



د سوداګرو بڼکو د سولې ملي ناسته
"سوداګري د سولې او سوکالی سبب ګرځي"

نشست ملی صلح زنان کارآفرین
"کارآفرینی موجب صلح و سعادت می شود"



میکانیزم افغانستان برای صلح همه شمول
د ټول شموله سولې لپاره د افغانستان میکانیزم
AFGHANISTAN MECHANISM FOR INCLUSIVE PEACE

National Women Entrepreneurs Peace Summit

"Entrepreneurship Brings Peace and Prosperity"

Communique

National Women Entrepreneurs Peace Summit "Entrepreneurship Brings Peace and Prosperity"

Intercontinental Hotel, Kabul 27 July 2021

Afghan women in the private sector have made remarkable progress since 2002, going from zero to more than 2,471 formal businesses and over 54,500 informal businesses, owned and managed, by women across the country. The majority of these businesses are less than five years old, meaning that most businesswomen in Afghanistan launched their enterprises amid considerable hardship after the drawdown of international troops and aid in 2014.

Women's tenacity during this time is an achievement worthy of praise, but consider what could be gained by Afghanistan's women business ownership in a peaceful environment. The businesswomen agreed that the cessation of fighting will allow women to travel more freely, participate in markets and exhibitions, and conduct business free from security concerns. This would create opportunities to grow businesses and the benefits they bring such bringing new resources into the community, contributing to economic growth and stability, easing societal tensions, job creation and increased tax and other forms of revenues for the government. Any post-peace development of Afghanistan will need to build on the foundations of a strong economic and business sector that is working with and exposed to the latest technological and research advances. In the current climate of international aid reducing its presence in Afghanistan, the internal economy will have to play a significant role in building Afghanistan.

Women's economic empowerment and peace are mutually reinforcing, and women entrepreneurs' priorities must be considered in peace dialogue to ensure the economic security of the nation. Across the globe, women in the private sector are proactively addressing security issues, from Papua New Guinea, where women have successfully advocated the government to set up a police brutality hotline, to Nigeria, where businesswomen are calling for an end to gender-based violence targeting women politicians. Even in Yemen, women in the private sector have successfully mitigated the impact of conflict on local populations by interfacing with aid agencies and their communities.

The Afghanistan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AWCCI) and the Afghanistan Mechanism for Inclusive Peace (AMIP) organized the first ever one-day National Women Entrepreneurs Peace Summit, that brought together Afghan women entrepreneurs from 34 provinces across Afghanistan to Kabul. The purpose of the Summit was to identify, assess, and communicate women entrepreneur's role in the peace process. During the event on July 27, participating businesswomen explored the linkages between peace and women's entrepreneurship and are please to share the following points:

Women have been pro-peace and contributors to peace, not perpetrators of war. They have the right to do trade based on Islam, where the core of a society is the family where women are crucial.

1. We Afghan women as real Muslims follow in the example our Prophet (PBUH)'s wife Bibi Khadija who was the first Muslim Trades Woman, and like her, we strive to turn our current challenges into peace opportunities.
2. We Afghan Business Women are committed to continue our businesses despite all the risks and threats we face, but we require the ruling government to ensure the security of our life and businesses.
3. We Afghan women entrepreneurs have invested in various sectors and created jobs for both men and women and we will continue to do so in the future. Our investments have opened the doors for many and have helped reduce poverty.
4. We entrepreneurs women bring peace to our communities. We will further strengthen the peace and business connections by creating Corporate Social Responsibility programs to help establish sustainable peace, which will be an extremely important asset for peacebuilding in Afghanistan.
5. A good business environment requires a good working partnership between businesses and government policy. Thus, we believe that the concerns of businesses in general and women's businesses in particular, must be taken into consideration in the negotiations to form any government. Linkages between policy makers and practitioners to increase a mutual understanding, expectations and possibilities for further cooperation must be established. These linkages must include businesswomen.
6. We would like the freedom of movement and freedom of speech protected as mobility and commuting for girls and women to access schools, universities and markets as businesswomen is vital.
7. We demand that any future government guarantees that women will retain a role in Business life, as this is important for the survival of our families. If the youth have no jobs after the war, they will be easily recruited by others who want to destabilise Afghanistan and the problems will start all over again. Thus, our role as employment creators becomes vital to sustaining peace in Afghanistan post-peace.
8. We Afghan women entrepreneurs would like the free-market economy to continue for further investment possibilities in the country.

Organized by:

Afghanistan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AWCCI) and facilitated by the
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