“Education for adolescent girls towards empowerment of women in Afghanistan”

A high-level side event on the margins of the 61st Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 61)

DATE: Monday, 20 March 2017; 1:30 PM – 2:45 PM
VENUE: UNICEF House, Danny Kaye Conference Room, 3 UN Plaza, New York
CO-SPONSORS: The Government of Afghanistan & UNICEF
Please RSVP at jlnievesalvarez@unicef.org; rsvp@afghanistan-un.org

OVERVIEW
Afghan women and girls have made remarkable progress since 2001. Since the fall of the Taliban, the Government of Afghanistan has made numerous achievements with regards to women and girls, gender equality, empowerment of women, and adolescent girls’ education. In education alone, 8.4 million students were enrolled in 2015 representing an eightfold increase since the first Back-to-School campaign in 2002.

The current situation of girls’ education in Afghanistan is at a critical juncture. Despite significant progress and investments, an estimated 3.5 million children continue to be out of school - out of which an estimated 75% are girls. The Government of Afghanistan has set ambitious objectives in education and development to reach every last child, and particularly every last girl.

The event will discuss the mutually reinforcing linkages between the opportunities set out by the upcoming policy developments and how partners can and will help support the development and implementation of these policies. The discussion will feature multiple perspectives from stakeholders including government, civil society, and experts.

DRAFT AGENDA
Welcome Remarks
1:30 PM – 1:45 PM
- Ambassador Mahmoud Saikal, Permanent Representative of the I.R. of Afghanistan to the UN
- Omar Abdi, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF (TBC)

Video Opening – UNICEF Afghanistan
1:45 PM – 1:50 PM

Panel Discussion on Girls’ Education in Afghanistan
1:50 PM – 2:20 PM
- Moderator: Jo Bourne, Associate Director of Education, UNICEF
- Mr. Assadullah Muhaqqique, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Afghanistan
- Ms. Rayana Fazli, Education Portfolio Manager, Aga Khan Foundation
- H.E. Mr. Geir O. Pedersen, Permanent Representative of Norway to the UN
- Nora Fyles, Head of the UN Girls’ Education Initiative Secretariat

Open Q&A
2:20 PM – 2:40 PM

Concluding Remarks
2:40 PM – 2:45 PM
Jo Bourne, Associate Director of Education, UNICEF