised crime and drug production, trafficking and demand;
- strengthen international cooperation to address problems caused by uncontrolled and illegal immigration, primarily to the Afghan neighbourhood, and also to Europe, and to facilitate returns to Afghanistan while respecting the 1951 Geneva Convention.

*(b) Reinforcing Democracy*

14. Democratic oversight and a clear separation of governmental, legislative and judicial powers are critical to the legitimacy of the state. Institutional change should be complemented by diverse and independent media, a pluralistic and active civil society, and greater participation and representation of women in all levels of public office. These steps will help ensure the strength of democratic institutions, increase the state's accountability to the people and improve effective delivery of services to citizens.
15. The EU will use its engagement and instruments, as appropriate, to support:

*Sub-objectives*

- robust electoral architecture and procedures;
- credible parliamentary elections in 2015, with outcomes broadly accepted by Afghans;
- greater accountability of the executive through improved parliamentary and independent oversight;
- building the capacity of sub-national governance, focusing on reducing corruption and increasing accountability in order to improve service delivery and budget administration.

(c) Encouraging economic and human development

16. Afghanistan needs to tackle corruption to increase trust in the state and improve investor confidence. Sustained investment and the development of both the private sector and the rural economy will be critical to achieving the levels of growth needed to create jobs and increase domestic revenue. These are necessary to reduce poverty, improve livelihoods, deliver basic services, especially health and education, empower women and accelerate social and human development. Improved rural development and better health outcomes can also play a major part in reducing dependence on poppy.
17. The EU will use its engagement and instruments, as appropriate, to support the Government in achieving:

*Sub-objectives*

- increased human development, including for the most vulnerable segments of the population, in particular in education and health;
- improved public financial management;
- stronger financial self-sustainability of the Afghan state, through increased revenue generation;
- stimulation of the rural economy to generate more jobs and reduce dependence on poppy.

(d) Fostering the rule of law and human rights

18. Much remains to be done to safeguard progress in human rights and ensure the full implementation of statutory provisions. The development of a functioning and effective justice system will be fundamental to ensuring that the rights of Afghans, in particular Afghan women and girls, are upheld and to improving the rule of law. Effective rule of law will strengthen accountability and increase business confidence, but will require significant institutional development. The EU will use its engagement and instruments, as appropriate, to:

*Sub-objectives*

- advance human rights, in particular the rights of women and children;
- support all components of the formal justice sector in working together more effectively in a more independent, efficient, less corrupt and accessible way, better upholding the principles of the rule of law;
- advocate for an end to the culture of impunity for serious war crimes and human rights abuses;
- maintain the right to freedom of assembly and strengthen the right to freedom of expression, including by supporting journalists and human rights defenders.

## **D. Conclusion**

19. Afghans themselves will be responsible for whether the transition process is a success and provides the basis for Afghanistan to move towards its goal of self-sustainability. The international community has highlighted its willingness to continue to provide exceptional levels of assistance to help Afghanistan build on progress made to date. This strategy will enable the EU and Member States to better coordinate the actions and initiatives in support of the Afghan people within the identified framework, including increased alignment with the objectives of the Government of Afghanistan, incentivising key reforms, and improved coordination with others in the international community. The strategy will provide the overarching framework for an indicative implementation plan, which will set out planned divisions of labour between EU instruments and Member States. Although the strategic goal and objectives should be robust enough to take account of most scenarios in Afghanistan, the implementation plan, and especially the pace of implementation, will be highly dependent on the security context.

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

### Objective 1: Promoting peace, security and regional stability

Sub-Objectives	Outcomes from EU and MS engagements	EU and MS initiatives at sector level
<p>1. An inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned political settlement supported that promotes an inclusive peace and reconciliation process, in which all parties eschew violence, disavow any link with international terrorism, and respect human rights, in particular the rights of women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International community support to the initiation of face to face talks between the new government and the major insurgent groups facilitated.</li> <li>• Consultation in the process with non-violent opposition and civil society, including women's groups advocated and supported.</li> <li>• Local and community-based peace and reconciliation initiatives supported.</li> <li>• Reintegration programme for former combatants implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with countries with influence in the region to encourage pressure on all parties for a lasting peace agreement (all EU partners).</li> <li>• Engage with the government and other political actors - including Track II initiatives - to emphasise the importance of a fully inclusive process (all EU partners).</li> <li>• Provide technical and financial support for an inclusive peace and reconciliation process [all EU partners of the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP)<sup>1</sup>].</li> <li>• Support capacity development of civil society, in particular women's groups, to participate in a peace process. (DE, DK, ES, FI, HR, IT, LT, EU).</li> <li>• Support brokering of provincial and local level peace and reconciliation initiatives. (all EU APRP partners)</li> <li>• Support capacity building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs services. (BG, DE, EE, FR, RO, EU).</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> APRP partners: DE, DK, FI, ES, IT, SE, SK, NL, UK

