

<b>Country/entity</b>	Afghanistan
<b>Region</b>	Europe and Eurasia
<b>Agreement name</b>	Statement of the International Conference on Afghanistan (Hague Conference)
<b>Date</b>	31 Mar 2009
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes
<b>Agreement/conflict level</b>	Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

### **Afghan Wars (1979 - )**

The agreements are drawn from two distinct conflict periods. Post Soviet-intervention period. First, after an uprising against the communist government, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in December 1979 and set up a puppet government. Fierce resistance came in on the form of domestic and foreign Mujahidin fighters who, by 1988, forced the Soviet Union to withdraw. The Communist government that remained was defeated in 1992 against a background of violence, which spiralled into a tumultuous multi-party civil war with a strong tribal basis. In 1993 a peace accord was signed, but by 1994 the conflict realigned itself as the Islamic-based Taliban emerged from the refugee camps, eventually occupying the capital city of Kabul in September 1996 spurring groups that had militantly opposed the communist government to unite in opposition to the Taliban.

Post US-intervention period. After the terror attacks on September 11, 2001, the United States invaded Afghanistan and removed the Taliban from power. In December 2001, the UNSC mandated the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to assist Afghanistan's interim authorities. In 2003 ISAF command was placed under NATO's responsibility. Within three years, however, the Taliban managed to re-group and re-structure and launched intense resistance to the internationally-recognized Afghanistan government and NATO support troops. Despite this resurgence of the Taliban, NATO leaders lacked the necessary support for the mission abroad, and NATO troops were withdrawn by the end of 2014.

Close  
Afghan Wars (1979 - )

<b>Stage</b>	Framework/substantive - partial
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government
<b>Peace process</b>	Afghanistan: 2000s Post-intervention process
<b>Parties</b>	Not signed, but agreement mentions the following parties as having produced it: The Government of Afghanistan; the international community

**Third parties** Not signed, but agreement mentions the conference as co-chaired by: The Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; The Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan

**Description** This short agreement outlines the commitments made by the Government of Afghanistan and unspecified members of the international community, as part of the Kabul Process. It contains commitments on governance, regional cooperation, security reform and socio-economic development.

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**Agreement document** [AF\\_090331\\_Hague Conference Declaration.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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### Groups

**Children/youth** No specific mention.

**Disabled persons** No specific mention.

**Elderly/age** No specific mention.

**Migrant workers** No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/  
national group** No specific mention.

**Religious groups** No specific mention.

**Indigenous people** No specific mention.

**Other groups** No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced  
persons** No specific mention.

**Social class** No specific mention.

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## Gender

<b>Women, girls and gender</b>	<p>Page 2, Promoting Good Governance To accelerate efforts to improve governance and strengthen institutions, they agreed to: ... Give firm support to the preparing and holding of elections that are secure, transparent, fair and credible, so as to enjoy the confidence of the Afghan people and to consolidate democracy in Afghanistan. The participants underscored the importance of the broadest possible participation of women and men.</p> <p>Page 3, Accelerating Economic Growth and Development To generate economic growth, they agreed to: ... Expand efforts to ensure that women are more fully integrated into assistance programmes in recognition of the need for Afghanistan to mobilize its entire population in the development of the country.</p>
<b>Men and boys</b>	<p>Gender→Men and boys→Gender neutral wording Page 2, Promoting Good Governance To accelerate efforts to improve governance and strengthen institutions, they agreed to: - Give firm support to the preparing and holding of elections that are secure, transparent, fair and credible, so as to enjoy the confidence of the Afghan people and to consolidate democracy in Afghanistan. The participants underscored the importance of the broadest possible participation of women and men.</p>
<b>LGBTI</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Family</b>	No specific mention.

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## State definition

<b>Nature of state (general)</b>	<p>Page 4, Expand Regional Cooperation ... They reaffirmed their determination to fulfil the vision of a democratic, peaceful, pluralistic and prosperous state based on the Afghan Constitution and the principles of Islam, as set out in the Bonn Agreement of 2001, in the Afghanistan Compact of 2006 and in the Paris Declaration of 2008.</p>
<b>State configuration</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Self determination</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Referendum</b>	No specific mention.
<b>State symbols</b>	No specific mention.

