



**STATEMENT BY MR. V.K. NAMBIAR, PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SITUATION IN  
AFGHANISTAN IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON JULY  
19, 2002**

Mr. President,

Since the last consideration by the Security Council of the situation in Afghanistan, a number of momentous developments have taken place. The first and most positive development has been the successful conclusion last month of the Emergency *Loya Jirga*, which represents the will of the Afghan people. From the selection of around 1000 delegates from 390 districts of Afghanistan, in particular, the selection and activism of some 200 women delegates, the actual conduct of the *Jirga*, the progressive evolution of a consensus and finally the election of the Head of State, approval and appointment of the Transitional Authority of Afghanistan and of other structures, the entire process was carried out in accordance with the Agreement reached in Bonn where the Afghan parties had pledged to move towards a freely elected and constitutional government. We welcome the outcome of the Emergency Loya Jirga and the election of Hamid Karzai as the President of the Transitional Islamic Government of Afghanistan.

The Transitional Government, like its predecessor, the Interim Administration, faces an uphill task of rebuilding the Afghan national economy, its infrastructure and institutions of governance. It also faces an uncertain security situation in certain parts of the country.

While the international community has every reason to feel satisfied over the remarkable process of transformation in Afghanistan from the totalitarian, unrepresentative and brutal Taliban regime to a multi-ethnic, democratic order represented by the Transitional Authority, we cannot overlook the threats and dangers that could undermine these achievements. The assassination, on 6 July, of

Vice President Haji Abdul Qadir within a month of the Loya Jirga is a disquieting sign that the forces of instability and extremism continue to cast their dark shadow over Afghanistan and the rest of the region. We strongly condemn this and other incidents. We cannot allow these forces to succeed.

Mr. President,

The Secretary General, in his July 11 report on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security refers to the threats to the consolidation of peace and civil government in the country posed by actions of the ex-Taliban and Al Qaeda forces that explicitly oppose the Bonn process as well as those posed by the presence of armed factions. The continued regrouping of Al Qaeda and Taliban cadres along Afghanistan's southern and southeastern borders heavily impinges on the security situation in Afghanistan as well as on the rest of our region and is of serious concern to us. What is more worrying is that they continue to receive external support. It would be tragic and downright dangerous for Afghanistan, and for regional and international peace and security, if the malevolent and extremist forces, manifested in Al Qaeda and the Taliban, and their external support, were allowed to succeed in their efforts.

To meet this challenge, a major element of the institutional reconstruction effort in Afghanistan has to be the development of its security structures. It is important that these structures are established as Afghan institutions flowing out of intra-Afghan processes relevant to and targeted at meeting Afghan needs of internal and external threats. As a measure of our support to institution building in Afghanistan, my Government has undertaken the organization and conduct of twelve training courses involving around 250 officers of the Afghan police in specialized areas, including investigation techniques, logistics, personnel management and general policing duties.

Mr. President,

In order to address the multi-faceted challenges, that it faces today, and this includes the continuing threats from regrouping Al-Qaida and Taliban elements, Afghanistan requires substantial, extensive and long term international assistance to meet its reconstruction and humanitarian requirements. It would be a process of nation building to which the international community would have to lend a continuous helping hand.

India is committed to providing extensive humanitarian, project and financial assistance to Afghanistan's reconstruction. As part of our US\$ 100

million financial commitment, we have transferred US\$ 10 million to the Afghan Government as a cash subsidy grant on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2002. Another US\$ 11.5 million is available for project related assistance. Details are being worked out for the transfer of three Airbus aircraft as grant to the Ariana Airlines. 50 buses have been provided to the Afghan government. We have committed an amount of 1 million tonnes of wheat as food aid to Afghanistan. Discussions are on with the World Food Programme to operationalize part of this commitment as high protein biscuits for a school feeding programme in Afghanistan. We have also provided medical and paramedical teams, extensive medical stores, medical instruments and equipment in various cities of Afghanistan. Over 18 tonnes of material were sent to set up a camp for artificial limbs for amputees in Kabul. Earthquake relief of 10,000 blankets, substantial number of tents and medical supplies were delivered in April 2002. A computer training centre has been established and is being run in Afghanistan by Indian experts. Skills upgradation for various professionals and internet access via VSAT, have also been established for the Interim Administration of Afghanistan. In extending our assistance, we have scrupulously adhered to the concept of Afghan ownership and prioritization in designing and implementing programmes for Afghanistan.

Mr. President,

One of the bulwarks against destabilizing factors in the Afghan capital has been the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) which has performed commendably under difficult circumstances. We wish to commend the Government of the United Kingdom for their successful handling of the ISAF Command. We also express our appreciation of the Government of Turkey for their agreeing to take over command of the ISAF. We wish them all success in their important task of maintaining security in the Kabul area.

Mr. President,

On behalf of my Government, I wish to express our strong commendation of Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, and of the UNAMA team for their tireless, imaginative and highly disciplined efforts which have contributed so significantly in bringing us to this stage in the difficult process of political stabilization and reconstruction of Afghanistan. We extend our support to them in the task of furthering the consensus in favour of positive change and in working with the Afghan people in meeting the challenges before them as they move towards the establishment of a freely elected, constitutional and democratic government in Afghanistan.

I would like to underline my Government's support for and best wishes to President Hamid Karzai, to the Transitional Authority and to the people of Afghanistan in their efforts to build and secure for themselves a stable, prosperous and democratic nation. India's interest as also the interest of all peace loving peoples around the world lies in the emergence of a strong, united and independent Afghanistan.

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