



National Commission of the Vienna Process for a Democratic Afghanistan Brief Report

1. Background

Since the Taliban's violent takeover of power in Kabul, Afghanistan has been experiencing a reign of terror involving unprecedented violations of human rights, in particular gender apartheid, suppression of freedom of expression, rapid growth of violent extremism and terrorism, and constant tensions and confrontations with its neighbours and the wider international community. These factors, together with a fragile economy, high unemployment, poverty, and poor public services, have driven millions of Afghans out of the country, only to face deportation due to complex and harsh regional and global political dynamics. Currently, almost half of Afghanistan's population, around 23 million people, needs humanitarian assistance. The Taliban regime, with no legitimacy inside the country and recognized only by one state overseas, has closed all doors of dialogue with its opponents, who represent the overwhelming majority of the people of Afghanistan.

2. Vienna Process for a Democratic Afghanistan

Against this backdrop, several major Afghan movements and organizations, as well as political and professional figures opposed to the Taliban, have established through five conferences in Vienna over three years the Vienna Process for a Democratic Afghanistan. The Process promotes national unity and broad participation in shaping a common vision to overcome the current crisis in Afghanistan. It has been facilitated by generous support from the RD Foundation Vienna, the Austrian Institute of International Affairs, Transferproject, the Embassy of Afghanistan in Vienna, which remains loyal to the Republic, and many individual volunteers. The Process already has popular support at national and international levels.

3. National Commission of the Vienna Process for a Democratic Afghanistan

The formation of the National Commission of the Vienna Process for a Democratic Afghanistan is based on the previous resolutions of the Vienna Process Conferences, particularly the Roadmap for Overcoming the Afghanistan Crisis adopted on 5 December



*National
Commission of the
Vienna Process brief
Information*

2023 during the Third Vienna Conference, and the decision reached on 19 February 2025 during the Fifth Vienna Conference. The Commission was established in early September 2025 with a term of six months and the flexibility to extend it if required.

4. Legal basis

The National Commission has legal and technical weight in its operational role within the Vienna Process. Several former senior officials of the executive, legislative, and judiciary branches of the democratic Republic of Afghanistan, as well as leading political and civil organizations, are members of the Process.

5. Objectives

The objectives of the Commission are:

- A. To strengthen the process of national convergence by providing the groundwork for cooperation between movements and personalities opposed to the Taliban.
- B. To bring together the opposition's views on how to overcome the crisis.
- C. To shape an alternative and comprehensive political structure for the country.

6. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Commission include:

- I. To compile, summarize, and update the opposition's common vision for the present and future of Afghanistan using key documents adopted at the Fifth Vienna Conference.
- II. To prepare the final draft strategy for overcoming the current crisis using the common positions of the various movements involved in the Vienna Process.
- III. To propose a comprehensive, practical, and alternative political structure for the current, transitional, and permanent systems of governance in Afghanistan.

The Commission is tasked with presenting its final work to the Sixth Vienna Conference, with the participation of the leaders of the organizations and movements, for approval and implementation.



*National
Commission of the
Vienna Process brief
Information*

7. Membership

Currently, the Commission consists of 41 members, including one observer, with 27 of them representing political and civil organizations opposed to the Taliban. Additionally, seven relevant former high-ranking officials of the Republic are members of the Commission. The composition of the Commission is balanced and reflects the country's intellectual, ethnic, religious, and gender diversity.

8. Chairperson and Secretary

On 13 September 2025, the Commission adopted its rules of procedure and, in accordance with those rules, elected Ambassador Mahmoud Saikal, former Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations in New York, as its inaugural rotational Chairperson, and Ms Parwana Ibrahimkhail Nijrabi, founder of the Women Movement for Peace and Freedom in Afghanistan, as its rotational Secretary. Both positions were for a period of three months, with the possibility of renewal. On 13 December 2025, during its eighth meeting, the Commission unanimously extended the terms of Ambassador Saikal and Ms Nijrabi for another three months.

9. Working Groups

The Commission has established three working groups from among its members, focusing on vision, strategy, and an alternative political structure. Each working group has a coordinator and a secretary. The Commission has also formed a convocation team, with a coordinator, to coordinate with other groups.

10. Working Procedures

The Commission meets every two weeks in a hybrid format, with the option for extraordinary meetings as needed. Since early September 2025, the Commission has convened nine times.

11. Work Plan

The Commission has adopted a six-month working plan, leading to the presentation of its work to the Sixth Vienna Conference in April 2026. The conference is expected to approve the work of the Commission and begin its implementation mechanism.



12. Progress of Work

During its ninth meeting on 27 December 2025, the Commission reviewed the first draft of its main expected document, reflecting the early views and recommendations of its three working groups.

The Commission agreed in principle on the main framework of the document and discussed the substance of the vision, strategy, and alternative political structure. Preparations are currently underway for the second draft of the document.

13. Wider Consultations

Upon completion of the second draft of the main document, expected in early February 2026, the Commission intends to hold consultations with several movements and organizations that have not yet joined the Vienna Process, as well as relevant members of the international community. During these consultations, the Commission will share its draft vision, strategy, and alternative political structure and seek comments, which will be considered in the final draft of the document.