
MEDIA RELEASE

MOWA Returns from Global Conference, Takes Charge of National Plan of Action for the Women of Afghanistan

Ministry launches a three-month process to draft a national framework for addressing women's rights

Kabul, March 24 2005 – The Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) has launched a three-month consultative process with government ministries and Afghan NGOs on generating a National Plan of Action for the Women of Afghanistan. The National Plan of Action will bring Afghanistan in line with its international commitment to eradicate gender inequalities in the country.

The Afghan government reaffirmed its commitment to gender issues this month along with 165 countries at the Beijing Plus Ten Conference in New York City, USA. The Minister of Women's Affairs headed a delegation that featured the Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Deputy Minister of Public Health, and General Director of the Ministry of Education at the gathering. This was the first Afghan delegation to a global women's conference.

Following the conference, MOWA consulted with some 17 Afghan ministries on the way in which the government could fulfill its commitment to women, resulting in a consensus on developing a draft National Plan of Action for the Women of Afghanistan in 3 months. An initial 7 ministries committed to holding ministry-based consultations and drawing up their own action plans within the next two weeks. A parallel consultative process will gather feedback from Afghan NGOs on the Plan of Action, then work to generate participation and support from the international community. UNIFEM is facilitating this planning process.

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