



میکانیزم افغانستان برای صلح همه شمول
د ټول شموله سولې لپاره د افغانستان میکانیزم
AFGHANISTAN MECHANISM FOR INCLUSIVE PEACE

Press Release

Strategic Consultation with Civil Society on the Peace Process (Second Dialogue) Intercontinental Hotel, Kabul, 5 July 2021

The second round of Strategic Consultation with Civil Society on the peace process, facilitated by the Afghanistan Mechanism for Inclusive Peace (AMIP), brought together over 60 participants representing different backgrounds including civil society members, women, youth, tribal leaders, minorities, religious scholars, academia, and the private sector from Kabul and the provinces. The objective of this consultation is to follow up on its first dialogue held with civil society on 4th May, to further identify civil society's concerns, discuss recent contextual changes with regards to lack of progress in peace talks; and to develop strategies for coordinated efforts to help revive the process and make the process more inclusive.

In addition to developing strategies for civil society's engagement in the peace process, the participants of the consultation stated that there is a real opportunity for peace in Afghanistan and that this opportunity should not be missed. In line with this, they discussed the imminent concerns and needs regarding security, the prospect of a complete ceasefire as a prerequisite to lasting peace or alternative options, civil society's participation and contribution in the monitoring and verification of a ceasefire; preservation of international humanitarian law by warring parties, and the demands from the regional and international partners to take part in various stages of the process.

Civil Society made the following points:

- Civil Society must come together in unity from across Afghanistan to bring the voices of the Afghan people directly and in-person to address the two negotiating parties. Civil Society recommends that AMIP form a technical and professional team among civil society and take them to the negotiation table at regular intervals.

- A reduction in violence is not sufficient, we demand a comprehensive ceasefire! Civil Society asks for a third impartial facilitator to help the parties negotiate a ceasefire if they are unable to do so themselves. Civil Society is ready to play a role in any independent monitoring and verification mechanism for a ceasefire.
- Civil Society demands that all warring parties respect and follow the Geneva Convention on the rule of war. All parties should cease targeting civilians and civilian infrastructures such as hospitals, schools, power pylons, etc. Civil Society demands that all combatants are treated humanely and the decapitation and burning of bodies should end immediately.
- Civil Society stresses the shared responsibility of the international community towards Afghanistan as they have been an integral part of the conflict and its resolution. Furthermore, Afghanistan is a member of the United Nations family and civil society asks this family to not abandon us in our time of need. Civil Society asks the regional and international community to take a more rigorous part in the peace process, ensuring a resolution within a reasonable timeframe.