

# ANNEXES

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The process of conceptualizing and developing NAPWA involved over three years of discussions, capacity building interventions, planning workshops, high level dialogues, and meetings between and among senior officials from the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA), government ministries, NGOs, donors, UN agencies and other partners from the national and provincial levels. It was led by the International Relations and Coordination Department of MOWA through an Institutional Capacity Building Program for Gender Mainstreaming that UNIFEM has been implementing in MOWA since 2003. The NAPWA process is regarded as a vital component of the NAPWA document itself and was deliberately designed to generate awareness, shared understanding and commitment to the implementation of NAPWA. The main activities are presented below.

## **1.1 Participation in the Beijing Plus Ten Conference**

*28 February – 11 March 2005, New York*

- MOWA led an Afghanistan delegation to New York for the Beijing Plus Ten conference, which reviewed the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA). The BPFA is a global framework for the advancement of women that was adopted in 1995 in Beijing, during the Fourth World Conference on Women.
- As part of its preparatory processes, MOWA conducted a series of briefings on the 12 BPFA areas of concern<sup>71</sup>, building the knowledge of government ministries and collecting information from them for a report on actions taken by the Afghan government to implement the BPFA. The report served as reference paper for the Afghanistan delegates at the Conference.

## **2.2 Report-back and launching of the planning process**

*23 March 2005, MOWA*

- The idea of preparing a national action plan for women was raised in a report-back meeting organized by MOWA to give an account of the results of Beijing Plus Ten. Here, MOWA presented a proposal to draft a national action plan for the women of Afghanistan in accordance with

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<sup>71</sup> The 12 BPFA areas of concern are: (1) women and poverty; (2) education and training of women; (3) women and health; (4) violence against women; (5) women and armed conflict; (6) women and the economy; (7) women in power and decision making; (8) institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; (9) human rights of women; (10) women and the media; (11) women and the environment; and (12) the girl child.

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paragraph 297 of the BPFA<sup>72</sup>. The line ministries, Commission on Human Rights and Commission on Environment approved the proposal, along with a process which would involve

- a) consultations and planning workshops with all ministries;
- b) consultations with NGOs and provincial partners; and
- c) consultations with the international community.

### 2.3 Consultation on Gender and Statistics

*28 March 2005, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Conference Room*

- The MOWA Statistics Office consulted with NGOs, ministries and international organizations to collect women-related research and statistics that could be used in the planning process. The participants submitted data on women and gave MOWA the right to process and use the data as required.

### 2.4 Meeting with NGO Coordination Council members

*3 April 2005, MOWA Conference Room*

- MOWA met with 58 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that are members of the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR), Afghan Women's Network (AWN) and Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB); three umbrella civil society networks which comprise the NGO Coordination Council (NCC). MOWA discussed, among other things, the results of the Beijing Plus Ten Conference and the government's plan to draft a national action plan for women. The plan was validated and supported by the participants who assured MOWA of their support.

### 2.5 Consultations and planning workshops in all ministries

*10 April – 7 December 2005, various ministries*

- From 10 April to 7 December 2005, MOWA conducted planning workshops in government ministries to discuss women's issues and identify specific measures to address them. A total of 26 ministries completed the planning process with a total attendance of 1,465 senior officials, including technical deputy ministers and directors of planning departments.

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<sup>72</sup> Paragraph 297 of BPFA states that, "As soon as possible, preferably by the end of 1995, Governments, in consultation with relevant institutions and non-governmental organizations, should begin to develop implementation strategies for the Platform and, preferably by the end of 1996, should have developed their strategies or plans of action." United Nations Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with the Beijing +5 Political Declaration and Outcomes Document. 2001: p161

