

PRESS RELEASE

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Afghanistan

Provincial Council and Provincial Governor's Office establishes first-ever Public Accountability and Reporting Conference in Herat

Conference engaged more than 700 members of the local community to review development and governance priorities together

Herat, 1st December 2010-- The Provincial Council, in partnership with the Provincial Governor's Office, launched the first-ever Public Accountability Conference today to mark the first 100 days of Provincial Governor Mr. Daud Saba in office. More than 700 people, including local government officials, civil society organizations, religious leaders, and local village representatives, attended this conference, which will be held quarterly to increase accountability in local governance. The event was organized with the support of the joint IDLG - UNDP's Afghanistan Sub-National Governance Programme (ASGP) and the Governments of Italy, Switzerland, and the UK.

The Provincial Public Accountability Conference brought the local authorities and community together to review provincial development and governance priorities. Community residents listened as more than 15 provincial line department heads reported on their key achievements and plans, then provided feedback and comments. Said Governor Mr. Daud Saba, while reporting on his 100 days in office, "I am happy to report on the progress of my work. We cannot be good and look good without being accountable to each other."

"We are thankful to UNDP for supporting this and enabling us to bring local government, civil society and the community on the same platform to share and discuss our local priorities," said Dr. Nazir Ahmad Hyderzada, Chairman of the Herat Provincial Council.

The Provincial Council and Provincial Governor's Office will organize such Community-Government Accountability Conferences on a quarterly basis, where the elected councils, community, civil society and local stakeholders will participate and share their strategies and achievements for improved governance and development at the local level.

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