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**AFGHANISTAN TO FORGE 'NEW DEAL' WITH INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY IN PARIS**

Kabul, 10 June 2008 – As delegates from over eighty countries and international organizations gathered in Paris for an international conference in support of Afghanistan to be held this Thursday, the United Nations Special Representative Kai Eide called for a 'new deal' to be forged between the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to push forward progress for the Afghan people.

The conference will take stock of the progress made in Afghanistan since the last international donors' meeting in London over two years ago and will see the launch of the Government's Afghanistan National Development Strategy, a five-year blue print for the reconstruction of the country.

UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Kai Eide said; "The Paris conference is more than just a pledging conference for donors, we will seek to forge a 'new deal' between the Government of Afghanistan and the international community.

"On our part, the international community must bring much greater coherence in the assistance being provided, we must channel more resources and effort towards building basic state institutions able to protect and serve the Afghan people. The Afghan Government must play its part by deepening and broadening its economic and political reform process demonstrating greater accountability and intensify anti-corruption efforts.

"With the Afghanistan National Development Strategy we now have an Afghan-led and owned blue print for all our support efforts. The imperative will be on the Government to show increased accountability for the support received and on the international community to get behind Afghanistan's own priorities. The Paris conference should be an occasion to enter into an enhanced partnership between the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to the benefit the Afghan people. "