

# PRESS RELEASE



*United Nations Development Programme*

*Afghanistan Country Office, Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul*

## UNDP PROVIDES GRANTS TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS FOR FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN AFGHANISTAN

**23 October 2008, Kabul** – Today, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed agreements with three Afghan Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to provide them with grants to support their activities in the area of anti-corruption. Each of the CSOs will receive grants of up to fifty thousand US Dollars to implement their projects. The grants are provided through UNDP's Accountability and Transparency (ACT) Project's Accountability and Transparency Grants Facility.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mr. Manoj Basnyat, UNDP Country Director for Afghanistan said "it is to encourage the active involvement of civil society and media in the fight against corruption UNDP has established the Accountability and Transparency Grants Facility, the first of its kind to be established by UNDP in Afghanistan".



The three recipient CSOs are: (1) Integrated Approaches for Community Development (IACD); (2) Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA); and (3) Saba Media Organization (SMO). The three CSOs will carry out activities in the area of monitoring of service delivery, awareness-raising and capacity development of CSOs, media and access to information, and training on anti-corruption and ethics.

The grants facility is aimed at complementing the anti-corruption activities undertaken by the Afghan public sector through strengthening the engagement of civil society in pro-transparency and integrity activities, specifically supporting those projects that focus on the key areas of strengthening accountability and transparency.

The grants facility is an important component of the ACT Project's support to civil society and media to play an active role in promoting accountability and transparency. The project is working to facilitate broad public awareness and education initiatives on the complex issues of corruption and to engage more civil society actors and local think tanks in this process.

UNDP's ACT Project is designed to support the Government of Afghanistan in developing a broader anti-corruption strategy, laying the foundation for strategic anti-corruption policies

and programmes by testing pilots in key public institutions, and developing a corruption monitoring system including carrying out the necessary diagnostics and surveys. The project is also working to raise awareness and educate the public and civil servants on corruption.

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