



Message from  
HE Hamid Karzai,  
President of The Islamic  
Republic of Afghanistan

In spite of the legacies of three decades of aggression and conflict in Afghanistan, we have been able to make considerable progress in many areas: We have streamlined our administrative procedures; we have reduced tariffs; we have enacted new laws promoting direct foreign investment and portfolio investments; we have established a dependable banking system; we have provided for a stable exchange rate and stable national currency; and we have expanded and improved our educational system to create a pool of employable and skilled labour force.

These efforts have benefited both Afghans and many international firms. We hope to build on this foundation for our mutual gain.

To reduce poverty in Afghanistan and eliminate its associated malaise,

we are in urgent need of economic and technical assistance. Thus, I appeal to the international business community to consider investing in Afghanistan's economy and opening their markets for Afghan products. Such an investment will not only benefit the people of Afghanistan, it will also promote the causes of peace and prosperity in the region and in the world as a whole.

I know that we all share great hopes and aspirations for the economic development that our nations deserve.

I hope that the London Conference will be a platform for economic cooperation and integration and we will be able to achieve many of our hopes and aspirations.

In conclusion, I pray for the will and courage to work towards peace and the prosperity of our people. **F**