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AFGHANISTAN AND UNDP CONVENE STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP ON COUNTRY PROGRAMME ACTION PLAN 2010-2013

Kabul, 9 July 2009—Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are holding a joint stakeholder workshop to discuss the UNDP Afghanistan Country Programme for the period of 2010 to 2013. The workshop is conducted in close consultation and with participation of line ministries, donors and Civil Society Organizations.

The objective of today's workshop is to discuss UNDP priorities, activities and how to achieve its goals to contribute to Afghanistan development process. UNDP also hopes to benefit from the participants' local knowledge, different perspectives and diverse areas of expertise.

In 2009, UNDP Afghanistan and the Government of Afghanistan engaged in a highly consultative process to develop a nationally-owned Country Programme that reflects the needs and strategies of the Government which would enjoy strong support from the international donor community as well as key development stakeholders including the Government line ministries, UN agencies and members of civil society.

The 1.1 billion USD Country Programme for Afghanistan is designed to advance and deepen the progress made in the previous cycle in promoting stabilization, state-building and governance, and strengthening democratic institutions in the country.

The new programme is centred on four pillars. In all four areas, UNDP will support national ownership, capacity development, policy formulation and coordination which include:

1. Stabilization and peace-building;
2. Strengthening democratic governance;
3. Livelihoods, natural resource management and disaster risk reduction; and
4. National development policies for economic growth and poverty reduction.

At the UNDP Executive Board meeting in New York in May 2009, members of the international community and the Government of Afghanistan approved the draft country programme document, and made some very salient recommendations as to the manner in which this programme should be implemented.

Having adopted inputs from this workshop, the next step of the County Programme Action Plan elaboration process is to conduct a final tuning of the document with UNDP Headquarters, after which the Government will be invited to sign the document and grant UNDP permission to continue and expand its operations throughout Afghanistan.