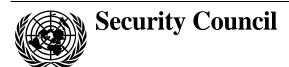
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## **Statement by the President of the Security Council**

At the 6690th meeting of the Security Council, held on 19 December 2011, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the International Afghanistan Conference 'Afghanistan and the International Community: From Transition to the Transformation Decade' in Bonn on 5 December 2011 and its conference conclusions (S/2011/762).

"The Security Council welcomes also the declaration in Bonn that the Process of Transition, to be completed by the end of 2014, should be followed by a decade of Transformation (2015-2024) in which Afghanistan consolidates its sovereignty through strengthening a fully functioning, sustainable state in the service of its people.

"The Security Council welcomes furthermore, against this background, the strategic consensus between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the International Community on a renewed and enduring partnership for this Transformation Decade which entails firm mutual commitments.

"The Security Council notes that the Process of Transition entails the assumption of the leadership responsibility by the Government of Afghanistan.

"The Security Council commends the outcome of the 'Istanbul Conference for Afghanistan: Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia' of 2 November 2011.

"The Security Council underlines the crucial role of the United Nations in Afghanistan, expresses its gratitude for Staffan de Mistura's outstanding contribution to UNAMA's work, and looks forward to working with the Secretary-General's incoming Special Representative, Jan Kubis.

"The Security Council welcomes the intention of the Government of Japan to host a ministerial conference in Tokyo in July of 2012."

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