

Private Sector's Position Regarding Peace Talks in Afghanistan



Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce & Investment

اتاق تجارت و سرمایه گذاری افغانستان

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Starting with the name of Allah

Table of Contents

Preface	1
The Role of the Private Sector in Peace Talks	3
First: A Look at Private Sector's Achievements over the Past Eighteen Years	7
Second: Preconditions and Demands of the Private Sector During Negotiations and After Reaching Peace	13
<i>Part I:</i> Preconditions of the Private Sector That Must Be Taken into Consideration During Peace Talks	14
<i>Part II:</i> Demands of the Private Sector from the Negotiating Parties After Reaching Peace	15
Third: Obligations of the Private Sector to Create New Job Opportunities for Economic Growth and Development After Reaching Peace	17

Preface

The political and environmental conditions have a direct tie with the decline and increase in economic transactions, which have long since resulted in some consequences such as profit and loss for those involved in these businesses. The primary goal of world's economic systems, achieving optimum point and economic growth and development are all of the efforts that are made to regulate human societies' economic affairs.

Experts have always tried to explain the differences between different countries of the world from the perspective of economic growth and development and have introduced various factors for these differences. At first, economic factors such as savings rates, investment levels, growth factors of production, human capital etc. were different based on countries' development levels but with more extensive studies, it was found that in addition to economic factors, non-economic factors also affect countries' development levels. Political stability, rule of law and order, guarantee of contracts, security, property rights, good governance, comprehensive laws etc. play a progressive role while factors such as the existence of corruption in the administrative apparatus, mafia system, irresponsible armed groups, and ethnic, national, regional and cultural disagreements play a deterrent role in economic growth and development of countries.

Studies show that security is one of the most important factors in the growth and development of countries. In other words, security is the main building block of the economy, and the foundation of all civilizations and cultures throughout history is based on the economy. Establishing security in the society provides the ground for the implementation of economic programs, national projects, balanced development, increased household incomes, reduction or elimination of poverty, and ultimately facilitates the ground for communal life and social justice. Without achieving an optimal security, the transition from a backward-lagging society with a weak economy to a high-growth

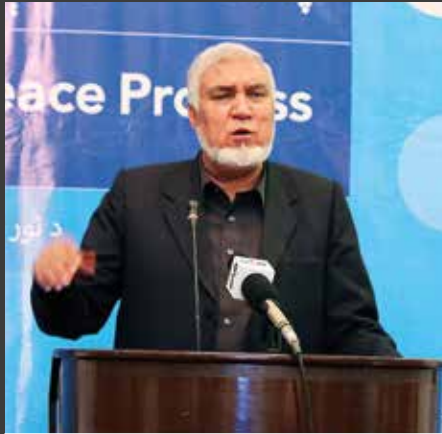
society with a strong economy is not possible.

Even with the unprecedented attention of the international community, large-scale financial assistance in nearly two decades, and interest of the private sector in investing, unfortunately, Afghanistan remains one of the backward and poor countries, and in the worst state of its political – economic history. The bad security situation and the lack of lasting and stable peace are considered among the key factors for backwardness, widespread poverty and, finally, negative trend in growth and development of the country.

One of the most significant obstacles to private sector activities, especially the lack of interest from domestic and foreign investors, despite the investments outputs, is the existence of high levels of threats and risks. That is why in recent years, with the intensification of wars, the amount of investments has been very small and insignificant. Therefore, establishing a lasting and stable peace and security in the country is essential and vital for the increasing presence of investors. On the other hand, by settling a stable peace, the double tax that promotes price rises in the market will be eliminated, which the private sector inevitably pays to the government and the armed insurgents. By eliminating the double tax, the prices come down and the purchase power of people goes up. A secure economic environment is the key to economic growth and sustainable development for developing countries. Establishing security and stable peace with dignity will, on the one hand, reduce capital flight and, on the other, help to increase investments in various sectors.

