



MEDIA RELEASE

Parliament in coordination with UNIFEM is opening the Afghan Women Parliamentarians' Resource Center on August 7th, 2006.

Kabul, August 3 2006-

With the generous support of the Danish, Turkish and Italian governments, along with UNDP's SEAL Project, Parliament and UNIFEM have established a resource center dedicated to providing Afghan women leaders access to important tools for accomplishing their jobs such as a library and internet access, and to allow them to participate in learning activities and workshops. This resource center has also been established to present the women parliamentarians with the opportunity to interact with their constituencies, debate issues, and work together productively in an environment designed to support them.

On August 7, 2006, parliamentarians, donors, and other Afghan leaders will join UNIFEM at the resource center from 2:00 to 4:00 pm to celebrate the opening of the center. Mrs. Fawzia Koofi, Deputy of the House, Ms. Meryem Aslan, Director of UNIFEM, and Ms. Saima Khugyani, Chairman of the Women's Rights Committee in the Wolesi Jirga will deliver dedication speeches.

The Afghan Women Parliamentarians Resource Center is a UNIFEM initiative that is being carried out together with its partners. The aim is to prepare Afghan women in both the national and provincial government bodies and within civil society to become strong political leaders. UNIFEM's aim is to equip women political leaders with technical knowledge, provide them with institutional support and develop their public communication capacities so that elected women political leaders can participate in shaping national development and reconstruction plans in a manner that also ensures gender mainstreaming.

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