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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Attention: Assignment editor

**RE-ORIENT AFGHAN MISSION TOWARDS DIPLOMACY, DEVELOPMENT,  
AND REAL SECURITY, NGOS TELL MANLEY PANEL**

Canada' should make peace-building and sustainable development its top priorities in Afghanistan. That's the message of three joint submissions from the Afghanistan Reference Group, a network of Canadian NGOs with involvement in Afghanistan, to the Independent Panel on Canada's Future Role in Afghanistan, chaired by John Manley.

The submissions call for the Panel to go beyond the military options set out for it by the government, to embrace a non-military perspective on Canada's role in Afghanistan. They emphasize the importance of better development, more diplomacy and the separation of the military from the humanitarian and development efforts. They also present concrete suggestions about what Canada can do to help bring about a negotiated and lasting peace in Afghanistan.

The three joint submissions include recommendations on: 1) Human Rights, Gender Equality; 2) Security and Peace; and 3) Humanitarian Assistance, Development and Governance.

Individual NGOs involved in the ARG have also submitted separate reports.

**For more information on the ARG's submissions (also attached to this e-mail) or to set up an interview with representatives from the network, please contact:**

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