

# *Strengthening the Weak: Canada's Commitment to Afghanistan*

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# *The Canadian Forces in Afghanistan*

*“...the powerful exact what they can, and the weak grant what they must.”*

Thucydides: The Melian Debate



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# *Aim and Emphasis*

- To describe the CF contribution to Canada's National Strategy in Afghanistan.
  - The major elements.
  - Strategic Advisory Team - Afghanistan
  - Alignment with the *Afghanistan Compact* and *Afghanistan's National Development Strategy*.
  - 3D Reciprocity.
  - Strategic Reflections.



# *The Bonn Process*



# *Afghanistan-The Future*

- *The Afghanistan Compact* – Mutual commitment between International Community and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
- *Afghanistan's National Development Strategy/PRSP* – The “how to...”
- UNSC Resolution 1659 (2006) 15 Feb 06



# *The “Afghanistan Compact” – The Vision*

“Our vision for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is to consolidate peace and stability through just, democratic processes and institutions, and to reduce poverty and achieve prosperity through broad based and equitable economic growth.”

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, *Afghanistan National Development Strategy, Summary Report*. p 3

Also available at: <http://www.ands.gov.af/main.asp>



# *The Commitment*

“The Afghan Government hereby commits itself to realizing this shared vision of the future; the international community, in turn commits itself to provide resources and support to realize that vision.”

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, *The Afghanistan Compact: A Strategy For Security, Governance, Economic Growth & Poverty Reduction* (Kabul, 2006) p. 2. Also available at: <http://www.ands.gov.af/main.asp>



Figure 3.1.

**Pillars, Sectors & Themes for the I-ANDS**

**Pillar 1**  
Security

**Pillar 2**  
Governance  
Rule of Law  
& Human  
Rights

**Pillar 3**  
Economic and Social Development

Sector 1  
Security

Sector 2  
Governance, Rule  
of Law and  
Human Rights

Sector 3  
Infrastructure  
&  
Natural  
Resources

Sector 4  
Education

Sector 5  
Health

Sector 6  
Agriculture  
&  
Rural  
Developm't

Sector 7  
Social  
Protection

Sector 8  
Economic  
Govern'ce  
& Private  
Sector  
Developm't

**Gender Equity (cross cutting theme 1)**

**Counter Narcotics (cross cutting theme 2)**

**Regional Cooperation (cross cutting theme 3)**

**Anti-Corruption (cross cutting theme 4)**

**Environment (cross cutting theme 5)**

# *Insurgency in Afghanistan*

- Not a classical national liberation struggle.
- Amorphous networks of Taliban, armed gangs, criminals, drug lords, tribal leaders etc...**No** popular support.
- **Aim** – to deny legitimate Government authority in South...force premature NATO withdrawal.
- **Targets**...the people and the will of Afghan/Western decision makers.
- Strategic in nature.



# *The CF Commitment-2200(+)*

- Task Force Afghanistan – HQ and Staff.
- 1 RCR Battle Group
- Provincial Reconstruction Team-Kandahar
- Observer-Mentor Liaison Team
- Special Operations Forces
- Staff in MNB (S)
- National Support Element
- Afghanistan National Training Centre Detachment
- Strategic Advisory Team-Afghanistan
- Staffs – OEF and ISAF



# *SAT-A: Strategic Focus and Activities*

- *ANDS / PRSP* – The Govt’s strategic plan (economic focus) to meet the *Compact* and the Millennium Development Goals. **Embedded Team**
- MRRD – Main delivery agent. **Embedded Team**
- Office of the President – Reorganize and professionalize. **One member w/ President’s COS**
- Strategic Communications.



# *SAT-A Accomplishments*

- Support to Ambassador Alexander – *Compact* drafting.
- The interim *ANDS* presented in London – major effort in achieving cohesion etc...
- *ANDS* Governance
- Draft PAR strategy – requires major international effort.
- Linking *ANDS* to ISAF/OEF PRTs.
- MRRD strategy and linking MRRD/PRTs.
- OOP Reorganization concept.
- Communications strategies
  - *ANDS*, MRRD, IARCSC, OOP.



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# Security

- **Canadian Forces-** Combat Troops - Command and Control, PRT, ANTC, OMLT.
- **DFAIT** – Policy, advocacy, communications...
- **CIDA** – Funds SSR, DIAG, Police Reform etc...



# *Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights*

- **DFAIT** – Policy lead, Advocacy, Human Rights and Judiciary.
- **CIDA** – Projects such as NSP.
- **CF** – PRT and SAT-A



# *Economic and Social Development*



- **CIDA** - Lead, plan, coordinate...
- **CF** – Troops establish secure environment.
- **PRT** and **SAT-A** directly involved.
- **DFAIT** – Strategic direction and advocacy



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# *National Issues - Security*

- Insurgency in the South.
- ANA Reform – Good progress but needs to be accelerated.
- ANP Reform – Very slow. Impeded by corruption throughout the ranks.
- Population needs to be confident in Government's ability to provide basic security.
- ISAF/ANSF and Government coordination improving.



# *National Issues – Governance and Rule of Law*

- Need to strengthen leadership.
- Fight corruption in state institutions.
- Presence of “warlords” and criminal elements at all levels.
- Major effort required to establish Rule of Law.
- Confidence in government eroding.
- Recent positive developments –
  - Pakistan, anti-corruption measures, new sub-national structures.



# *National Issues – Economic and Social Development*

- Security essential...ADZ Concept
- Despite *ANDS*, international aid effort still incoherent, under funded and lacks urgency.
- High overhead, use of international contractors.
- Population does not see the results.
- Some Ministries (MRRD, Education, Finance) – Increased effectiveness all the time.



# *Personal Evaluation*

- Afghanistan's future is still contested.
- Impressive progress since 2002.
- More international resources, better aligned are essential.
- Security – mostly stable. Rule of law must be strengthened.
- Long term international state-building effort.
- More positives than negatives!



# Conclusion



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*The Melian Debate*

