



The **Permanent Missions of Afghanistan and the United Kingdom** as Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Women in Afghanistan, with the **Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security** cordially invite Permanent Representatives of Member and Observer States to an Interactive Discussion:

## **A Critical Moment for Afghan Women: The Intra-Afghan Peace Process**

with a keynote from Secretary Hillary Clinton



***Please kindly RSVP latest by 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020 through this [link](#) or emailing: [rsvp@afghanistan-un.org](mailto:rsvp@afghanistan-un.org)***



**Tuesday,  
March 10**



**10:00 AM–  
12:00 PM**



**UN CR 6**

## **Group of Friends of Women in Afghanistan**

### **A Critical Moment for Afghan Women: The Intra-Afghan Peace Process**

#### **Concept Note**

In the face of almost forty years of conflict, Afghan women have demonstrated resilience, perseverance and strength. Enabled by the equal rights granted under the Afghan Constitution, and investments by the international community in partnership with Afghan women, women have emerged over the past two decades to take active positions across all segments of society, including the private sector, civil society and government. In the current government, women now make up 27% of Parliament and 26% of the civil service. They hold positions of ministers and deputy ministers and have been appointed Commissioners of vital national processes, such as elections through the Independent Election Commission and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission.

With peace talks on the horizon, Afghan women and men are working to preserve their hard-earned democratic achievements, including the rights of women. To protect the equal rights enshrined in the Constitution of the New Afghanistan, part of the 15-point declaration in the Consultative Loya Jirga on Peace in 2019 underscored the important role of women in the peace process. The government and the people of Afghanistan understand that any future peace agreement must include the full participation of women.

In line with this understanding, the Group of Friends of Women in Afghanistan was established with the goal of highlighting the importance of protecting and enhancing women's rights and the role that women can play across society and government, including in peace efforts. It was created with the aim of safeguarding the important shared gains made towards women's rights since 2001 while further ensuring that any prospective outcomes in the peace process recognize, protect and promote the role of women in all spheres of life.

In light of the recent peace agreement signed by the United States and the Taliban that sets the stage for Intra-Afghan dialogue and negotiations with the Taliban, the Group of Friends of Women in Afghanistan and the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security will host a high-level event to consider ways to ensure and enable women's central role in peace negotiations and the implementation of the final agreement. This event will build on events held during UNGA74 and the launch of the Group of Friends in November 2019, by discussing these and related questions:

- Why are women critical to achieving a sustainable peace?
- What are the key priorities for women in the peace process?
- How can women play a determining role in the successful implementation of any peace agreement?
- How can local peacebuilding initiatives be integrated with the national process?
- What is the role of civil society, government, international partners in ensuring that women are effectively represented in the negotiating table?