Position Paper for the United Nations Economic and

Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Topic 1:

The Role of Infrastructure in the Development of the South East Asia

The Republic of Afghanistan

The republic of Afghanistan strongly believes that Afghanistan plays a huge role in the infrastructure of Asia and the Pacific. After decades of war, harsh climate and neglect Afghanistan is in need of a path to economic recovery, including new roads, bridges, power plants and the capacity to maintain them. In 2006, the U.S Agency for International Development (USAID) began a project for Afghanistan’s Infrastructure and Rehabilitation Program (AIRP) together with Republic of Afghanistan. Afghanistan’s infrastructure is estimated at 4$ billion over the next 3 years, more than any government or funding agency can provide. The Priorities for Afghanistan are stronger transport links, energy facilities and security, irrigation systems, development of mineral resources, and private sector development. The funds for the Afghanistan’s infrastructure are supported by Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United states to support the funds.

In 2002, only 6 percent of the citizens in Afghanistan had access to reliable electricity. This number has increased by 27 percent to this current date.  Generation capacity in this politically critical region has doubled, giving 80,000 households in Kandahar and Helmand their first-ever access to reliable electricity. The roads are a huge aspect of the infrastructure of Afghanistan, USAID has invested more than $2 billion in the construction and rehabilitation of more than 2,000 kilometers (km) of roads, including Afghanistan’s Ring Road, which connects the country’s five major cities: Herat, Kabul, Kandahar City, Jalalabad, and Mazar-e-Sharif. SAID is focused on safeguarding previous investments and helping the Afghan government and private sector develop the ability and generate the revenue to expand, operate, and maintain the country’s road network. Human rights such as water and clean air are limited resources in the Afghanistan society, only 39.4 percent of rural and 70.9 percent of urban households have access to safe drinking water. The USAID has created over 3,000 wells, focusing on rural areas to ensure clean water for the communities.

Afghanistan is growing and rehabilitating, to grow their infrastructure. It is a process that takes time and help from others to achieve a good society after a country has been tormented for decades.

Topic 2:

Future of Food

For many reasons such as war, lack of resources and many others, Afghanistan is in great poverty and is lacking resources to sustain the community. As mentioned in the previous topic, only 39.4 percent of rural and 70.9 percent of urban households have access to safe drinking water. As the international intervention in Afghanistan begins to unwind, the main focus point is safe food and water for the citizens, access to staples and a level of basic nutrition has profound flow-on effect for the cohesion, strength and development of the population. While there are not logistic statistics it is evident that the agriculture in Afghan is in a very critical state. The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights spoke upon this critical issue in April 2010 addressing this issue “Poverty actually kills more afghans than those who die as a direct result of the armed conflict either accidental nor inevitable; it is both a cause and a consequence of a massive human rights deficit”.

According the OHCHR statics, 36 percent of the afghan population live in absolute poverty, and only 37 percent of the population live in slightly above the poverty lives. Afghanistan has the second higher maternal mortality rate in the world and third highest child mortality. The key reasons for such poverty in this country is vulnerability to conflict, natural disasters, decreasing rule of law, increasing basic costs, increasing population, food security and winterization. OHCHR claims that Abuse of power is the key factor of poverty in Afghanistan. This report strongly argues that the regime commonly is unable to deliver basic needs such as security, food and shelter. “Many of the interviewed during the field research believed that only 15-20 per cent of the food aid researched the poorest people.”

To show the ratio for food for example, 600 families will receive only 40 sacks of wheat in Bagdad families. The families believe that this is not enough for the size of the population. The food aid effort is already implemented in Afghanistan; the World Food Program reports to deliver food to 9 million afghan citizens. The daily wage in Kabul of simple labour is barely enough to purchase 5kg of wheat. In 2008, Afghanistan went into food price crisis, the food price increased 48 percent on supplies as basic as sugar and cooking oil. In 2009, Afghanistan was able to slightly recover from the price crisis due to rainfall which made the harvest in 2009 almost twice as large, satisfying at least 95 percent of the domestic wheat demand.

In Conclusion, slowly the agriculture in Afghanistan begins to develop with the help of different organisations such as world Food Program but Afghanistan continues to b filler with poverty, and filled with starvation. If other organisations join, the starvation and poverty can be over reached.

Topic 3:

Labour Migration & Illegal Trafficking in the Asia- Pacific

The net migration rate of Afghanistan has increased significantly in recent decades. During the Soviet years from 1979 to 1989, a large number of the population left the country with a negative migration rate of -56.7/1000 between 1980 and 1985. While Taliban power was growing from 1996 to 2001, the migration increased again but when the U.S. invasion toppled the regime for providing refuge to Osama bin Laden, the Taliban regrouped in Pakistan, when Taliban left the country the migration rates decreased and increased the rate of refugee’s coming home. Although Afghanistan has made great progress on developing their society after the violence although has still far to go. Because of great violence although the battles have ended, there is still a lot of distress in the country therefore the rates of citizens leaving is much greater than citizens coming in therefore migration is a huge problem to stabilizing the society in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is in desperate need to end all conflict and worry around the country to establish a stabilized society.

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