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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MOWA's National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan to Receive Endorsement and Expertise from Four Ministries**

*The Ministries of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Energy and Water Management, Information and Culture, and Health commit to partnering with MOWA for the benefit of Afghan women*

**Kabul, May 18, 2005** – Four planning workshops led by the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) are identifying critical gender issues and bringing high-level Ministry decision-makers together with senior MOWA planners to collaborate on women's problems in Afghanistan. The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development has recently completed its planning workshop on women's issues, and the Ministries of Information and Culture, Energy and Water, and Health will hold their workshops on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, May 31<sup>st</sup>, and in June, respectively.

The government of Afghanistan has an international obligation to bring its gender development in line with a global framework for women's advancement called the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA). Following the participation of Afghanistan in the global conference that reviewed the progress of countries across the world in implementing the BPFA, MOWA launched this series of planning workshops in March to develop a National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan.

The Ministry of Women's Affairs will be partnering with more government ministries as well as civil society actors to gather more endorsement of and expertise for the National Action Plan over the next several months. MOWA's planning workshops are being conducted with the technical support of UNIFEM.

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