

**Speech of the Kingdome of Saudi Arabia**  
**On the Seventh Regional Economic Cooperation**  
**Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA VII)**  
**14-15<sup>th</sup> November, 2017**

**Your Excellency Mr. Chairman,**  
**Your Excellencies,**  
**Dear Participants,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure to participate in this important the Seventh Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA VII). It is my pleasure to thank you for the excellent arrangements made for the Conference.

**Your Excellency Mr. Chairman,**

We value with great respect the efforts that have been exerted by the Government of Afghanistan to achieve

encouraging progress on self-reliance and political sphere. We note with satisfaction the right emphasis put on accelerating the development process, strengthening security, combating drug trafficking, and working hard to achieve good governance. However, the progress of these depends on the capacity-building and the rules of engagements, and the success of any effort depends largely on honoring commitments and respecting partnerships by all parties concerned; since Afghanistan is not alone. However, they need to get more of international support; also, they need to achieve more progress on reform in different sectors and to be able to get the necessary support toward regional economic cooperation. In any case, we are confident that the people and the government of Afghanistan, with the support of the international community, will overcome every obstacle in the way toward the successful implementation of any policies and reform efforts.

Saudi Arabia has always given political and economic support to Afghanistan. On these fronts, Saudi Arabia has been supporting Afghanistan. The total assistance to Afghanistan

since late 2001 has reached around 640 million US dollars; out of which 190 million US dollars as an official and non-official aid for the humanitarian assistance. The remaining 450 million US dollars is in the form of highly concessional and completely untied loan through the Saudi Fund for Development. In this regards, the Fund has allocated 118 million US dollars to co finance (Kabul-Kandahar-Herat) Road project and ( Armaailk – Sabzak- Qalainau) Road Project.

Moreover, the Fund stands ready to allocate another 330 million US dollars for financing top priority development projects in the sectors of health, education and infrastructure. It should be noted that the Fund currently is preparing in order to provide the project on the construction of 100 schools and the project on completion of the ring road in Kabul for the Board of Directors of the Fund in the upcoming days.

**Your Excellency Mr. Chairman,**

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that Saudi Arabia will continue to provide support for Afghanistan and Saudi

Arabia will contribute as much as it can help to finance Afghan development projects through the Saudi Fund for Development.

I wish this important Conference all success.

Thank you for attention!

**Let peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be with You!**