



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Kabul, 3-4 September 2015
RECCA
The Silk Road through Afghanistan
6th Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan

The Sixth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan
“The Silk Road through Afghanistan”

3-4 September 2015

“We want to revitalize the Silk Road and turn Afghanistan to a regional hub for connecting Central Asia to South Asia.”

H.E. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani

2014 represented a watershed year for Afghanistan. From presidential elections to the completion of the country’s security transition and establishment of the National Unity Government, the political and security transition processes have been concluded. A successful economic transition remains the third critical pillar for ensuring that the significant gains achieved since 2001 are irreversible. Situated at the crossroads of Eurasia, Afghanistan can now access some of the world’s fastest growing markets, as well as serve as a transit hub for expanding trade between Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Besides raising living standards and spreading ideas and culture, increased economic connectivity through Afghanistan builds confidence and trust across the region, defending against the spread of extremism, narcotics, poverty, and hopelessness.

Building on the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) series initiated in 2005 – *and held in Kabul, New Delhi, Islamabad, Istanbul, and Dushanbe* – RECCA-VI, to be convened on 3-4 September 2015 in Kabul, will:

- Provide a **comprehensive review of progress** since RECCA-I, including in the areas of trade & transport, energy, minerals extraction, private investment, vocational skills training, and disaster preparedness.
- Build an international consensus around **action plans for a select group of regional investment projects and policy priorities**, focused on overcoming implementation obstacles and attracting new investment partners.
- Reaffirm through the **RECCA-VI Declaration** international support for a sovereign Afghanistan integrated in the regional and global economy.
- Ensure that the **Istanbul Process Confidence-Building Measures are achievable and supported by the Tokyo and London Conferences on Afghanistan commitments**, as well as coordinated with strategies agreed through SAARC, CAREC, ECO, SCO, UNSPECA, TRACECA and other regional forums.

Consultations on the above goals will occur in advance of RECCA-VI with Afghan Ministries, regional and international counterparts. Preceding the high-level Ministerial Meeting on 4 September, an Academic Forum and a Regional Business Forum & Made in Afghanistan Exhibition, held on 3 September will engage scholars and business representatives from across the region and beyond around critical regional economic cooperation themes, including in the areas of trade & transport, energy & resource corridors, streamlining customs & border crossings, and attracting investment & technical know-how from the private sector.

For further information, please contact: Mr. Assadullah Hamdard, +93 780340749 & +93 202104350,
recca@mfa.gov.af & hamdardasad@hotmail.com, visit: www.mfa.gov.af and follow us @RECCAafghanistan