

RECOMMENDATION
FROM
THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON RECONCILIATION AND PEACE
PROSPECTS FOR SHARED SECURITY IN AFGHANISTAN

TOKYO

23-25 NOVEMBER 2009



Introduction:

Participants at the roundtable greatly appreciated the efforts of the Japanese Government in the process of peace building and reconstruction in Afghanistan. They also welcomed the initiative of the World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP) Japanese Committee, Japanese Parliamentarians for Shared Security (JPSS) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan which provided the opportunity for the participants to discuss peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Over the past three days, issues concerning Afghanistan, the international community and Afghanistan's immediate neighbours were discussed. The conference recognised the pressing need to address peace, reconciliation and reintegration as part of the wider effort to stabilise Afghanistan.

Throughout the roundtable discussion, various points were raised by the participants and some key elements were identified. These key elements for the way forward in Afghanistan need to be addressed in the most effective manner. Therefore the participants propose the following recommendations.

1. **Afghan-Led Process.** Participants emphasised the need to support the priorities of the Afghan government. At the same time the Afghan Government-led efforts must be recognised and fully supported by the international community to promote peace and stability. The participants recognised the importance of the Loya Jirga and the proposed Peace Jirga including community based organizations as important and traditional Afghan mechanisms for reconciliation and peace. The democratization process in Afghanistan provides an opportunity to move forward with the reintegration of elements of the insurgency into civilian life and Afghan political processes under the Constitution including the upcoming parliamentary election. Strengthening Afghan institutions will ensure long-term peace and stability. The need to include civil society and women was highlighted.
2. **Japan's Role.** Since Japan enjoys an excellent reputation with Afghanistan and the immediate neighbours of Afghanistan, it is highly desirable that Japan play a key role within the international community in supporting the peace and reintegration programme led by the Afghan government. The participants welcomed measures for aid effectiveness that ensure transparency, accountability and more effective results that would enable the government of Japan to continue to provide support to the rebuilding of Afghanistan.
3. **Regional Cooperation:** Terrorism is a global problem and countries suffering from terrorism should work together to address these issues. Regional cooperation on security and addressing the common threats of terrorism, drugs, organised crime, and the smuggling of weapons is important for promoting shared security in the region. The important role of Pakistan's cooperation in the Afghan peace process was stressed. A regional consensus will contribute to peace and stability in the region. Such consensus should be maintained and promoted in the face of common threats and shared economic interests. The value of mechanisms for cooperation among Afghanistan, the region, and the wider international community was highlighted
4. **Role of Islamic States:** The participants called for increased cooperation among Islamic states to prevent the spread of radical groups that promote violence, and to advance the reform of madrassas and other efforts at de-radicalisation to help individuals or groups to break the cycle of violence (including the denouncing of suicide bombings and drug trafficking as un-Islamic practices). Therefore, it was proposed that WCRP facilitate gatherings of prominent Islamic scholars to engage Islamic teachings to promote peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. The participants affirmed the importance of the good offices of His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul

Aziz Al Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, as requested by the Afghan Government, to utilize His Majesty's influence as a political and religious leader to help the process of peace-building in Afghanistan.

5. **Comprehensive Approach:** The participants also identified that a top-down (political and strategic level) reconciliation process and bottom-up (tactical and operational level) reintegration approach will ensure success. They recommended that peace and reintegration initiatives should be part of the broader and comprehensive strategy, well-coordinated and broadly supported both by Afghans and international partners.
6. **Reconstruction Efforts:** Military force alone will not defeat the insurgency. The Afghan Government, drawing on best practices, needs to carry out the long term development program necessary to make reintegration and reconciliation lasting and sustainable. However, distinguishing between the reconcilable and irreconcilable elements of the insurgency will allow us to devise a strategy that will bring greater synergy between military and civilian force to stabilize Afghanistan. Success of reconstruction efforts such as poverty reduction, socio-economic development, anti-narcotics, anti-corruption, and aid efficiency will contribute to the stabilisation of Afghanistan.
7. **UN Role:** Participants reiterated the important role of the United Nations in the peace and reconciliation process as mandated by the UN Security Council. With regard to the Sanctions List included in UNSCR 1267, the participants called for greater flexibility in amending and updating the list, to allow individuals to be added or removed from the list. In particular there needs to be a clear process for removing the names of those who renounce violence and can contribute significantly towards peace and reconciliation
8. **NATO/ISAF Role:** The participants appreciated the renewed NATO/ISAF commitment to support the peace process and reintegration in particular and called for closer coordination with relevant Afghan institutions.