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The Department of State refers the Embassy of Afghanistan to its diplomatic notes No. 59, dated November 4, 2021, and No. 61, dated December 27, 2021, requesting the Department's urgent assistance to address operational challenges for the Embassy and its consular posts. Having regard for the financial situation of the Afghan Mission to the United States – including but not limited to the impact of Citibank's independent decision to “freeze” Mission bank accounts – and considering it highly unlikely that funds will be made available for direct Mission use, the Department sees the continued operation of the Mission as untenable.

The Department is of the view that the most appropriate and practical way forward is for the Department to work with the Embassy on an orderly shutdown of operations at the Embassy and Consulate facilities, and to assume custodial responsibility for all real property, archives, and assets of the Embassy and its consular posts, in accordance with the plan outlined below. Further, the Department also acknowledges the inordinate stress that these unexpected circumstances have placed on Afghan diplomats accredited to the United States and their families. The proposed arrangement would permit the Department to seek custody of the Citibank-based accounts on behalf of the Embassy and

consulates, and make possible the payment of unpaid salaries, to the extent Citibank account balances permit.

If agreed to, following an initial transitional period, the Embassy and consular facilities would cease operations effective at noon on a predetermined near-term date, after which the Afghan Mission to the United States would continue in reduced form, limited to its head of mission, H.E. Adela Raz who continues to serve as the accredited Ambassador of Afghanistan to the United States. This arrangement would not affect or apply to Afghanistan's Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

Operations: Following a transition period and in coordination with the Department's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM), the Embassy and consular facilities would cease operations effective noon on a predetermined date, after which the Afghan Mission to the United States would continue in reduced form, limited to its head of mission and her residence.

Personnel: With the exception of the Ambassador, the Department would consider the assignments of all other individuals terminated, as of noon on the predetermined date. Such individuals holding A-1 or A-2 visas will retain their privileges and immunities for an additional 30 days from the date of termination.

Property: OFM would assume responsibility for ensuring the protection and preservation – including the continued service of all necessary utilities – of the following properties owned by the Government of Afghanistan:

- 2341 Wyoming Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008 – Chancery
- 120 S Doheny Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 30211 – Consulate
- 34-03 255th Street, Little Neck, NY 11363 – Consul General’s Residence

Financial Assets: As part of the custodial responsibility transfer, OFM would request the transfer of any balances held in bank accounts established by the Embassy or its consular posts into a custodial account created and managed by OFM for the sole purpose of carrying out its custodial functions, including the payment of obligations. Should Citibank accept the conditions of the transfer, OFM would assume responsibility for the proper handling of such funds. The funds, to the extent they are adequate, would be used to address any unpaid obligations, including employee compensation, and to support the protection and preservation of the custodial assets.

The Department requests written confirmation of the Embassy’s concurrence with the above-described plan. The United States extends itself to undertake the custodial responsibilities described above to safeguard Afghan assets and property on their behalf. The United States continues to hold the people of Afghanistan in high regard and also seeks to mitigate, through these efforts and on a humanitarian

basis, the unexpected impacts of recent developments on the well-being of Afghan diplomats accredited to the United States and their families.

Department of State,

Washington, January 18, 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.