Report on countering IEDs

Afghanistan reaffirms that the use of Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) is a significant and enduring threat and the increasingly transnational nature of the evolving IEDs threat demands a comprehensive international response.

It is the policy of Afghanistan to actively engage with the international community in preventing, recovering from, and mitigating the IEDs attacks. Submitting the resolution on ‘Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices’ since 2015 embodies Afghanistan efforts to bring together and build consensus in the international level in countering IEDs.

At the national level, in response to the evolving threat posed by the IEDS, Afghanistan revised its national strategy to counter the IEDs threat (C-IEDs Strategy) in 2016 based on the development in using and countering IEDS and the lesson learned since the adoption of its previous strategy in 2012. The C-IEDs Strategy, while recognizing that IEDs not only pose a threat to Afghanistan, but also to the international community, highlights the necessity of regional and international cooperation and sharing knowledge and good practices in countering IEDs.

In recent years, terrorist groups in Afghanistan have reverted to use of significant number of chemical precursors and fertilizers such as 02NNSH2, TNT, RDX, HMX, PETN, TERLY, C3, C4, Semtex, Nitroglycerin, Ammonium Nitrate, Potassium Chlorate, Silver Nitrate, Sodium Nitrate and Sulfur Powder. Most of those precursors and fertilizers are brought to Afghanistan from Pakistan and some of them, such as 02NNSH2 that was used in the attack on the German embassy in Kabul in May 2017, are only in possession of
states. The increased use of chemical precursors and commercial materials in the manufacture of IEDs have become a major challenge for Afghanistan. Although various measures have been taken at the national level to curb the impacts of IEDs, accessibility of chemical precursors in the region and production of high intensity ammonium, particularly in Pakistan, is of grave concern Afghanistan.

**Recommendations**

1. Developing national strategies to counter threat by IEDs, particularly in regions where the use of IEDs are common.
2. Establishing mechanisms for international and regional cooperation and information sharing in countering IEDs.
3. Developing monitoring mechanism over the movements of chemical precursors, fertilizers, commercial explosives, and dual use components for IEDs, specially end user monitoring mechanisms.
4. Providing technical assistance and capacity building for countering IEDs to most affected countries.
5. Calling on countries, in particular Pakistan, to reduce the percentage of Nitrogen in its products from 25 to 15.