

**The Speech of H.E Minister of Justice of IRoA
In Ministerial Roundtable on Building Trust to Enable
International Trade**

Singapore, 07th August 2019

Distinguished Heads of Delegates, Representatives of States, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Good Afternoon to All of You!

Allow me to first of all express my heartfelt gratitude to the Chairperson H.E Mr. K. Shanmugum- Minister for Home Affairs and Law of Singapore and other facilitators for organizing this splendid gathering.

Representing the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, it is a great privilege to attend this occasion;

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

As per the agenda of today's roundtable, I would like to focus on the following four main points:

1. Trust Building;

The government of Afghanistan, for the purpose of economic stability and prosperity, has adopted certain measures and in addition to the Law on International Treaties and Conventions, it has ratified and processed twenty three instruments related to World Trade Organization. On the one side, it indicates, the true commitment of Afghanistan to observe the international standards in the field of international trade while on

the other side, it prepares the grounds for the attainment of the trust of WTO member states.

The Constitution of Afghanistan in Article seven, with an aim to make a trustworthy environment for protecting and supporting the developments, obliges the government to observe the United Nations Charter, International Treaties that Afghanistan has acceded to. Likewise, Article ten of this Constitution stipulates that the government, on the basis of market economy and in the light of the provisions of the law, shall support, protect and ensure the safety of investments and private enterprises, and in Article fifty seven it protects and guarantees the rights and freedoms of the foreign citizens residing in Afghanistan.

For the purpose of attracting the trust of the general public and the other institutions, the government of Afghanistan has processed and adopted certain legislative documents which are included but not limited to the Law on Combating Administrative Corruption, Law on Access to Information and the Law on Protecting Whistleblowers of Administrative Corruption, and most importantly, this country has enforced the Law of Commercial Arbitration and the Law on Commercial Mediation adopted in the light of relevant international agreements that Afghanistan has concluded with foreign countries with an aim to facilitate and persuade the expeditious, fair and impartial settlement of commercial disputes.

2. Importance of Multilateralism and International Rule of Law

Multilateralism not only contributes to the empowerment of sovereignty of States but also prepares the opportunity for joint combat against challenges deterring the economic and social growth of countries. Afghanistan has taken stride steps to strengthen and expand cooperation in relevant areas, as a result, these would undeniably lead

to fruitful outcomes to the globe as a whole, and to Afghanistan in particular.

Moreover, Afghanistan for the purpose of attracting the attention of international community towards itself, has almost all-time attended the international high level gatherings and conferences wherein this country has raised the voice of Afghanistan for bringing peace, justice, rule of law and expansion of international cooperation.

3. Strengthening Legal Underpinnings of International Trade

As far as in the absence of effective legal underpinnings, it is beyond the capabilities to ensure overall stability in commercial transactions amongst states and to overcome the challenges faced by the justice sectors and to give a practical shape to transnational commercial settlement agreements and to mediation as a newly emerged dispute resolution approach, Afghanistan has taken important steps such as enforcing the Law on Protecting Private Investments and the Law on Public Private Partnerships. We anticipate that the commercial transactions of friendly countries would further expand in Afghanistan by means of the measures we have adopted for strengthening legal underpinnings.

4. Singapore Convention

The Singapore Convention on Mediation- as an important international instrument, may play the role of inter-connecting state members in the arena of international trade and it further enhances the harmony and solidarity amongst countries. The state members, based on the consensus that they forge, may settle their commercial disputes mediated by third persons. I strongly believe that with the enforcement of this Convention, in addition to strengthening of relations amongst

countries, the opportunities for a wide range of investments would be provided in Afghanistan as the chances of making investments in the forms of public and private partnerships are in abundance in this country in the areas of public utilities, designing highways, dams and power supply installations. Exploration and extraction of mines, may be good economic projects that would attract foreign investments, and this way, the international stakeholders, in the light of the provisions of this convention, may be able to expand their businesses to Afghanistan and to resolve their commercial disputes through mediation without concerns of referral of their probable disputes to the courts of Afghanistan.

Last but not least, it is mention worthy to extend our gratitude to the participants, organizers, and the host country of Singapore for their efforts and generous support for this splendid get-together. I do expect that the friendly countries would provide Afghanistan with the required assistance of training in the areas of mediation and e-governance and the other areas of legislation.

Thank you so much for your kind attention!