

Dear Excellencies and Heads of Missions

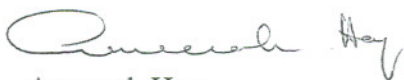
Preparation of a Progress Report against the Millennium Development Goals

I would like to extend the full support of the United Nations to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in the preparation of Afghanistan's progress report against the Millennium Development Goals.

The Millennium Development Goals are ambitious and challenging global targets for poverty reduction, and every Member State has a role to play in their achievement. The preparation of this report will provide the opportunity to identify some realistic goals for Afghanistan over the next ten years, as well as some intermediate milestones. We hope that this process will be the foundation of a lasting partnership between the Government, the United Nations, donors, civil society and the private sector to address the many facets of poverty and exclusion in Afghanistan, which will be carried forward into the preparation of the National Development Strategy.

Although 2015 may seem a long way off, and Afghanistan's recovery from years of conflict only just beginning, we must start now to identify the path towards sustainable development.

We look forward to participating in fruitful discussions with you on these issues.



Ameerah Haq,
United Nations Resident Coordinator, Afghanistan.

13th June 2005