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- Every process involved
  - a) high level dialogue between technical deputy ministers of MOWA and senior officials in the concerned ministry to agree to hold the planning workshop, discuss gender issues, finalize the program, and delineate roles and responsibilities;
  - b) technical meetings between planning departments of MOWA and the host ministry to analyze sector-relevant gender issues, prepare presentations, and plan the workshop; and
  - c) preparation and validation of workshop results.
- Each ministry workshop was designed with the following standard components:
  - a) an analysis of women's situation in Afghanistan in the 12 BPFA areas of concern through a documentary video that was produced by UNIFEM and UNDP;
  - b) a MOWA presentation on women's issues in the sector relevant to the host ministry with corresponding recommendations;
  - c) a ministry presentation on the situation of women in its sector and the measures already taken by the ministry to address women's issues;
  - d) group workshops where participants were divided into 3-4 groups to discuss issues and raise recommendations;
  - e) presentation of group work reports; and
  - f) a response from the technical deputy ministers of MOWA and the host ministry to enrich or adopt the recommendations.

### **2.6 Compilation of statistics from 56 studies on women in Afghanistan**

*18 October to 15 November 2005, Kabul*

- MOWA reviewed and compiled 56 studies on women in Afghanistan and produced a compendium of statistics on women that organized data on women according to the 12 areas of concern of the BPFA and presented an initial analysis.

### **2.7 Mid-process consultation with planning directors and ministry focal points on women**

*23 October 2005, Kabul*

- MOWA convened the gender focal points and planning directors of all ministries to report on the status of the NAPWA process, its findings, and its challenges. This meeting was attended by 42 participants representing 22 ministries. They affirmed the appropriateness of the processes and gave recommendations to solve the problems encountered by MOWA within their respective ministries.

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### 2.8 Development of a situation analysis and gender policy framework on 6 areas of concern

*15 November to 1 December 2005, Kabul*

- MOWA prepared a situation analysis and gender policy framework on 6 areas of concern (education, health, work and poverty, legal protection and rights, political participation, and institutional mechanisms for women's advancement), which were designed to be part of the NAPWA.
- UNIFEM, which has been supporting MOWA throughout the process, consulted with the gender donor coordination group about the gender policy framework. The gender coordination group validated the paper and endorsed it as a major reference in advocating the integration of gender in the I-ANDS.

## 3. RECONCILING NAPWA AND I-ANDS

The ANDS consultations began when the NAPWA consultation was well underway. MOWA is cognizant that any plan for women should be within the framework of the government's overall strategy. At the same time, it is aware that a national government strategy could only be meaningful if it takes into account the insights and recommendations derived from the series of consultations and planning workshops with all government ministries. As a result, around September 2005, MOWA's work on NAPWA began to be used to inform the ANDS process as described below.

### 3.1 Preliminary synthesis of findings

*June to December 2005*

- Midway into the drafting process, MOWA synthesized the major findings from the planning workshops and discussed them internally as a basis for the development of a five-year MOWA plan and the Sectoral Strategy Outline that were both requested by the ANDS secretariat. The gender equality chapter of the I-ANDS was framed with substantial consideration of MOWA's submissions. The review and comments to other I-ANDS chapters benefited from the effort of a task force composed of leading international advisers of MOWA.

### **3.2 High level policy dialogue to reconcile the results of NAPWA planning workshops with gender in the I-ANDS**

*12 December 2005*

- The gender provisions of the I-ANDS were reviewed and reconciled with the outputs of NAPWA's ministry planning workshops. The meeting was attended by technical deputy ministers and planning directors of 22 ministries. The participants also approved the proposed gender mainstreaming policy prepared by MOWA.

## **4. FINALIZATION AND ADOPTION PROCESSES**

### **4.1 Launching of multi-stakeholders consultations**

*8 March 2006, MOWA*

- From December 2005 to March 2006, MOWA developed the first draft of the Plan and subjected it to technical review by gender advisers. Then, on March 8, 2006, on the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day Celebration in Afghanistan, MOWA launched the consultation process for the finalization of NAPWA before an audience of around 4,000 advocates, senior officials of government, NGO and civil society leaders, and the international community. President Hamid Karzai and senior officials of the executive and legislative branches of government graced the launching ceremony.

