



Alliance in Support of the Afghan People Message to the Incoming U.S. Administration

Washington, D.C. (Nov. 12, 2020) – As President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris begin the important work of preparing to take office in January, the Alliance in Support of the Afghan People urges them to be mindful of the need for the United States to remain appropriately engaged with Afghanistan, especially as Afghans continue to establish their security, seek peace and build on the remarkable social, economic, civil society, women’s rights and governance gains of the last 19 years.

We urge the incoming Biden administration, first and foremost, to put the multifaceted and long-standing partnership between the U.S. and the government of Afghanistan at the center of our policy there. The U.S. has over the years made a substantial and valuable investment in the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) and in the country’s efforts to strengthen economic development and democracy and the rule of law. The past and future progress that has emerged from this partnership remains an indispensable foundation of U.S. strategic interests in Afghanistan, in the region and in the world.

Most urgently, the U.S. must play a critical role in bringing about an immediate cease fire and actual peace in Afghanistan. Too many lives have been lost or devastated in Afghanistan, and recent attacks suggest the violence will not end soon.

U.S. policy must also continue to give priority to values that have long defined our engagement in Afghanistan – such as constitutional democracy, rule of law, rights for all its citizens and economic and social development.

Ultimately, America’s best policy is to remain committed to right-sized U.S. military and intelligence support that allows Afghan forces to maintain security, a prerequisite to all other progress in the country. Our engagement there is also essential to preventing militant groups from gaining a foothold to launch terrorist actions domestically and abroad. Under the new administration, the U.S. must continue to lead by example when it comes to providing the essential development assistance that Afghanistan needs to build a stronger, more resilient society for the benefit of all its citizens.

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/>