



**2020 Afghanistan Conference, 23-24 November, Geneva
Peace, Prosperity and Self-Reliance**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Jean Asselborn,
Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg**

Dear colleagues,

Luxembourg welcomes the launch of the intra-Afghan peace negotiations between the government of Afghanistan and the Taliban. The time has come for true dialogue, in full respect of the legitimate aspirations of the Afghan people.

During my latest visit to Afghanistan in March last year, I was able to see for myself how important it is for peace talks to include all stakeholders. The inclusion of women at the Afghan peace table was very good news indeed. I am convinced that meaningful participation of women in this process will pave the way for a better, more sustainable outcome for all.

Every peace agreement needs an investment plan to be sustainable, and as a long-standing and reliable donor, Luxembourg stands ready to assist Afghanistan at this critical juncture.

However, let me be clear: We cannot support this process at any cost. Negotiations must preserve and build on the political, economic and social achievements of the last 19 years. They must preserve and protect women's rights.

Our support is therefore conditions-based.

It is also important to see a significant reduction in the level of violence. The high level of violence mostly perpetrated by the Taliban must stop. We call on the negotiating parties to agree on a comprehensive and unconditional ceasefire.

Dear people of Afghanistan,

The stakes are very high, but you can count on our solidarity. Luxembourg's support follows a comprehensive "3D" approach, combining the tools of diplomacy, development, and defense. Luxembourg's support since 2001 stands at 104 million euro.

Today, we pledge to stand by the people of Afghanistan with further humanitarian aid and support to longer-term development projects for a total amount of 2.5 million euro in 2021. These projects are implemented in close cooperation with our international partners, including ICRC, UNHCR, WFP, OCHA, UNICEF, Handicap international, and Doctors without borders, as well as with the Afghan people.

Our contribution to NATO's efforts to support peace and security in Afghanistan will also continue, through the participation of the Luxembourg Army in the Resolute Support training mission, the provision of satellite communications, and our yearly contributions to the ANA Trust Fund. Luxembourg will maintain this support through 2024.

I thank you.