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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on Afghanistan, one year after the Bonn conference

European Parliament resolution on Afghanistan, one year after the Bonn conference

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its earlier resolutions on Afghanistan, in particular its resolutions of 5 September 2002,
 - having regard to the Bonn conference on 4-5 December 2001 which set out a schematic roadmap and timetable for establishing peace and security and for the reconstruction of Afghanistan,
 - having regard to the Loya Jirga meeting of delegates convened in Kabul in mid-June 2002 which appointed the Afghan Transitional Administration and elected Hamid Karzai as transitional President until general elections in 2004,
 - having regard to the Presidency declaration of 22 December 2002 on the Kabul declaration,
- A. whereas more than one year has passed since the Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions was concluded in Bonn in December 2001,
- B. whereas in the face of a destroyed country with the parliament, courts, most of the civil service and the education and health systems in ruins, reconstruction and reconciliation will take more than a generation and these problems cannot be solved by one conference,
- C. whereas the defeat of the Taliban regime and the Bonn conference nevertheless raised considerable expectations inside and outside of Afghanistan as to the restoration of minimum standards of human rights and democracy, and notably an end of the system of apartheid and repression against women,
- D. whereas according to numerous reports repression against women and girls is growing worse again in many parts of the country outside of the capital Kabul and government troops and officials regularly target women and girls for abuse, and enforce Taliban-era restrictions, including banning music and forcing women and adolescent girls to continue wearing burqas,
- E. whereas in the province of Herat, which has a liberal literary and cultural tradition and a history of educating girls, under the governor Ismail Khan abuses of women's and girls' rights are reportedly particularly severe with female citizens again being directly or indirectly barred from movement, education, transport, health services, the justice system and work,
- F. whereas even the distribution of humanitarian aid to female residents is at risk since Afghan women are being discouraged from working for international organisations or even having any contact with them,
- G. whereas the Taliban rule has largely been replaced by the control of different warlords

who receive financial and military support from various governments outside of Afghanistan,

- H. whereas with the re-emergence of military commanders lack of security remains the most serious problem, especially outside of Kabul where the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) is absent, which threatens the people's confidence in the peace process,
- I. whereas demilitarisation is not taking place with the speed needed for the implementation of full security,
- J. whereas the ATA has established a number of institutions which could be the basis for a democratic development, such as the Human Rights Commission, the Central Bank, the drafting committee as a precursor to the Constitutional Commission, etc.,
- K. whereas the Operation Enduring Freedom Coalition, led by the United States and by the United Kingdom and Turkey, as well as other troop contributors have undertaken efforts to provide security in Kabul through ISAF,
- L. whereas economic reconstruction remains an important priority as part of a concerted international effort aimed at bringing long-term stability to Afghanistan, which requires donors to come forward with contributions to advance this goal,
- M. whereas there is evidence of the existence of a mass grave in the Mazar-I-Sharif region (Dasht-I-Leili) which might contain the remains of well over 3000 prisoners of war who were killed after surrendering, and concerned that witnesses of this alleged massacre were killed and tortured,
- N. whereas more than 600 people are held in United States military custody at the naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and elsewhere without charge or trial or access to the courts, lawyers or relatives; whereas most of the detainees - who are believed to be nationals of more than 40 countries - have been held in custody for many months with no indication of when or if they will be released,
 - 1. Stresses that the unrestricted power of the warlords who regularly abuse the human rights of those Afghans living under their control, represents at present the primary threat to peace, stability and reconstruction in Afghanistan;
 - 2. Calls on the US and EU governments to stop all direct or indirect financial and military support to local and regional military commanders and to channel all assistance through the central government in Kabul; calls on UNAMA to make every effort to ensure that reconstruction funds under its control do not benefit financially or politically regional leaders who are committing human rights abuses;
 - 3. Reiterates its demand that ISAF should be expanded outside of Kabul as soon as possible;
 - 4. Calls on the EU and its Member States to finance national demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration programmes to reduce the number of men under arms in Afghanistan;
 - 5. Calls on the ATA to promulgate a decree to introduce the separation of civilian and military security roles on all levels in order to limit the functions of the local and regional military commanders combined with additional civilian administrators answerable to Kabul;
 - 6. Calls on the ATA and the international donors to strengthen the Afghan Human Rights

Commission (AHRC)'s capacity for human rights monitoring and investigations of violations of human rights;

7. Calls on UNAMA and the AHRC to investigate human rights conditions in Herat and throughout Afghanistan pertaining to women's rights and calls on ISAF forces to lend assistance to the AHRC's work;
8. Calls on the UN Commission on Human Rights special rapporteur on violence against women and on the special rapporteur on human rights in Afghanistan to visit areas of Afghanistan where women and girls are being subjected to human rights abuses;
9. Calls on the ATA to accelerate efforts to open offices of the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Herat and other areas outside of Kabul;
10. Calls for swift and objective investigations of human rights violations and war crimes; calls on the United Nations to increase its human rights monitoring presence around the country; appeals to UNAMA to raise publicly human rights problems with regional leaders, to publish detailed reports of alleged abuses and to pressure them to repeal restrictions;
11. Welcomes UNAMA's affirmation that it will carry out visual inspections of the Dasht-I-Leili grave site and its intention to perform a forensic investigation in the spring, and calls on ISAF to support UNAMA in its desire to protect the evidence of possible war crimes and particularly to protect the alleged witnesses and to take effective measures against possible perpetrators of abuses under the command of General Dostum;
12. Calls on the Commission to offer appropriate training, to second staff and to provide the necessary financial and strong political support to the National Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Women's Affairs of Afghanistan;
13. Endorses the decision taken by the ATA to create an Afghan National Army (ANA) and achieve the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants (DDR) into civilian life;
14. Demands that the international community contribute, through its programmes and aid, to the reconstruction and development process; considers that in the coming month concrete improvements in the daily lives of the Afghan population have to be achieved in order to build up and maintain popular support for the democratisation process;
15. Calls on all sides to fulfil the remaining provisions of the Bonn Agreement and for the drafting of a new constitution and preparations for free and fair elections by June 2004 through which a broad-based, gender-sensitive, multi-ethnic and fully representative government can be established;
16. Appeals to all EU Member States to continue granting asylum status to Afghan refugees in Europe as long as respect for basic human rights in Afghanistan, notably for women and girls, is not assured;
17. Strongly condemns the use of cluster bomb submunitions, anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance in Afghanistan by the US army and its allies, which constitute a great danger for the civilian population and a major obstacle to the return of refugees and displaced populations, to the resumption of agricultural activities, to the provision of humanitarian assistance and to future rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;

18. Calls on the Commission to reinforce its cooperation with the Afghan Transitional Authority to launch an initiative to promote rapid progress in the reconstruction of the education and health systems and to implement assistance in all fields in order to achieve rapidly tangible progress and in order to make sure that assistance does not benefit regional leaders rather than the population in need;
19. Welcomes the Declaration on Good-Neighbourly Relations signed by the Transitional Administration of Afghanistan and the Governments of China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in Kabul on 22 December 2002;
20. Insists that all assistance projects should incorporate a gender perspective, that they should actively attempt to promote the participation of both women and men, and that women should benefit equally with men from those programmes;
21. Repeats its call on the US to clarify the situation of the prisoners at Guantánamo Bay and take the necessary steps to ensure that basic safeguards are in place for all those in its custody; while recognising the US Government's obligations to take effective security measures when dealing with cases affecting the safety of the public, recalls that the Government also has the obligation to ensure that any such measures do not compromise fundamental human rights safeguards under international law and standards;
22. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Government of Afghanistan.