



## Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

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Kabul, June 11<sup>th</sup> 2005

**Subject: Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings – 18-21 June 2005 at Afghanistan Reconstruction and Development Services (ARDS)- Conference Room- Gulkhana Palace, Sedarat**

To All Excellencies and Heads of Mission,

It is our pleasure to invite you to the upcoming Technical Working Groups (TWGs), where we want to discuss Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals Report (MDGR).

In the following letter:

- we provide you a brief on Afghanistan's Millennium Developments Goals Report (MDGR)
- and we request you to nominate a high level representative with the appropriate expertise from your organization, to participate in these Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings.

On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2000, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Millennium Declaration. This Declaration represents the collective commitment of all 191 UN member states to address, by the year 2015, the multiple dimensions of poverty: economic, social and political. From the Millennium Declaration, eight goals and 18 related targets for reducing poverty and enhancing human development were derived, which are used to guide policy reform, institutional change and financial resource allocation. The eight goals are:

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve primary education
- Goal 3 : Promote Gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4 : Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/Aids, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

The Afghan Government added a supplementary goal which is:

- Goal 9: Enhance Security

Afghanistan has endorsed Millennium Declaration and eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2004 by an official letter from President Karzai to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Therefore the Government of Afghanistan is required to submit a report on progress against the UN MDGs for the Millennium+ 5 Summit in New York on September 14-16th 2005. This report will enable us to establish the current state of development in Afghanistan and a baseline against which future progress can be measured. The international target date for achieving the MDGs is 2015. However, we will also establish intermediate targets for 2010.

This allows us to link the attainment of the MDGs to Afghanistan's National Development Strategy for 2005-2010. The Afghanistan National Development Strategy (A-NDS) is the overarching

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strategy for promoting growth, generating wealth and reducing poverty and vulnerability in Afghanistan. It will provide the framework for the development of Government policies, inform the design of programmes and guide the allocation of resources in order to meet the MDGs.

The A-NDS will be prepared in two phases:

- (i) The Interim A-NDS will be prepared during 2005 and completed in December 2005;
- (ii) The Final A-NDS will be completed in 2006.

President Karzai appointed an oversight committee comprised of the First Vice Presidents Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, and the Senior Economic Advisor to the President, which will be leading the process. The Afghanistan Reconstruction and Development Services (ARDS) will be responsible for the process of preparation of the MDGR and Afghanistan's NDS.

The United Nations support the Afghan Government in the preparation of this document by providing technical assistance.

A complementary organizational structure will be used for the preparation of the Afghanistan MDGR and the Afghanistan Interim National Development Strategy (I-ANDS). As described above, the MDGs, and in particular the 2010 targets, will provide the overarching framework for the INDS.

The MDG/I-ANDS preparation structure is composed by:

- (i) A National MDG Task Force (The Economic Group): Authorised decision- making/ratifying body.
- (ii) A Permanent Working Group (comprised of ARDS, UN and a Statistician): will ensure co-ordination of the process and will monitor the progress of each of the Technical Working Groups (see below). It will be responsible for the preparation, drafting and finalization of the MDGR.
- (iii) Technical Working Groups (TWGs) (comprised of Afghan Ministries, Central Statistics Office, Donors, UN Agencies, NGOs, Civil Society and Private Sector Representatives) will be established to support the process. The purpose of the TWGs is to provide support and expert advice to the Government in the preparation of the report. Several groups will be formed according to the themes of the MDGs and they will be charged with:
  - reviewing the statistical data to be reported under each indicator;
  - setting targets for 2010 and 2015;
  - reviewing the report outline
  - providing comments to the draft report
  - technically signing off on the content, data and graphs to be included in the MDG Report

Please nominate a high level representative with the appropriate expertise from your organization, to participate in these TWGs. The attached agenda indicates the times and dates of meetings.

Thank you for your support.

Warmest regards,

**Dr. A. Farhang**  
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Ministry of Economy

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Senior Economic Advisor to  
the President  
Presidential Office