



## TRANSCRIPT

### SRSR NICHOLAS HAYSOM'S COMMENTS AT UN70 RECEPTION

Kabul – 28 October 2015

(verbatim)

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Acting Minister Hakmat Karzai, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. It's my pleasure to welcome you all here today and to thank you for joining us in marking this, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations.

This occasion allows us to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations and to put on record the significant achievements which the principles and ideals which inform the founding of the organization have achieved.

Those principles and ideals are nothing more than an affirmation of the logic that the world is better able to tackle its problems together than it can do separately and divided. But we can't record those achievements without acknowledging that we have a long way to go.

Challenges remain in the war on poverty; the war on disease; in finding the collaboration necessary to take on global warming and in this area alone in dealing with conflicts, which have surged over the last few years, recording that at this point there are more displaced people than there have been since the Second World War.

I don't think there is anywhere else where it is necessary to compare our achievements, to record them and recognize them, as it is to look at the challenges ahead as in Afghanistan itself.

Afghanistan has been a full and vibrant member of the United Nations – community of nations. It was one of its – our earliest members and I would record that in 1948 it was one of 48 nations which adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The United Nations has been in Afghanistan – partnering with its people – for 60 years, including the turbulent last 30 years. It's appropriate to put on record that we intend to stay for the next 60 years or to the extent that the Afghan people wish to continue partnering with the United Nations.

When the – it became necessary to consider how to best mark this special day, we thought what better way to do it than to celebrate the achievements of what Afghans have done and in particular nine individuals who are ordinary Afghans doing extraordinary work.

These individuals and the exhibition of photographs of their work traverse the full range of activities in which the United Nations would want to see its ideals expressed. Promotion of human rights, the protection of women's rights, the maintenance of the cultural heritage of Afghanistan, mine-clearance, education, protection of the environment, mobilization of the youth and other areas.

You can find a description of the individuals concerned and their work in the blue books you have in front of you, but at this meeting we have invited two of these ordinary, extraordinary Afghans to speak: Sediq Rashid and Feroza Mushtari.

We have chosen to celebrate Afghans' work in their own country rather than cataloguing the UN's achievements because we recognize that this – in this way we also understand and recognize that the UN's ideals are best expressed through the work of Afghans and working with Afghans.

So finally, let me use the opportunity to affirm once again that the United Nations will walk the rest of the journey hand-in-hand with Afghans towards the realization of their aspirations and a stable, secure and prosperous Afghanistan.

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