Sub-Objectives	Outcomes from EU and MS engagements	EU and MS initiatives at sector level
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with government to revamp the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programmes to ensure appropriate status, impact and follow through. (all EU APRP partners)</li> <li>• Support to humanitarian demining. (DE, DK, FI, HR, IT, NL, SE, UK)</li> </ul>
2. Political and economic cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbours enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heart of Asia process enhanced by continued high-level international engagement in regular meetings.</li> <li>• Capacity of MFA to engage in regional dialogues strengthened.</li> <li>• Concrete confidence building measures implemented.</li> <li>• Bilateral and multilateral cooperation and initiatives furthered.</li> <li>• Issue of regional migration addressed in regional processes.</li> <li>• Significant progress made on regional energy cooperation. (e.g. CASA 1000, TAPI).</li> <li>• Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) corridors continue to be implemented and sub-regional trade barriers reduced.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support government capacity to continue to engage in regional cooperation processes, in particular the Heart of Asia. (all EU Heart-of-Asia partners<sup>2</sup>)</li> <li>• Engage with Afghanistan's neighbouring countries to invest political and economic capital in regional fora. (all EU Heart-of-Asia partners)</li> <li>• Promote and financially support initiatives and programmes to strengthen sub-regional trade and economic cooperation. (DE, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Support the development of effective cross-border Chambers of Commerce to press for streamlining of barriers to trade. (DE, EU).</li> <li>• Support increased border management, customs and tax harmonisation. (UK, EU)</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Heart of Asia partners: DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, IT SE, PL, UK, EU

Sub-Objectives	Outcomes from EU and MS engagements	EU and MS initiatives at sector level
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA 6) held with a clear follow up scheme.</li> <li>• Linkages between sub-regional Chambers of Commerce improved (e.g. through the Heart of Asia process.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support discussion of managed regional migration through appropriate regional processes (all EU Heart-of-Asia partners).</li> <li>• Support CBMs under the Heart of Asia process. (all EU Heart- of- Asia partners)</li> <li>• Support regional cooperation in the field of disaster management. (DE, DK, SE, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Support regional civil society initiatives that build links for peace and reconciliation. (DE, FR, UK).</li> <li>• Advocate for the development of a clear follow up scheme for RECCA 6. (EU).</li> </ul>
<p>3.The regional solution strategy for the reintegration of Afghan refugees, based on principles of voluntary repatriation and sustainability supported</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asylum space and protection maintained for Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran.</li> <li>• Conditions for voluntary and sustainable repatriation of Afghan refugees in safety and dignity improved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued support to international humanitarian partners to guarantee minimum standards of human rights protection, health, education, shelter and livelihoods for Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran and returnees together with local populations in Afghanistan. (CZ, DE, FI, HR, IT, NL, SE, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Support to sustainable economic and social integration of IDPs and returnees in Afghanistan. (DE, DK, EU)</li> <li>• Technical and financial support to the Government of Afghanistan to legislate, plan, coordinate and implement "durable solutions" for returnees together with local populations improved. (DE, EU)</li> </ul>



Sub-Objectives	Outcomes from EU and MS engagements	EU and MS initiatives at sector level
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination with other development actors for the design and implementation of durable solutions for the reintegration of Afghan refugees. (all EU partners)</li> </ul>
<p>4. Afghan-led efforts to increase the quality and sustainability of civilian policing strengthened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gradual development of Afghan National Police (ANP) into a professional, civilian police force advocated and supported, with clear definition and separation of roles, responsibilities and funding between Afghan National Army (ANA) and ANP.</li> <li>• MoI reform pursued, with focus on oversight, accountability, transparency and effectiveness, improved police-prosecutor cooperation and links between the ANP and the wider rule of law sector.</li> <li>• Sustainability of Ministry of Interior (MoI)/ANP and the management of gradual force reduction advocated, through coordination of key international political and operational actors.</li> <li>• Capability of the ANP to develop and deliver training further improved, including specialised training courses.</li> <li>• Improvement in working conditions for ANP women advocated and supported.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Afghan National Police capability to effectively and efficiently sustain itself and contribute to maintenance of security, in line with its civilian policing mandate. (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Engage with relevant stakeholders to restructure The Law and Order Trust Fund (LOTFA) to have an accountable, transparent and programmatic approach and to channel support more effectively to professionalisation of ANP. (all EU LOTFA partners<sup>3</sup>)</li> <li>• In coordination with other security efforts support a broad-based strategic dialogue with the MoI. (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Engage with relevant actors in ensuring that a Rule of Law perspective is pursued in the development of the civilian police. (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Support the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB) in the achievement of its aims. (all EU partners)</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> EU LOTFA partners: CZ, DE DK, FI, IT, NL, SK, UK, EU.