### **4.2 Regional consultations with NGO Coordination Council and DOWAs**

*June - July 2006, the provinces*

- In preparation for regional consultations, MOWA held a series of briefing and planning workshops with the members of the NGO Coordination Council (ACBAR, ANCB and AWN). The parties agreed to cooperate in holding five regional consultations in the provinces of Bamyan, Parwan, Herat, Nangarhar and Balkh. These were to be pursued through the leadership of MOWA's Provincial Relations Department and Departments of Women's Affairs (DOWAs) and in partnership with the Office of the Governor of the host province.
- In partnership with the NGO Coordination Council and with the support of UNIFEM and the provincial governor's office of the host provinces, MOWA/DOWA conducted 5 regional consultations in the aforementioned provinces from April to July 2006. They were attended by 375 government and NGO participants from 26 provinces of the country. The consultations generated increased awareness of and commitment to support NAPWA,

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validated and gathered recommendations on how to strengthen the draft, and identified the challenges that are likely to be encountered in the process of implementing the Plan in the provinces.

### 4.3 Providing feedback on regional consultations to ministries

*26 September 2006, Kabul*

- MOWA conducted a meeting with ministries to provide feedback on the comments and recommendations that were generated in the 5 regional consultations. MOWA also discussed the status of the NAPWA finalization process and pointed out the roles that the technical deputy ministers and planning directors have to play in ensuring the support of their respective ministers once NAPWA is presented to the Cabinet. Here, the ministries called for the immediate setting up of gender mechanisms in the ministries and the inclusion of NAPWA in their action plans.

### 4.4 Discussing regional consultations with Afghan civil society leaders

*28 October 2006, Kabul*

- MOWA met with leaders of ACBAR, AWN and ANCB to share the recommendations and comments from the 5 regional consultations. The participants also discussed the coordination issues that were encountered in organizing the regional consultations and came up with agreements on how to prevent such issues in the future.

### 4.5 Consultation with the international community

*29 October 2006, Kabul*

- MOWA conducted a consultation with the international community, primarily to generate comments on the draft of NAPWA. This was attended by 45 representatives from donors, UN agencies and international NGOs who reviewed all the technical chapters of NAPWA and provided comments therein.

### 4.6 Preparation of second draft

*November - December 2006, MOWA*

- The comments generated from the technical advisers, the regional consultations, and the international community were put together and incorporated into a second NAPWA draft, which was then edited.

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### 4.7 Finalization Workshop

*25 February 2007*

- The semifinal version of NAPWA was sent to all ministries for review towards the end of January 2007. On February 25, 2007, the Technical Deputy Ministers, Focal Points and Directors of Planning Departments of all ministries were invited to give final comments to the semi-final draft of the NAPWA. The participants commended the MOWA for the impressive draft but there were a lot of comments about errors in the Dari translations. It was agreed that the Dari version would be subjected to professional editing. Finally, all the 17 ministries unanimously endorsed the draft for adoption notwithstanding the need to edit the Dari version.

### 4.8 Presentation to Senior Advisers of the President

*17 May 2007*

- The NAPWA was presented to nine senior advisers of the President to generate their advice and possible support on the presentation of the Plan to the President. The Senior Advisers raised recommendations on how to strengthen the measures identified in the Plan and suggested approaches on how the Plan could be presented to the President and the Cabinet for approval. The Senior Advisers requested for time to look into the content more thoroughly while the Chief of the President's Policy Unit committed to discuss the matter with the President and facilitate a formal presentation of the Plan to the President by MOWA. On May 20, a meeting with the Chief of the Policy Unit of the President was conducted to discuss the next steps in presenting the Plan to the President and the Cabinet.

### 4.9 Presentation to the President

*19 June 2007*

- The Minister of Women presented the NAPWA to the President on June 19, 2007. In this meeting, the President commended the effort of MOWA to lead government in preparing the Plan and said that it was an excellent work. The President asked for another meeting to discuss the draft NAPWA in detail, particularly the implementation strategy.

### 4.10 Adoption of NAPWA by the Cabinet

*19 May 2008*

- The NAPWA was presented by the Minister of Women to the Cabinet Social Committee which then reviewed it and recommended its approval to the Cabinet through the Office of the President. The Cabinet adopted NAPWA on 19 May 2008, endorsing it for implementation by government throughout the country.

