



**Address by H.E. Mr. Abdul Raouf Ibrahimi,  
President of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People)  
National Assembly of Afghanistan**

**Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for Peace, Security and Rule of Law**

at

**140<sup>th</sup> Assembly of IPU at Qatar**

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**In the name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful**

**Your Excellency chairman, distinguished parliamentarians, ladies and gentlemen!**

**May Peace, Blessing and Mercy of Allah the Almighty on all of you!**

First of all, I would like to pass best wishes and salutations of the members of parliament and people of Afghanistan to all of you.

It is indeed a pleasure to be in this august gathering, appreciate the opportunity to share the experience once again, suggest solutions and talk about role of parliaments as platforms to enhance education for Peace, Security and Rule of Law.

There is a famous saying "Self recognition is God's recognition". Unless we master self-recognition, understand our environment and have the orientation of where we have come from and where we ought to go, we can't strike progress. In fact, the only way to self-recognition is through capacity building, improved literacy, wisdom and education.

Human being can only understand their rights and the rights of others through education which, as a matter of fact, help them abide by rules and respect right of others. It is evident that societies with knowledge of their rights, respect others rights as well and naturally there remains no room for differences and conflicts.

Members of parliament who, by virtue of representing people, are better informed about the capacity and level of awareness of its constituents. That is how they conduct need assessments and help tackle the problems.

## **Dear Friends!**

Individuals with enhanced and better education, better awareness are well informed which enable them to differentiate good vs evils and as a result, they only take actions in the support of people and their interest. Naturally, such people with decisive decision making abilities will not do anything that harm humanity and international community.

## **Dear Friends!**

As you all may know, constant and destructive war has taken all the opportunities from people in our country Afghanistan and deprived them of all the facilities. Education sector has been badly affected among them. The Afghan enemies have wanted the very same thing which is why schools have been burned, their doors have been shut down which is how they have exactly stopped the growth of education.

During the years of war, the total numbers didn't exceed one million for school students and hardly ten or fifteen thousand university students. Whereas, fortunately, with the emergence of interim, transitional, elect and then National Unity Government and with the consolidated efforts by government and parliament of Afghanistan, the number of school enrollments is well above ten million and university students above one hundred and sixty thousand students now. Afghanistan parliament has constantly taken significant strides to ensure proper education through oversight and approval of comprehensive laws. We know and understand that this is the enough and we shall continue to work more for excellence.

It is unfortunate that there still are areas at war in Afghanistan where rule of law is challenged. Sadly, education opportunities don't exist there. It is in those areas that our young capital, our youth who would shape the destiny of our land, are unclear about their future and are simply wasted. The armed opposition of Afghanistan use the situation cunningly for their benefit and recruit such illiterate youth. The misery continues as they are hired by national and international drug mafia and manipulate them to cultivate and produce opium poppy for them. They use them as drug couriers while armed oppositions use them to fight against Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces.

The two above mentioned phenomenon have long have their shadow on our country. Our young Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces that are well educated and trained have to fight against the youth of its own country who are deceived by the enemy because they are illiterate and unemployed.

**Respected ladies and gentlemen!**

Our people understand the value of education that can help improve their capacity as well as peace, security and rule of law in the country after having been trapped in the war that is imposed for many years and people are victims of its negative consequences. It is a fact that our people will not take guns and will not turn to violence. Our people don't behead people, neither do they cut the organs of people's body, rather they stand in the defense lines to save lives and avoid such inhumane actions from happening.

While I thank the organizers and Qatar for the warm hospitality, I would like to re affirm the commitment from Afghanistan's parliament side to help enhance education in our country Afghanistan.

**Thank you for your attention and patience**