Atiqullah Nusrat
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce & Investment

The Main Speakers



Al-Haj Khan Jan Alakozai, the
First Vice Chairman, ACCI



Mohammad Omar Daudzai,
the Head of Secretariat of High
Peace Council



Atiqullah Nusrat, CEO, ACCI



Mohammad Yunus Mohmand,
Vice Chairman for trade
Affairs of ACCI



Shirbaz Kaminzada, Chairman,
ACIM



Manija Wafiq, CEO, AWCCI

The Role of the Private Sector in Peace Talks

In recent months, general consensus on the ending war in Afghanistan and starting peace talks between the armed insurgents and the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has been initiated globally and in part at neighboring countries. So far, the United States Special Representative for Peace in Afghanistan has arranged several bilateral and multilateral meetings with the representatives of Taliban, leaders of the Unity Government, political party leaders, United Nations, high-ranking officials from Pakistan, Russia, China and other countries involved in the peace process in Afghanistan, and several meetings on Afghan peace process have been held in Moscow.

In these meetings and discussions, various topics and issues, including the timetable for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, ensure that the territory of Afghanistan is not used against others, discontinue Taliban's support for terrorist groups, especially Al-Qaeda, women's role during the peace process and after peace, position of civil society and youth debate in the peace process, armed forces of the country, Afghanistan's future government type, constitution, and other issues have been discussed. The discussions and exchange of views on each of the above-mentioned issues are crucial and fateful, but the lack of attention during the peace talks on the status and issues of private sector that have

invested heavily over the past eighteen years, has led to a series of worries and concerns among the Afghan business and investment communities. It's worth mentioning that in the midst of the past few years, the private sector has not only played a significant role in the country's economic growth and development, but with millions of dollars in investments, it has provided, without discrimination, work for millions of our fellow Afghans in the most remote areas of the country.

Undoubtedly, achieving a lasting and stable peace – a peace that results in the eruption of the last forty years' crisis – is the desire of every Afghan, especially the private sector. The private sector, as a large part of our society, welcomes the achievement of sustainable and stable peace because the war not only threatens the lives of the private sector activist, their family members, and our other compatriots, but also, as a result of the war, private sector's wealth and capital face the danger of being destroyed.

The ongoing peace talks and the uncertain fate of investments after reaching peace have emerged some concerns among the private sector community. The discussions and negotiations that have taken place so far, the matters related to the private sector have not been included in the agenda at all. Therefore, the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries, in May 2019, launched "The Private Sector's National Dialogue Regarding Peace Process in Afghanistan" with the participation of more than 300 private sector representatives from across the country, including the leadership of the Afghani-

stan Chamber of Commerce and Investment, presidents and representatives of the Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Chamber of Industry and Mines, National Craft Association, Private Sector Unions and Associations, Businesswomen, prominent traders and investors, and etc. in order to integrate a single point of view and the private sector's position in peace talks. In this dialogue, private sector, without the presence of the negotiating parties, discussed and exchanged views on their achievements, preconditions, demands, and pledges on the continuation and increase of investments for public welfare and economic development in the country after reaching a lasting and stable peace. The private sector also presented their distinct and clear position to the negotiating parties through the official memorandum.

Since this dialogue was reserved for the private sector, therefore, none of the representatives of the negotiating parties were invited to participate in this dialogue except Mr. Mohammad Omar Daudzai, the President of the High Peace Council. The agenda was drafted in a way so that after the ACCI's leadership delivered a short speech regarding the role and position of the private sector in the peace process, and the expectations of the private sector from the negotiating parties, Mr. Daudzai spoke about the peace process and welcomed this move on behalf of the private sector.

In order to reach a single point of view on the private sector's position in peace talks, the participants were divided into five working groups, including agriculture and trade, infrastructure and construction, manufacturing and mines, and services

and businesswomen, so that every group can discuss the three questions below and share their findings at the end of the dialogue and in the general meeting.

Question #1: Achievements of the private sector over the past eighteen years

Question #2: Preconditions and demands of the private sector during peace talks and after reaching peace

Question #3: Obligations of the private sector to create new job opportunities for economic growth and development after reaching peace

In the context of the above questions, working groups gathered their findings during nearly two hours of discussion. The Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment, representing the private sector, exploring the views of the country's business and investment community through this document and will propose it to the negotiating parties, so attention can be driven on private sector's position in peace talks, and their preconditions, demands, and opportunities that they can possibly provide after reaching peace. The Private sector can play a significant role in sustainable economic growth and development of the country.





