

**HAAG Position Paper to the Draft Terms of Reference
 for all PRT's in Afghanistan**

The Humanitarian Affairs Advisory Group (HAAG) welcomes the initiative of the PRT Executive Steering committee to establish terms of reference for the Coalition Provincial Reconstruction Teams working in Afghanistan and thanks for the opportunity to comment on it .

HAAG suggests including some fundamental functioning principals in the TOR's: They refer to the temporary nature of PRT's and to the integration within national government structures. The principles should at least include the following elements:

- The distinction between military personnel and civilian assistance workers in their identities and roles will be maintained and reinforced.
- The PRTs recognize and respect the importance of aid workers being seen to be neutral and impartial between different factions and groups.
- The PRT's will work within the strategic priorities established by the Government of Afghanistan. Duplication with other actors should be avoided.

HAAG further suggests changing the wording of the TOR's in the following respect: The term "should" has to be replaced by the term "will".

For the articles of the TOR's, HAAG has the following comments:



ToRs	Comments HAAG
<p>1. PRT Mission Statement:</p> <p>Provincial Reconstruction Teams address the needs of Afghanistan by extending the reach and legitimacy of the national government through conducting security and reconstruction operations.</p>	<p>The following mission statement is preferable:</p> <p>"To set the conditions for the achievement of stability with the PRT's area of operations in order to strengthen the ATA's influence and marginalize the regional causes of instability and promote the rule of law."</p>
<p>Relationships:</p> <p>2. PRTs should establish and maintain good working relationships with key government, tribe, religious, military, UN and NGO leaders in the provinces for which they are responsible with the aim of extending the reach and legitimacy of national government.</p>	<p>The paragraph has to recognize the special role of UNAMA backed by the SC resolution. The TORs need to acknowledge this particularly regarding the good offices and political roles.</p>
ToRs	Comments HAAG
<p>3. PRTs should monitor and report regularly on political, economic and military developments especially where they relate to the authority of the national government.</p>	<p>PRTs will monitor and report regularly on political, economic and military developments to the joint PRT management structure.</p>
<p>4. PRTs should help national government representatives referee disputes and broker agreements between local factions.</p>	<p>PRTs will help national government and UNAMA representatives referee disputes and broker agreements between local factions avoiding duplications</p>
<p>5. Security:</p> <p>Where expertise permits, PRTs should assist in</p>	<p>PRTs will assist in the development and mentoring of</p>

the development and mentoring of the Afghan National Police. At a minimum, PRTs should observe, assess and report on their capabilities.	the Afghan National Police. At a minimum, PRTs will observe, assess and report on their capabilities.
6. PRTs should observe, assess and report on the capabilities of any Afghan National Army units deployed in their AO.	PRTs will observe, assess and report on the capabilities of any Afghan National Army units deployed in their AO to the relevant stakeholders in the ATA, lead nations and the PRT management structure.
7. PRTs should observe, assess and report on the capabilities of the justice system in their AO, including the role played by local justice systems.	What expertise does the PRT have to assess the capabilities of the justice system to any meaningful degree?
8. PRTs should observe, assess and report on factors affecting DDR in their AO and take a proactive role in supporting the national government's efforts (including through ANBP) to carry out the DDR process.	PRTs will observe, assess and report on factors affecting DDR in their AO and take a proactive role in supporting the lead nations and national government's efforts (including through ANBP) to carry out the DDR process
9. PRTs should provide security advice and information to national and local officials and those involved in reconstruction.	PRTs will provide security advice and inform national and local officials and those involved in humanitarian assistance, reconstruction and development.
10. PRTs should, within reason, provide logistical and security support to national government representatives in carrying out their official duties.	No comment
11. PRTs should provide security support for Bonn process activities such as voter registration, elections processes and DDR.	PRTs will provide security support to national agencies (Police, Military) for Bonn process activities including electoral processes and Security sectoral Reform
<u>Reconstruction:</u>	
12. All reconstruction projects should be carried out in line with the direction from national government, in particular the national priority programs.	All reconstruction projects should be carried out in line with the direction from national government, in particular with the provincial prioritisation being determined by the national priority programs.
ToRs	Comments HAAG
13. Newly established PRTs should initially conduct Quick Impact Projects in their areas to gain the consent of the local population.	The fastest way to get the consent and support of the local population is to help improve security first and foremost. For QUIPS, particular guidelines have to be established. Quips can be disruptive of overall reconstruction strategies. This has to be addressed in clear guidelines.
14. Established (6-8 months) PRTs should support the Governor, the government officials, the UN, NGOs and others to develop a Provincial (or wider) development plan in line with national directions and the co-ordination mechanisms to implement the Provincial Plan. This may be divided into short- (one year) medium- (five years) and long- (ten years) term objectives.	This clause has to be deleted entirely because it does not speak to the PRTs competence or comparative advantage.

<p>15. PRTs should focus their effort on projects where they can add expertise and value particularly in creating the conditions for the UN and NGOs to carry out reconstruction and development work.</p>	<p><i>PRTs will focus their efforts on enabling the government to carry out reconstruction and development work in partnership with the UN and NGOs.</i></p>
<p>16. PRTs should provide temporary logistical and security support to allow PRT assistance personnel to travel to areas considered safe or inaccessible.</p>	<p>We assume there is a mistake in the original text: ...areas <i>not</i> considered safe...</p> <p>This should include a clause allowing PRTs to protect themselves from having to stretch already thin resources further.</p>
<p><u>Information Operations:</u></p> <p>17. PRTs should conduct information operations on their activities and promote the activities carried out on behalf of the national government.</p>	<p>No comment.</p>

Kabul, September 13, 2004

