

# PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan Country Office, Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul



## MOWA AND UNDP SIGNED A NEW GENDER PROJECT DOCUMENT

**June 30, 2004 Kabul** – This morning the Minister of Women's Affairs, Habiba Sarabi, and UNDP's Country Director, Ercan Murat, signed a new project document that aims to enhance an existing gender capacity building programme and eventually establish a gender training institute in Kabul.

Last year the Ministry, with support from UNDP, trained some 500 people in five provinces -- Kandahar, Herat, Ghazni, Logar and Parwan. The project included capacity building in the Ministries of Education, Public Health, Commerce, Justice, and Planning, as well as in civil society organizations. Particular focus is put on issues such as gender and development, gender awareness and gender analysis.

The project document will expand the programme into five other ministries - Foreign Affairs, Interior, Rural Reconstruction and Development, Higher Education and Religious Affairs, as well as into five other provinces that are not yet decided on. It will also establish a team of gender experts, a legal framework for gender and a gender-training institute. The institute will work with higher education institutions such as the University of Kabul and provide academic credits, certificates and Masters degrees thereby creating and sustaining a pool of experts.

The Government of Luxembourg is funding the project with one million euros.

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