<b>Sub-Objectives</b>	<b>Outcomes from EU and MS engagements</b>	<b>EU and MS initiatives at sector level</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support gender integration and equal job opportunities in the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Support the recruiting (with quotas), training, and improvement of working conditions of women in the relevant professions. (police, justice, civil service). (all EU LOTFA partners)</li> </ul>
5. Afghan and regional efforts to reduce organised crime and drug production, trafficking and demand strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional cooperation to strengthen border management, increase enforcement of customs controls and prevent illegal cross-border transfer of goods and persons facilitated and supported.</li> <li>• Implementation of cross-cutting and multi-faceted Afghan Counter Narcotics Strategy supported.</li> <li>• Licit alternatives to drug production as sources for income generation supported.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce dependency of subsistence and marginal farmers and labourers on narcotic crops. (FI, SE, EU)</li> <li>• Support politically and financially national and regional initiatives on counter narcotics. (DK, FI, FR, IT, SE, UK, EU)</li> </ul>
6. International cooperation to address problems caused by uncontrolled and illegal immigration, primarily to the Afghan neighbourhood, and also to Europe strengthened, and returns to Afghanistan facilitated while respecting the 1951 Geneva Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation on migration issues, including readmission, strengthened.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine the feasibility to engage in a comprehensive dialogue on migration issues with Afghanistan in line with the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility. (EU)</li> </ul>

## Objective 2: Reinforcing democracy

Sub-Objectives	Outcomes from EU and MS engagements	EU+MS initiatives at sector level
<p>7. Robust electoral architecture and procedures in place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of democratic institutions at both central and sub-national level through a credible electoral system supported.</li> <li>• E-tashkira pilot completed for parliamentary elections. Credible general rollout plan developed by end 2016.</li> <li>• Fraud prevention, security measures and independent oversight from domestic and international observers increased.</li> <li>• Transparent and independent electoral bodies with effective complaint mechanisms strengthened.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the piloting of an e-tashkira pilot for parliamentary elections, with results and lessons learnt being evaluated ahead of planning for nationwide roll-out. (EU)</li> <li>• Support increased empowerment of democratic local government bodies, including district community councils and planning for district level elections together with next parliamentary elections. (EU ELECT partners, FI)</li> <li>• Ensure lesson-learning from 2014 elections and implementation of recommendations from EU Election Assessment Team (EAT). (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Develop and support domestic electoral observation capacity. (DE, DK, SE, UK)</li> <li>• Support and encourage greater transparency of campaign funding. (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Support institutionalisation, capacity building and sustainability of electoral oversight bodies. (all EU ELECT partners, DE)</li> <li>• Support politically the establishment of a permanent and robust independent complaints mechanism, learning lessons from the 2014 elections. (all EU partners)</li> </ul>

<b>Sub-Objectives</b>	<b>Outcomes from EU and MS engagements</b>	<b>EU+MS initiatives at sector level</b>
<p>8. Credible parliamentary elections held in 2015, with outcomes broadly accepted by Afghans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public awareness of and support for the role of parliament increased.</li> <li>• Participation increased from 2010, including greater participation of women voters.</li> <li>• Levels of fraud and manipulation significantly reduced.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support public awareness of the role of parliament and parliamentarians. (DE, DK, FR, SE, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Deploy an appropriate EU election assessment team to observe parliamentary elections in 2015. (EU)</li> <li>• Advocate a continued quota for women and minorities in parliament. (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Provide capacity development to female provincial councillors and Members of Parliament. (IT, UK)</li> <li>• Based on lessons from 2014, support the development of more robust anti-fraud measures ahead of 2015 elections. (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Provide technical and financial support to the 2015 parliamentary elections. (all EU ELECT partners, FI)</li> </ul>
<p>9. Accountability of the executive strengthened through parliamentary and independent oversight</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of parliament increased and enhanced, including through capacity development and training of newly elected parliamentarians.</li> <li>• Formal independent oversight institutions' role and capacity developed, including external audit.</li> <li>• Media and civil society organisations developed, including their domestic monitoring and evaluation capability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage the new government to present and implement a comprehensive anti-corruption strategy, including a National Priority Programme. (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Provide capacity development of parliamentarians and focused exposure to good examples of regional good practice. (DE, FR, SK, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Support the continued development of media and civil society capacity to hold executive to account. (DE, DK, FI, IT, PL, SE, UK)</li> </ul>