**Independence/ secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/ unification** No specific mention.

**Border delimitation** No specific mention.

**Cross-border provision** No specific mention.

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## **Governance**

**Political institutions (new or reformed)** Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references  
Page 2, Promoting Good Governance  
...  
Strengthen Afghanistan's national, provincial and local government institutions.

**Elections** Page 2, Promoting Good Governance  
...  
Give firm support to the preparing and holding of elections that are secure, transparent, fair and credible, so as to enjoy the confidence of the Afghan people and to consolidate democracy in Afghanistan.

**Electoral commission** No specific mention.

**Political parties reform** No specific mention.

**Civil society** Page 1, Untitled Preamble  
...  
In particular, they emphasised that effective, well-funded civilian programmes are as necessary as additional military forces and training programmes. They agreed to expand significantly the resources and personnel devoted to civilian capacity-building programmes.

Page 2, Untitled Preamble  
...  
The participants welcomed the role of Afghan civil society at this Conference and underlined the importance of its involvement in the development of Afghanistan.

**Traditional/ religious leaders** No specific mention.

**Public administration** No specific mention.

**Constitution** No specific mention.

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**Power sharing**

**Political power sharing** No specific mention.

**Territorial power sharing** No specific mention.

**Economic power sharing** No specific mention.

**Military power sharing** No specific mention.

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**Human rights and equality**

**Human rights/RoL general** Page 1, Untitled Preamble  
...  
The Government of Afghanistan and the international community...They agreed that greater energy and clear direction must urgently be provided to ensure more effective support for the people of Afghanistan, for its security and prosperity as well as for its democratic and human rights.

Page 2, Promoting Good Governance

...

They committed to strengthening an independent judiciary and the rule of law.

**Bill of rights/similar** No specific mention.

**Treaty incorporation** No specific mention.

**Civil and political rights** No specific mention.

**Socio-economic rights** No specific mention.

## **Rights related issues**

**Citizenship** No specific mention.

**Democracy** Page 1, Untitled Preamble

...

The Government of Afghanistan and the international community...They agreed that greater energy and clear direction must urgently be provided to ensure more effective support for the people of Afghanistan, for its security and prosperity as well as for its democratic and human rights.

Page 2, Promoting Good Governance

...

Give firm support to the preparing and holding of elections that are secure, transparent, fair and credible, so as to enjoy the confidence of the Afghan people and to consolidate democracy in Afghanistan.

**Detention procedures** No specific mention.

**Media and communication** No specific mention.

**Mobility/access** No specific mention.

**Protection measures** No specific mention.

**Other** No specific mention.

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## **Rights institutions**

**NHRI** No specific mention.

**Regional or international human rights institutions** No specific mention.

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## **Justice sector reform**

**Criminal justice and emergency law** No specific mention.

**State of emergency provisions** No specific mention.

<b>Judiciary and courts</b>	Page 2, Promoting Good Governance ... They committed to strengthening an independent judiciary and the rule of law.
<b>Prisons and detention</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Traditional Laws</b>	No specific mention.

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**Socio-economic reconstruction**

<b>Development or socio-economic reconstruction</b>	Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development Page 1, Untitled Preamble ... The aim must be to enable the Afghan people in this next phase of its cooperation with the international community to assume greater responsibility for its security and economic development. This vision must be founded on the development of Afghanistan's human capital, its natural resources and its potential as a regional corridor for trade and energy transmission. ... Building on this vision, the participants agreed to pursue the following priority goals: ... to generate economic growth Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Infrastructure and reconstruction Page 4, Expand Regional Cooperation ... Set clearer and common priorities for infrastructure projects in the region and provide assistance for their implementation. In this respect, cooperate more closely on expanding and integrating regional electricity, water and transportation networks. ... Make better use of regional expertise to build capacity in key economic sectors, such as agriculture and education.
<b>National economic plan</b>	Page 3, Accelerating Economic Growth and Development To generate economic growth, they agreed to: Review aid programmes and set clearer priorities based on the Afghan National Development Strategy, reduce dependency on expensive foreign contractors, and ensure equitable development gains across the country. They agreed to continue support to successful national programmes such as the National Solidarity Programme.

