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Delegation of Afghanistan

**STATEMENT BY MR. WAHID MONAWAR, ACTING PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AFGHANISTAN TO
THE OSCE, AT 720th PERMANENT COUNCIL**

Vienna, July 10, 2008

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by expressing my delegation's admiration for your leadership and our gratitude to your sympathetic gesture this morning and to observe a moment of silence for those who have unjustly lost their precious lives at the hand of terrorists at the Indian embassy bombings in Kabul. Thank you equally for affording me the opportunity to address this distinguished council. My delegation stands firm on its promise to update you on the security situation in Afghanistan as we are gearing up toward the OSCE-Afghanistan conference this fall.

Mr. Chairman,

This last Monday, July 7th, marked the three-year anniversary of the London subway bombings, which claimed 52 innocent lives and inflicted 700 injuries. Innocent civilians were victims of a vicious organized and supported terrorist attack. On the same day of this anniversary, Kabul experienced a brutal terrorist attack, which claimed 41 innocent lives, among them two Indian Foreign Service officers. The bombings also caused substantial injuries to ordinary Afghan civilians, and even innocent children.

The concurrent elements of these two separate incidents could only stem out from one place. There is no doubt that this place has succeeded in doing a fantastic job at growing and exporting terrorism, extremism and being the top producer of suicide bomber.

Today, it is quite evident that the proliferation of terrorism presents a major challenge to our globalization efforts. Whether we are geographically located in London, England, Istanbul, Turkey or Kabul, Afghanistan, we are all still victims of the same vicious group of uncivilized thugs which have no respect for humanity, nor are they respectful of any religions or establishments

Mr. Chairman,

In an effort to better understand the terrorists and the causes of terrorism, and to a certain degree make sense of it all, a few think tanks in the United States and Europe conducted an exhaustive set of primary source interviews in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, the United States, and Europe. This process included multiple visits to Afghanistan from 2004 to 2008; reviewed relevant government documents; and examined the literature on 90 insurgencies since 1945 to identify factors that can be correlated with success and failure in dealing with terrorism.

In the case of Afghanistan- they have concluded that "[o]ne main factor for the terrorists to regrow is that they have successfully established a sanctuary in neighboring Pakistan. They have acquired external support and assistance from the global jihadist network, including groups with a strong foothold in Pakistan, such as al Qaeda. They have also acquired support from some individuals in the Pakistan government, as well as local tribes, criminal organizations, and militias in Pakistan and Afghanistan. This assistance enables terrorists groups to adapt their tactics, techniques, and procedures — to become, in effect, learning organizations."

Mr. Chairman,

If one could only recount the unfortunate casualties of this year, from January first 2008 to today, July 10, there is has been one hundred twenty six casualties from the international community in Afghanistan, among these brave heroes, there were sixty seven United States' servicemen, 25 British, 13 Canadian, 6 Australian 6 Danish, 4 Dutch, four Polish, two Czech, one Hungarian, one Italian, one Romanian, one Estonian and about countless Afghan National security forces as well as civilians.

While Afghanistan with its international partners fight in the front line of war against terrorism, it would be ungrateful for my delegation to fault the international community for removing one dictator from power who had no mercy to use chemical and biological weapons on his own people and yet leaving the

other military dictator in power, who had passed on the nuclear material to rogue States, with his intelligence agency running wild and creating chaos in the region, oppressing his own people, and crippling the justice system to survive his own political tour. His actions violate all the dimensions that this institution (OSCE) was built on.

What is troubling that the same dictator has been fooling the world for the past nine years; receiving massive aid packages and in turn using it cowardly against international coalition forces in Afghanistan, this dictator has used terrorism as his political tool, to create animosity among tribal leaders, thus, to portraiture to the international community that he is worthy of being part of the regional solution. His actions and the actions of his terrorist intelligence agency is clearly part of the problem and many miles away from the solution.

Mr. Chairman,

The Afghan Government and the international community owe it to our fallen heroes to defeat terrorism and extremism, so history can judge us rightly. The government of Afghanistan takes full responsibility to fulfill its commitment to the international community. As our government enjoys a productive and respectful no-interference relationship with our Central Asian neighbors, we will endorse a relationship on the basis of mutual respect with no double-standards policies with other neighbors, and I would like to conclude with a quote from great Gandhi, who said:

"I suppose leadership at one time meant muscles; but today it means getting along with people".

Thank you Mr. Chairman.