



Public hearing on 12 December 2022

on the topic of “The 2001 Petersberg Conference: civil society and Afghan perspectives”

Key questions for the experts:

Mr Thomas Ruttig (Afghanistan expert)

1. What was the state of Afghan civil society in 2001?
2. To what extent were the Afghan participants in the Petersberg Conference representative from this point of view? Or, which additional groups ought to have been represented?
3. How did the proposal that Mr Hamid Karzai should become interim president come about and what alternatives to him existed?

Ms Habiba Sarabi (Afghan politician and women's rights activist)

1. What was your assessment of the Petersberg Conference in 2001 and what consequences or expectations did you associate with it for future developments in Afghanistan? What did the people in the refugee camps in Peshawar hope about the conference?
2. What support did the international community's involvement in Afghanistan have within the Afghan population at that time? And how broad was popular support for the government's opponents, including the Taliban? What was this support based on?
3. How do you evaluate the mix of the participants at the Petersberg Conference in 2001?
4. To what extent were Afghan culture and history considered during the discussions and the results at the Petersberg conference?

Dr Susanne Schmeidl (Swiss Peace)

1. What was the social situation of the Afghan population and the political situation of organised civil society at the time of the Petersberg Agreement? What were the biggest challenges for Afghan society at the beginning of the international community's involvement in Afghanistan?
2. How were the political and strategic decisions of the Petersberg Conference received by the Afghan population and civil society in 2001 and what impacts did they have in Afghanistan? What support did the international community have within Afghan civil society?
3. What were the consequences for the Afghans and the Afghan civil society of the decision to create an Afghan constitution with a centrally structured state? What other developments would have been possible if a federal structure for Afghanistan had been chosen?