



## **Following first presidential debate, ASAP urges continued U.S. support for a Afghan stability**

Washington, D.C. (October 1, 2020) – Though there was no discussion during this week’s presidential debate about U.S. policy on Afghanistan, it’s a subject our national leadership – and, indeed, all Americans – will inevitably confront well into the next administration and Congress. The Alliance in Support of the Afghan People calls for responsible U.S. engagement in Afghanistan that reduces our military presence while strengthening the country’s security, in order to preserve and build on its nearly two decades of remarkable social, economic and governance progress. Recently convened intra-Afghan talks, brokered by the U.S., also offer the prospect of the stability, peace and freedoms Afghans deserve.

In Afghanistan, American values and national security interests are at stake – and converge. Our values urge us to heed well-founded Afghan fears that, without sufficient U.S. support, gains in girls’ and women’s empowerment, democratic institutions, vibrant media, and economic development will tragically unwind.

Our security interests call for an Afghanistan that is at peace and no longer a safe haven for global terrorism. That goal is only possible if a right-sized U.S. military and intelligence presence continues to enable Afghan forces to neutralize security threats.

We look forward to hearing more from both presidential campaigns and members of Congress who will for the coming years be responsible for U.S. policy on Afghanistan. To protect our interests and our values, we urge them to remain committed to helping Afghans secure their future.

*The Alliance in Support of the Afghan People (or ASAP) represents a cross section of American national security, military, civilian and human rights leaders who advocate for continued U.S. engagement that protects, sustains, and advances the progress the Afghan and American people have made in Afghanistan since 2001. For more information: <https://www.allianceforafghans.org/>*