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MEDIA INFORMATION KIT

UNIFEM and MoWA Seminar on Women in Politics and Society

Hotel Kabul Green, Kabul, Afghanistan

Kabul, March 2 2005 – The Ministry of Women’s Affairs is holding a one-day seminar today entitled “The Role and Presence of Women in Politics and Society.” 250 participants who are active in politics and women’s issues are expected to attend.

The participants of the seminar have been invited to present their written points of view on the seminar topic to the secretariat of the Legal Section of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA). Today, representatives from the 50 different political entities (parties and individuals) present at the seminar will each have 5 minutes to present their main arguments at the gathering. The objective of this exercise will be to support MoWA’s efforts to advocate for women’s participation in politics and society.

The three central issues for the seminar are the following:

- Perceptions on women’s presence in political parties
- Opinions and suggestions on the way in which women’s participation in the social and political spheres can be increased
- To build relations between the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and political figures for women’s participation in social and political affairs

Political parties have been requested to send both a male and female representative to the gathering. Independent politicians have also been invited, and have also been given a 5 minute slot for speaking before the assembly.

At the end of the seminar (4pm), a declaration reflecting the seminar discussion will be presented at a news conference. The conference is a joint collaboration between the Ministry of Women’s Affairs’ Legal Department and UNIFEM.

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UNIFEM provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies that promote women's human rights, political participation and economic security worldwide. UNIFEM's goal in Afghanistan is to increase options and opportunities for women through programme activities that transform the overall development of Afghanistan into a more equitable and sustainable process.