

# PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan Country Office, Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul



Afghanistan

## Afghan Ministry of Justice and UNDP inaugurate Human Rights Support Unit

**Kabul, 29 September 2010** – The Ministry of Justice of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and UNDP inaugurated today the Human Rights Support Unit within the Ministry of Justice, in order to assist the Government in meeting its treaty obligations and to improve human rights in the country.

The Human Rights Support Unit (HRSU) will be responsible for strengthening the Government's capacity to fulfill its international human rights obligations, as laid down in Afghanistan's Constitution and in various ratified human rights treaties. This Unit is being established with support from the Governments of Canada, Germany, Denmark, Norway, the UK, and Switzerland.

The Afghan Government's commitment to establishing the HRSU is based on the "Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights" pillar of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), The Afghanistan Compact (AC) and from agreements made at the International Kabul Conference on Afghanistan, July 20, 2010.

The HRSU will be responsible for conducting **Human Rights Education** focusing on capacity development programmes for State officials, through training sessions and workshops on human rights.

It will also be responsible for conducting **Legal, Technical and Strategic Studies** that focus on a wide range of laws and policies, including comparative studies of Afghanistan's laws and policies and international human rights standards, as well as analysis of domestic laws.

The HRSU will also be responsible for **Monitoring and Evaluation** of the implementation process of human rights treaties ratified by the Government of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan has already ratified most of the core international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Convention against Torture and Other Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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