

To ensure a successful commitment, we deploy the necessary resources, as with our mission in Afghanistan.

It was in the name of a clear UN mandate that Canada joined the international security assistance force coalition in Afghanistan.

More than 60 countries and international organizations have undertaken to help the Afghan government rebuild the country.

We feel that the efforts of these countries and organizations are commendable, and speak to the core principles espoused by the UN.

The challenge may be great, but the principles we are defending are greater still.

The countries assisting Afghanistan are united in the conviction that there can be no reconstruction without security.

Democracy and political stability cannot flourish in a climate of terror. Where anarchy reigns, there can be no health services or education. Economic development is impossible when chaos is all around.

Security is the foundation on which everything lies.

But long-term security requires a sustainable investment in the country's development—the two go hand in hand.

Thanks to the assistance of Canada and the international community, Afghanistan is making strides. Afghan police officers are being trained, Afghan refugees are returning home and Afghan children are learning to read and write.

Canada is making a real difference in the lives of the Afghan people and is contributing to the vision of the future expressed in the Afghanistan Compact. Strong UN stewardship of the Compact, alongside the Afghan government, is critical to realizing this vision.

Despite flare-ups of intimidation and violence, there is progress in Afghanistan.

Last year, Prime Minister Harper emphasized here that the United Nations assistance mission in Afghanistan was the UN's most important special political mission.

The Canadian government continues to support the leadership role of the UN in Afghanistan.

This is why Canada supports having a new high-level UN special envoy for Afghanistan.