**Affirmative action:**

Broadly defined, affirmative action encompasses any measure that allocates goods – such as admission into universities, jobs, promotions, public contracts, business loans, and rights to buy and sell land – on the basis of membership in a designated group, for the purpose of increasing the proportion of members of that group in the relevant labor force, entrepreneurial class, or university student population, where they are currently under-represented as a result of past or present discrimination. (*Daniel Sabbagh, Affirmative Action Policies: An International Perspective, Human Development Report Office, 2004*). It is also defined as “a coherent packet of measures, of a temporary character, aimed specifically at correcting the position of members of a target group in one or more aspects of their social life, in order to obtain effective equality” (*United Nations, Economic and Social Council, Commission on Human Rights, “Prevention of Discrimination: The Concept of Affirmative Action” 17 June 2002*)

**Capacity building:**

A combination of measures to develop the country’s human, scientific, technological, organizational, institutional and resource capabilities. A fundamental goal of capacity building is to enhance the ability to evaluate and address the crucial questions related to policy choices and modes of implementation among development options, based on an understanding of

environment potentials and limits and of needs perceived by the people of the country concerned. (*Capacity Building - Agenda 21’s definition (Chapter 37, UNCED, 1992.)*)

**Community Development Councils:**

A community-based decision making body which is elected by the community through elections based on a secret ballot. As the representative body of the community with regard to the National Solidarity Program (NSP), the Community Development Council is responsible for overseeing the preparation of the Community Development Plan (defining community needs and priorities, and the project or sub-projects to address some or all of these priorities), and the preparation and implementation of individual sub-projects. (*National Solidarity Program Operational Manual, March 2004*)

**Civil society:**

The arena of uncoerced collective action around shared interests, purposes and values. In theory, its institutional forms are distinct from those of the state, family and market, though in practice, the boundaries between state, civil society, family and market are often complex, blurred and negotiated. Civil society commonly embraces a diversity of spaces, actors and institutional forms, varying in their degree of formality, autonomy and power. Civil societies are often populated by organizations such as registered charities, development non-governmental organisations, community groups, women’s organizations, faith-

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based organizations, professional associations, trade unions, self-help groups, social movements, business associations, coalitions and advocacy groups. (*The London School of Economics, Center for Civil Society, working definition*)

### **Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration:**

In the context of peacekeeping, disarmament is the collection, control and disposal of small arms, ammunition, explosives and light and heavy weapons of combatants and often also of the civilian population. It includes the development of responsible arms management programmes.

Demobilization is the process by which armed forces (government and/or opposition or factional forces) either downsize or completely disband, as part of a broader transformation from war to peace. Typically, demobilization involves the assembly, quartering, disarmament, administration and discharge of former combatants, who may receive some form of compensation and other assistance to encourage their transition to civilian life.

Reintegration programmes are assistance measures provided to former combatants that would increase the potential for their and their families', economic and social reintegration into civil society. Reintegration programmes could include cash assistance or compensation in kind, as well as vocational training and income generating activities. (United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operation, Lessons Learned Department,

*Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants in a peacekeeping environment: Principles and Guidelines*, December 1999).

### **Discrimination against women:**

Any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. (CEDAW)

### **Domestic Violence:**

Domestic violence, also called "intimate partner abuse," "battering," or "wife-beating," refers to physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse that takes place in the context of an intimate relationship, including marriage.

Domestic violence is one of the most common forms of gender-based violence and is often characterized by long-term patterns of abusive behavior and control.

[www.hrw.org/reports/2003/nepal0903/3.htm](http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/nepal0903/3.htm)

### **Early Marriage:**

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the most comprehensive international bill of rights for women, states that any betrothal or marriage of a child should not have any legal status. The Committee that monitors this convention states further in General Recommendation 21 (Article 16(2)) that

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the minimum age for marriage for both male and female should be 18 years, the age when “they have attained full maturity and capacity to act”.<sup>3</sup> (*Forum on Marriage and the Rights of Women and Girls, Early Marriage and Poverty, 2003*).