In spite of the many threats and challenges that have come to light about the lives, property and family members of the private sector during the past years, the private sector has still continued its services and efforts, and has provided its services to the community in every situation and time as a peace ambassador, starting their services from the cities to small remote villages. The private sector, as a key player in moving the country's economy, has played a significant role in public welfare, transferring revenues to the government, providing employment opportunities and moving the country towards development. Development of economic activity, creating jobs, poverty alleviation, and having a prosperous and flourishing society is not possible in a country without the private sector's active participation. When we look at the achievements of the past eighteen years, we find that investments in all sectors of the economy such as telecommunications, banks, private educational institutions, trade, agriculture, industry, mines, construction, transportation, media, hospitals, and etc. are due to the private sector's efforts and initiatives, and it has been able to play a significant role in the country's economy. Private sector's sacrifices and gratitude are appreciable, especially in a country that has been crushed by four decades of war and political crises.

The private sector has made huge investments over the past

eighteen years, but so far has not used its potential capacities in the development of capital investment due to the escalation of war and lack of secure market for investment. Surely, if security and peace are established throughout the country, interest in the development of private sector investments and financial activities will increase. Let's not forget that economic development of countries is the most important priority and it is possible by achieving sustainable peace. It has always been the countries with significant economic growth that have enjoyed peace in the internal and external spheres, and these countries enjoy wider relations in various fields of politics, economics, science, and so on compared to countries that survived the war. In this regard, it is also important that companies and individuals who want to invest in different countries are definitely looking for important factors such as peace, stability and security, and if fluctuations in one of these factors are dominant, naturally, the investment is affected. The relationship between security and foreign investment is not a one-way road. Just like security is a prerequisite for attracting foreign investment, the presence of capital, especially foreign capital, also increases security and peace. Indeed, the larger the volume of foreign direct investment, the lower the risk of invasion to create insecurity and instability from investor countries if these funds will be invested in infrastructure and major economic projects. Also, because of the possibility of damages to their economy, they will help fight against any instability. Therefore, the more power and influence investor countries have at the international level; the inflow of foreign investment will be more

conducive to stability and sustainability.

Today, due to lack of security and high level of threats, the use of Afghanistan's natural resources is unlikely. It is surely possible to increase the opportunity to exploit these resources through peace and security, which will create the ground for increasing private sector's investments in all areas of the economy, in particular, investment in mining, major economic projects, in particular, extension of railroads, standardized routes, development of business, improvement of domestic industries, and etc.

Based on the evidences and researches carried out, Afghanistan is the land of opportunities, but the lack of security and wars have plagued its economic growth and prevented domestic and foreign investments. With the advent of peace, the private sector, as the most important player in economic growth and development, can play a major role in creating jobs, improving people's livelihoods, good governance, and so on. It goes without saying that the private sector is playing a vital role in reintegration of militant armed insurgents, who stop fighting. The private sector can provide them with decent jobs by creating a vast platform for economic activities.

After the establishment of the current government system, the economic system of the country was changed in accordance with Articles 10, 11 and 13 of the Constitution, and the previous economic systems were replaced with the most successful economic system in the world, the market economy. One of the most important economic sectors that has

attracted the most capital during the last eighteen years and has been able to employ the country's largest labor force is the service sector. In this sector, economic activities in areas such as banking, aviation, telecommunications, health, hospitality, counseling and others have been booming, and the private sector has invested heavily in these sectors.

Over the past eighteen years, five telecommunication companies have invested more than 2 billion and 500 million dollars in telecom services, covering 28 million people or more than 92% of the country's population. These telecommunication companies have provided jobs, directly and indirectly, for more than 150,000 people, of whom 22% are women.

The number of private banks reaches 14. The total investment made in these banks is 35 billion Afghanis. However, the assets of these banks are consolidated at 316 billion Afghanis. In private banks, more than 3,500,000 depositors have provided a total of 273 billion Afghanis in the form of deposits to these banks. There are 415 active private bank branches across the country, employing nearly 10,000 people directly and more than 150,000 indirectly. It is worth mentioning that for economic prosperity in the country, private banks have so far lent 42 billion Afghanis to people.

