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BACKGROUND

TRANSITION

- Transition is the process by which the international community will enable the Afghan government to take full responsibility for its own country. This is at the heart of NATO's refreshed strategy in Afghanistan.
- At the London Conference in January 2010, the Afghan Government and the international community agreed to a roadmap for transition to Afghan lead. Since then, the NATO Military Authorities and the Senior Civilian Representative (SCR) have submitted advice regarding the necessary security, governance and development conditions needed for transition to be considered.
- After consultations with the Afghan Government, NATO and ISAF Foreign Ministers in Tallinn have endorsed the political and military criteria necessary to enable the transition to begin.
- These criteria will be assessed across all three pillars of the Afghan National Development Strategy; security, governance and development. They will serve as the basis for assessing the state of security in any given area, including the performance of the Afghan security forces; the ability and authority of the Afghan Government to impose the rule of law and manage public administration at sub-national and local levels; and the capacity of an area to sustain socio-economic development.
- Transition will therefore be driven by conditions on the ground and not by the calendar. It does not signify ISAF's withdrawal from Afghanistan but its gradual shift to a supporting role.
- NATO-ISAF and the Afghan Government will now work in partnership with UNAMA and other key stakeholders to prepare a common way forward for Transition at the Kabul Conference in early summer 2010.