### **Empowerment:**

The ability to make choices from a meaningful set of alternatives that can alter outcomes, and is meant to reflect the degree of participation relative to men in deliberative bodies as agents of change. Empowerment reflects a dynamic process, with power exercised in a variety of settings, including in the household, in the economic, legal and political arenas, and in cultural institutions (such as religious bodies). (*United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, “Gender Equality and Striving for Justice in an Unequal World” 2005*)

### **Forced Marriage:**

A forced marriage is defined as any “marriage conducted without the full consent of both parties and where duress is a factor” (*Forum on Marriage and the Rights of Women and Girls, Early Marriage and Poverty, 2003*).

### **Gender Analysis:**

Gender analysis is a systematic way of looking at the different impacts of development, policies, programs and legislation on women and men that entails, first and foremost, collecting sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive information about the

population concerned. Gender analysis can also include the examination of the multiple ways in which women and men, as social actors, engage in strategies to transform existing roles, relationships, and processes in their own interest and in the interest of others. *ILO 2000 and Gender and Biodiversity Research Guidelines. Ottawa: International Development Research Centre, 1998.* [http://www.idrc.ca:8080/biodiversity/tools/gender1\\_e.cfm](http://www.idrc.ca:8080/biodiversity/tools/gender1_e.cfm) ILO

### **Gender Equality:**

Gender equality entails the concept that all human beings, both men and women, are free to develop their personal abilities and make choices without the limitations set by stereotypes, rigid gender roles, or prejudices. Gender equality means that the different behaviours, aspirations and needs of women and men are considered, valued and favoured equally. It does not mean that women and men have to become the same, but that their rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. (*ABC of Women Worker’s Rights and Gender Equality, Geneva: ILO, 2000.*)

### **Gender Equity:**

Gender equity means fairness of treatment for women and men, according to their respective needs. This may include equal treatment or treatment that is different but considered equivalent in terms of rights, benefits, obligations and opportunities. In the development context, a gender equity goal often requires built-in measures to

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compensate for the historical and social disadvantages of women. (*Gender and Household Food Security. Rome: International Fund for Agricultural Development, 2001. <http://www.ifad.org/gender/glossary.htm> )*

### **Gender Mainstreaming:**

The process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, such that inequality between men and women is not perpetuated. (*ECOSOC 1997*)

### **Gender Training:**

A facilitated process of developing awareness and capacity on gender issues, to bring about personal or organizational change for gender equality. (*Hazel Reeves and Sally Baden, Gender and Development: Concepts and Definitions, February 2000*)

### **Good Governance:**

From the human development perspective, good governance is democratic governance. Democratic governance means that people's human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected, allowing them to live with dignity; People have a say in decisions that affect their lives; People can hold

decision-makers accountable; Inclusive and fair rules, institutions and practices govern social interactions; Women are equal partners with men in private and public spheres of life and decision-making; People are free from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, class, gender or any other attribute; The needs of future generations are reflected in current policies; Economic and social policies are responsive to people's needs and aspirations; Economic and social policies aim at eradicating poverty and expanding the choices that all people have in their lives. (*UNDP, Human Development Report, 2002*)

### **Human development:**

A process of enlarging people's choices. Enlarging people's choices is achieved by expanding human capabilities and functionings. At all levels of development the three essential capabilities for human development are for people to lead long and healthy lives, to be knowledgeable and to have a decent standard of living. If these basic capabilities are not achieved, many choices are simply not available and many opportunities remain inaccessible. But the realm of human development goes further: essential areas of choice, highly valued by people, range from political, economic and social opportunities for being creative and productive to enjoying self-respect, empowerment and a sense of belonging to a community. The concept of human development is a holistic one putting people at the centre of all aspects of the development process. (*UNDP, 2006*)

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### **Human security:**

To protect the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfillment. Human security means protecting fundamental freedoms— freedoms that are the essence of life. It means protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations. It means using processes that build on people's strengths and aspirations. It means creating political, social, environmental, economic, military and cultural systems that together give people the building blocks of survival, livelihood and dignity. (*Human Security Now* (the Report of the Commission on Human Security, 2003).