More than 1,000 tourism companies have been established, which during the 18 years, each year, have sent up to 50,000 people to Hajj rituals to Mecca and Madinah. Currently, tourism companies operate in 34 provinces of the country with more than 500 branches. With the creation of these companies, competition has improved and the cost of Hajj

and Umrah has decreased. Before, the cost of Hajj was \$1,800, and now, one person can perform Hajj for the cost of \$600.

Establishing more than 140 hospitals and 250 health service centers in Kabul and provinces is another achievement of the private sector. Prior to this, it was not possible to carry out modern medical surgeries in domestic health facilities, especially in cardio and kidney transplantation, but by importing advanced medical machineries by the private sector, many diseases are currently being treated in domestic health facilities. At present, more than 90% of our people have access to health services. Over 180,000 people work in the health services sector. Nearly 20,000 pharmacies, 7,500 laboratories and more than 3,000 diagnostic units across Afghanistan are being established.

Another important achievement of the private sector is the active participation in providing higher education services for the next generation of the country. Over the course of the years, 144 private higher education institutes have begun their operations and created job opportunities for 30,000 people directly and attracted nearly 180,000 students across the country. These private education institutions enroll thousands of students every year to various academic disciplines, and it is to say with great pride that the number of people completing their postgraduate and doctorate studies increase every day.

Despite the fact that many problems and challenges faced by the private airline companies over the years have elapsed and

the majority of private airline companies have ceased to operate for various reasons, but in spite of this, large investments have been made by the private sector in the airlines industry. The establishment of Pamir Airlines, Safi Airlines, East Horizon Airlines, and in particular Kam Air Airlines, have revolutionized air cargo and passenger transportation. Currently Kam Air, with its dozens of domestic and international flights, transports hundreds of passengers from one location to another. The activity of foreign air companies and the state-owned airline, Ariana, are also playing a significant role in transporting cargo and passengers.

Afghanistan is highly suitable for agriculture. It has more than 9 million hectares of potential cultivation area. Notably, only 2 million hectares of land out of 5 million which has the capacity of constant irrigation has access to water. Afghanistan produces 80 billion cubic meters of water each year, if used efficiently it can surplus the irrigation needs of the country. Hence, through building water dams, updated irrigation methods, and water management system, Afghanistan will be among top agricultural countries. However, Afghanistan's agricultural products have reached regional and global fame owing to their high quality.

Afghanistan's saffron is world famous. Also, medical plants, dried/fresh fruits like pomegranates, grapes, almonds, and pine-nut are exporting through land and air corridors with high market-value.

In 2002, Afghanistan was exporting \$70 million worth of Agricultural products, now it is \$800 million, indicating a

drastic growth. To illustrate, Agricultural product's exports will increase once peace and stability take place in Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, despite the indisputable contributions of the private sector in reducing imports and increasing exports, the balance of payments with a fraction of more than 85% remains to be a major challenge. Nearly 8 billion imports and about 1 billion of exports still account for the biggest concern of the weak economy of Afghanistan.

In the past, the capacity to absorb large amounts of construction materials, including bar, sheet metal, beam, t-bar, cement, etc. was not conceivable in Afghanistan's economy, but by changing the political system and legal opportunities that were prepared for the private sector and are included in the Constitution, as well as exchanging billions of dollars and the help of the international community have once again resulted in profound changes in the construction of modern and basic buildings and the wide use of construction materials. Currently, nearly 40 steelmaking factories with an investment of \$450 million, with an annual production of 500,000 tons of different types of bars have been created in Afghanistan that has provided work for thousands of people.

Approximately 150 factories producing polycrystalline products, including windows and PVC door factories, with an investment of \$200 million has been created in Afghanistan that have provided work for more than 40,000 people directly.

In the past, the vast majority of Afghans were involved in rug and carpet industry in Pakistan, and the rugs and carpets that were produced were being exported to world markets in the name of that country where those were manufactured, but now, most of those Afghans have returned to Afghanistan and managed to produce rugs and carpets of high quality for world markets. So far Afghan rugs and carpets have won first place in terms of quality. Currently, more than 64,000 square meters of rug and carpet are produced monthly in Afghanistan. Nearly \$5 million has been allocated to the rug and carpet industry in country's exports. Directly and indirectly, nearly 200,000 people work in the rug and carpet industry, of which 80% are women. The investment in the rug and carpet sector is nearly \$350 million.

