

18 November 2002

Open-Ended Panel “Afghanistan: One Year Later”

The General Assembly took a decision last Monday on a resolution submitted by President Kavan after extensive consultation with member states to hold the panel which will consist of 2 consecutive sessions.

President Kavan strongly believes that the panel discussion can enrich this year's activities commemorating the first anniversary of the Bonn Conference and could lead the UN to specific conclusions from post conflict reconstruction in Afghanistan, thereby providing new recommendations for future UN activities in this domain.

After extensive consultations with Member State, the President believes that the majority of countries consider it very important that this panel will attempt to find out what lessons were learned by the UN in Afghanistan; give Member States the opportunity to discuss the consequences of the decisions adopted by the UN and find out if these decisions were implemented properly; specify what results these decisions helped the UN to achieve and decide if and how the UN needs to modify its humanitarian activities and economic assistance in Afghanistan; and to clarify what else needs to be done so that UN goals in Afghanistan can be achieved sooner and more effectively.

The panelists for the first session on political aspects will be: Mr. Jean Arnaud, Mr. Amin Farhang, Mr. Barnett Rubin and Mr. Ahmed Rashid.

The panelists for the second session on economic issues will be: Mr. Eric Morris, Ms. Julia Taft, Mr. Mukesh Kapila and Mr. Bernard Frahi.

Panel on "Afghanistan: one year later" Topics and Panelists

1) How security, the political process, and reconstruction are inter-related through the process of building institutions.

Panelist: Mr. Jean Arnaud

2) The work of the constitutional drafting committee, the civil service commission, the judicial commission, and the human rights commission, as well as reforms in the various ministries.

Panelist: Mr. Amin Farhang

3) Preparation for election of the constitutional Loya Jirga, the plan for voter registration, census, and election.

Panelist: Mr. Barnett Rubin

4) International guarantees of independence, respect of territorial integrity and sovereignty of Afghanistan.

Panelist: Mr. Ahmed Rashid

5) Humanitarian issues, return of refugees and internally displaced persons, the drought, water, health, etc.

Panelist: Mr. Eric Morris

6) Efforts on how the government might continue to work as a partner and the framework it laid out in this regard including the Implementation group. Necessary ways and means for effective public administration, capacity building and Afghan ownership.

Panelist: Ms. Julia Taft

7) Implementation of the Tokio Conference. Role of donors and donor co-ordination in supporting Afghanistan's recovery and reconstruction.

Panelist: Mr. Mukesh Kapila

8) A comprehensive strategy to fight poppy cultivation and trafficking, and eradicate the drug problem in and from Afghanistan, including introduction of crops substitution and provision of viable livelihood for farmers.

Panelist: Mr. Bernard Frahi

Panelists in alphabetical order

Mr. Jean Arnaud

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan

Mr. Amin Farhang

member of the Afghan government; Minister of Reconstruction

Mr. Bernard Frahi

head of the United Nations Regional Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention for Southwest Asia; and Representative of the Country offices for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Mr. Mukesh Kapila

former special Adviser to the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan; heads the British government Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs Department, United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)

Mr. Eric Morris

Director of the UNHCR office in New York

Mr. Ahmed Rashid

internationally renowned journalist and highly respected expert on Afghanistan, correspondent for the Far Eastern Economic Review; author of several books on Afghanistan including Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia Yale University Press.

Mr. Barnett Rubin

author of several books on Afghanistan, including The Fragmentation of Afghanistan (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995) and The Search for Peace in Afghanistan (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995). Professor Rubin was formerly the Director of the Center for Preventive Action at the Council on Foreign Relations and is now Director of Studies at New York University's Center on International Cooperation.

Ms. Julia Taft

Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP

Resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

Open-Ended Panel of the General Assembly “Afghanistan: One Year Later”

The General Assembly,

Noting the important role played by the United Nations, including the Security Council, in the Afghan peace process,

Noting that the items entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan" and "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security" will be considered by the General Assembly on 6 December 2002,

Convinced that an interactive dialogue on Afghanistan one year after the agreement reached among various groups in Bonn would afford the international community an opportunity to take stock of the lessons learned in Afghanistan as well as enhance discussions on 6 December 2002 in the General Assembly on Afghanistan, including on post conflict reconstruction in Afghanistan and future United Nations activities in this regard,

Welcoming innovative approaches in the ongoing effort to revitalize the work of the General Assembly,

1. Decides to convene on 18 November 2002, an open-ended panel of the General Assembly on Afghanistan which will have two consecutive sessions: from 9 to 11 a.m. and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.;
2. Also decides that the Open-ended Panel will have as its theme "Afghanistan: one year later";
3. Further decides that the first session of the Open-ended Panel will focus on political issues and the second session on economic issues;
4. Decides that the Open-ended Panel will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly and will have, for each session, a maximum of four panelists selected by the President in consultation with the Member States;
5. Also decides that the President of the General Assembly will present a summary of the discussions of the Open-ended Panel at the beginning of the debate in the General Assembly on 6 December 2002 on the items dealing with Afghanistan.