



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY FOR YOUTH AMBASSADORS OF PEACE
"Olympic Schools Network"
Sport and Art for Peace!

First Afghan Civil Society National Pre-Peace Conference
"AFGHANISTAN BACK TO THE PEACE - All Human Rights for All"

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the **Afghan Civil Society National Pre-Peace Conference**.

Since 2002 the Italian ONLUS organization, **PeaceWaves**, has promoted and developed, in co-operation with its partner ANCB (Afghan NGO's Coordination Bureau, umbrella to over 300 Afghan organizations spread throughout the territory) three projects in Afghanistan:

- "Afghanistan Back to the Music",
- "Sport and Art for Peace in Afghanistan",
- "Culture as a challenge for the re-construction of Afghanistan"

These projects are included in the operations towards the reconstruction of the Afghan educational system. In particular, in November 2005, PeaceWaves - besides its support to an orphanage and to a Vocational School - constructed and inaugurated a music school, opened also to women: the VICTORIA MUSIC SCHOOL.

The mission of PeaceWaves is to work for Peace, intended as a creative and non violent transformation of conflicts by using transversal instruments like sports and art in inter-generational and intercultural ways. The goal is to create an international network of peace workers who support the development of democracy and human rights for all.

Following these principals PeaceWaves decided to organize together with its Afghan partners a Peace Conference involving the Afghan Civil Society. Its aims are

- To give the possibility to the CS to discuss the topics that it finds more relevant
- To prove both inside and outside Afghanistan that the CS is alive and has much to say
- To find an agreement among all the different ways of thinking
- To individuate and promote specific actions in the field of reconstruction and reconciliation, defining priorities and indicating agendas, time schedules, ways of putting them into practice.

In order to make this conference as effective as possible, we thought that it was the case to find a time to share ideas and to create a stronger civil society network focused on the organization of the First Peace Conference which is going to be held on March 2008.



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To carry out this idea PeaceWaves together with ANCB has established a Head Group made up of 20 people from different parts of the country, different ethnic and religious groups and people from all walks of life in civilian society coming from networks of Afghan non governmental organizations, universities, the Press, Parliament, Government and UN agency exponents. This group is open to be extended to those who are keen in participating.

This group work, over this process, paid a particular attention to the fact the Afghan crisis has never been a local but an international crisis that can be tackled and solved having a regional vision. This should imply a strong connection between the Afghan civil society, the regional societies and the implementation of relationships with the world civil societies. For this reason we have chosen the dates of 26-27-28 of January because yesterday was the Global Day of Mobilization and Action organized by the World Social Forum.

We believe in this process because

- Civil society plays a very important role in the lives of all citizens: developing participation, awareness, knowledge and opportunity. Civil society sustains and encourages the many different ways in which citizens with a variety of political views, varied linguistic traditions, social priorities, beyond their different ethnic origins and religions can and must mutually interact in their variety of functions and roles including that of being a citizen.
- Civil society must speak and must give voice to the millions of people, tired hungry and exhausted by the fatigue of everyday life, who represent more than 90% of the population and feel hopeless.
- Civil society represents the plurality of the Afghan identity and in the case of a regional network, even more than their neighbouring countries.
- Civil society represents and supports gender issues, including that of representation being aware that women represent more than 50% of the area.
- Civil society represents the civil rights and appeals of the many who have no voice above all children, the disabled and youth who for the first time in a long time could have a future.

Why the Afghan civil society upholds this process

- They have taken the responsibility to be an active part in the process of moral, civil, social cultural and economic reconstruction
- Since they know the situation and needs of their people and their territory, this knowledge makes them even more responsible and obliges them to react.
- Precisely because they are actors of civil society they know its importance and have the power to put together knowledge, experience and resources. From this the necessity to create networks and work together as one, big, collective intelligence: the resulting answer is always superior to the sum of the parts if the parts work together in cooperation and trust.
- Poverty, injustice and inequality are tightly connected to the development of violence but this alone would not be enough to generate violence if local, regional and international disinterest would not implement a continuous and constant resentment which often transforms into compensative retaliatory violence. A

Knowledge changes the world!

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more equal subdivision of resources, respect and the use of human rights for everyone can contribute to medium and long scale prevention of recruitment by terrorists, warlords and drug traffickers ... and can facilitate a climate of tolerance and start the process of democracy and peace.

- We are all convinced that there can be no peace without justice. We are also convinced that justice must be first meant as social justice, and that we all have to work towards an active security and not a passive one: not the security of the militaries, but the security made with the Afghans and for the Afghans, that aims at a participative path towards occupation, schooling, health.

La Pre Peace Conference avrà tre obiettivi:

- Organizzare la conferenza nazionale di pace della società civile e stabilirne l'agenda;
- Costituire un rapporto forte e diretto tra e con le società civile in ambito locale, regionale, internazionale ed in particolare implementare il rapporto con la società civile italiana;
- Predisporre un documento politico da sottoporre ai governi ed alle nazioni unite per promuovere un cambiamento di strategia nella ricostruzione, riconciliazione e pacificazione del paese.

Now, a few information about the agenda.

This morning, we will have a plenary session with some of the more important topics identified by the group concerning the civil society.

In the afternoon, we will have 6 groups with 3 topics:

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It wouldn't have been possible to organize this conference without the great support of the lead group and their whole organizations:

Mr. Said Fazlullah Wahidi, **Chairman** of Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (**ANCB**)

Mr. Masood Khalil – Executive Director ANCB – **Lead Group Coordinator**

Mr. Azizurrehman Rafiee, Managing **Director of ACSF**

Mr. Sebgatullah Sanjar President's Karzai **Chief of Policy**

Mr. Mohammad Nasib, **Director of WADAN**

Mr. Sarwar Mamound, **UNAMA** member

Mr. Mohammad Alem Farhad, **Dean** of Faculty of Fine Arts, **Kabul University**

Ms. Aryan Yoon, **Parliamentarian**

Mr. Liaqatullah (Babakarkhil) **Parliamentarian**

Mr. Fazel Karim Fazel, **Director of OMAR HQ & Museum – Shamshad TV**

Ms. Anakali Honaryar, **AHRC member**

Ms. Adela, member of **Student Union**

Mr. Jan Mohammad, **Chairman of SWABAC**

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Ms. Leeda Yaqoobi, **AWN Deputy Director**
Ms. Orzala Ashraf, **Founder/Director HAWCA**
Ms. Noor Khanum-Ahmadzai **Terre Des Hommes – Afghanistan, Kabul**
Mr. Danish Karokhel – **Director Pajhwok Afghan News**
Mr. Amanullah Nasrat – **Director Hewad**
Mr Lal Gul-**AHRO**
Mr Gulam Hassan Gran- **Secretary General Wolesi Jirga**
Mr Gul Badshah Majidi- **Wolesi Jirga**
Mr Ahmad Haris Nayab- **Intercontinental Hotel**
Mr Noristani- **Intercontinental Hotel**

Obviously this conference has the support of the Italian Ministry for Foreigner Affair, the Italian Co-operation and in particular the Italian ambassador Ettore Sequi and all his staff.

I will now give the floor to my advisor Ms Lucia Berdondini who will read out the greeting message from the Deputy Minister Foreign Patrizia Sentinelli.

I thank you all for being here and I wish you a very good work.