In order to process talc stone, 24 factories are created in Sheikh Misry Industrial Park in Nangarhar province with a total investment of \$300 million, and 25,000 people directly working in these factories. Each year, 600,000 tons of talc is exported worldwide. The Afghan marble, which has good quality, has contributed greatly to the increase in the export value of Afghanistan. Currently, there are 120 marble processing factories worth nearly \$150 million nationwide, in which there are more than 5,000 people directly working in these factories.

The Kashmira fabric sector in our country has an ancient history and the industry has in the past played a special role in the country's economy. Currently, 4 factories, including two of which are foreign, are active in this sector. The investments made in this sector reach \$20 million. In the leather

processing sector, there are 6 factories with an investment of \$150 million. Approximately \$200 million has been invested in the intestinal, Karakul and animal skin processing sectors, and more than 1,000 people have been employed.

Over the past eighteen years, more than 150 footwear factories with the investment of \$600 million are created. There are more than 20,000 people working in these factories. On average, these factories produce 18,000 pairs of footwear. There are still plenty of opportunities to expand the footwear manufacturing sector. The private sector shows interest in investing in this sector.

Afghanistan's precious and semi-precious stones are of a good quality. Despite the fact that there are a lot of capacities in this sector, so far, this sector has not developed much for various reasons. At present, nearly 15,000 people are working in this sector.

Undoubtedly, the role of women in the achievements of the past years is significant and undeniable. The majority of Afghan women, due to the four-decade of wars, lost their breadwinners. They are responsible for feeding their families through their businesses. They are carrying out the holy duty of doing business that was inherited from Bibi Khadijah. The vast presence of women in economic activities is undeniable. The businesswomen, with the present limitations, have been able to play their part in the development and economic growth of the country.

At present, women entrepreneurs, in the capital and provinces, directly (as president) and indirectly (as deputy) have been in charge of nearly 15,000 companies in construction, educational, advisory, logistics, health, crafts, medical plants, fresh and dry fruits, and so on. The total investment of women in these companies is about \$90 million. In the meantime, there are more than 200 companies in the export and import sector. It goes without saying that thousands of women are working directly in the rug and carpet, raisins cleaning, industrial factories, and etc.

The growing trend of women's economic activity is increasing due to investing on growing their capacity building abilities over the past years. Nowadays, women entrepreneurs play a key role not only in the economic self-sufficiency of their families, but also have played a significant role in the economic development and growth of the country. The establishment of women's organizations, including the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Women Trade Federations and other women economic institutions have enabled women to improve their decision-making power on economic issues.



Second

Preconditions and Demands of the Private Sector during Negotiations and After Reaching Peace

The exact number of investments that the private sector has done in all sectors over the past eighteen years is far more than the statistics that the participants have referred to above during the Dialogue. It is safe to say that in the last two decades, private sector investment in various economic sectors has been unpredictable, and according to some statistics, the private sector has invested nearly \$20 billion during this period and has been able to provide employment to millions of our compatriots, and provided welfare benefits for tens of millions of people.

During the peace talks that have been set out in recent months, it is clearly seen that the issues related to the private sector, especially investments, domestic and foreign contracts signed in different projects, and etc., are not taken seriously, which has raised concerns to the country's business and investment community. It can be certainly said that if the demands of the private sector are not considered, a lasting and stable peace will not be achieved; because creating jobs for thousands of armed insurgents and the provision of welfare benefits to their families is not possible without the active participation of the private sector.

During “The Private Sector’s National Dialogue Regarding the Peace Process,” the private sector’s preconditions and

demands below were clearly expressed. The attention and focus of the negotiating parties on these issues, determining private sector’s position, and discussing private sector’s related issues in the peace negotiations, as well as setting the ground for negotiations and arranging exclusive meetings with private sector representatives will bring fundamental and structural changes in the country's economic growth and development after reaching peace.