Sub-Objectives	Outcomes from EU and MS engagements	EU+MS initiatives at sector level
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a comprehensive strategy by the new government for increasing accountability and transparency and its rapid implementation advocated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical and financial support to strengthen accountability and transparency. (all EU ELECT partners)</li> </ul>
<p>10. Corruption reduced and accountability strengthened through capacity development of sub-national level governance with focus on improved service delivery and budget administration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of improved legal framework for sub-national governance supported.</li> <li>• Accountable and transparent financial structures at sub-national level strengthened with consistent and coordinated international support.</li> <li>• Planning for future district level elections advanced (as foreseen in the Constitution).</li> <li>• Measures to delegate budgeting authority and a fiscal base to the sub-national level and transparent financial transfer systems supported.</li> <li>• Political and administrative capacity for budget planning and execution at the sub national level enhanced.</li> <li>• Monitoring and evaluation of sub-national capacity strengthened at national level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support development of more effective structures of sub-national governance, with appropriate mandates and clearly defined roles in planning, implementation, oversight and budgetary processes. (DE,DK, ES, EU, FI, FR, IT, PL, NL, SE UK)</li> <li>• Improve government capacity, fiscal sustainability and service delivery through more accountable, transparent and effective public administration at sub-national level with increasingly merit-based civil service. (DE, FI, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Support implementation of government strategy on district coordination councils, adopted in December 2013 and led by the Independent Directorate of Local Governance and Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. (DE, DK, IT, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Support quick implementation of the law on provincial budget policy. (All EU partners)</li> </ul>

### Objective 3: Encouraging economic and human development

Sub-Objectives	Outcomes from EU and MS engagements	Initiatives at sector level <sup>4</sup>
11. Human development increased, in particular in education and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning capacities (for human development) to ensure long-term sustainability improved.</li> <li>• Service delivery in the areas of health and education further improved in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).</li> <li>• Vocational training supported.</li> <li>• Food security and nutritional status of the population improved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the improvement of health status of the population. (ES, FR, HR, IT, EU + EU ARTF contributors)</li> <li>• Support the Improvement of family policy/planning and mother and child health. (ES, FI, FR, IT, SE, UK)</li> <li>• Reduce inequality in access to quality health services through the Basic Package of Health Services and the Essential Package of Hospital Services. (ES, FR, IT, EU)</li> <li>• Support for improving mental health and disability services, including drug addiction related problems. (CZ, ES, FI, FR, IT, SE, SI, EU)</li> <li>• Strengthen health system in key areas, including human resource management and development. (ES, IT, EU)</li> <li>• Support to medical skills development. (CZ, ES, FR, HR, IT, SE, SK)</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> (EU partners with (partially) non- preferred contributions to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund are: DE, DK, EE, FI, FR,IT, NL, PL, SE, UK. The EU does preference its contributions to the ARTF.

Sub-Objectives	Outcomes from EU and MS engagements	Initiatives at sector level <sup>4</sup>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to provide food and healthcare support to acutely malnourished and highly vulnerable people in food insecure communities. (ES, FI, NL, FR, IT, SE, UK, EU).</li> <li>• Support National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment. (UK, EU)</li> <li>• Support the development of baseline data and mapping of needs for food security, nutrition and health status and access. (SE, UK, EU).</li> <li>• Improve nutritional status of the population. (EU)</li> <li>• Support to primary and secondary education. (CZ, EE, DE, DK, FI, FR, ES, HR, IT, PL, SE, UK)</li> <li>• Support to higher education institutions. (BG, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FR, IT SE, SI, SK, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Support development of technical and vocational education. (CZ, DE, ES, IT, SE, SK, UK)</li> <li>• Support to girls and women education. (DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, IT, SE, SK, UK)</li> </ul>
12. Public financial management improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budgeting more effective and transparent at central, provincial and local level.</li> <li>• Fiscal devolution at provincial and sub-provincial levels increased.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage in dialogue with the relevant authorities on public financial management and budget execution and support relevant programmes. (all EU partners)</li> </ul>

