Position paper on:
Afghanistan in SAARC:
Emerging Opportunities in Regional Integration

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Outline

- Country Profile
- Similarities
- HDI report
- Increasing hope of people
- Introduction of this paper
- Developed arguments
  - Development, peace and stability
  - Emerging market of trade and commerce
  - Reducing negative picture
  - Poverty reduction
- Conclusion
Afghanistan

- Landlocked and mountainous
- Suffered from such chronic instability and conflict
- Economy and infrastructure ruins, and many people fled
- Fall of the Taliban administration in 2001, supporter of the hard-line Islamic movement have re-grouped
- Economy was dependent upon heavily on the drugs trade
- Supplies over 90% of the world's opium, the raw ingredient of heroin (BBC country profile, 2013)

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Population: 29 million
Capital and largest city: Kabul
Area: 652,225 sq km
Major languages: Dari, Pashto
Major religion: Islam
Similarities other member state

- **Similarities**
  - Ecological-Tropical to Tundra / Similar vegetation
  - Cultural-Religion/Food/Dress up/Family structure

- **Economy**

- **Skin color**: olive color

- **Political:**
  - Republic state except Bhutan
  - Political instability

- **Agriculture**
  - Agricultural dominant economy
  - Agriculture for livelihood
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<th>Country</th>
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(Human Development Report, 2012)
“When my land was cleared I found I had 60% more land than I thought, and it is good for growing crops”, – Mullah Neoka, a local farmer and mullah of one of the Shuras in the district

DFID report

Why regional integration?

- Achieving common goals of development
- Economic integration
- Easier people-to-people contact
- Sustainable peace and regional cooperation
- Poverty, hunger, sustainability in development

Opportunity to understand the common agenda for all member states
Platform for regional integration

- Platform for regional integration as well as for the discussion in development discourses from:
  - Socio, economic and political development
  - Development, peace and stability
  - Emerging market of trade and commerce
  - Reducing negative picture
  - Poverty reduction
Opportunities with complexities

- Complexities
  - diverse,
  - multi-religious and
  - ethnic cultural,
  - socio-economic issues etc

- Security; one of the main concerns
- Conflict: one of the major barriers
  (Afghanistan—despite there are conflict in other countries)
- Issues of governance
Thank you