



د افغانستان د خلکو غږ  
صدای مردم افغانستان  
VOICE OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE

## Statement

### People's Consultative Gathering in Faryab and Jawizjan

7th September 2022

Maimana, Faryab

The first one-day consultative local gathering for people and the IEA for Faryab and Jawizjan provinces was conducted in Maimana city today. The gathering brought together over 180 men and women from different communities and all districts and centers of both provinces, including religious scholars, social and cultural activists, tribal leaders, businesspeople, youth, victims of conflict, and minorities. In addition, provincial authorities, including the Faryab province deputy governor, joined the summit.

The Voice of Afghan People, a local initiative, organized the gathering and aimed to collect people's input and share it with the relevant authorities of the Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan (IEA).

Maulvi Abdul Wali Atqani, Deputy Governor of Faryab, and other provincial authorities attended the summit and addressed the participants on behalf of the IEA. They reiterated the IEA's commitment to listening and addressing participants' demands and suggestions. Additionally, they called for continuing similar events to reduce the distance between the public and the government. Furthermore, the local authorities expressed their support for girls' and boys' education continuation based on Islamic law.

In his turn, Shir Shah Babri, a community elder, expressed his gratitude for the current security situation. Moreover, on behalf of the youth, Rahmatullah Adib asked the IEA to prioritize education and employment opportunities, in particular, providing jobs for youth.

Following the introductory remarks, the participants were divided into group discussions and exchanged views on different issues such as the economy, agriculture, mining, natural resources management, education, culture, and confidence building between the public and cultural and social organizations and the IEA. The summary of these discussions are as follows:

1. The participants considered the main reason for the country's current economic crisis to be international sanctions imposed on Afghanistan and called on the international community to lift these sanctions. According to the participants, effective extraction and management of mines and natural resources, including the construction of dams at the provincial level, could assist in the autonomy of people. They asked the IEA officials to assign experts in this sector and also at the government's high level. In addition, the participants expressed concerns about applying heavy taxes and called it a severe problem in stagnating people's businesses.
2. The participants believed that non-standard agriculture and lack of agricultural means obliged people to quit their profession, increasing poverty and unemployment. Therefore, they asked the local and central governments to pay serious attention to the mechanization and growth of agriculture based on international norms.
3. The participants expressed that people in both provinces live in poverty and unemployment despite having numerous gold, oil, and gas mines. According to them, the main reasons are non-standard extraction, smuggling, and lack of government attention. Therefore, the participants called on the IEA and International Community to focus on standard mining and complete the unfinished projects of the previous government in order to provide employment and rapid economic growth for all citizens.
4. The participants believed that in the current situation, international aids are necessary for the people of Afghanistan; however, they asked for changes in this aid. Moreover, they asked the international community to provide more aid for local infrastructure to create jobs, avoid drug addiction, prevent brain drain and stabilize the local economy.
5. According to the participants, attention to the health sector is the primary and key necessity of both provinces and called education a fundamental element for the development of the health sector and asked for organizing advocacy programs about the health and education sector. Furthermore, they asked the IEA and international community to pay serious attention to both sectors.
6. The participants called on the local authorities to fulfil their responsibilities to eliminate the bad practices and traditions in society. For example, according to the participants, dowry or money for the bride's family cause problems among families and prevent many youths from forming a family. They asked the IEA to change these practices according to Islamic law and accepted customs.

7. The participants said women make up half of society and their role and participation are crucial in the system and other sectors. They called on the IEA to provide employment opportunities for women in the government and private sector.
8. The participants believe that the cultural and social organizations have arisen from the societies, which can play an important role in eliminating distance and building trust among the people and the government. Therefore, they asked the IEA to contribute in strengthening the civil and social organizations' activities.

Finally, the participants asked the IEA to ensure broad interaction with the various spectrums of civil society and to work together to create transparency and confidence-building between citizens and officials. The participants also welcomed any other priorities the Islamic Emirate wanted to discuss in the continuation of the talks.

The one-day gathering will be followed up with various other summits at the regional and provincial levels.