



No poverty eradication without the empowerment of women and girls – next steps for the future of Afghanistan

Wednesday 13 March 2024

11:30 am – 12:45 pm

Conference Room 12 – United Nations Headquarters

The theme of CSW86 aims to address the persisting issue of poverty with a focus on gender equality, women's economic empowerment and then full participation of women and girls in the society, with the aim of leaving no one behind. For any society to flourish, women and girls' active participation in societies and economies is central, and governments are committed to respect the universal and indivisible human rights of all persons. Right to education remains key to achieving a prosperous future, both for individuals and the society as a whole, and this includes the right to education of women and girls.

In the world's most pressing women's rights crisis, it is critical that women's rights, leadership and gender equality are at the core of the international community's engagement vis-à-vis Afghanistan. The independent assessment on Afghanistan (2023) and UNSC resolution 2721 (2023) create a framework to work towards an Afghanistan that fulfills the needs and rights of all people. The event brings together Ministers responsible for gender equality, UN Women representatives, and most importantly, Afghan women leaders to discuss the **future direction of Afghanistan, and women's leadership, including through economic empowerment.**

The aim of is to learn and hear directly from diverse Afghan women and to engage different stakeholders to find pathways for the international community and organizations to improve women's leadership,, recognizing that poverty eradication in Afghanistan will not be possible without the return of women's rights and gender equality. The panel discussion will give insights to the questions such as: what are the implications of restrictions in access to education in short and long term; what is the current situation of women led small and medium size enterprises as well as their future and potential; and how can the international community best support women's active role in economic growth, education and participation in society in Afghanistan.



Agenda (75



minutes)



Opening remarks by Ms. Sanni Grahn-Laasonen, Minister of Social Security of Finland (10 minutes)

A video/presentation of local perspectives of women and girls in Afghanistan by UN Women (10 minutes)

Panel discussion (25 minutes)

Moderator

UN Women

Panelists

2–3 Afghan women civil society representatives or other experts

Ms. Mahbouba Seraj: <https://awsdc.org.af/biography-of-mahbouba-seraj/>

2 Panelists TBC

Q&A (10 – 15 minutes)

Closing remarks by H.E. Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations (7 minutes)

Closing remarks by H.E. Ambassador Maurizio Massari, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations (7 minutes)