UNAMA Press Release | UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN

AFGHAN WOMEN HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN ACHIEVING PEACE IN AFGHANISTAN

KABUL, 15 May 2017 - Afghan women from the across the country gathered today to discuss their experiences, vision and contribution to peace in the country at the Fourth Kabul Symposium “Afghan Women; Messengers of Peace” hosted by Afghanistan’s First Lady.

“The United Nations stands in solidarity with Afghan women, and supports all efforts to ensure that women’s involvement in peace is meaningful,” Tadamichi Yamamoto, the Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Afghanistan, told delegates at the symposium’s opening.

“This three-day symposium is an excellent opportunity for you to share your experiences, discuss your visions for the future and strategize about how women must play a leading role in building peace in Afghanistan.” said Yamamoto, who is also the head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

The UN envoy underscored other experiences from around the world that had demonstrated that in order for peace to be sustainable, women have to be involved from the outset.

As half the population, the empowerment of Afghan women and girls is essential to ensure their full participation in the political and social life, and help realize Afghanistan’s full potential. Women and girls also have a variety of roles in the home, community and nation that are critical to the promotion of peace.

The Afghan government has pledged to increase the presence of women in government institutions to 30 per cent by the year 2020. We hope that this goal will be achieved.

The United Nations in Afghanistan has been supporting the government’s stated efforts to strengthen the implementation of women, peace and security commitments in compliance with Afghanistan’s international obligations, and Afghanistan’s National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

* * *

UNAMA is mandated to support the Afghan Government and the people of Afghanistan as a political mission that provides 'good offices' among other key services. 'Good offices' are diplomatic steps the UN takes publicly and in private, drawing on its independence, impartiality and integrity, to prevent international disputes from arising, escalating or spreading. UNAMA assists the process of peace and reconciliation; monitors and promotes human rights, including the protection of civilians in armed conflict; promotes good governance; and encourages regional cooperation. The Mission also promotes coherent development support by the international community.