Sub-Objectives	Outcomes from EU and MS engagements	Initiatives at sector level <sup>4</sup>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democratic oversight strengthened.</li> <li>• Government audit capability, including follow-up, improved.</li> <li>• Reduced level of corruption in Afghan institutions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support implementation of provincial budgeting policy. (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Support increased role of parliament in budget oversight. (UK,EU)</li> <li>• Support role of District Community Councils (DCCs) and other local governance institutions in financial allocations. (DE, IT, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Sustain and reinforce dialogue with Government of Afghanistan on the fight against corruption/intra-systemic leakage, including through the use of financial incentive mechanisms. (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Support to oversight bodies e.g. the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Committee. (DE, DK, SE, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Support strengthening of central budgeting process. (UK)</li> </ul>
13. The Afghan state has stronger financial self-sustainability through increased revenue generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiscal base widened.</li> <li>• Tax administration law and VAT law passed and their implementation started.</li> <li>• Tax, customs and other revenue collection improved.</li> <li>• Environment for private sector development which stimulates the creation of employment opportunities improved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for adoption and implementation of fiscal reforms recommended by the IMF. (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Support capability development of effective administration of key revenue generating areas (i.e. tax and customs). (UK, EU)</li> <li>• Advocate for effective implementation of VAT law. (all EU partners)</li> </ul>



Sub-Objectives	Outcomes from EU and MS engagements	Initiatives at sector level <sup>4</sup>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant legislation and regulations meeting international standards enabling EITI membership (including Mining Law and AML/CFT Law) adopted.</li> <li>• Strategies for increasing exports, import substitution and attracting foreign direct investment, including in natural resources, developed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support (DE) and advocate for conducive legal framework for private sector development and foreign direct investment stimulating the creation of employment. (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Support to physical infrastructure that helps expanding revenues (roads, energy, rails, aviation). (CZ, DE, UK, IT, EU, ES, SE, PL, FR)</li> <li>• Provide political and technical support to Afghanistan's ever greater integration in the world economy (esp. accession to the WTO). (DE, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Support pro-poor private sector development including the business regulatory environment. (DE, ES, FI, IT, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Support to private entities to enhance investment climate. (DE, FI, IT, UK)</li> </ul>
14. The rural economy stimulated to generate more jobs and reduce dependence on poppy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural employment opportunities, including for women, increased.</li> <li>• Dependency of subsistence and marginal farmers/labourers on narcotic crops reduced.</li> <li>• Resilience of rural economy to systemic shocks improved, including disaster risk reduction measures.</li> <li>• Links between counter-narcotics efforts and rural economic development strengthened.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support increased access to rural areas through infrastructure development. (CZ, DE, ES IT, SE, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Advocate to move towards a sector wide approach in agriculture and rural development, in alignment with the national policies. (CZ, DE, DK, ES, FR, IT, SK, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Continued provision of services in rural areas. (ES, IT, EU and all EU Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund. (ARTF) contributors))</li> </ul>

Sub-Objectives	Outcomes from EU and MS engagements	Initiatives at sector level <sup>4</sup>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for (all EU partners) and provide support (BE, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, IT, SE) to the integration of women in the labour market.</li> <li>• Support strengthening of institutional and organisational capacity of the sector relevant public and private institutions at national and sub-national level. (CZ, DE, DK, ES, FR, FI, IT, SE, SK, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Support Integrated Water Resources Management by the government to better manage and sustainably protect water and land resources, including urban drinking water. (DE, ES, FR, SK, IT, EU)</li> <li>• Increase contribution of licit agriculture and other rural activities to households and the national economy. (CZ, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, IT, SK, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Increase food and nutrition security and household resilience to shocks and stresses in rural areas. (CZ, DE ES EU, IT, SK, UK)</li> <li>• Demining and rehabilitating of agricultural lands. (DE, FI, NL, SE, UK)</li> </ul>

