

**Remarks by Dr. Zia Nezam, Senior Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs, Kabul Afghanistan**

**At**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Review Conference on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence  
and Development**

**31 October- 1 November 2011**

**Geneva**

Mr. President, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the beginning, let me thank the friendly Government of Switzerland and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for hosting and organizing this very important Second Review Conference. I also appreciate the motto of the Conference, **‘Reduce armed violence, enable development’**.

My delegation believes that security and development have impact and effect on each other, thus remains part and parcel for the achievement of peace and prosperity. Armed violence is the cause and consequence of underdevelopment. Integrating armed violence and small arms control will pave the way for the Security and Development. In other words, this will help in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly, its goal to create an environment conducive to development and the elimination of poverty.

Mr. President,

As most of you may know that Afghanistan has suffered more than any other country in the current history of the nation's prolonged conflict and armed violence and its consequences on the development. In this respect, the Government of Afghanistan has taken significant and important steps to prevent and reduce armed violence with the understanding of closely linked to stability and sustainable development of war-torn country. Afghanistan incorporated armed violence reduction and conflict prevention into its National Development Strategy (ANDS) and the Afghanistan Compact (2006-London). The strategy provide the overarching framework for promoting good governance, security and social and economic development that should help Afghanistan's transition from fragility and armed violence to stability, peace and development. The strategy is fully in line with the recommendations of Geneva Deceleration in order to prevent armed violence and promote development.

Mr. President,

It is important to mention that the major part of violence is caused directly by the terrorist activities organized outside of Afghanistan. Afghanistan believes that only military actions are not sufficient for the establishment of peace and development. In this regard the Government of Afghanistan has taken practical steps for reconciliation and peace. The Peace Jirga (Grand Council) decided to establish a High Peace Council with a mandate to negotiate with the Taliban and other armed opposition groups.

Finally, the Afghan High Peace Council was established and Prof. Burhanuddin Rabani was nominated as Chairperson of the Council. But very unfortunately, before reaching to the fruits of the peace and prosperity Prof.

Burhanuddin Rabani the Chairperson of the Peace Council and former President of Afghanistan was assassinated by the terrorist who came from Pakistan for peace talks. His assassination was a big blow to peace and reconciliation.

Mr. President,

For the last few months there is increase in the terrorist's activities, in Afghanistan. As far as the terrorists and Taliban operate safely across the border with sanctuaries on the other side of the boarder, preventing armed conflict and violence is nearly an impossible task. This is a big challenge to the armed violence.

This serious challenge cannot be addressed by Afghanistan along. Therefore, there is an urgent need for regional and international support.

The Government of Afghanistan supported by the international partners under took significant and specific efforts to prevent and reduce armed violence, in which important progress has been achieved, including in the following areas:

- Heavy weapons cantonment nearly all heavy weapons are brought under the control of the Government.
- Anti-personnel Mines and Ammunition stockpiles has been destroyed in most of the country.
- Afghanistan which is one of the worlds's most heavily mined, but fortunately a large part of that has been cleared. But still a large population of Afghanistan is living in some 2021 land mine/explosives remnant of war contaminated communities throughout the country.

- In addition, the Parliament of Afghanistan has passed the law that allows more control and registration of the small arms.

Mr. President,

My delegation recalls the Statement of the last Ministerial Review Conference, in September 2008, that had reaffirmed that armed violence is a major impediment to sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and that practical measures aimed at preventing and reducing the negative impact of armed violence on development should be continued and intensified.

My delegation reiterates its views on the importance of human security, which includes both physical and psychological security, food and economic security. It is clear that without jobs and good working opportunities one cannot bring peace only by the military actions. Poor and unemployed young Afghans could be easily brain washed, and recruited by extremist and criminals to keep the bloody conflict and violence continue. Therefore, we remain committed to work with our international partners, concurrently, for the strengthening of our National Army, National Police and for the economic development.

In this context, Afghanistan has taken serious steps towards democracy, rule of law, human rights supports the idea that socio-economic development supports the democratic institutions and society moves towards freedom and social justice.

Mr. President,

In the case of Afghanistan, the armed violence is also supported by the narcotics and weapons smuggling. For this there is need to take further steps for alternative livelihood and socio-economic development.

Afghanistan located strategically at the very heart of Asia, can play vital role as “land bridge” between the Central, Southern, and Western Asian region and beyond. Afghanistan having peace will contribute to the whole region and finally to the whole World. But in the presence of armed violence, this pragmatic plan will remain only imagination.

Before concluding let me reiterate our sincere gratitude to all international partners for their continued support and commitment to Afghanistan.

In conclusion, Afghanistan remains committed to the Principles of Geneva Declaration and the final outcome of the Conference.

I thank you.