



PERMANENT MISSION OF AFGHANISTAN

**S T A T E M E N T**

By the Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Mr. Hassan Soroosh

At the resumed seventh session of the Implementation Review Group of the  
United Nations Convention against Corruption

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**Thank you, Mr. Chairman,**

It is a pleasure seeing you chairing this resumed seventh session of the Implementation Review Group. I also commend the work of the Secretariat throughout the first cycle including in preparing the documents for each session in a timely manner.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Afghanistan has been involved in two review processes. First, as a country under review by China and Brunei Darussalam, and secondly, as a reviewing state along with Niger, reviewing Mali. During the drawing of lots in June this year, Afghanistan was also selected to review Tuvalu. Our group of experts has been created, with the initial required steps already being taken.

Afghanistan has greatly benefited and continues to benefit from these processes as they pose opportunities to identify challenges and areas that require improvement and revision in Afghanistan along with technical assistance needs, as well as to learn about anti-corruption best practices and new initiatives in other countries involved in the review processes.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Rooting out corruption remains a top priority under our National Peace and Development Framework of Afghanistan which will guide our efforts towards security, stability and development in the next few years. The National Unity Government of Afghanistan has further intensified its anti-corruption efforts recently under the broader reform agenda, which includes, among others, integrated reforms in all key sectors including finance, mining and petroleum, commerce and industry, communication and technology, and transport. The government is developing anti-corruption action plans for all these sectors.

The recently established High Council on Rule of Law and Anti-corruption and the Anti-Corruption Justice Center are receiving increasing attention and support and have already started investigating and prosecuting various cases of corruption, including high-level corruption.

Reforms in the public procurement system as well as in the public financial management system have also continued over the past two years, saving national resources significantly. The Government has undertaken a series of initiatives to better integrate E-governance within the Administration. The use of ICT has been increasingly promoted in anti-corruption efforts in Afghanistan in recent years particularly in the context of preventive measures. The electronic payments and e-procurement have been increasingly used over the past two years.

The process of asset declaration by high-ranking government officials has continued throughout this year. Around 8,000 asset declaration forms have been registered since the inception of this process in 2009. Efforts are also underway to establish an electronic asset declaration system.

In the area of legislation, in addition to the enactment of the new Anti-Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Law as well as of the new Law on Extradition, a number of provisions in the Criminal Code and in the Criminal Procedure Code including those related to asset

declaration, have been modified in accordance with UNCAC, and efforts are underway to revise existing laws, regulations and procedures pertaining to the area of the provision of public services aiming at fighting corruption in this area.

Furthermore, many anti-corruption public awareness programs have been implemented including by the High Office of Anti-Corruption with support from the relevant governmental agencies as well as civil society institutions.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The government of Afghanistan is committed to further improve the existing legal, policy and institutional frameworks for combating corruption, including in accordance with the recommendations and observations made during the review process in the first cycle, however, long-term, sustainable, effective and demand-driven technical assistance and capacity-building support is essential to take such efforts forward.

We also look forward to the review processes involving Afghanistan in the second cycle and hope that building on the lessons learned during the first cycle, we will witness even more effective review processes in the second cycle.

Thank you!