Women, Peace and Security: Challenges and Achievements
March 14, 2018 from 11:30 to 12:45hrs
Conference Room No. A
United Nations Building

Hosted by: Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations
Co-hosted by: Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations & UN Women

Context:
Women have experienced tremendous upheaval throughout the history of Afghanistan and have borne the brunt of decades of insecurity and violence associated with armed conflicts. During this period, women’s human rights deteriorated to unprecedented levels; they were denied their basic rights, including access to justice, education, healthcare, employment and economic growth.

Afghanistan, as a member of the international community, has taken practical steps to comply with and implement its international human rights and women’s rights obligations and contribute to the maintenance of peace and security. To this end, a number of provisions related to women, peace and security (WPS) have been included in the national legislations and government policies. Additionally, several strategies and structures have been created to address WPS related issues. The operationalization of Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF 2017-2021) is a strategic roadmap to achieve peace and stability through self-reliance.

The 2030 Agenda presents a unique opportunity to focus and streamline efforts on achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment by 2030. Gender responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda needs leadership by women as well as the full and effective participation of women in all levels including in peace processes. The Afghan government has prepared a national plan that ensures implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security; and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda calls for redoubled efforts to resolve or prevent conflict and to support post-conflict countries, such as Afghanistan, including ensuring that women have a role in peace-building and state-building.
Likewise, endorsement and launch of the ever-first National Action Plan (NAP 1325) on UNSCR 1325 is one of the key steps that the government of Afghanistan has taken for strengthening the role of Afghan women in peace building and security. The NAP 1325 was welcomed both nationally and internationally as an ambitious set of targets around the four pillars of:

- Participation
- Protection
- Prevention
- Relief and Recovery

Yet, despite some achievements like increasing presence of women in the armed forces, high peace council, parliament and government, it has always been a concern that women's presence in peace negotiations and security is limited. Further, they are still largely excluded from official peace talks and their contribution in the security sector often goes unrecognized. Women face several barriers to their full and meaningful participation in peace and security processes. Ensuring how national as well as international policies could facilitate women’s participation in all major peace process is one of the fundamental issues that need to be discussed. Discussion of concrete examples of what has worked and where the barriers remain are valuable to all stakeholders.

**Expected Outcomes:**

1. Sharing and recognizing good practices in implementation of Women, Peace and Security agenda in Afghanistan;
2. Identifying major gaps and challenges in implementation of Women, Peace and Security agenda in Afghanistan;
3. Strengthened partnership with key stakeholders such as: International Community, Civil Society and Government, for accelerating the implementation of Women, Peace and Security agenda in Afghanistan;
4. Identifying specific mechanisms to operationalize the WPS agenda in rural areas of Afghanistan;
5. Learning from other countries’ experience with similar experience.

---

1 In July 2015, the government of Afghanistan launched its first UNSCR1325 National Action Plan (NAP). The main agency responsible for development, monitoring and evaluation of the NAP is the Steering Committee headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It works with collaboration with other government agencies, civil society organizations and international organizations. The NAP is organized under the main UNSCR1325 themes: Participation, Protection, Prevention and Relief and Recovery.
## Programs Details:

Total session time: **75 minutes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topics of session</th>
<th>Responsible / facilitator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 min</td>
<td>Opening Remarks/ Introduction of Panel</td>
<td>H.E. Ambassador Saikal, Ambassador &amp; Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the UN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 min</td>
<td>Short info - graphic on Women, Peace and Security</td>
<td>Technical team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 min</td>
<td>Role of Ministry of Women’s Affairs in promoting gender sensitive policies and strategies</td>
<td>H.E. Ms. Dilbar Nazari, Minister of Women’s Affairs of Afghanistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 min</td>
<td>Women’s role in Peace Process: Rural Women and Social Peace</td>
<td>Ms. Dr. Habiba Sarabi, Deputy of High Peace Council of Afghanistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 min</td>
<td>International Community’s support on participation of women in peace and security</td>
<td>H.E. Ms. Anne Meskanen, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women Issues and Gender Equality, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 min</td>
<td>Opportunities and challenges in the implementation of (NAP 1325) in Afghanistan</td>
<td>Mrs. Abeda Osman, Director General of DHRIWA Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 min</td>
<td>UN Women’s role as facilitating and coordinating body for implementation of the NAP 1325</td>
<td>Dr. A.H.Monjurul Kabir, Senior Program Adviser and Chief, Asia-Pacific Section, UN Women HQ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 min</td>
<td>Open Discussion – Q &amp; A</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 min</td>
<td>Conclusion Remarks</td>
<td>H.E. Ambassador Saikal, Ambassador &amp; Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the UN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Focal Point for the Side Event: Mr. Sediq Rasuli, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to UN - New York- rasuli@afghanistan-un.org