



**Afghan Women's Network Consultation Workshop with AWN NGO Members  
and Women Led NGOs around International Conference on Afghanistan in  
Bonn  
September 06 2011, Kabul  
Park Star Hotel**

**Purpose:**

As part of AWN's consultation process for International Conference on Afghanistan in Bonn, following the Stakeholder's Roundtable at the end of July, AWN brought together around 100 women organizations to mobilize their inputs and concerns around the current and future challenges in Afghanistan from women's organizations and activists perspectives. Among the 100 women organizations, there were a mixture of AWN's members and non –member women organizations to capture the diversity of women organizations and activists work in Afghanistan.

Besides mobilizing women groups for a particular purpose of their voices around Bonn Conference, AWN and its members took this opportunity as a measure of confidence-building and team spirit among women organizations and activists, which is much more needed for women empowerment in Afghanistan. Such measures are critical for creating trust and confidence among women groups and also for improving the social status and identity of women groups in the country.

**Importance of Informed Opinion:**

The workshop aimed at informing all women organizations and activists about the consultation process that AWN has started together with its members and partners around national processes in the country, particularly Bonn Conference. Members and other women organizations were informed about the content of the advocacy initiatives in the past year around the important issues and processes in Afghanistan with a focus on:

- Advocacy trip to the US and recommendations to the US senior officials and administration on transition and peace processes
- Advocacy trip and follow up in Germany and Brussels with European partners and supporters on women's inclusion in Bonn and peace process
- Institutional responsibility for Afghan government discussed and called for during July Stakeholder's Roundtable to inform all about government's plans
- Next Steps: Advocacy on Afghan Women Policy Paper in the run up to International Conference on Afghanistan in Bonn

## Consultation and Advocacy:

Five working group discussions were held with adequate information sharing with the following details:

- Transition- Resource Person- Wazhma Frogh- Facilitator- Nargis Nehan
- Rule of Law- Resource Person- Sheila Samimi- Facilitator- Roshan Sirran
- Peace and Reconciliation- Resource Person- Hasina Safi- Facilitator- Arezo Qani
- International Commitment- Resource Person- Mahbouba Seraj- Facilitator- Selay Ghaffar
- Strategic Partnership between Afghanistan and US and Regional Cooperation Resource Person- Mary Akrami- Facilitator- Humaira Rasuli

Next Steps:

- **The Afghan Women Policy Paper:**  
Outcomes of ongoing consultation process, from Stakeholder's Roundtable to Women Organizations Consultation will be consolidated by AWN members in a Policy Paper. AWN is seeking technical support from international colleagues in the drafting process of the Policy Paper.
- **Launch of the Policy Paper in a joint Press Conference**  
Participation and Advocacy with International Contact Group, members of the international community and the Afghan government to inform on the Policy Paper and the voices of Afghan women in the ongoing preparations for the Bonn-2 Conference.
- **Afghan Women National Conference in November:**  
Sharing the Policy paper, lobbying with government and international community members. It's planned to take place in one of the provincial capitals of Afghanistan.
- **Advocacy through Media:** AWN will work on advocacy programs such as clips/round tables/ newspapers and TV and Radio media to talk about the importance of Afghan women participation at the decision level making events and involving them fully in each and every process. AWN will have pre and post press conference to share its policy paper and results of the conference afterward.
- **Bonn-2 Side Event:** AWN and its members are also planning for advocacy around Bonn-2 through Side Events at Bonn representing the progress and contributions of Afghan women in collaboration with international organizations and supporters in Germany.
- **Participation and representation in Civil Society Working Committee facilitated by Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission:**  
Currently AWN is also a member of the Working Committee that is working to mobilize civil society organizations for Bonn-2 and ensure fair representation at the civil society conference prior to Bonn-2 main conference in December.