

**Statement by H.E Atiqullah Atifmal
Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

**2nd Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit
Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand,
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Your Excellency the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand and Chair of the Summit, Your Royal Highnesses, Your Excellences the Head of states and governments, head of delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen,

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the government and people of the kingdom of Thailand for the excellent arrangements of this summit and kind hospitality extended to our delegation.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to congratulate the United Arab Emirates as the new ACD chair and thank the state of Kuwait for hosting the first ACD Summit in 2012. Furthermore, I would like to welcome the accession of the Republic of Turkey and Nepal as the new members of ACD

Excellences ladies and gentlemen,

Afghanistan counts on the vision, mission and goals of ACD and believes that ACD can play a vital role in strengthening mutual trust, expanding collaboration and cooperation among the member states for peace, stability and prosperity.

Mr. Chairman

Afghanistan as a land locked country gives more attention to the regional cooperation among ACD members especially in trade and investment. At the same time geographic location of Afghanistan at the cross roads between South Asia and Central Asia offers a great opportunity for promoting regional connectivity and economic integration. Major regional infrastructure projects such as TAPI, CASA 1000, Lapis, Lazoli, Railways projects with all our neighbors and Chahbahar agreement will turn Afghanistan into a regional transit hub.

Mr. Chairman

Afghanistan remains committed to play its role and takes every possible initiative for a stable and prosperous Asia. Expansion of trade and investment, development of tourism industry educational interaction, providing relax visa regulations for the nationals of the ACD member state especially for trade and investment would have a very important role in expanding and strengthening the trade and investment among the ACD countries.

Mr. Chairman

Afghanistan as a country, which suffered a lot from terrorism, believes that terrorism is a common enemy of the humanity and there is no good and bad terrorism, therefore fighting terrorism needs close cooperation of all ACD member countries and as well the whole world.

Mr. Chairman

I am fully confident that our participation in this important and well-organized summit will further strengthen our regional cooperation and our determination.

In conclusion, please allow me once again to thank the kingdom of Thailand for hosting this second ACD summit and reiterate our commitment and support towards building a peaceful and prosperous world.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.