

UN mission welcomes Afghan Government's proposal for peace talks with Taliban

The United Nations mission in Afghanistan on Wednesday welcomed the Government's renewed call for unconditional peace talks with the Taliban and expressed strong support for its vision for peace.

The Government presented the proposal at an international conference aimed at creating a platform for peace talks.

"The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) welcomes the Afghan Government's [renewed call for unconditional peace talks](#) with the Taliban and the outlining of a framework for peace, presented at the Kabul Process II conference in the Afghan capital today," said a UNAMA press release.

The Mission "strongly supports the vision for peace through intra-Afghan dialogue and urges all parties involved to engage at the earliest time," the release said.

UNAMA commended the stated preparedness of Afghan authorities to discuss all issues as part of a peace process, including such key aspects as the constitution and the lifting of sanctions against persons and entities, as well as the release of prisoners.

The UN Security Council established UNAMA, a political mission, in March 2002. However, Afghanistan remains a country undergoing conflict, which threatens the sustainability of its achievements, according to the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA).

Peace negotiations between the Afghan Government and armed opposition groups are [the only alternative](#) for ending the conflict, the DPA says, noting that the region and the broader international community have a stake and a role in helping to create the conditions for peace.

The conference, held in Kabul, brought together all of Afghanistan's neighbouring States, along with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council – China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States – as well as other parties, to establish a consensus among regional and international stakeholders on the imperative for an Afghan-led peace process.

"UNAMA is encouraged by the active participation of the countries and organisations present; we look forward to increased cooperation to assist with Afghan peace efforts and to address the shared problem of terrorism and transnational crime," the release said.