

Afghanistan - U.S.

Democratic Peace and Prosperity Council

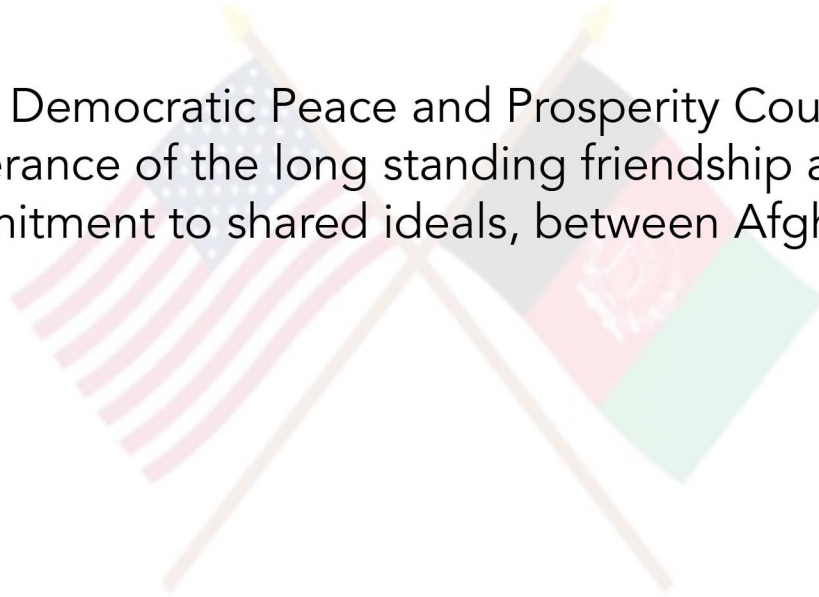
Introduction to the Organization's Mission, Vision & Goals

This material is distributed by Wise Capital Strategy on behalf of the Afghanistan U.S. Democratic Peace and Prosperity Council. Additional information is available on file at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C

Two Countries
One Vision

Mission Statement

The Afghanistan-U.S. Democratic Peace and Prosperity Council is an organization dedicated to the furtherance of the long standing friendship and alliance, forged in a strong mutual commitment to shared ideals, between Afghans and Americans.



Introduction

- Over the past eighteen years the American people have made significant sacrifices to maintain unwavering support for Afghanistan.
- This has resulted in the Afghan people gaining freedom, opportunities for a better future and an appreciation for the ideals that America stands for.
- The Afghan people are grateful for these sacrifices and want their friends in America to know that they too believe in democracy, human rights, women's rights, a focus on opportunities and healthcare for the youth, post conflict resolution and reintegration, and economic development and prosperity.
- It is in this spirit of friendship and shared ideals that the Afghanistan-U.S. DPPC will serve as a platform in Washington, DC for this long standing alliance to continue and flourish.



An 18 Year Journey

- Since late 2001, when the U.S. liberated our country from oppression, the Afghan people have been on a journey from totalitarianism to a representative democracy.
- We persevere and continue our progress to establish and fortify democratic institutions, recover from decades of conflict and rebuild our country, despite many obstacles and a difficult path filled with setbacks, challenges, and conflict.
- Inspired by our own achievements, emboldened by America's commitment to our freedom and guided by the virtuous ideals America has shared with us, the Afghan people are committed, without exception, to the success of our democracy and a peaceful and prosperous future.

"Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed"

Thomas Jefferson, Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776



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Who We Are

- Our organization is led by Afghan and Afghan-Americans who believe strongly in the benefits of an alliance between the people of Afghanistan and America.
- We are dedicated to work over the long-term and ensure that this relationship remains strong.
- We are leaders in Afghanistan's civil society, business and political spheres.
- We are members of the majority population under 40 years old whose hope for the future has been shaped by America's sacrifices for our country.



Focus Areas



Anti-Corruption

Afghanistan must put an end to systemic government corruption in order to achieve progress as a nation, provide economic opportunities for ordinary Afghans, and improve its relationship with the United States and other international allies.



Democracy

The voice of the people of Afghanistan must be heard through a strong and democratically elected Parliament and Government.



Human Rights and Women's Rights

The men, women and children of Afghanistan deserve to live free from fear, oppression and violent extremism and be granted equal protection under the laws.



Post Conflict Resolution & Reintegration

After decades of internal conflict the time has come for Afghans to put aside ethnic and political differences and participate in the inclusive democratic system.



Economic Development

The industrious people of Afghanistan are eager to capitalize on economic opportunities available in the domestic market and through international trade.



Children's Advocacy

The children of Afghanistan deserve a safe environment to grow up in, free from landmines and with ample access to healthcare and education.



