

International conference

AFGHANISTAN UNDER DEBATE

17th - 18th September 2007
CIDOB Foundation
Elisabets 12, 08001 Barcelona

The complex situation in which Afghanistan is immersed after the fall of the Taliban regime, demands an assessment of the progress made and the issues still awaiting resolution. The Afghans have made significant advances in the task of democratising their country, and the international community has lent its support to the reconstruction process. Even so, political control has by no means been imposed in all regions in the country, a nation in which one of the main problems continues to be the lack of security, fuelled by poverty and the drug trafficking. The situation also represents a major challenge for NATO, which in its first mission outside the Euro-Atlantic area has assumed control of the international force entrusted with supporting the process of stabilization and reconstruction. Within this context, success in Afghanistan is also crucial for Spain, which has deployed a large military and civil contingent that is actively participating in an innovative civil-military cooperation initiative aimed at boosting the reconstruction process and preventing Afghanistan from becoming a "failed state".

Programme

Monday, 17th September

18.30h Inauguration

Narcís Serra. President, CIDOB Foundation
Bernardino León. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and for Latin America, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Jesús Sanz. Director-General, Casa Asia
Gul Ahmad Sherzada. Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Spain

19.30h First session. The role of Spain in Afghanistan

Chair: Narcís Serra. President, CIDOB Foundation

Luis Manuel Cuesta Civis. Secretary-General of Defence Policy, Ministry of Defence
Juan Pablo de Laiglesia. Secretary-General of the Spanish Agency for International Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Rafael Dezcallar. Director-General of Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Tuesday, 18th September

10.00h Second session. The role of the international community on the internal transformation of Afghanistan

Chair: Pere Vilanova. Professor of Political Science, University of Barcelona

Gul Ahmad Sherzada. Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Spain
Francesc Vendrell. EU Special Representative for Afghanistan
Christopher Alexander. Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Afghanistan
Ahmed Rashid. Journalist

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11.30h Coffee break

12.00h **Third session. The effects of the stabilization and reconstruction process in the Afghan society**

Chair: **Paul Fishstein**. Director, Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit

Nadera Hayat Burhani. Deputy Minister for Public Health of Afghanistan

Azita Rafht. Member of Parliament of Afghanistan

Pablo Yuste. Coordinator of the Spanish Agency for International Co-operation in Afghanistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Michaela Prokop. Country Economist (Afghanistan), Asian Development Bank

14.30h Lunch

16.00h **Fourth session. Human Rights in Afghanistan: advances and challenges**

Chair: **Gervasio Sánchez**. Journalist specialized on armed conflicts, *Heraldo de Aragón*

Soraya Sobhrang. Commissioner of Women's Rights' Development, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission

Mónica Bernabé. President, Association for Human Rights in Afghanistan

Michael Shaikh. International Crisis Group

Palawasha Hassan. Co-founder, Afghan Women's Network

18.00h End of the conference

Coordination:

Jordi Capdevila

jordicapdevila@yahoo.com

Alex Gonzalez

agonzalez@cidob.org

Organization:

CIDOB Foundation

In collaboration with:

Casa Asia

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Spanish Agency for International Co-operation

Registration:

Free attendance with limited seating

Attendance must be confirmed through the CIDOB web page

http://www.cidob.org/en/actividades/asia/afganistan_a_debate