



December 2006

On the 1st of December 2006, The Afghan Foreign Minister, Dr Rangin Dadfar Spanta paid an official visit to Uzbekistan. In this trip he met with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Uzbekistan. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen bilateral ties, cooperation and investment of Uzbekistan in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. The Afghan foreign minister also signed a joint declaration with Uzbekistan.

On the 14th of December 2006, Dr Rangin Dadfar Spanta visited France to receive the United Nations Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) medal. The medal is awarded to those who have worked for peace, international cooperation, and dialogue among peoples, cultures and civilizations. Dr. Spanta also met his French counterpart, Mr. Philippe Douste Blazy in Paris. The two ministers discussed issues of mutual concern and interest, including the ongoing security-political developments in Afghanistan. Referring to three major threats facing Afghanistan, terrorism, narcotics and weak state institutions, Dr. Spanta highlighted the important role of the international community's long term commitment to Afghanistan to overcome the remaining challenges. The French Foreign Minister reiterated his country's commitment to contribute to the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Both sides also expressed their desire to further strengthen their bilateral relations.