

**ACTION SUMMARY for Afghanistan, towards creation of  
a Sustainable Peace.**  
**With reference to the Kabul Conference 20<sup>th</sup> July 2010.**

**1. The Author of this Action Summary**

The Author, Rupert Douglas-Bate, has 20 years of humanitarian, commercial and poverty reduction experience, many of the opinions formed here were a result of visiting Kabul in May/June 2010 and working briefly for the Afghan Government, however many of my ideas and views on sustainable job-skill training programs are based on my humanitarian aid and poverty reduction efforts in Kosovo, Congo, Iraq, Indonesia etc. These earlier experiences and resulting ideas are discussed in a concise book that I wrote in 2008 entitled "The Completion for Hope" : Why sustainable jobs for men aged 18 to 29 years are critical to global security.

**2. International Community Goals**

It is reasonable to assume that the main goal for the International Community, is to work towards leaving Afghanistan in a stable and peaceful enough state, so that it is able to take care of its security and humanitarian and economic development. History will judge the International Community in the light of whether or not we succeeded in making peace sustainable and therefore making sense of the incredible sacrifices that over 1500 international soldiers have made.

**3. Poverty Reduction via Sustainable Jobs leads to Peace (Visualisations are attached)**

*To achieve long-term peace the primary strategy must be on poverty reduction, by establishing national job-skill training programs as an integral part of the secondary school programs and by creating massive numbers of sustainable jobs, especially for young men, who tend to fight for money or excitement. These jobs will create the wealth that government can tax and spend on basic services. When young men take up training and jobs, their Parents, local Mullahs and the Village Elders, must join with them and promise to live in peace. The organisation that runs this must not be corrupt and international donors must require detailed program-by-program annual plans (based on competitive quotes and without chains of sub-contractors), periodic progress reports and related expenditure reports.*

In 2010, 80,000 secondary school leavers will graduate, 70% of them boys. By 2013 it will be 600,000 per year. And this 600,000 will continue, year on year. Unless aggressive forward looking national education programmes and sustainable job creation measures are taken today, many of these young people will become unemployed, as it is estimated there will only be enough university places for 100,000 per year in 2013. The questions that need to be asked today are: "What will happen to unemployed but educated youth ? Are they going to join Bin Laden ?"

Creating sustainable jobs could wisely be done, as an honourable alternative to fighting, in a land where 'Honour' is an incredibly important consideration. In Afghanistan, 'Honour' begins by talking at length with local Leaders, meaning Mullahs, Village Elders, Fathers, local Government.

#### **4. Good Governance and Basic Services (Visualisations are attached)**

The recurring themes about what is needed, in order of priority, are:-

**1<sup>st</sup> Jobs,**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Good Governance, 2<sup>nd</sup> Basic Services.**

It's vital the Afghan Government is given a fair pay grading system. External donors have funded some departments and not others ! *This contributes to corruption*. It is vital that 'mind-set change' through long-term leadership training is implemented; too many people in the Afghan culture are often disingenuous when it comes to fair play and straight dealing. *This dramatically harms* government services and project implementation of all types, including job creation and infrastructure. Judging by the massive increase in semi-formal adult education classes in Kabul, *Afghans are desperate to learn*, so weekly Leadership Training at all Government levels will be welcomed. In return for fairer pay and training, the international community needs to insist on 'maximising' all anti-corruption measures making them decisively led, trained, equipped and 'unafraid to make examples'.

**Whilst creating Sustainable Jobs is an *essential strategy* to Poverty Reduction, Good Governance and Basic Services are the *accelerators* of Poverty Reduction and therefore important and complimentary.**

**Visualisations and Articles :: Rupert Douglas-Bate has created three summary visualisations and written a couple of articles expanding upon this summary.**

**These items should be attached with this summary, or if not, they may be obtained by emailing [rupertdouglas@googlemail.com](mailto:rupertdouglas@googlemail.com)**