Preconditions of the Private Sector that needs to be taken into consideration during peace talks:

1. One of the challenges faced by the private sector over the past eighteen years was the lack of a clear definition of the market economy in the country. In the past years, there was a kind of dispersion and anarchy in the economic system of the country. The private sector wants to maintain a market economy system that's well defined and in which the private sector's legal activities are not limited. The private sector wants an economic system that provides the basis for sustainable economic growth in the country.

2. The private sector calls for a guarantee of the international community, especially the United States, Russia and other neighboring countries, so that the armed insurgents involved in war do not regain their arms and once again ruin the country, private sector investments, and in whole economy of the country after reaching peace.

3. Science advances have transformed the world into a small village in recent years. Today, no country or any political system alone can meet the needs of its people. One of the ways of establishing economic relations between countries is the banking system in the world. As mentioned above, one of the obvious achievements of the past eighteenth years is the creation of a modern banking system in the country. Until now, billions of Afghans are invested in this sector, and currently people have deposited billions of Afghans in these banks. We, the private sector, are strongly in favor of strengthening economic relations with the countries of the world and emphasize that these relationships will not be

established without the use of the two systems, Islamic Banking and Common Banking. Therefore, maintaining the expansion of the Islamic and Common banking systems is one of the serious demands of the private sector from the country's post-peace government.

4. In the course of peace talks, one of the important discussions of the negotiating parties is the status and position of women. The businesswomen demand a guarantee ensuring that women entrepreneurs can continue to work in the business, industry, mining, educational institutions and other economic activities. One of the other demands that the participants emphasized on was to keep track of the many achievements of businesswomen that were achieved during the past few years and support them, as well as to secure the lives and capital of the private sector, especially businesswomen.

5. Fortunately, during the past years, women have been doing valuable work in all fields, especially in economic sector, and have achieved great achievements. The private sector does not agree with the fragile and conditional peace, which would deprive half of the population of economic and non-economic activities. To ignore the efforts of business women and marginalize them lead to a serious and irreversible stroke in the field of economic activity. We, the private sector, strongly support women's economic activities within the context of Afghanistan's needs and circumstances.

Demands of the Private Sector from the Negotiating Parties after Reaching Peace

1. Unfortunately, due to lack of professionalism and skills in the country, the private sector in the past inadvertently attracted skilled and professional skilled personnel from other countries and hired thousands of people in various economic sectors.

Today, the most important positions are dominated by the skilled expats in banks, large manufacturing factories, iron smelting factories, and etc. The desire of the private sector from the negotiating parties, especially the Taliban, is that, given the huge investments that have been made in various private sectors, they will not only stop the work of the foreign labor force after reaching peace, but also support the low level skills and competences in the country as well as focus on building a series of facilities for the skilled and professional foreign workers, including the convenience of issuing visas for them.

2. As mentioned above, not only domestic and foreign investments are needed to provide a secure and peaceful environment, but also a clear-cut policy of direct investment is needed to increase investment. The desire of the private sector from the future government is to focus on supporting policies and incentives to increase investment. Since Afghanistan is one of the richest countries in terms of the availability of natural resources, a fossilized plan that can facilitate the extraction of mines in the light of the benefits of the country is a serious need.

3. One of the concerns of the private sector after reaching peace is the fate of investments that have taken place in the past years jointly (in particular, domestic and foreign joint ventures) or privately. The private sector wants the negotiating parties to ensure the continuation of investments that have been made so far. In addition, the private sector has already invested tens of billions of dollars in the creation of hundreds of small and large factories, thus guaranteeing the preservation of these investments are also a part of the private sector's basic demands.

4. Corruption raises the costs of the private sector businesses and is in fact one of the main obstacles to the development of private sector activities. It is expected that serious attention will be paid to eliminating this great problem and that the law will be applied to all people in the same way.

5. Afghanistan needs strong international support. Without the cooperation of large financial institutions such as World Bank, IMF, Asian Development Bank, United States Agency for International Development, German Development Cooperation Agency, and other technical and humanitarian assistances of United Nations, European Union, UNICEF, World Food Organization, and etc., a transition from poor Afghanistan with a weak economy to a prosperous Afghanistan with a strong economy is not possible. The desire of the private sector from the negotiating parties, especially the Taliban, is to consider the interests of the country by not restricting the activities of international organizations in Afghanistan.

