

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE KABUL CONFERENCE

- The 2010 Kabul Conference, co-chaired by the UN and Afghan Government, is scheduled to take place on July 20 and will include ministers from more than seventy countries, including Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. It will be the largest gathering of foreign leaders in Afghanistan since the 1970s.
- The Kabul Conference is a follow-up to January's London Conference. The Afghan government will present its plan for three main areas: security, governance and economic and social development.
- The Kabul Conference will not be a "pledge" conference, but an opportunity to realign financial aid that has already been pledged.
- President Karzai will ask that at least fifty percent of the \$13 billion pledged by the international community for the next five years to be channeled directly through the government in Kabul.
- The Afghan government will present its national strategy for ensuring good governance, improving security and accelerating the reconstruction process.
- President Karzai will seek backing for a plan to reintegrate up to 36,000 ex-insurgents, reaching 4,000 communities in 220 districts of twenty-two provinces within five years. The U.S. Department of Defense has reserved \$100 million for this project. President Karzai will also seek to create a High Peace Council to steer insurgent peace negotiations
- President Karzai will reportedly ask the international community to align at least eighty percent of development and governance assistance over the next two years to a list of twenty-three national priority programs and projects that will be introduced at the conference.
- A list of proposed programs in the Afghan government's priority plan include: training civil servants; merit-based appointments of civilian officials; combating corruption, conduct audits of key ministries; offer adult literacy training; provide legal aid services in provinces; improve new roads, dams and irrigation systems; increase farm production; and to begin mining the nation's mineral wealth.
- The Kabul Conference will be an opportunity for the Government of Afghanistan to show tangible progress in implementing the commitments made in the January 2010 London Conference Communiqué.

(Sources: Associated Press, Reuters, Agence France Presse)