

جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان
شورای عالی مصالحه ملی
هیئت مذاکره کننده صلح



د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت
د ملي مصالحې عالي شورا
دسولې مذاکره کوونکې هیئت

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
High Council for National Reconciliation
Peace Negotiations Team

Subject: Thank You – from Afghan Chief Negotiator and Women Negotiators

Dear Congresswoman Maloney and Congressman Lynch,

We are writing to thank you and your staff members for your sincere support for human and women's rights, peace and democracy in Afghanistan. The two hearings held last fall under your leadership were great opportunities for highlighting these issues and a strong signal of your commitment to human rights, democracy and an inclusive and just peace in Afghanistan. It gave us the confidence that these principles, while might not have been mentioned in the agreement between the United States and the Taliban, will not be ignored anymore. The two hearings also gave us the assurance that we will not be alone in demanding a just and practical political settlement, one that guarantees equal rights and opportunities for all our people. We know we have you with us and for that, we are very grateful.

The two hearings also had a great impact here in Doha, where we have been negotiating with the Taliban. It sent a strong message that there is accountability and that the women negotiators must be listened to, respected, and that the issues they speak about must be taken seriously. It helped change the tone here in our engagements with US officials and other negotiators. So, thank you for standing with us!

We, all members of the negotiating team of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, especially the four women members, strongly believe that peace is only possible when women and girls are treated equally and are granted equal opportunities. Experiences from the past as well as research show that a peace agreement will only last when women are meaningfully involved and when it reflects the will of the people. Our people want peace and a system of governance that gives them a platform to participate in the

public sphere. Just like you represent millions of your constituents, here in Doha, we are representing the will of our people for a just, inclusive and lasting peace in our country. The support of allies like you, who have stood with us for many years, is important in fulfilling this responsibility.

The February Agreement, which has sidelined the Afghan government but elevated the Taliban position from being a terrorist group to a national political movement, undermines the rights of Afghan women. As the new US Administration is reviewing the Agreement, our expectation is that more pressure should be exerted on the Taliban to seriously consider negotiations as the only mean for lasting peace and put an end the violence and bloodshed. Similarly, as we navigate through these challenging times in the negotiations, we will continue to need your support in highlighting issues of human and women's rights for a lasting peace in Afghanistan and the region. We hope an opportunity will allow us to meet with you to exchange views and to personally thank you for your tireless support throughout your time in the United States Congress. We are energized every time we hear you and your fellow congress members speak about the human rights of Afghan women and the Afghan people.

Thank you for your continued solidarity and support.

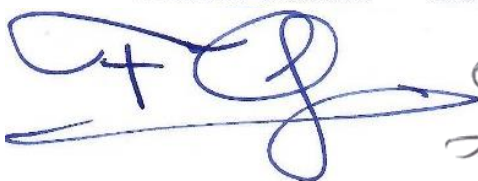
Sincerely,



Mohammad Masoom Stanekzai

Head of the Negotiations Team

Fatima Gailani



Habiba Sarabi



Sharifa Zurmati



Fawzia Koofi

