



Second International Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan

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In January 2002, more than 60 countries and 20 international organisations participated in the Afghanistan [Recovery and Reconstruction Conference](#) in Tokyo, pledging more than USD 1.8 billion for the year 2002 and USD 4.5 billion over the ensuing five years to rebuild Afghanistan, according to the United Nations Development Programme. On 08 July 2012, a decade after the first Tokyo Conference, governments, international organisations and other stakeholders will re-convene in that same city to pledge assistance to Afghanistan for the remaining transition years and beyond. With the [NATO Chicago Summit](#) having concluded, preparations have been underway for this major conference. [The objective of the conferences](#) is to secure concrete levels of financial, development and security assistance from the international community for Afghanistan beyond 2014, according to the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. While past conferences have addressed the international community's sustained support to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), the Tokyo Conference will also reportedly highlight the "[non-security aspects](#)" of on-going transition process and the volumes of development assistance which may be provided. [More than 40 nations are expected to attend](#), *Khaama Press* reports.

Tadamichi Yamamoto, Japan's Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, stated that the [Tokyo Conference is a follow-up to the December 2011 Bonn Conference](#), according to *Khaama Press*. He said that the event will aim to translate the commitments agreed in Bonn last year into action. Foreign ministers participating in the May 2012 G8 meeting noted that the Tokyo Conference will be an important opportunity for the international community and the Afghan government to demonstrate their [mutual commitment](#) to economic growth and enhanced governance in Afghanistan, says *Pajhwok Afghan News*. The outcome of the Tokyo Conference will show "whether Afghanistan is going to be viewed by donors as a special case in which drastic [aid reduction can be avoided](#) in the wake of military withdrawal", writes the *Afghanistan Analysts Network*.



According to the Council of the European Union, the Tokyo Conference should [build on existing mutual commitments](#) by the international community and the Afghan government “to ensure the viability of the Afghan state up to transition and throughout the Decade of Transformation”. The EU Council stated that the European Union will advocate “a progressive approach in the form of a roadmap”, supporting the Afghan government’s National Priority Programmes (NPPs) while also seeking progress on issues such as governance and human rights. The EU Council says it will also strive to coordinate assistance from its member states to Afghanistan.

At the conference, Afghanistan will present a [proposed budget for 22 NPPs](#), *Pajhwok* reports. According to Syed Habib Ahmadzai, head of the Afghan Finance Ministry’s coordination board and secretariat department, these 22 programmes are aimed at stabilising Afghanistan’s economy, improving domestic revenue generation and increasing employment. As mentioned in the Afghan government’s strategy document, entitled “[Towards a Self-Sustaining Afghanistan](#)”, these NPPs were first introduced by the administration of President Hamid Karzai at the Kabul Conference in 2010. The Afghan government is now hoping that the Tokyo Conference yields “agreed road-maps to achieve shared goals through the sequenced implementation of key elements within the NPPs”.

The Tokyo Conference comes in the wake of the NATO Chicago Summit. According to [the declaration on Afghanistan](#) issued at the Chicago Summit, the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) will need an estimated annual budget of USD 4.1 billion throughout the coming decade. Thus far, a number of countries have committed resources toward this financial goal, though many more will specify amounts in the coming weeks and months. The United Kingdom [pledged to contribute](#) USD 110 million annually beginning in 2015. Germany pledged USD 190 million annually, also starting in 2015, with Australia announcing a contribution of USD 100 million annually for three years, *The Guardian* says. The Netherlands also pledged [EUR 30 million](#) for the ANSF, according to a press release from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Even if the [financial pledges](#) to be made at the Tokyo Conference are generous, “it is not clear whether the donors will indeed make good on their promises of aid over this ten year period”, *Outlook Afghanistan* reported. As the report “[Afghanistan: Tracking major resource flows](#)” illustrates, a significant segment of the aid pledged in previous conferences has yet to be disbursed. Nigel Jenkins, country director for the International Rescue Committee, a non-governmental organisation, told *Al Arabiya* that [funding for aid projects is already drying up](#), thus making the Tokyo Conference critical in financing education and other services. According to Jenkins, “[t]here have been gains over the past 10 years and we would love to see those gains continue, but I think there is a danger they could be lost if there is a big drop in funding.”

Visit the Tokyo Conference Page

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