

## 21-point Code of Conduct

- Article 1 sets out that the first session of the day should start with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran.
- Article 2 stipulates that all sessions should start and end with prayers.
- Article 3 stipulates that nothing “against the holy religion of Islam and the country’s supreme interests” can be included in the agenda.
- Article 4 sets out that the negotiations should be held in good faith and aim at “success.”
- Article 5 calls for mutual respect between the parties and economy of words during the negotiations.
- Article 6 emphasises patience while listening to the speakers.
- Article 7 stipulates that disputes should be referred to a joint committee that would provide “alternatives or other appropriate solutions,” or those issues could be deferred for later discussion.
- Article 8 sets out that the joint committee would decide on any disagreements related to “sharia texts.” The number of committee members has not been specified.
- Article 9 ambiguously calls for a “balance” between the “pace of negotiations ... [and] the need for further discussions ... [on] important issues.”
- Article 10 stipulates that each side should introduce three note takers.
- Article 11 says that, at the end of each session, both sides should compare notes, consolidate decisions, and the committees assigned by the two sides should approve the final text.
- Article 12 stipulates that the head of each delegation is responsible for managing their respective team.
- Article 13 stipulates that, at the end of each session, the two sides should agree on what information can be shared with the media to avoid misunderstandings. It also stipulates that the two sides should avoid “irresponsible statements.”
- Article 14 allows for a break should a team need one for consultations. Article 15 says the daily meetings should break for the five prayers.
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- Article 16 defines the role of the host country and that of the facilitator. It specifies that the facilitator will not be present in the negotiation sessions (which indicates that the facilitator could be other than or as well as the host).
- Article 17 rules that, once an issue is agreed, it will not be re-opened.
- Article 18 stresses the confidentiality of documents related to the negotiations, saying the two sides should avoid disclosing “any information that harms the negotiations.” Article 19 obliges the two sides to reject “rumours.”
- Article 20 sets out that the media should not be allowed inside the negotiation room.
- Article 21 stipulates that all documents relating to the negotiations should be written in Dari and Pashto, Afghanistan’s two official languages, and that documents prepared in both languages will be equally valid. The article does not specify how translations should be done, nor does it specify the working language of the talks.