



Mario Draghi
Prime Minister of Italy
Palazzo Chigi, Rome

9th September 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing in support of your proposal for a common international strategy to be agreed at an extraordinary G20 summit on Afghanistan in September.

Your leadership in convening this forum will provide the opportunity to coordinate an international strategy to foster peace, stability and address humanitarian issues in Afghanistan with key partners across the G20.

We are requesting that strategy also includes a commitment support for a free education in Afghanistan, including by:

1. Increasing humanitarian and development assistance to ensure schools, which are already largely funded by international aid, stay open.
2. Providing support to neighboring countries such as Pakistan for the education of both existing and newly arriving refugee children.
3. Growing the number of scholarships, especially for women, to allow them to start and continue their university degrees overseas.

Acceptance by the Taliban of the right to education, specifically for girls, must also be a fundamental condition of any working relationship with the regime.

Even in these most bleak of circumstances, education provides a path for a brighter future for Afghanistan and is our best tool in our fight against extremism.



International Parliamentary Network for Education

When the Taliban last held power in 2001, only about 12% of primary-aged girls attended some sort of school. In 2020, 39% of the 9.5 million children attending schools were girls. We cannot stand back and watch the reversal of these hard-won gains.

Now is the time to scale up our humanitarian assistance to education in Afghanistan. The model agreement signed between UNICEF and the Taliban last December to create more than 4,000 informal schools in Taliban held areas, which set down conditions for assistance, including the protection of girls' and women's right and secure access to education, shows that with the right protections we can continue to support, including with funding, Afghanistan's education system.

The International Parliamentary Network for Education is working to build political support for your Summit and for education, across the G20.

We would be happy to support the Foreign Ministry in advance of the Summit and in collaboration with other international agencies to develop a draft plan for education along the lines I have proposed above.

We hope you will use Italy's Presidency of the G20 to do all that you can to keep education, especially for girls, alive under the Taliban.

We look forward to hearing from you and stand ready to support your efforts for a successful G20 Summit which contributes to safeguarding education in Afghanistan and for Afghans.

Sincerely,

Giulio Centemero MP
Chamber of Deputies, Italy
Regional Representative for Europe, IPNEd

Harriett Baldwin MP
House of Commons, UK
Global Co-Chair, IPNEd

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Network for Education

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