



**STATEMENT BY**

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
H.E. MR. JAN ELIASSON**

**AT THE**

**OPENING OF THE PLENARY DEBATE ON THE  
SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS  
FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY;  
EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR  
PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-  
STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN**

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS  
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Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Afghanistan continues to face serious threats and challenges, ranging from security, development to humanitarian assistance. Assistance by the international community in peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance and providing funds is essential. This support by the international community is of crucial importance. The United Nations and specialized agencies will continue to play an important role in the post-Bonn process.

In the political sphere, parliamentary and provincial council elections held on 18 September 2005, led to the completion of the Bonn process and demonstrate the broad commitment of Afghan voters towards a democratic future.

In the realm of development and reconstruction, Afghanistan will play the leading role in the reconstruction process, *inter alia* by preparing an interim national development strategy. At the same time, funds will be needed and there will be a conference in London in January next year (2006) to help this effort.

Concerning security, there have been successes but more needs to be done. There is a continuing need for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration as well as the disbandment of illegal armed groups and putting an end to the recruitment of child soldiers. The continued threat posed by terrorist groups has to be firmly addressed.

In this context, we commend the Afghan national army and police, the International Security Assistance Force and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition for their contributions in improving security conditions, including for the electoral process, in Afghanistan.

With regard to the counter-narcotics effort and the fight against drug cultivation, as has been stated in a report by the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of last week, progress has been made but more needs to be achieved.

The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, including the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons, remains critical. In this regard, the safety, security and free movement of all UN, development and humanitarian personnel have to be ensured.

Finally, ensuring the respect for human rights and protecting the role of women, including through participation in the political process and judicial sector reform, has to be a priority in the reconstruction process.

It is gratifying to reaffirm the importance of the United Nations in the mobilization of the international community to achieve development, security and respect for human rights in Afghanistan.