



Permanent Mission of  
Afghanistan to the United  
Nations

## **Concept note**

### **Afghanistan and Sustainable Development:**

#### **Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities for Afghan Women**

#### **Side Event**

**March 15 (TBC), 2019**

**Time(TBC)**

**Venue: Afghanistan Mission to the UN, 633 Third Ave, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**Hosted by: Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the UN**

***Co-hosted by: Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN (TBC), International Peace Institute(IPI)- TBC***

#### **Context:**

Afghan women have undergone numerous hardships during almost four decades of armed conflict in Afghanistan. During the Taliban regime, they were deprived of their civil rights, forced to stay at home, abandoned their work, and prevented from getting an education. Although there has been tremendous progress across many sectors in the past 18 years, women still face a lot of hardship in Afghanistan. Disproportionate numbers of women and children are killed or injured in terrorist attacks. They still face social, economic, and cultural barriers which prevent many from achieving their full potential. Nonetheless, Afghan women have always been resilient and been a key part of the development narrative in Afghanistan. They have fought to acquire their legitimate rights and be vocal and active citizens. This was achieved by the Government of Afghanistan in close cooperation and collaboration of the international community. Building on the achievements made after the collapse of the Taliban with the support of the international community, the National Unity Government of Afghanistan has taken remarkable steps in advancing women's rights and their empowerment through the adoption of national laws, policies and strategies. Afghanistan's National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF), Women's Economic Empowerment

Program, National Action Plans (NPPs), and UNSC Resolution 1325 National Action Plan are prominent examples which ensure women's social, economic and political rights, including their access to education, health, livelihood, and all public services.

In this regard, achieving the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development goals is another priority for the Afghan government. The National Unity Government has already started to implement SDGs by aligning them with Afghanistan's national development policies and strategies. Keeping in mind the intricate link between development, peace, and gender empowerment, the government has paid particular attention to gender equality and women's rights, while promoting foundations of a peaceful and inclusive society to secure sustainable development gains. Additionally, given the current political situation with the imperative for successful peace talks, the Afghan Government has paid particular attention to the inclusion and full representation of Afghan women in the peace process, who constitute a key stakeholder group in this effort. Similarly, the implementation of national policies and strategies for empowering women will be more effective while women are in key leadership positions and involved in policy decisions.

To this end, this side event focuses on the achievements, challenges, and opportunities for Afghan women. It will discuss how to consolidate the gains, overcome the existing problems, and present a blueprint for the future, while seeking further cooperation from existing platforms through sharing success stories and experiences.

The thematic discussions will be on the following areas:

- Women and education
- Women's economic empowerment
- Women, peace and security
- Women's health services
- Gender equality laws

**Format:**

Panel discussion will be moderated by UN-Women following with a Q&A session.

**Programs Details:**

Total session time: **90 minutes**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topics of session</b>	<b>Responsible/facilitator</b>
5 min	Opening Remarks and Introduction of the Panel	Ms. Ása Regnér, Deputy Executive Director, UN-women(TBC)-in case they want to moderate
5 min	MoWA achievements	H.E. Ms. Delbar Nazari, Minister of Women's Affairs (MoWA)
5 min	Norway's efforts in advancing the rights of Afghan women	H.E. Ambassador Ms. Mari Skåre, Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway to the UN(TBC)
5min	Gender equality in law and practice	Ms. Zakia Adeli, Deputy Minister of Justice
5 min	Women and girls empowerment through education, achievements and challenges	Ms. Marjan Mateen, Deputy Minister of Education
5 min	UN Women's programs and initiatives for Afghan women's economic empowerment	UN Women (name to be added)- in case they want to be a panelist
5 min	Government's measures to engage women in peace processes and negotiations	Ms. Husna Jalil, Deputy Minister for Policy, Ministry of Interior Affairs
5 min	Women, peace and security	Sarah Taylor, Research Fellow, IPI (TBC)
5 min	Women's economic empowerment	Mr. Ahmad Jawad Osmani, Deputy Minister of Economy
5 min	Increasing access to health care services in Afghanistan with gender sensitive health service delivery	Ms. Mamsai Zewar, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Public Health
35 min	Open Discussion – Q & A	All
5 min	Concluding remarks	Ms. Ása Regnér, Deputy Executive Director, UN-women
Focal Point for the Side Event: Ms. Zuhail Salim, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the UN - New York- <a href="mailto:zsalim@afghanistan-un.org">zsalim@afghanistan-un.org</a>		