



Press Statement

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The Women's Forum on Afghanistan Deplores the Exclusion of Afghan Women from Key Talks on Afghanistan

April 28, 2023 - The Women's Forum on Afghanistan has called repeatedly for the inclusion of Afghan women in the upcoming meeting in Doha of Special Envoys on Afghanistan. The meeting, organized by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, will convene on May 1-2 and will be attended by more than twenty Special Envoys – almost all men – from governments and inter-governmental organizations around the world.

This initiative is very timely and important, and we welcome efforts by the United Nations to bring greater cohesion and coordination to the international community's response to the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan. We thank the Governments of Japan and the United Arab Emirates for their leadership and welcome the Security Council Resolution adopted yesterday unanimously condemning the violation of women's rights by the Taliban. Yet no Afghan women have been invited to the Doha meeting, which is key to the future of our country. This is a missed opportunity, which disregards the mandate of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 recognizing the critical role of women in peace-building and conflict resolution. Resolution 1325 calls on the UN to reach out to and include women in these meetings.

The Women's Forum on Afghanistan calls for the meaningful participation of Afghan women in all talks related to Afghanistan. The voices of Afghan women must be heard, not only as a matter of principle but as a matter of practical value. The treatment and status of women in Afghanistan are intrinsically linked to counter-terrorism - the safety and security of Afghanistan, as well as the region and the rest of the world.

Women have much to contribute to the political process that is urgently needed to address the humanitarian and human rights crises in Afghanistan. The country cannot thrive if it excludes half of the population. The absence of Afghan women from the UN Doha meeting deprives the gathering of much expertise which could be useful in discussing how the international community can use economic and political leverage more effectively. No group has a greater stake in the future of Afghanistan than Afghan women. We call on the United Nations Security Council, the Secretary-General and all Member States of the United Nations to implement Security Council Resolution 1325.

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The Women's Forum on Afghanistan is an initiative created by Afghan and global women leaders to work for the well-being and human rights of the Afghan people, and inclusive solutions to the social, economic, and political challenges the country is currently facing.

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