

FINAL

ROME CONFERENCE ON JUSTICE AND RULE OF LAW IN AFGHANISTAN

(July 2-3, 2007)

CHAIRS CONCLUSIONS

On July 2nd and 3rd the Government of Afghanistan, the Government of Italy and the United Nations co-hosted a Ministerial level International Conference on the Rule of Law in Afghanistan.

The Conference has reaffirmed the crucial importance of the reform of justice and the implementation of the rule of law for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, recognizing that without justice and the rule of law no sustainable security, stabilization, economic development and human rights can be achieved.

The Conference has commended the Afghan Government for the efforts and the progress made, while at the same time recognizing that the implementation of the rule of law, while striving towards international standards and respect for human rights as stated in the Afghan Constitution, requires a long term commitment, consistent with Afghan needs and context, and structured investment.

Within the framework of the Afghanistan Compact, the vision of “Justice for all” and the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, the Government has committed itself to finalize a national justice sector strategy and to implement a comprehensive rule of law reform with the assistance of the international community that has pledged significant support.

The Conference has agreed that the rule of law reform and the coordinated support by the International Community will be implemented through a National Justice Program, including short, mid and long term implementation and a mechanism for review, to be funded in significant part through the ARTF, and has invited the World Bank together with other international organisations to assist the Government in the development of the National Justice Program.

Donors at the Conference confirmed their previous and continuous commitment to the reform of the Justice and Rule of Law sector. In addition they have made new pledges for a total amount in the range of about 360 millions dollars (some of which are multi-year pledges) to support short term projects and will consider to commit further funds to implement the National Justice Program. They have committed themselves to a coordinated approach at central level and at provincial level through the establishment of a Provincial Justice Coordination Mechanism.

The Conference agreed on the establishment of an Afghan led effective and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system for the justice sector linked to the ANDS/JCMB Secretariat.

Finally, the Conference agreed on the next steps as foreseen by the Conference Joint Recommendations, including the elaboration, by October 2007, of a Justice Sector Strategy followed by the National Justice Program supported by an implementation plan by the Government and donors to be developed within the ANDS process that will be presented in a meeting in Kabul, in order to link the programs with the commitments expressed and the recommendations adopted in Rome. The program will be finalized and made operational soon after the Rome Conference, in collaboration with the Afghan Ministry of Finance, with the assistance of the World Bank and the donor community.