Mister Chair, (Dear António),
Dear Partners and colleagues,

The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan is very alarming. The needs are at unprecedented levels.

Over 24 million of people require lifesaving assistance, more than half of the entire Afghan population.

That’s why the people of Afghanistan must not be forgotten.

It is crucial that the Afghan progress over the past 20 years is not lost.

But unfortunately, especially for women and girls, reality suggests otherwise.

In Afghanistan, girls are not only deprived of education. Their future is taken away from them.

When schools are closing, so does the path towards a better life.

Education empowers women and girls and that's what the Taliban are afraid of.

I believe that every child has the right to education. Every girl in Afghanistan should have a choice for a future of her own.

That why we should keep supporting them.
Because the Afghan youth,
Afghan boys and girls,
Afghan women – they count on us.

And that’s why Belgium will contribute additionally 3 million euro to the humanitarian fund for Afghanistan on top of our flexible funding to global humanitarian funds. We have to ensure the deliverance of humanitarian aid.

All people deserve protection when needs are high.
Because we are all human beings.

And I would like each of us to remember
   - that there is a person behind those huge numbers of people in need
   - that women’s rights are human rights.

Let’s not forget them.
Let’s not fail the people of Afghanistan.

Thank you