

نماندگی دایمی جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان

در سازمان ملل متحد - نیویارک



*Permanent Mission
of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
to the United Nations-New York*

په ملګرو ملتونو کې
د افغانستان د اسلامي جمهوریت
دایمی نمایندګی - نیویارک

No. C3-3-2017/07/866

Date: 06 July 2017

Dear Dr. Kabir,

In September 2015, the UN Member States adopted a landmark agreement on a universal transformative agenda- the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). The adoption of Agenda 2030 presents significant opportunities in ensuring that 'no one is left behind' in the development process.

The 2030 agenda is strongly rooted in universal human rights principles. With its focus on sustainable development and services related to healthcare, education, and water, it covers a broad spectrum. The linkage between human rights and SDGs is mutually reinforcing; strengthening of human rights impact SDGs implementation and implementing SDGs strengthen the human rights consolidation. When it comes to integrating SDGs with advancing human rights, the needs of a developed countries vary significantly from that of a fragile states. However, certain basic principles are fundamental, which makes the 2030 agenda universal.

Promoting women's equality and ensuring their equal development are necessary foundations for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. Women have a critical role to play in all of the SDGs, with many targets specifically recognizing women's equality and empowerment as both the objective, and as part of the solution. Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large, which the 2030 agenda focuses on.

Women and girls in Afghanistan understand how important the 2030 Agenda is in closing the gender gap, strengthening support for institutions in relation to gender equality, and recognizing women's empowerment being crucial for the achievement of all goals and targets. For Afghan women, while there has been progress made in advancing gender equality in some areas, there is a need for consolidating these gains and further work in some other areas. These include high levels of violence against women, achieving economic empowerment, civic and political participation, and responding to the specific challenges they face resulting from the conflict.

In the context of this year's HLPF's theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world", the Permanent Missions of Italy and Afghanistan to the UN, in collaboration with UN Women, invite you to a side event titled "Human rights, women, and SDGs". This event will discuss the linkage of human rights, women, and SDGs, and in particular present a case study of Afghanistan's experience of implementing SDGs.

The side event will explore: (i) how the 2030 Agenda helps gender equality and human rights promotion as a critical pathway to achieving the SDGs; ii) how the 2030 Agenda contributes in stability and peace in Afghanistan, and other fragile states worldwide.

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The event will take place in the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations on July 18, 2017, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan is pleased to invite you to participate as a panelist in the aforementioned event. Your participation will further add to the success of this panel discussion.

Sincerely yours,

Mahmoud Saikal
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

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