KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Monday said efforts were being made for reforms and their institutionalisation, seeking more cooperation from the United Nations and their partners.

"Not only are these aircraft and students the physical embodiment of progress, but they also represent a generational shift from the older, weapon-trained forces to the younger and more progressive systems-trained and educated fleet," the UH-60 will enhance the Afghan helicopter fleet and eventually replace the capabilities currently provided by the Mi-17, which is no longer a sustainable platform. The UH-60 will align the Afghan Air Force with the NATO standard. The Afghan Air Force is an important force for defense of borders, sovereignty, and security interests of the country.

Ghani said: "Our words and actions are based on the country’s constitution, which guarantees human rights and that’s why we have embarked on the reform process. We acknowledged the efforts made to achieve the objective were not enough, stressing more development and seeking UN’s support in the area."

KABUL - In an effort to strengthen coordination between the Afghan government, civil society, and media, the USAID-funded Afghan Civil Engagement Program (ACP) organized a two-day “Framework for Cooperation Conference” in Kabul on May 7-8, 2018. More than 230 representatives from Afghan civil society organizations (CSOs), media agencies, and representatives from the Afghan government attended. The conference focused on CSO and media financial sustainability, access to information, CSOs’ safety, and media impartiality. The conference was held in response to sector challenges highlighted by H.E. President Ashraf Ghani during the National Conference on Governance on March 12, 2018.

Conference participants agreed to develop the framework for Cooperation for Coordination, under the guidance of the Civil Society Joint Working Group. Abdullah Ahmadzai, a member of the Civil Society Joint Working Group noted that the absence of a national civil society strategy that includes an agreed upon definition of “civil society” continues to hinder cooperation.

USAID Mission Director Herbie Smith acknowledged the crucial role of civil society in national development. “They set the agenda for change, support reform, and hold the government accountable.”

Afghanistan’s Minister of Economy, H.E Mustafa Masoom, stated that the event was an important platform to discuss ideas, exchange experiences, and explore opportunities to further coordinate a shared vision and improve civil society engagement with the government. Since 2013, ACP has been promoting civil society and media engagement that enables Afghan citizens to influence policy, monitor the government’s commitment to the people, and serve as an advocate for political reform. (PR)