6. The role of the private sector in the reflection of freedom of speech through audio, video and print media is undeniable. In recent years, the private sector has been able to transfer information to parts of the country by spending millions of dollars in investing in establishing television networks, radio and print media. Since media play a key role in the marketing of products and services provided by the private sector, the private sector is opposed to blocking media activities in the future Afghan government that comes after peace.

7. The private sector believes that the constitutional amendment debate, in addition to the need to respect the religious values of Islam, the values and practices of the Afghan society, the preservation of the achievements of Afghans during last 18 years, the expansion and consolidation of Afghanistan's good relations with the world, good neighborliness and, ultimately, sovereignty and territorial integrity, with the experience of implementing a market economy system as a successful economic system are needed. We further urge the negotiating parties to maintain the market economy system that provides the basis for prosperity and sustainable development of Afghanistan.

8. The private sector calls for the continuation of incentive programs such as air cargo, which provide the basis for increased exports, in the future Afghan government that comes after reaching a lasting and stable peace.



Third

Obligations of the Private Sector to Create New Job Opportunities for Economic Growth and Development after Reaching Peace

If during the peace talks, the preconditions and demands of the private sector are taken into account, and if we achieve a lasting and stable peace as a result of the negotiations, it will undoubtedly, with the private sector's efforts and the enabling environment for domestic and foreign investments, during the next decade Afghanistan will have a double digit economic growth rate, unemployment and poverty will dramatically reduce, and the economic situation of the people will improve. The private sector is committed to creating the following new employment opportunities through sustainable peace and security:

- The statistics show that nearly \$40 billions of private sector capital investment has been absorbed in the countries of the region and the world, which can be surely secured by the establishment of security and stable peace, and a large part of this capital can be transferred to the country that can play a key role in prosperity and sustainable economic development. The private sector can provide a lot of opportunities for tackling the current challenges and problems, and forging Afghanistan on the path to development and economic growth.
- Unfortunately, due to the current bad security situation and war, telecom activities are not developed throughout the country, and many areas of Afghanistan are still deprived of telecommunications services. Certainly, security and peace can create the opportunity for the private sector to expand its

activities in the field of telecommunications services. By doing so, people will have the privilege to make contact with their loved ones in most parts of the country. In addition, due to the bad security situation and war, the price of the delivery of telecom services and the Internet is very high compared to neighboring countries, which will surely be lowered after reaching peace.

- In today's economic activities, banks play a valuable role. The transfer of money by banks is secured, on the one hand, and on the other hand, it costs less. Due to war and insecurity, banking activities in the country are very limited, and banks are active in only few provinces and districts. With the establishment of peace and security, extended banking activities that can not only help in transferring people's money, but also provide work for tens of thousands throughout the country.
- The intensification of war and the spread of insecurity, on the one hand, every day, kills hundreds of young people from both sides and put their families under extreme hardship, and on the other hand, it brings poverty and unemployment with it. The private sector has committed itself to increasing its activities to reduce unemployment and eliminate poverty after establishing peace.
- With the end of civil war and establishing peace and security, the private sector is committed to provide a decent work environment to thousands of armed insurgents, who are attached to the negotiating parties, by increasing domestic and foreign investment and expanding economic activities.

The above topics that are presented by the representatives of the private sector from all over the country during “The Private Sector’s National Dialogue Regarding the Peace Process in Afghanistan,” are being prepared in this document and will be communicated to the negotiating parties, which reflects the preconditions, demands and commitments of the country’s business and investment community that forms a wide range of the country’s society. The private sector expects the negotiating parties to address their preconditions, positions, expectations, and demands during the peace talks, and consider all of the above points in reaching peace.

Allah be with you!

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment





Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce & Investment
اتاق تجارت و سرمایه گذاری افغانستان
د افغانستان د سوداګرۍ او پانګونې اتاق



گفتمان سکتور خصوصي پيرامون پروسه صلح در افغانستان

په افغانستان کې د سولې د بهير په تړاو د خصوصي سکتور ناسته

Private Sector Dialogue on Afghan Peace Process

23 April 2019

د ثور ۳ مه ۱۳۹۸

۳ ثور ۱۳۹۸





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