## Objective 4: Fostering rule of law and respect for human rights, in particular the rights of women and children

Sub-Objectives	Outcomes from EU and MS engagements	Initiatives at sector level
<p>15. Human rights advanced, in particular the rights of women and children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition by the new government of Afghanistan's international commitments in the area of human rights, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), UNSCR 1325 and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (OP CRC) on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, with clear plans for implementation supported.</li> <li>• Implementation of the recommendations of the 2014 Universal Periodical Review to Afghanistan advocated.</li> <li>• Implementation of EVAW (Elimination of Violence Against Women) law and the National Action Plan for Women (NAPWA) actively pursued.</li> <li>• Annual Human Rights Dialogue between Afghanistan and the EU established.</li> <li>• The Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) is functioning independently and with sufficient government funding.</li> <li>• Improved capacities within the Afghan National Police to tackle violations against human rights and the rights of women.</li> <li>• Civil society groups, in particular those focused on women's rights, supported.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with the government to live up to its international human rights commitments with clear planning for their full implementation before end 2016. (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Continue advocacy for the reestablishment of a moratorium on death penalty. (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Engage with the government to take the necessary steps to preserve the independence of the AIHRC and ensure sufficient government funding. (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Seek an annual Human Rights Dialogue between Afghanistan and the EU, while continuing to engage on issues of concern on an ad hoc basis. (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Support the elimination of violence against women and children. (BE, DE, FI, FR, IT, NL, SE, SI, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Support civil society organisations in their advocacy for human rights. (DE, FI, FR, SE, NL, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Engage with and better protect human rights defenders. (DE, FI, NL, SE, UK, EU)</li> </ul>

Sub-Objectives	Outcomes from EU and MS engagements	Initiatives at sector level
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moratorium on the death penalty advocated.</li> <li>• Enhanced role of women in afghan political life.</li> <li>• Enhanced economic opportunities for women.</li> </ul>	
<p>16. All components of the formal justice system work together more effectively in a more efficient, less corrupt and accessible way, which better upholds principles of the rule of law</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Priority Programme 5 'Justice for all' used to coordinate and structure international assistance to justice sector and as the basis for high level political dialogue on justice reform between the new government and the international community, with involvement of civil society.</li> <li>• Constitutional irregularities and overlaps, including the status of the Chief Justice and which body is sovereign on constitutional matters, raised with the new government.</li> <li>• Inclusion of justice reform promoted in any revision of the TMAF.</li> <li>• Professionalism and accountability of personnel in the justice and police sector is increased through fair recruitment, increased education, including from good regional practice, enforcement of anti-corruption legislation and application of rule of law principles.</li> <li>• Public awareness of the principles of the rule of law, notably the legal rights of citizens, promoted and access to legal aid increased.</li> <li>• Provision of adequate court infrastructure supported.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Afghan efforts to extend the reach of the formal judicial system with improved quality of legal services and better coordination between all justice institutions. (DE, FI, FR, IT NL,SE, EU)</li> <li>• Support linkages to promote transition from informal to formal justice mechanisms. (FR, IT, NL)</li> <li>• Support for improved access to justice for vulnerable groups, including women and children. (DE, FR, FI, IT, NL, SE,EU)</li> <li>• Advocate for (all EU partners) and support (DE, IT, NL, UK EU) prosecutorial autonomy and judicial integrity through oversight mechanisms and protection for all institutions in the criminal justice chain.</li> <li>• Actively promote the linking between the police - and the wider rule of law to ensure appropriate interaction between law enforcement and the criminal justice system. (DE, DK, FI, FR, NL, SE, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Support anti-corruption and oversight entities. (DE, DK, PL, SE, UK, EU).</li> </ul>

<b>Sub-Objectives</b>	<b>Outcomes from EU and MS engagements</b>	<b>Initiatives at sector level</b>
17. An end to the culture of impunity for serious war crimes and human rights abuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rome Statute obligations, notably the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (ICC), recognised and adopted by the new government.</li> <li>• Transitional justice process to support countrywide reconciliation initiated.</li> <li>• Reintroduction and update of the Action Plan on Peace, Reconciliation and Justice advocated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively engage with Afghan stakeholders to ensure that the Rome Statute obligations are implemented. (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Ratify the optional protocol to the Convention against torture.</li> <li>• Encourage possible Afghan efforts to create institutional capacities to prosecute war crimes. (all EU partners)</li> <li>• Support projects and programmes directed towards reconciliation among Afghans. (all EU APRP partners, EU).</li> </ul>
18. Right to freedom of assembly and expression maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislation guaranteeing freedom of expression and right to information, editorial independence and journalists' rights to protect their sources encouraged and supported.</li> <li>• Need for state protection of persons exercising their right to freedom of expression highlighted.</li> <li>• Pluralistic media sector maintained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press politically for the effective and independent functioning of the mass media commission. (DE, FR, UK, EU)</li> <li>• Support the freedom and safety of the media and to monitor their situation. (DK, SE, UK)</li> <li>• Support organisations working to protect the freedom of expression. (DE, DK, FI, FR, PL, SE, EU)</li> </ul>