



PRESS RELEASE

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Afghan and International Organizations Join USAID to Guide Women's Empowerment Program

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN - Afghanistan's Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah joined USAID Mission Director William Hammink and Minister of Women's Affairs Dilbar Nazari at the inaugural meeting of the Promote Advisory Committee to advance women's empowerment in Afghanistan. The Committee will provide stewardship during the implementation of USAID's Promoting Gender Equity in National Priority Programs, referred to as Promote.

The group, composed of Afghan and U.S. government officials, international donors, members of Afghan civil society, and other gender champions, will meet quarterly to ensure cooperation with national, provincial, and district stakeholders and engender advocacy for the Promote program.

Among the Committee's priorities will be to ensure diversity in the implementation of program activities, offer solutions, evaluate effectiveness, and advocate for and mobilize support within civil society organizations and public and private institutions to ensure the program achieves the shared objectives of the Afghan and U.S. Governments.

"USAID is delighted to have the Unity Government as a ready, willing and dedicated partner in the Promote project," Hammink said. "USAID's ardent wish to ensure that Promote is a project developed, implemented and overseen by the Afghan stakeholders for the benefit of the Afghan people."

The Promote program was designed in consultation with the Afghan Government, civil society, and the private sector. It is being implemented in partnership with the Afghan Government and a consortium of Afghan organizations, with all four components of the program being operational by early 2016. Its goal is to advance opportunities for thousands of Afghan women to become leaders in the political, private, and civil society sectors.

For more information about USAID's programs and interview requests please contact USAID/Afghanistan at (+93 (0) 700-114060) KabulAIDdoc@usaid.gov, <http://www.usaid.gov/Afghanistan>

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