



ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL
PUBLIC DIPLOMACY DIVISION
SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT
DIVISION DIPLOMATIE PUBLIQUE

26 August 2014
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Mr Hugh Bayley
President
NATO Parliamentary Assembly
Place du Petit Sablon 3
1000 Brussels

Dear Mr Bayley,

Building on the excellent cooperation we have developed between our organisations over the past few years in fostering better understanding of NATO among our publics, I would like to draw your attention and that of your colleagues from the NATO Parliamentary Assembly to the Afghanistan Legacy website my Division plans to launch at the beginning of September, ahead of the NATO Summit in Wales.

The website, entitled "Return to Hope," will illustrate the story of Afghanistan since the start of the international intervention in late 2001. Without being overly optimistic, the site will challenge the often negative tone commonly seen in mainstream media. We believe we owe it to the many thousands of service personnel from NATO and partner nations to tell a more balanced story of our collective experience in Afghanistan.

In this, as in other public diplomacy endeavours, members of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly can play an important role. As elected representatives of the people, you are well-placed to understand and engage the citizens this Alliance was founded to serve. You also share the all-important task of explaining to our citizens the work of this Alliance – including our operation in Afghanistan. It is essential that as we come to the end of ISAF we remind our publics of the reasons that led us to invest our blood and treasure to help the Afghan people build a path towards a peaceful, and politically and economically sustainable, future. For ourselves and for future generations, we must put on record the achievements we have helped secure in Afghanistan– those for which so many of our young men and women have fought.

To this end, the Afghanistan Legacy website will provide an invaluable accounting of our experience and a compelling means of relating this experience to the public at large. I would like to ask for your help and that of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in publicizing this website among your fellow parliamentarians, key institutions in your respective countries, and with the wider public.

I am, as always, grateful for your support and remain at your disposal should you or other members of the NPA have any questions about this or other PDD initiatives.

With kindest regards,