



**REMARKS BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR DR. ZIA NEZAM
PERMANENT MISSION OF AFGHANISTAN
OSCE – PC MEETING – THU 31 MAY 2007**

Mr. Chairman,

Afghanistan joins others in welcoming our distinguished guest today to the OSCE's Permanent Council. Let me thank the Secretary of State, Madame Rice, for her steady personal efforts as well as for the continued and strong support of the United States to my country. I also seize this opportunity to thank all delegations whose countries are contributing to the reconstruction and the establishment of security in my country.

Mr. Chairman,

The past 25 years of war have severely affected the Afghan society as a whole. During this period, serious abuses of human rights took place. State and judicial institutions collapsed.

Following the fall of the barbaric Taliban regime in December 2001, however, Afghanistan, with the generous support of the international community, achieved substantial progress. Despite this, many difficulties remain to be tackled, specifically in the area of security and reconstruction. Hence, we continue to require the international community to assist Afghanistan.

Mr. Chairman,

Afghanistan shares borders with three Participating states of the OSCE. We share not only borders but also mutual interests in terms of security, related to issues such as border management and actions to counter terrorism and trafficking of arms and drugs.

Afghanistan attaches great importance to the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept and we are very keen to further strengthen co-operation with the organization. The OSCE has invaluable experience and has very successfully developed a number of policing and border management programmes in some participating states. It is our desire to learn from the OSCE - in areas like policing, border management and building of institutions. Therefore, we would like to encourage the inclusion of Afghanistan in respective training programmes and joint activities. I am convinced that this would greatly enhance the success of our joint efforts in countering terrorism, cultivation and trafficking of drugs and other crimes.

We strongly believe that a stable, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan will be beneficial to all countries in the region and beyond.

Finally, let me say that I would be very interested to hear from Secretary Rice about her views on the possible future role of the OSCE in Afghanistan.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman