

Afghanistan-Turkmenistan Joint Statement

July 08, 2007

Following is the text of Afghanistan-Turkmenistan Joint Statement, which was issued at the end of official visit of Afghan President to Turkmenistan.

At the invitation of His Excellency Qurban Qoli Berdi Mohammadov, President of the Republic of Turkmenistan, His Excellency Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan accompanied by a high level delegation paid a State and friendly visit to Ashgabat (July 05-06, 2007).

During the visit, both the leaders had fruitful discussion in a friendly atmosphere of understanding.

Presidents of Turkmenistan and Afghanistan held talks on a wide-range of bilateral issues, Turkmen-Afghanistan relationship as well as regional and international matters of common interest.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the relationship that exist between the two countries and emphasized on further strengthening the mutual relations on the basis of good brotherly and friendly spirit, signing mutual agreements, developing required capacity for further improving Turkmen-Afghan cooperation on the basis of deep historical and cultural commonalities between the two nations.

President of Republic of Turkmenistan supports H.E President Karzai's domestic and foreign policy that is based on peace and stability for Afghanistan and the region.

The President of Turkmenistan appreciates Afghanistan active participation in international issues and supports efforts by the international community in ensuring security, stability and economic development in Afghanistan. President of Afghanistan noted that the impartial status of Republic of Turkmenistan, officially recognized and supported by the international community and the United Nations plays an effective role for peace and security in Asia.

The two leaders stressed on importance of joint cooperation for expanding trade and economic ties and strengthening economic partnership on the basis of principles of equality in rights, common interest and mutual consent.

The two leaders emphasized on the importance of high level partnership in electricity and subsequent development through effective comprehensive planning that allows for electricity transmission, establishing power plants, as well as increased electricity import from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan. For best use of the available potential to improve business, the two presidents agreed on increasing transactions and facilitating business between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan.

For the purpose of functional economic ties between the two countries, both the presidents agreed on establishing a joint high profile inter-governmental commission to organize and coordinate bilateral economic, commercial and technical cooperation. The two leaders for the purpose of expanding bilateral relations on humanitarian cooperation expressed interest in further exchanges in culture, sports and education and agreed that contacts between the people of the two countries in the above areas be maintained.

Leaders of the two countries agreed that respective agencies continue with their cooperation in developing legal infrastructure and stressed on the need for preparing agreements on consulate affairs, cultural and educational issues, beginning air and route services between Ashgabat and Kabul and cooperation between law protection authorities. Both sides looking at the important international issues, evaluated positive the joint efforts made by Afghanistan and Turkmenistan in strengthening peace and stability, establishing an atmosphere of confidence and understanding on regional and international level.

Leaders of the two countries stressed on supporting the central role played by the United Nations in seeking solution for the major and strategic issues such as global security and sustainable development, implementation of the objectives and obligations laid down in the UN Charter.

The two Presidents, looking at the issues of proliferation of weapons of mass killings, terrorism, organized crimes and drug trafficking that pose a great threat to global peace and stability, have a common view and stressed on the need for an increased cooperation in future in fighting these threats in national, regional and international level.

Leaders of the two nations called fruitful the discussions on bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest and emphasized on the need for more formal delegation contacts on all the levels.

H.E Hamid Karzai President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan thanked H.E Qurban Qoli Berdi Mohammadov, President of the Republic of Turkmenistan and his people for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to the Afghan delegation and invited H.E Mohammadov to pay an official visit to Afghanistan which was accepted with thanks. The date for the visit will be determined through the diplomatic channels.

For the government of Afghanistan

For the government of Turkmenistan