Spotlight on Anti-Corruption

- Corruption is one of the biggest threats to Afghanistan's Democracy, Peace and Prosperity. Unfortunately, it is a de-facto modus operandi for too many government officials and agencies. This widespread graft comes at the expense of key institutions ability to serve the people of Afghanistan.
- The impacts of corruption are felt in many aspects of daily life, perhaps none more so than with the ANDSF and its mission to provide safety and security.
- Many of the ANDSF's struggles stem from its inability to properly train, equip, and maintain force readiness- a symptom of systemic corruption in the "On Budget" procurement process that ranges from theft and fraud to contract non-performance and underperformance.
- The Parliament of Afghanistan, led by the National Economic Commission and the National Defense Commission, is committed to exercise its constitutional oversight authority, promote transparency and the rule of law and block attempts by government officials to allow and even promote corruption in the "On Budget" procurement process.
- Most recently, these Parliamentary Commissions have exposed several schemes that defrauded the ANDSF on vital fuel supply and healthcare contracts-that directly impact its operational readiness and ability to defend the country.



Anti-Corruption Policy

The DPPC seeks support for the efforts of principled Afghan leaders and the Parliament of Afghanistan to prevent corruption, nepotism, and continued abuse of the rule of law and the generosity of the United States and its allies through *“Off Budget”* contract solutions which:

- Stop the illegal actions of corrupt government officials and individuals
- Enable the ANDSF to maximize its operational capabilities and readiness
- Promote job growth, reintegration and the ability of legitimate Afghan business ventures to grow and prosper
- Provide a roadmap for a future *“On Budget”* contracting process imbued with transparency and the rule of law

“Corruption, government malfeasance....continue to be the greatest threats to the sustainability of what Afghans, the United States and our partners have sacrificed to achieve in Afghanistan” Published in the the Oct 2019 SIGAR Report. Source: Acting Assistant Secretary of State Alice G. Wells, Testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee for Asia and the Pacific, 9/19/2019



Current Events

- Peace Talks
- Presidential Election Dispute
- COVID-19 Pandemic



Peace Talks

- The peace talks with the Taliban present an opportunity for Afghanistan to bring an end to 40 years of war and suffering and begin a much needed post-conflict resolution process.
- But, peace with the Taliban cannot come at the expense of the personal freedoms and democracy that Afghans have fought so hard to earn and maintain. The majority population of young Afghans have hope for a peaceful and prosperous future and will not soon forget the experience of life in the Taliban's authoritarian and oppressive regime. Nor will the people of the U.S. soon forget how the Taliban provided a safe haven for Al Qaeda and other terrorists.
- A future agreement between the government of Afghanistan and the Taliban must protect democracy and personal freedoms for all Afghans, especially women and children. And until that agreement is reached, the Taliban must uphold their commitment to a reduction in violence.
- The peace process will not succeed and Afghanistan's democracy will be compromised if there is a full withdrawal of U.S. troops or if the U.S. cuts funding and military support to the Government and ANDSF. Without a U.S. commitment to the future of Afghanistan, history will repeat itself and the Taliban will take over the country by force.
- The Wolesi Jirga is the voice of the Afghan people during the peace process. It has formed a Special Commission on Peace, appointed a delegation of MP's to attend the Peace Talks and put measures in place so that a future agreement with the Taliban will require a majority vote by the Wolesi Jirga before it can be ratified.



Presidential Election Dispute

- Incumbent President Ashraf Ghani was declared the winner of Afghanistan's presidential election, nearly five months after a vote took place amid low turnout due to violence and accusations of election fraud. After these results were announced, challenger Abdullah Abdullah, formed a parallel government. This schism leadership comes at an inopportune time for Afghanistan as it responds to the COVID-19 crisis and engages in peace talks with the Taliban.
- The ongoing dispute between Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah has created a strong reaction from the Afghani people and their Representatives in the Parliament. After Secretary Pompeo's recent announcement that the U.S. will cut much needed aid by \$1 billion dollars, the Wolesi Jirga (Afghanistan Parliament) held a series of debates on the issue and formed a delegation of MPs that is now working to mediate a settlement between Ghani and Abdullah.
- The future of Afghanistan's democracy depends on its elected officials abiding by the rule of law and accepting the will of the of the people. Although media attention has been focused on the dispute between the Presidential candidates, it is important for U.S. policy makers to pay attention to the ability of the Wolesi Jirga to function as a democratically elected functioning body of government.



COVID-19

- The World Health Organization ranks Afghanistan's medical system among the lowest performing in the world. As COVID-19 rapidly spreads across the country, the likelihood that the pandemic will have a devastating impact is growing. This challenge is compounded by the large numbers of Afghans who are fleeing the crisis in Iran and returning home. Iran has one of the highest COVID-19 rates in the world.
- To add to the complexity, intermittent border closures have made it difficult to get supplies into Afghanistan. Movement throughout the country is further restricted because of the ongoing conflict between the Taliban and Afghan Defense Forces supported by U.S. troops. The Taliban have escalated attacks throughout the country since the onset of COVID-19.
- The Afghan Government is contributing what limited resources it has to the COVID-19 response. Leaders among Afghanistan's civil society and business community have also stepped up to contribute their personal resources to stop the virus from spreading and provide medical care to those infected. But Afghanistan will need additional support from the U.S. and international partners to survive COVID-19.



Board of Advisors



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