

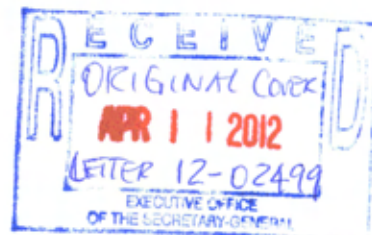
په ملگرو ملتو کې
د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت
دایمی نمایندگی - نیویارک



**Permanent Mission of the Islamic
Republic of Afghanistan to the
United Nations**

نماینده گی دایمی
جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان
در ملل متحد - نیویارک

No: 2012/04/376



The Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Executive Office of the Secretary General of the United Nations and has the honor to enclose herewith the letter of H.E. Dr. Zalmay Rassoul, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, addressed to H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations.

۱۲/۰۳/۱۲

It would be highly appreciated if the enclosed letter is forwarded to its high destination.

The Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Executive Office of the Secretary General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.



April 12, 2012

Executive Office of the Secretary General
of the United Nations
United Nations Headquarters
New York

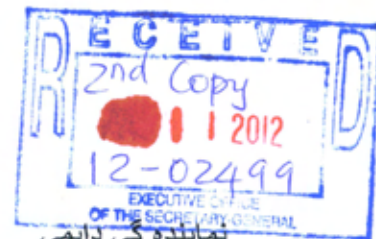


SCH/08/002



په منگرو ملتو کی
د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت
دایمی نمایندگی - نیویارک

Permanent Mission of the Islamic
Republic of Afghanistan to the
United Nations



نمائندہ کی دایمی
جمہوری اسلامی افغانستان
در ملل متحد - نیویارک

No: 2012/04/376

12/03/12

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April 12, 2012

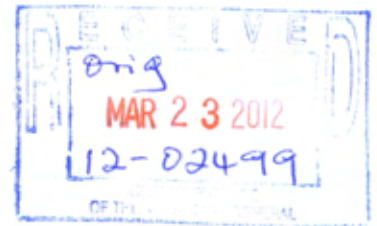
Executive Office of the Secretary General
of the United Nations
United Nations Headquarters
New York

SCH/08/002

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Central



12 March 2012

Your Excellency,

Istanbul Process: A New Agenda for Regional Cooperation in the Heart of Asia

The *Istanbul Conference for Afghanistan: Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia*, held at the foreign ministers level on 2 November in Istanbul, Turkey, presented a new vision for regional cooperation and good neighborly relations across the region that surrounds Afghanistan. This historic conference agreed on "The Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan", a document that reflects the collective will of the Heart of Asia countries to engage in sincere and result oriented cooperation beneficial to security and prosperity of Afghanistan as well as the region as a whole. The document also mandated the Heart of Asia countries to meet again at the ministerial level in Kabul in June 2012.

I, therefore, have the honour to cordially invite you to the Kabul Ministerial Conference and to request you to inaugurate this historic event jointly with His Excellency Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The Conference will bring together Foreign Ministers from both the participant and supporting countries of the Istanbul Process and regional organizations.

After the immensely successful Istanbul Conference last November, where we laid out some basic principles for regional cooperation and agreed on a set of confidence building measures, the time has come to take practical steps towards a substantive, meaningful and rewarding regional cooperation agenda. Today I see a growing desire across our region for taking ownership of our own challenges and opportunities, and for building greater confidence and cooperation. I am confident that, through the Istanbul Process, we can aim to translate this collective desire into practical and measurable cooperation at the regional level.

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General of the United Nations



Meanwhile, Excellency, I am pleased to inform you that, since the Istanbul Conference last November, significant follow up steps have been taken which represent our collective progress in promoting dialogue and enhancing cooperation between the Heart of Asia countries. Afghanistan has successfully fulfilled its obligations delineated in the Istanbul Process document, including the presentation, on 5 February 2012 in Kabul, of a concept paper on the follow up to the Istanbul Process, and hosting the first preparatory meeting of senior officials on 29 February 2012 in Kabul.

In the weeks ahead, my Ministry will be working closely with the Heart of Asia countries as well as the UNAMA office in Kabul to seek input for the draft communiqué of the Kabul Ministerial, in particular with a view to the implementation of the specific confidence building measures as agreed at the last senior officials meeting. Once the first draft of the communiqué is ready in the early part of April 2012, our senior officials will come together for the second preparatory meeting in Ashkabat at the invitation of the Government of Turkmenistan. I am grateful to the Government of Turkmenistan for offering to host the next senior officials meeting. I also anticipate that there may be need for further preparatory meetings by our senior officials, which we in Afghanistan would be pleased to host prior to the Ministerial in June.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to join us in Kabul for the historic Kabul Ministerial Conference on 14 June, and help shape the promising agenda for regional cooperation in the context of the Istanbul Process.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Zalmay Rassoul', with a stylized flourish extending from the bottom right.

Dr. Zalmay Rassoul
Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan