

of Afghanistan" was established. It serves as the government's instrument for implementing policies and commitments on women's empowerment and gender equality. Their implementation remains far from ensuring gender equality. In 2014, the MoI adopted a strategic plan for the recruitment of and support to female members of ANP with an ambitious long-term aim of increasing the current 1.9% ratio of female police personnel to 10% by 2023.

International Community: The July 2016 NATO Summit in Warsaw reaffirmed the NATO member states' mutual commitment to ensure long-term security and stability in Afghanistan¹⁵. The BCA underlined that stability and security are not divisible; they can only be achieved and maintained with an approach that promotes security for all states in the region. It re-emphasised that a secure, stable, and prosperous Afghanistan is vital to peace and stability in the region.

At the third Senior Official Meeting of October 2017, the President of Afghanistan pointed out the government's commitment to forging a stable and sustainable country through a long-term process of reforms and institution building. Reform efforts focus as a priority on the critical drivers of corruption. In that respect, the National Anti-Corruption Strategy was adopted in 2017 pursuant to which the GoA will consider a wide range of reforms in the nation's security sector to root out administrative corruption.

EU Policy Framework: On the EU side, the Foreign Affairs Council on 16 October 2017 adopted the new EU-Afghanistan Strategy¹⁶ (2017-19) which, *inter alia*, foresees the support to a more effective, responsive and transparent civilian police force, including the professionalisation of the police, the fight against corruption in that area and the support to institutional reforms and capacity building, drawing on the experience of the EUPOL Afghanistan Mission which ended in 2016.¹⁷ EU support for MoI reform and the professionalisation of the ANP shall also continue through a new EU Police Advisory Team as well as political engagement.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

The main stakeholders in police matters are the MoI and the ANP, the Police Women Councils (PWCs), the provincial governments, district chiefs, the National Security Council (NSC), as well as LOTFA donors¹⁸ as the main financiers of the police sector in Afghanistan in the last 15 years.

The MoI is responsible for the ANP, the Afghan Special Narcotics Force, the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan, and the Afghan Public Protection Force. It also supervises the General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Centres (GDPDC). The MoI supported PWCs are a practical mechanism to support police women and advance their participation, protection and professionalisation. The PWCs, through their presence in the provinces of Afghanistan, are capable of working locally to build capacity and solidarity to improve welfare among female police personnel. The National Security Council, led by the President, is the supreme institution entrusted with the authority of making decisions regarding national security, national interests, territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

¹⁵ NATO Allies and Resolute Support Mission partners committed to give financial support to the Afghan security forces until 2020, as part of the broader effort by the international community. Afghan authorities are expected to maintain own financial support to the Afghan security forces.

¹⁶The new EU policy framework for Afghanistan is based on the Joint Communication on Elements for an EU Strategy on Afghanistan and reflects the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy, the new European Consensus on Development and the 2014-2020 Multi-annual Indicative Programme for Afghanistan.

¹⁷See Joint Communication on Elements for an EU Strategy on Afghanistan.

¹⁸Currently: The United States of America, European Union, United Kingdom, Japan, Republic of Korea, Germany, Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Kingdom of Denmark, the Netherlands, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Italy, New Zealand, Switzerland, Finland, Estonia and the Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan (CSTC-A).