



**ROYAL MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Dear colleague,

On behalf of the Norwegian Foreign Minister, Jonas Gahr Støre, I would like to invite you to a conference on Afghanistan in Oslo on 18 November, entitled “From Coherent Policy to Coordinated Practice: Are we delivering coherently in Afghanistan?”. The conference will be organised jointly by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Ministry of Defence, and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, in collaboration with the Norwegian Peacebuilding Centre.

At the High-level Conference in Paris in June, the international community renewed its commitment to Afghanistan, and made a long overdue and much needed promise to support the Afghan Government in a more coordinated fashion. In line with the Security Council mandate, Norway is committed to supporting a more prominent role for the UN in Afghanistan. Increasingly, UNAMA’s leadership and coordination efforts are being strengthened in concert with the strategic priorities of the Afghan Government.

Despite renewed support for UNAMA, it remains to be seen whether actions on the ground live up to the promises and policy commitments made in Paris. This is all the more important as the security situation is becoming increasingly complex both for the people of Afghanistan and for international actors.

To further improve our ability to address the challenges we are facing in Afghanistan and to strengthen our support for UNAMA’s efforts, we hope to engage you in deliberations on the following:

- Implementing Paris: Is coordination between the donor countries increasing? Is there a gap between policy and practice? How closely is active donor engagement aligned** with Afghan development policy and UNAMA coordination efforts?
- A look at the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs): Readdressing the PRTs in the light of renewed international support for UNAMA. How can we best prepare for and enable an Afghan lead on security, governance and development? How can the interplay between PRT activities and UNAMA efforts be improved at the regional level? Do the regional activities of the various PRT nations contribute to sustainable nationwide development in line with Afghan principles?
- Challenges for civilian actors: How to operate in an increasingly hostile environment. How can effective coordination be improved in areas where the security situation is deteriorating? How do we strike the correct balance, strategically and operationally, between ensuring respect for the humanitarian principles and meeting the need for an integrated and coherent UN approach in post-conflict situations? What can be done to

facilitate a security climate that allows for civilian humanitarian assistance and long-term development?

The participants at the conference will be policy planners and practitioners who are directly involved in the day-to-day efforts of supporting the Afghan Government in attaining lasting peace and rebuilding the country. The conference is intended to provide a forum for stakeholders in Afghanistan to share experiences, exchange views and identify ways to improve current practices.

The conference will seek to produce findings and recommendations that can improve our coordination efforts.

A practical information sheet and a preliminary agenda is attached for your information.

I hope that you will be able to join us in Oslo in November to contribute your valuable insights.

Yours sincerely



Geir O. Pedersen

Director General
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs