



**INTERVENTION BY AMBASSADOR KHOJESTA FANA
EBRAHIMKHEL AT JOINT CND & CCPCJ SPECIAL EVENT IS
HELD TO HONOUR THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF THE 73RD
SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HER EXCELLENCY
MARÍA FERNANDA ESPINOSA GARCÉS,**

Friday 23 August 2019 at 3 p.m. in Conference Room C 3 (7th floor - Vienna International Centre)

**President of the 73rd session of the General Assembly, H.E María
Fernanda Espinosa,
H.E. Executive Director of UNODC Yuri Fedotov,
Dear Ambassador Alena Kupchyna, Chair of the 28th session of the
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ),
Dear Ambassador Mirghani Abbaker Altayeb Bakhet, Chair of the 62nd
session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND),
Dear Director of UNIS Mr. Martin Nesirky,**

I thank the Chairs of the CND and CCPCJ for their excellent efforts on the occasion of the visit of the President of the Seventy-First Session of the General Assembly. I would like to welcome Her Excellency María Fernanda Espinosa here in Vienna.

Afghanistan commends UNODC's progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. The CND and CCPCJ have long recognized the links between their mandate and attaining sustainable development targets. Goal 16 is touching the core mandate of CCPCJ, which works to tackle crime, corruption and terrorism and to strengthen the rule of law. The work of the CND in the area of drug prevention and treatment is strictly linked with Goal 3. Your work here remains central to the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Next year will mark the 20-year anniversary of the adoption of the resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security. Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls is a key target of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Five, and a priority for Afghanistan, and a mission I am deeply passionate about.

My country's commitment towards gender equality and women's empowerment is at the center of Afghanistan's development plans, which are crucial to the realization of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. We believe that women are powerful agents of change – and empowering women is the key to the empowerment of society.

However, such gains can only be consolidated through the 2030 Agenda. By implementing SDGs, we aim to sustain our achievements to ensure the protection of women's rights.

Furthermore, Afghanistan is a young democracy. Youth plays a great role – in our country 64% of the population is under the age of 26. Youth must be at the centre of the Sustainable Development Goals. The active engagement of young people in sustainable development efforts is central to achieving sustainable, inclusive and stable societies by the target date, and to averting the worst threats and challenges to sustainable development, including the impacts of climate change, unemployment, poverty, gender inequality, conflict, and migration. A focus on youth development, especially education and employment, is crucial.

The commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Vienna International Centre and the 100 years anniversary of Afghanistan's Independence both mark a good milestone to reflect on our accomplishments and contributions in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the same time, it is also an opportunity to see what more has to be done, especially in the context of women and youth empowerment!

The UNODC's tireless efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are commendable. I further assure Afghanistan's full support and active participation in the future work of UNODC.

I thank you.