

Ankara, 13 June 2011

Dear Colleagues,

Having held a very useful inaugural meeting of the International Contact Group's Working Group on Regional Cooperation in Istanbul on 3 June 2011, please find attached an informal co-chairmen's summary of the meeting.

On behalf of Staffan De Mistura and myself, I take this opportunity to thank once again all participants for their valuable contributions. The basis we have jointly established in Istanbul will no doubt constitute a sound reference point for our future work leading to the Istanbul Conference on Afghanistan to be held on 2 November 2011.

We are looking forward to your written inputs/contributions on the attached note as well as the earlier food for thought paper issued prior to our Istanbul meeting.

Kind regards,

Encl. As stated.

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**INTERNATIONAL CONTACT GROUP
REGIONAL COOPERATION WORKING GROUP MEETING
CO-CHAIRMEN'S SUMMARY**

(Istanbul, 3 June 2011)

The inaugural meeting of the Regional Cooperation Working Group established within the scope of the International Contact Group on Afghanistan was held in Istanbul on June 3, 2011 with the participation of representatives from 36 countries and international organizations. The Working Group is co-chaired by Turkey and the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

At the meeting participants stated,

- their unanimous support for a return to Istanbul for the 2 November Istanbul Conference,

- that this Regional Cooperation Working Group meeting and the upcoming 2 November Istanbul Conference are timely, urgent and useful,

- their respect to the national sovereignty, indivisibility and territorial integrity of Afghanistan,

- that a comprehensive approach to the regional cooperation is needed with regard to its effects to the peace and reconciliation efforts in Afghanistan,

- that regional cooperation is required to sustain the political and economic stability of Afghanistan,

- that the efforts of Afghanistan and its neighbours for long-term dialogue and cooperation in the region should be based on mutual respect,

- that the economic realities in the region require economic incentives be implemented to advance political stability,

- that a multilateral mechanism, either new, or attached to a reinvigorated old one, will be needed to facilitate the follow up of regional initiatives,

- that constructive contributions by any of the regional countries to facilitate stabilization in Afghanistan will be obviously welcomed,

- the need for concrete, tangible, sustainable short-term projects, while preparing the ground for substantial and long-term projects, with a view to implementing them as soon as feasible,

- that an economic road map needs to be developed for regional projects and the private sector needs to be stimulated,

- that they have taken note of the attached Sandbox Checklist for the 2 November Istanbul Conference,

- that this meeting will help better prepare for the next International Contact Group meeting in Kabul in June.

The chair looks forward to written contributions with regard to regional cooperation deliverables for the 2 November Istanbul Conference. Several practical suggestions were made during the meeting to move forward with, such as; a databank of regional projects and initiatives; sharing information from other regional meetings and forums like the RECCA, SAARC, ECO, which can facilitate better coordination of regional cooperation activities.