### **Maternal mortality ratio:**

Reported annual number of deaths of women from pregnancy-related causes per 100,000 live births, not adjusted for the well-documented problems of underreporting and misclassification. (*UNDP, Human Development Report, 2002*)

### **Microfinance:**

Microfinance is the provision of a broad range of financial services such as deposits, loans, payment services, money transfers, and insurance to poor and low-income households and, their microenterprises. Microfinance services are provided by three types of sources: formal institutions, such as rural banks and cooperatives; semiformal institutions, such as nongovernment organizations; and informal sources such as money lenders and shopkeepers.

Institutional microfinance is defined to include microfinance services provided by both formal and semiformal institutions. Microfinance institutions are defined as institutions whose major business is the provision of microfinance services. (*ADB, 2006*)  
<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Policies/Microfinance/microfinance0100.asp?p=policies>

### **Millennium Development Goals:**

The Millennium Development Goals were derived from the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by 189 nations in 2000. Most of the goals and targets were set to be achieved by the year 2015 on the basis of the global situation during the 1990s. The Millennium Development Goals are to: 1) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, 2) achieve universal primary education, 3) promote gender equality and empower women, 4) reduce child mortality, 5) improve maternal health, 6) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, 7) Ensure environmental sustainability, and 8) develop a global partnership for development. (*United Nations, Millennium Development Goals Report 2006*)

### **National Skills Development Program:**

The National Skills Development and Market Linkages Program, (NSDP) is one of Afghanistan's National Priority Projects announced by President Karzai in Berlin in April 2004. The overall goal of the NSDP is to contribute to the socio-economic recovery of Afghanistan through the provision of a national skills

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development and vocational education and training system that is responsive to labour market needs and that provides Afghan women and men with the knowledge and skills for decent work. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) has been designated as the lead ministry for the program, which is scheduled to run over a period of 15 years. (*ILO, 2006*)

### **Non-governmental organization:**

Any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group which is organized on a local, national or international level. Task-oriented and driven by people with a common interest, NGOs perform a variety of services and humanitarian functions, bring citizens' concerns to governments, monitor policies and encourage political participation at the community level. They provide analysis and expertise, serve as early warning mechanisms and help monitor and implement international agreements. Some are organized around specific issues, such as human rights, the environment or health. Their relationship with offices and agencies of the United Nations System differs depending on their goals, their venue and their mandate. (*UN, 2006*) <http://www.un.org/issues/ngo/ngos-dpi.html>.

### **Paralegal officer:**

A paralegal is an accredited person, who is either community-based or works within some organisation or structure, has basic knowledge of the law and its procedures, knows about conflict resolution procedures, has the necessary motivation, commitment,

attitude and skills to help people and communities with their legal, human rights and constitutional problems, while at the same time empowering them to tackle these matters on their own in future. Paralegals use their knowledge and experience to help people with legal and other problems. A paralegal may investigate and refer matters to lawyers or relevant bodies which can deal with them. A paralegal is not a lawyer. A paralegal can't assist people in court and other tribunals. (*UNIFEM, Gender and Justice Programs, Definitions. 2006*)

### **Peace-building:**

An action to identify and support structures which will tend to strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid a relapse into conflict. It encompasses rehabilitation, reconstruction and conflict prevention, and legitimizes outside intervention in order to establish the ultimate goal of sustainable security and peace. (*UN Human Development Report, 2004*)

### **Referral Centers:**

A reporting and support center for women victims of violence or for those who are facing violence. The referral centers are accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The referral center provides victims of violence assistance by providing temporary shelter (maximum of 24 hrs). Based on the initial assessment, the professional staff of the referral centers will refer the victims to legal aid services, emergency shelters, police stations, hospitals, counselors or any other support agency whilst ensuring safety

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and confidentiality. A referral center is run by female staff trained in providing professional assistance to women victims of violence. (*UNIFEM and MOWA, Referral Centers Concept Note, 2006*)

### **Reproductive health:**

A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. Reproductive health therefore implies that people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so. Implicit in this last condition are the right of women and men to be informed and to have access to safe, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for regulation of fertility which are against the law, and the right of access to appropriate health-care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant. (*Reproductive Health Task Force, Ministry of Health, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, National Reproductive Health Strategy 2006-2009, May 2006*).

