

Minister of Foreign Affairs Press Conference Regarding Successful Holding of RECCA-VI

Kabul - September 4, 2015

Respected

Reporters!

As you know, the Sixth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference for Afghanistan (RECCA-VI), hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan was held in Kabul for two days.

The first day of the conference was specified for technical working groups and academics session and the main session was held today and ended a couple of hours ago.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, National Security and Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Minister of Internal Affairs of Iran, Finance Minister of Turkmenistan, Secretary General of SAARC, World Bank Vice President, Deputy Secretary General of ECO, Deputy Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and other countries and regional organizations authorities were present in this session.

The active presence of various countries shows the perfect will and firm commitment of the regional countries for the implementation of RECCA-VI projects as well as the final decisions of the conference.

It needs to be said that RECCA is not a financial assistance attraction manual for Afghanistan, but an effective regional economic and trade mechanism. All regional countries will benefit from RECCA projects and this is the reason behind our hope and belief in the success of the RECCA projects.

Afghanistan wants to start a new regional economic cooperation season through its economic active diplomacy and establish a constructive engagement resulting in win-win situation instead of tension in the region.

The win-win game is only achievable through regional economic cooperation and change of the region's view point of Afghanistan and we pursue to institutionalize this view point in transformation decade.

Afghanistan is seeking not to be a receiving state of financial assistance through following RECCA projects and other economic projects which are in its economic diplomacy frame work and use its economic capacity for its economic and political growth and development.

As his Excellency, the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan stated that Afghanistan was the intersection and connecting point for Asia for thousands of years through Silk Road as a most important route for important economic and trade interactions of the world and we want to rebuild Afghanistan's historic role once again.

Afghanistan has a significant role as the regional transit intersection and connecting bridge for Central Asian to South Asia and Middle East in strengthening trade and transit and energy transmission in Asia and is not an isolated and a country without capacity in terms of economy.

We believe that the South Asia's urgent need for energy and other South Asian countries' dependence on transmission of energy from Central Asia through Afghanistan results in the efforts and cooperation of the regional countries in assuring sustainable peace and stability in Afghanistan, because without sustainable peace and stability in Afghanistan, South Asia does not have any other way for trade and transmission of energy from Central Asia.

As the implementation of projects such as TAPI and CASA-1000 has economic significance for Afghanistan, they have crucial significance for some of South Asian countries as well and their implementation will get them out of the difficult situation of lack of energy.

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Regarding the two day RECCA-VI discussion, I will briefly tell you that the participants of the conference welcomed the world commitments of Bonn-II, Tokyo, London Conference for Afghanistan's Self-Reliance, and other international commitments.

The participants also welcomed the Heart of Asia Process regarding the regional cooperation for a secure and stable Afghanistan and emphasized that there should be further coordination between the Heart of Asia Process and RECCA projects which have priority.

The participants emphasized that RECCA-VI shows the commitment of the continuance of previous promises and implementation of the five previous RECCAs and the previous projects should be implemented.

The participants also called the entrance of the two regional projects, CASA-1000 and TAP, into implementation phase, development in big RECCA projects.

The participants emphasized on the Lapis Lazuli route, the China, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Iran five-way railway, the Chabahar Port which connects India to Afghanistan and Central Asia, the Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan trilateral railway as significant regional transit corridors and demanded that later steps be taken in this regards.

The participants appreciated and thanked the United Nations, European Union, and other international financial organizations and the Government of Afghanistan also appreciated and thanked all the countries for their active presence in this conference which brings encouragement and hope for Afghanistan's bright economic and security future.

I thank you all respected colleagues from media for portraying a positive and promising image of the RECCA during these two days.