Before new mission, probe why we failed so miserably in Afghanistan

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The same myth that the Bush-era Coalition Blips used in Canada to morally justify our soldiers killing and being killed during the 12 years that we hastened dear soldiers deployed in Afghanistan. The Taliban followers are not aliens; they are Afghans. They controlled most of Afghanistan when the U.S. invaded in 2001, and despite the hundreds of thousands of NATO troops employed, the countless billions of dollars spent, and the endless hours spent training an Afghan security force, the Taliban still controls, influences, or is contesting an estimated one-third of the country. Was it not for the continued presence of approximately 8,400 U.S. troops and the allied air armada’s firepower, the Taliban would very quickly depose the hated regime. West installed in Kabul. They钣们 may not all love the Taliban, but President Ashraf Ghani and his co-ruler, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, are loathed by their citizenry. Having American warplanes blast innocent civilians in order to prop up the Kaber regime only intensifies the hatred.

The framework provides guidance to the government and other stakeholders. It articulates immediate and long-term development priorities, points to key reforms, and outlines priority investments needed to achieve development goals in these areas. The framework documents note “it sets the economic, political, and security context for [Afghanistan’s] approach to development, which is built around agriculture, extractive industries, and trade.” An associated fiscal strategy is meant to guide budgetary allocations to support policy goals and ensure the good management of public investment. Although the Afghan government has presented an ambitious plan, the framework is fraught with serious challenges including an overly heavy emphasis on economic development based on foreign investment and a renewed—but mistaken—focus on somehow reforming the federal tax system. The plan also fails to withstand scrutiny due to the precarious security situation across the country. Taliban attacks have increased significantly including in the northern provinces of Kunduz and Baghlan, and opium production has increased 43 percent since 2015.

Security sector reform needs to be at the core of Canada’s commitment to Afghanistan in order to help stem political infighting and enhance co-ordination among the security organs of the state. Canada’s wealth of experience could help turn the tide against extremism and violent attacks. If Canada were to embed security advisers within the ministries of interior affairs and national defence and the National Directorate of Security in Afghanistan, it could help immeasurably. In tandem with support from other NATO members, Canada should ensure that the Afghan government is able to sustain functioning security apparatuses beyond 2021. Economic development should be a crucial part of Afghanistan’s future developmental goals, but unless there are concrete steps to establish the constitutional rule of law through security sector reforms, plans for development will necessarily fail short.

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For the al-Qaeda evildoers of the Americans originally sought to eliminate following the 9/11 attacks, well, that cancerous not spread like wildfire, it has morphed into the even more perilous beast. Before the Canadian government goes running off to commit soldiers to another no-hoper UN-led Nations peacekeeping mission somewhere in Africa, we should commission a full-fledged inquiry into how and why we failed so miserably in Afghanistan. Of course that will not happen anytime soon, as the Americans keep telling us. They had to kill innocent Afghans in order to save Afghans. Oh yeah, and to keep us safe here at home. From Afghanistan.

Scott Taylor is editor and publisher of Esprit de Corps magazine. The Hill Times