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Afghan election rivals renews pledge to sign Afghan-US security deal

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Afghan presidential candidates Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai have vowed to end the crisis over disputed election and sign the bilateral security agreement with Washington and status of forces agreement with NATO.

Abdullah and Ghani made the commitment in a joint statement which was sent to NATO summit in Wales.

“We believe in an inclusive political vision, we will form a government of national unity that will honor the epic participation of our people in the electoral process.

This government of national unity will have both the political will and the capacity to design and implement sustainable reforms to transform the lives of our people and turn Afghanistan into a center of stability and prosperity,” the statement said.

The two contenders also said, “We are fully committed to signing the BSA and SOFA agreements to honour the decision of the representatives of the people of Afghanistan in order to continue this partnership with our allies.”

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said, “I can confirm that we received a message from the two presidential candidates indicating that they will do all they can to reach a political agreement and if that materialises we would warmly welcome it.”

Rasmussen further added Afghanistan deserves a rapid completion of the electoral process with an outcome that can be accepted by the Afghan people.