



د افغانستان د خلکو غږ  
صدای مردم افغانستان  
VOICE OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE

## Statement

### People's Consultative Gathering in Kunduz and Baghlan

September 1<sup>st</sup> 2022

Kunduz City

The first one-day consultative local gathering for Kunduz and Baghlan provinces was successfully conducted in Kunduz city.

The gathering brought together nearly 200 men and women from different communities, including religious scholars, social and cultural activists, tribal leaders, businessmen, women, youths, victims of conflict, and minorities.

The Voice of Afghan People organized the gathering and aimed for the people's representatives to share their current problems and concerns with the relevant authorities of Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan (IEA).

Mullah Nisar Ahmad Nusrat, Kunduz governor, and Matiullah Rohani, the provincial information and culture director, attended the summit and addressed the participants on behalf of the IEA. They both mentioned that the IEA is committed to considering the participants' demands and suggestions according to national and Islamic interests. In addition, Marza Mohammad Laghmani, a tribal leader from Kunduz, demanded the regular continuation of such gatherings with authorities.

Following the introductory remarks, the participants were divided into group discussions and exchanged views on different issues such as the economy, good governance, interaction with the world, natural resources, opportunities, and challenges of the cultural and social organizations. The summary of these discussions includes the following issues:

1. The participants believe that the Afghanistan people are the primary victims of the imposed international sanctions. The crises completely paralyzed the economy, affected the public at all levels, and caused a lack of growth in the national and local economies. Therefore, the participants called on the international community to immediately lift these sanctions.

2. The participants commended the humanitarian aid provided by the international community; however, they requested changes in the aid distribution mechanism to focus more on strengthening the local economy, creating jobs, and investing in infrastructure projects. That includes agriculture, mining, water management, growth of industry, and local production to reduce the economic crisis, migrations, and unemployment at the local and national levels.
3. The participants believe that it is crucial to have strong capacities based on competency, professionalism and expertise to improve local and central governance and added that separation of responsibilities among the government institutions is also essential. In addition, the participants asked the local and central authorities to establish positive relations with the international community.
4. The participants demanded the standardization of commercial and transit ports to improve bilateral relations between neighboring countries through the creation of common cross-border markets for the growth of local products and the improvement of the local economy based on accepted international standards.
5. The participants asked for the creation of a single mechanism for interaction between government authorities, the people, and cultural and social institutions in the current situation so that the people's demands and problems are regularly conveyed to the local authorities and support from the people's institutions will lead to the strengthening of good governance.
6. The participants demanded the participation of women in the government and national decisions which is supported in religious and national teachings.

Finally, the participants asked the IEA to ensure broad interaction with the various spectrums of civil society and to work together to create transparency and confidence-building between citizens and officials. The participants also welcomed any other priorities the Islamic Emirate wanted to discuss in the continuation of the talks.

The one-day gathering will be followed up with various other summits at the regional and provincial levels.