<b>Natural resources</b>	<p>Page 1, Untitled Preamble</p> <p>...</p> <p>This vision must be founded on the development of Afghanistan's human capital, its natural resources and its potential as a regional corridor for trade and energy transmission.</p> <p>Page 3, Accelerating Economic Growth and Development</p> <p>...</p> <p>Improve irrigation and water management, transportation networks and energy utilities to underpin growth.</p>
<b>International funds</b>	<p>Page 1, Untitled Preamble</p> <p>...</p> <p>They also pledged to improve aid effectiveness, in line with the June 2008 Paris Declaration.</p> <p>Page 2, Untitled Preamble</p> <p>...</p> <p>The participants urged the World Bank and other International Financial Institutions to maintain strong support for Afghanistan.</p>
<b>Business</b>	<p>Page 2, Untitled Preamble</p> <p>...</p> <p>It pledged to support encouraging plans for agricultural and private sector development and agreed to capitalise on the projected reduction in poppy production.</p> <p>Page 3, Accelerating Economic Growth and Development</p> <p>...</p> <p>Expand higher and vocational education to create jobs and meet projected requirements for skills in key sectors, such as mining, construction and engineering. They agreed to build private sector capacity to produce and trade goods domestically and internationally, and bolster micro- enterprise programmes.</p> <p>Page 4, Expand Regional Cooperation</p> <p>...</p> <p>Promote regional trade and improve customs and trade and transit agreements.</p>
<b>Taxation</b>	<p>Socio-economic reconstruction→Taxation→Reform of taxation</p> <p>Page 4, Expand Regional Cooperation</p> <p>...</p> <p>Promote regional trade and improve customs and trade and transit agreements.</p>
<b>Banks</b>	<p>No specific mention.</p>

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## Land, property and environment

**Land reform/rights** No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/  
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

**Cultural heritage** No specific mention.

**Environment** No specific mention.

**Water or riparian  
rights or access** Page 3, Accelerating Economic Growth and Development  
...  
Improve irrigation and water management, transportation networks and energy utilities to underpin growth.

Page 4, Expand Regional Cooperation  
...  
Set clearer and common priorities for infrastructure projects in the region and provide assistance for their implementation. In this respect, cooperate more closely on expanding and integrating regional electricity, water and transportation networks.

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## Security sector

**Security  
Guarantees** Page 1, Untitled Preamble  
...  
Building on this vision, the participants agreed to pursue the following priority goals:  
...  
to strengthen security

**Ceasefire** No specific mention.

**Police** Page 2, Untitled Preamble  
...  
The international community emphasized its support for strengthening the Afghan National Army as well as for the Afghan National Police, which is now undergoing a comprehensive reform.

**Armed forces**

Page 1, Untitled Preamble

...

In this context, they welcomed a new US strategic review as an important contribution to re-energizing our common efforts in Afghanistan. They agreed on its emphasis on bringing together civilian and military support in a coherent way and in a regional perspective.

Page 2, Untitled Preamble

...

The international community emphasized its support for strengthening the Afghan National Army as well as for the Afghan National Police, which is now undergoing a comprehensive reform.

Page 3, Strengthen Security

To reinforce the fight against terrorism, they agreed to: Increase rapidly the actual size and capability of the Afghan National Security Forces enabling them to gradually take the lead in fighting terrorism and provide security for the Afghan people.

...

Strengthen Afghanistan's border security by intensifying cooperation among Afghan National Security Forces, NATO/ISAF and regional partners, and thereby countering illegal trafficking in arms and drugs.

Page 3, Expand Regional Cooperation

...

