

Biography

H.E. Dr. Zalmay Rassoul

Former Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Candidate for the Presidency of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, 2021-2022



His Excellency Dr. Zalmay Rassoul is a renowned statesman with vast experience in diplomacy, international affairs, governance, and politics. Throughout his career, and namely while serving as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan from January 2010 to October 2013, he played an important and consequential role in strengthening and expanding Afghanistan's bilateral relations with countries of the region and the world. Under his able leadership, significant progress was made towards promoting cooperation with Afghanistan's neighbors in its region, international partners, and multilateral organizations. Among his major achievements, he initiated and led the launch of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process in 2011, establishing what has become one of the key Afghan-led platforms for sincere and results-oriented regional cooperation.

Furthermore, during his tenure as the Foreign Minister, Afghanistan expanded its engagement in key regional platforms, including the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) which it joined as a member, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) which it joined as an observer -

For several decades, Dr. Rassoul has been intensely active in the political struggle for the rights of the Afghan people to live in peace and decide their future in accordance with their free will through democratic processes. Since 1998, Dr. Rassoul, who was at the time working as the Director of the Secretariat of His Majesty Mohammad Zaher Shah – the former King of Afghanistan, devoted his full attention to the convening of an Emergency Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly) to achieve a political settlement to the decades-long war in the country. Under Dr. Rassoul's leadership, the Secretariat in Rome played a crucial role in the future political transition of Afghanistan.

Dr. Rassoul was born in Kabul, Afghanistan, and attended Istiqlal French High School, where he graduated as the valedictorian. Subsequently, he traveled to France to study on a scholarship at the Paris Medical School and received his M.D.

A multilinguist, he is fluent in Pashto, Dari, English, French, and Italian and has a working knowledge of Arabic. He has over 30 publications in European and American medical journals and was a member of the American Society of Nephrology.

Decorations:

- Commendeur de la legion d'honneur (France)
- Grande Ufficiale, Solidarieta Italiana, (Italy)
- Wazir Akbar Khan medal. (Afghanistan)