### **Rule of law:**

A principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are

consistent with international human rights norms and standards. It requires, as well, measures to ensure adherence to the principles of supremacy of law, equality before the law, accountability to the law, fairness in the application of the law, separation of powers, participation in decision-making, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness and procedural and legal transparency. (*Report of the Secretary General to the Security Council on "The Rule of Law & Transitional Justice in Conflict and Post Conflict Societies" (S/2004/616)*)

### **Security:**

Security is increasingly viewed as an all-encompassing condition in which people and communities live in freedom, peace and safety; participate fully in the process of governance; enjoy the protection of fundamental rights; have access to resources and the basic necessities of life; and inhabit an environment which is not detrimental to their health and well-being. Underpinning this broader understanding is a recognition that the security of people and the security of states are mutually reinforcing. It follows that a wide range of state institutions and other entities may be responsible for ensuring some aspect of security. (*Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Development Co-operation Directorate, Helping Prevent Violent Conflict, 2001*)

### **Security Sector Reform:**

The transformation of the "security system" which includes all the actors, their roles, responsibilities and actions,

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so that it is managed and operated in a manner that is more consistent with democratic norms and sound principles of good governance, and thus contributes to a well-functioning security framework. (*Ibid*).

### **Sexual Harassment:**

Unwelcome or unwanted verbal, non-verbal, physical or visual conduct based on sex or of a sexual nature the acceptance or rejection of which affects an individual's employment, which occurs with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person, which unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance, which creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive work environment, or which constitutes an abuse of authority. The following acts are examples of behavior which may, under certain circumstances, be considered sexual harassment: sexual advances or propositions, offensive questions or comments about physical appearance or sex life, lewd comments, sexual jokes and insults, leering, the display of pornographic material designed to embarrass or intimidate an employee or student, inappropriate touching, pinching, or cornering, sexual assault and rape. (*UNIFEM, 2006*)

### **Transitional house:**

The transitional house for women in Afghanistan is a house which can provide shelter, for up to one year, for women who have been released from prison but who do not have a safe home to return to. The house will provide a

secure environment for the women. Professional staff will seek assistance from relevant agencies in providing professional counseling and life skills training. Also legal officers and social workers will be tasked to resolve the problems that first led the women to come to the transitional house. (*MOWA and UNIFEM, Proposal on Transitional Houses, 2006*)

### **Transitional justice:**

The full range of processes and mechanisms associated with a society's attempts to come to terms with a legacy of large-scale past abuses, in order to ensure accountability, serve justice and achieve reconciliation. These may include both judicial and non-judicial mechanisms, with differing levels of international involvement (or none at all) and individual prosecutions, reparations, truth-seeking, institutional reform, vetting and dismissals, or a combination thereof. (*Report of the Secretary General to the Security Council on "The Rule of Law & Transitional Justice in Conflict and Post Conflict Societies" (S/2004/616)*)

### **Violence against women:**

Gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. (*Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women General Assembly resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993*)

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### GLOSSARY OF AFGHAN EXPRESSIONS

**Bad:** Exchange of women for the settlement of disputes (*Women and Children Legal Research Foundation, BAD, A Painful Sedative, 2003*)

**Fassed:** A marriage which has taken place with offer and acceptance but some of its conditions have not been fulfilled shall be incomplete and thus shall not be subject to any rights and obligations thereof. (*Afghan Civil Code 1976, Article 96 & 97*)

**Khanqahs:** Traditionally, a building designed specifically for gatherings of the Sufi brotherhood (ANDS)

**Maher:** Bride-price

**Shura/jirga:** Council (ANDS)

**Zina:** Adultery

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