**Youth Peace Movement – Statement**

Youth forms more than 70% of the country’s population. Since the last 17 years, Afghan youth has made significant developments in education, health, technology, security, and other fields. From their involvement in the technological developments such Afghan robotic girls to safeguarding the country on the borders, to joining politics such as wide participation of youth in the last parliamentary elections, to the inclusion of youth in the peace building such as Hilmand Peace Marchers; youth has always played vital role in social, cultural, political and religious aspects. However, in the current peace process which is deciding the future of the country, youth are highly marginalized. Therefore, youth are gathered today under one umbrella to raise their voice to the US and other parties involved in the peace process that no peace can be sustainable and no process is successful without involving youth into it. We have the following points to be considered by the US and other parties involved in the peace process;

**1: Bring youth to the table of discussion:** Youth are the real actors in the country. Older men can declare war, it’s only the youth who are fighting and dying for the country. We are real victims of war and heroes who has safeguard this country. Therefore, lack of youth participation in the peace process is a threat to sustainable peace.

**2: All the developments made must be preserved:** Today’s youth is not the youth of 17 years ago. Today’s youth prefer pen over the gun. Now we have hundreds of graduates from universities. Youth are actively participating in the development of their community and even have impressed international community with their guts and abilities such as our sports teams. We want to preserve the developments that has taken place and will never allow anyone to put the future of the youth back to the dark days.

**3: No deal on human rights at any cost:** We are in support of peace but if the peace costs us to sacrifice the human rights then ultimately it means no peace for Afghans. Therefore, we strongly support the human rights law of the country.

**4: Freedom of speech and democratic system:** Afghan youth’s right to share their concern, raise their voice on unjust and expression of views on public platforms should be protected. We want a democratic system in the country where the decision of people lead the system, the representatives are elected by people and the laws are based on the interest of the people rather than the interest of the political groups.

**5: No temporary government:** We were the witness that temporary governments weren’t successful and it has always led to destabilizing the country’s security and sovereignty. Therefore, we support that peace process should take place without any temporary government.

**6: Fair selection of the youth for the peace process and other processes:** There should be a fair and transparent selection of youth for participating and representing youths in the national processes and activities. The youths representatives must be elected by the fair process to ensure they are selected based on their ability and not any political relation.

**7: Women rights must not be ignored:** Women being half of the youth, we support women rights and the developments that women have gained in the last 17 years. Women is human and has full right to exercise their human rights and the rights given to them in the constitution of Afghanistan.