

**H.E. Dr. Spanta's Speech before G8 States
Potsdam, May 30th, 2007-06-08**

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all I would like to express my deep appreciation to the G8 state members, and I would like to express my special gratitude to the Federal Republic Germany and in specific to my dear friend Frank-Walter Steinmeir, Germany's foreign minister.

Afghan delegation is grateful for the excellent organization and the wonderful hospitality.

My esteemed colleagues,

When I travel through the European capital cities, I become astounded and flabbergasted by the limitation and the inadequacy of information about Afghanistan and the lack of recognition and disregard of the achievements in Afghanistan during the past five years.

Five years ago Afghanistan was the center of international terrorism and the systematic abuses of human rights and citizenship were daily routine. Furthermore, the country had become the center of Al-Qaida's international terror network and a threat to the stability of the region and also of the world.

Meanwhile, during the past five years after the fall of Taliban, Afghanistan has an elected president a parliament and the ordinary citizens have access to the freest media in the region.

Today 6 million Afghan children are attending schools and universities, 38% of them are girls. The per capita income has raised from \$186 in year 2002 to \$380 in 2007. As President Kerzai has stated, "Afghanistan is a country of cultural cooperation."

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite all the above mentioned accomplishments, Afghanistan and the international community are far away from the materialization of our collective objectives and goals. Our vision was, is and will remain to establish a democratic Afghanistan: a bridge between the Islamic world and the democratic states of the world.

However, we are confronted with a range of challenges, such as ongoing terrorism, drug problem, weak state institutions, poverty, corruption and fragmentation of the society.

Afghanistan with the help of the international community organized the return of more than 4,7 refugees in the country. The resettlement of this enormous number of the refugees has been and continues to cause major social, political and economic problems and challenges in Afghanistan. The mass deportation of large number of war-ridden and unemployed refugees from our neighbor states has lead to immense challenges and obstacles for the stability and peace in Afghanistan. Therefore, Afghanistan appeals to the international community for an immediate intervention and assistance to cope with this problem.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Afghanistan compact built the general framework for the country and for the international community. In my view, in this context the recognition of the agreed upon tasks and the prioritization of the sought resolutions are most important. The consensus of the international community remains vital in our fight against terrorism, reconstruction, fight against drug trafficking, and materialization of human rights and democratization. An isolated politics will not succeed. **Fight against terrorism, reconstruction, strengthening of the state in accordance with the universal democratic principles and rule of law are essential to the process of establishing a democratic Afghanistan at the crossroad between south and central Asian and near east.**

The materialization of these objectives are attainable through farsightedness, realistic politics and democratic visions.

I think the spirit of Bonn Conference, state building, democratization and peacekeeping, remain more definite than ever before.

Afghanistan appreciates the expansion and strengthening of the United States efforts towards the reconstruction and security in our country. We also welcome the European endeavors towards excel ration and expansion of Afghanistan police training same as part of their reconstruction efforts.

We sincerely thank Japan and Canada for their generous support for the country's reconstruction effort and fight against terrorism. I would like to express my deep appreciation to Federal Russia for their deferral of the loans and for their participation in the reconstruction of the country.

Dear colleagues,

Please permit me to express few words about our relationship with Pakistan,

In our world there are few examples of countries that share so many common cultural and historical traits like Afghanistan and Pakistan. We thank our Pakistani brothers and sisters for their generous assistance of millions of Afghan refugees. We are convinced that without the constructive cooperation of both countries, the accomplishment of the historical project, the cooperation between south and central Asian same as Near East, will not succeed. Afghanistan has utilized all possible political measures to strengthen cooperation between the two countries and we have been in contact with Pakistan on a regular basis. The Ankara Declaration was signed during the meeting between President Karzai and President Bush and it was officially recognized last month. In this declaration a solid framework concerning anti-terror was outlined. We are hopeful for the actual materialization and the execution of the content of this declaration.

To have the support of President Bush in addition to President Kerzai and President Musharaf concerning the regional peace and establishment of the security jirgas present an opportunity for both countries to demonstrate their willingness to search for acceptable mechanisms and measures to secure peace and stability in their countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

My country is a victim of an unique and an unrivaled terror and violence for three decades. We are leading a legitimate fight against terror and violence. In this fight your daughters and sons are also involved. Herewith, I would like to express my condolences to the families of the victims of this terror in Afghanistan. In this context I would like to caution those with the illusion that terrorism activities are only confined to Afghanistan. Simultaneously, I would like to alarm those who believe that they can succeed in using terrorism as instrument of their foreign policy. Terror must be fought in their birth states, in their ideological centers and their social causes need to be eliminated and their financial sources need to be extinguished. This fight will not succeed

unless we acknowledge it as a fight for democracy, human rights, rule of law and also to **consider it as a civil-process power.**

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

We respect the national sovereignty of our neighbors and we claim the same from our neighbors toward us. Thus, it is a legitimate wish of Afghanistan people from our Pakistani brothers and sisters to remain rigorously involved in the fight against terrorism.

Meanwhile, same endeavor and task remain our immediate endeavor for the security of Pakistan. Participation of all Afghans remain a prerequisite to achieve freedom and stability in Afghanistan. My government is ready to welcome and speak with all those who are willing to respect Afghanistan's constitution and are ready to participate in a peaceful coexistence with Afghan people.

Dear friends,

Once again, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to G8 states for providing the opportunity and I welcome the engagement of the G8 in securing peace and security in Afghanistan and in the region.

Once again, Thank you.