

collaborating in the numerous policy fora to monitor the implementation of policy commitments such as the *stock-taking exercises at the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB)* meeting in July 2017, the *Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)* in October 2017 and the Ministerial meeting scheduled for end November 2018.

The SRBC II is fully aligned with the EU strategy for Afghanistan adopted in October 2017¹⁰ and its objectives, namely i) promoting peace, stability and regional security; ii) strengthening democracy, the rule of law and human rights and promoting good governance and women empowerment; iii) supporting economic and human development; and iv) addressing challenges related to migration. The SBC I and SRBC II are an integrative element of the revised EU Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for the period 2018–2020 with its three focal sectors of (i) peace, stability and democracy, (ii) sustainable growth and jobs, and (iii) basic social services.

The SRBC II is similarly in line with the principles of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States and consistent with the new European Consensus on Development¹¹ that lays out how the work by the EU and its Member States on budget support will help to promote SDG implementation efforts in partner countries, improve macroeconomic and public financial management, and improve the business environment.

As regards the support to Women Economic Empowerment, the new European Consensus on Development and the Second Gender Action Plan "*Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020*" both stipulate a need to encompass gender equality in EU development cooperation in a better way. Considering also the commitment made at the Brussels Conference, the EU has a strong responsibility to support the improvement of the current situation of women in Afghanistan as included in the mid-term review (MTR) of the MIP 2014-2020.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

The key stakeholders of the SRBC are the Afghan government and oversight institutions such as the Supreme Audit Office and the Parliament and civil society organisations engaged in civic monitoring of public finance management. SRBC II will set more emphasis on such civil society involvement. On the development partners' side the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and, on basis of their ongoing budget support operations, World Bank and USAID are key partners. The ultimate beneficiary is the Afghan population, benefitting from improved service delivery and governance, and particularly the most vulnerable, who will be directly targeted for example through the Citizen's Charter NPP and the special focus on gender.

The Office of the President and the Ministry of Finance have key roles in coordinating development policies within the government as confirmed with their high commitment through the SBC I. The Ministry of Finance's role in managing the budgetary process, public financial management reforms and domestic revenue mobilisation, makes it an essential stakeholder. The

¹⁰ Afghanistan: European Union Strategy. <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/23921/st13098en17.pdf> and https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/30280/joint-communication-european-parliament-and-council-elements-eu-strategy-afghanistan_en

¹¹ European consensus on development as adopted by the European Council on 18 May 2017.