

Selected Recommendations of Working Groups of the Civil Society Conference for Peace and Reconstruction in Afghanistan, Bad Honnef (Bonn), November 29 - December 2, 2001

Security

Inter-Afghan reconciliation should be achieved by the creation of a competent authority that can pardon offenders. This should contribute to healing the wounds of the 23-year long war and help create national unity.

A special court should be established to investigate war criminals and punish them according to international norms.

After a transitional government is established, UN Peacekeepers should be deployed. They should remain in place until national security forces are formed and become functional.

Disarmament agencies, composed of representatives of the people, the state, and the UN, should be stationed in the localities, districts, provinces and capital of Afghanistan.

Interim Administration

The UN should assist in the establishment of the transitional Shura (Council). Its members should not be eligible to run for the first parliamentary elections. The Shura should appoint the Head of the Shura, who will nominate the Prime Minister, responsible for forming the Cabinet. The Shura should also appoint independent judges.

A legitimate interim administration should have legal status and be endorsed and approved by the UN. It should not merely be a coalition of armed groups. It should include professionals, technocrats and intellectuals, and be strong enough to deter the outbreak of a new civil war.

The interim administration should be responsible for the convocation of the Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly). The first duty of the Loya Jirga will be to draft a constitution compatible with the cultural and religious values of the Afghan society and conform with modern standards.

Constitution building

The future constitution of Afghanistan must be based on the Islamic laws and Afghan culture and traditions. It must also respect the UN Charter. Positive social, political and cultural changes should be added.

The constitution should help in building a modern society. In that spirit, it should especially guarantee social justice and further democratization.

A Parliament should be established as the supreme legislative body of the state. Its members have to be elected through a free and secret ballot.

Women's participation

A significant number of women should be included at all decision-making levels. A quota system for women's participation in the political arena should be established (e.g., percentage of seats for women in the Loya Jirga)

Women's rights should be anchored into the Constitution. The same applies to the rights of children.

A ministry of women affairs should be established.

Education for women should be promoted on a massive scale. In particular women should learn about their rights. Also, measures for healing trauma should be put into place.

Gender awareness programmes should be established.

Economy, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

Civil society should play a bridging role between the political leadership and the population. It can also act in a consultant capacity for institutions of the interim administration.

Trade by the Mafia should be terminated.

A consultative committee to the government, representing Afghan private sectors should be established.

Measures to encourage the return of exiled Afghan experts should be implemented.

Education

Education should be made a key policy issue for authorities and aid agencies devoted to the country's reconstruction.

Incentives should be provided to motivate skilled professionals to rebuild the education system.

The right to education should be legally anchored and effectively implemented.

Bad Honnef, December 2, 2001