

**CERI Program on Peace and Human Security and the Faculty of Law and Political  
Sciences, University of Kabul**  
**“Liberal Peacebuilding and Human Security” Afghanistan Case Study**  
**September 2007 –July 2008**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was drawn up in September 2007 between Mr. Descoings, Administrator, Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques/ Director of L'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) on behalf of the CERI Program for Peace and Human Security (CPHS) and Mr. Ashraf, Chancellor of Kabul University on behalf of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences. The MOU is based on a partnership and exchange of experiences on research and pedagogy on peace studies between September 2007 and July 2008.

The collaboration is a continuation of cooperation started during 2006-2007 between the two institutions: In October 2006, a Franco-Afghan conference on “Afghanistan and its Geo-political Environment” was organized by the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences during which 4 French researchers and professors participated. During the Spring semester of 2007, Professor Bertrand Badie of Sciences Po gave lectures on the French approach to international relations at the Faculty in Kabul.

The first step of this new partnership is a research project, developed by the CPHS and the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, which brings together researchers, professors and students from the two universities for a six month joint project. The project is supported financially by the French Embassy in Kabul as part of its cooperation program. Logistical support at the University of Kabul is provided by the Center for Franco-Afghan Cooperation on Social Sciences set up in the Department of French Languages, Faculty of Languages of the University of Kabul.

This initiative has two aims:

First, to establish links between students, professors and researchers of IEP Paris (Sciences Po) and those of the University of Kabul. To this aim, four students and a professor/researcher (Tadjbakhsh) from CERI have been coming regularly to teach and conduct joint research with the Department of Law and Political Sciences in Kabul. Five Afghan students, two junior professors and a senior professor have been working on this project since September 2008. The cooperation was aimed at exchanging methods of research and pedagogy on international relations, with a particular focus on peace studies.

A second objective of the Project was to conduct a joint research to examine the gaps in perceptions between Afghans and the international community on models of peace and modalities of peacebuilding in Afghanistan, which revolved around three research questions:

- 1) CONCEPTS AND MODELS: Are there gaps in the perceptions of what constitutes as “peace” between external actors and domestic actors based on differences in values, in experiences, and expectations? If so, why is there a gap? Is the model of “liberal peace ” being implemented in Afghanistan and is there consensus on its legitimacy?
- 2) PERCEPTIONS: Is there consensus on the model of liberal peace among international actors and local partners? Is this model seen as legitimate and efficient from the point of view of the population?
- 3) STRATEGIES: How is liberal peace being implemented in Afghanistan and is there consensus, coherence and coordination between the strategies of the international actors with those of national institutions?

### **Achievements**

Within this project, between September 2007 and March 2008, the following was achieved:

- Collaboration on the methodology of questionnaires, and short courses offered by ScPo at the University of Kabul
- 40 in-depth interviews with a variety of Afghan personalities in Kabul (researchers, politicians, government workers, NGOs, students, clergy, etc)
- 10 in-depth interviews with leaders of major political parties
- 50 in-depth interviews with personalities (governors, police, experts, clergy, NGOs) in the provinces of Herat, Meidan Vardak, Balkh, Parwan and Nangahar
- 60 in-depth interviews with members of the international community (UN, IFIs, NATO, OEF, embassies, Aid organizations, NGOs)

### **Current stage**

- The results of the interviews are being analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively by a team from Sciences Po (Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh) and a team from the University of Kabul (led by Nassrollah Stanikzi) with the help of the Advisory Board (led by the Chairman of the Department of Political Sciences and Law, University of Kabul).
- Findings from the research will be presented at two workshops: 1) in Paris, during the June 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Conference organized by the CPHS on “Liberal peace: Value-Based External Models and Local Alternatives in Peacebuilding” and 2) a second workshop in Kabul in July 2008
- The final report will be produced, published and translated into French, English, Dari and Pashto and disseminated by August 2008

Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh and Nassrollah Stanekzi, Team Leaders