Improve the security and integrity of national borders by working with governments in the region to strengthen cooperation on law enforcement, counter-narcotics efforts and customs policies.

**DDR**

Security sector→DDR→DDR programmes

Page 2, Untitled Preamble

...

The participants welcomed the Afghan Government's efforts to reintegrate into civilian life those Afghan fighters who distance themselves from international terrorism, respect the Constitution and lay down arms.

**Intelligence services**

No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces**

No specific mention.

**Withdrawal of foreign forces**

No specific mention.

**Corruption**

No specific mention.

**Crime/organised  
crime**

Page 2, Untitled Preamble

...

It pledged to support encouraging plans for agricultural and private sector development and agreed to capitalise on the projected reduction in poppy production.

Page 2, Promoting Good Governance

...

Assist Afghan Government institutions in promoting transparency, increasing accountability and merit-based appointments as well as intensifying the fight against corruption at every level.

Page 3, Strengthen Security

To reinforce the fight against terrorism, they agreed to:

...

Integrate existing counter-narcotics programmes more closely into broader strategies for improved governance, economic development and stability. They will further strengthen support aimed at increasing poppy free provinces.

...

Strengthen Afghanistan's border security by intensifying cooperation among Afghan National Security Forces, NATO/ISAF and regional partners, and thereby countering illegal trafficking in arms and drugs.

Page 3, Expand Regional Cooperation

...

Welcome the increased attention given to Afghanistan and the regional context as exemplified by conferences in Tehran, Moscow, The Hague, Islamabad and Trieste as important steps in enhancing development and in fighting terrorism, drug trafficking and transboundary organised crime.

## Drugs

Page 2, Untitled Preamble

...

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Page 2, Promoting Good Governance

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## Terrorism

Page 2, Untitled Preamble

...

The participants emphasised the importance of a determined fight against terrorism and violent extremism in Afghanistan and of eliminating sanctuaries for Al Qaeda and other terrorist networks wherever they exist. They reaffirmed their view that such networks represent a global threat.

...

The participants welcomed the Afghan Government's efforts to reintegrate into civilian life those Afghan fighters who distance themselves from international terrorism, respect the Constitution and lay down arms.

Page 3, STRENGTHEN SECURITY. To reinforce the fight against terrorism, they agreed to:

- Increase rapidly the actual size and capability of the Afghan National Security Forces enabling them to gradually take the lead in fighting terrorism and provide security for the Afghan people.
- Integrate existing counter-narcotics programmes more closely into broader strategies for improved governance, economic development and stability. They will further strengthen support aimed at increasing poppy free provinces.
- Strengthen Afghanistan's border security by intensifying cooperation among Afghan National Security Forces, NATO/ISAF and regional partners, and thereby countering illegal trafficking in arms and drugs.

Page 3, EXPAND REGIONAL COOPERATION. To make the fight against terrorism more effective and to better use the potential for cooperation among all countries in the region, they emphasized the need to:

- Eliminate sanctuaries for Al Qaeda and other terrorist networks in the region.

Page 3, Expand Regional Cooperation

... Welcome the increased attention given to Afghanistan and the regional context as exemplified by conferences in Tehran, Moscow, The Hague, Islamabad and Trieste as important steps in enhancing development and in fighting terrorism, drug trafficking and transboundary organised crime.

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## Transitional justice

**Transitional justice general** No specific mention.

**Amnesty/pardon** No specific mention.

**Courts** No specific mention.

**Mechanism** No specific mention.

**Prisoner release** No specific mention.

<b>Vetting</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Victims</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Missing persons</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Reparations</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Reconciliation</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Implementation**

**UN signatory** No specific mention.

**Other international signatory** No specific mention.

**Referendum for agreement** No specific mention.

**International mission/force/similar** Page 1, Untitled Preamble  
 ...  
 They emphasised the central role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) to coordinate international action and assistance and to support the Afghan Government. The participants urged UNAMA to expand its presence into as many provinces as possible, and committed themselves to respecting UNAMA's role.

**Enforcement mechanism** No specific mention.

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