



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

**Side Event to the 2017 High-level Political Forum:
Improving Aid Effectiveness and Building Partnerships with
National Stakeholders to “Eradicate Poverty and Promote Prosperity”**

Monday, 17 July 2017

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Conference Room 9

UN Headquarters, New York

I. Background

The annual UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is an important opportunity for governments, institutional stakeholders, international organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector to come together to review progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The July 2017 HLPF will focus on *“Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing World.”*

In this context, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) will organize a side event focusing on the efficient use of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and on the consultative process initiated with national stakeholders (civil society, private sector, academia, and individual citizens) to assist LDCs in achieving the SDGs and accelerating opportunities for development.

II. Contribution to the High Level Political Forum Theme of Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing World

The side event will focus on the importance of SDG 17 on partnerships to eradicate poverty and promote prosperity in a changing world; and the practical application, implications and challenges of developing strong partnerships in LDCs.

Although there has been an overall decline in aid to LDCs in real terms – from USD 46 billion in 2010 to 41 billion in 2014, ODA remains key for least developed countries and will have significant implications for achieving the 2030 Agenda and for eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in those countries.

As highlighted during the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan, donors remain committed to provide effective assistance including through close alignment with the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) and to further increase aid effectiveness.

Afghanistan's development efforts have included a consultative process to include all levels of society in order to “*leave no one behind*”. The Brussels Conference has recalled “*the critical role that the private sector will play in Afghanistan’s path to sustainability*.” In this view, the inclusion of national actors will contribute to the eradication of poverty and the promotion of prosperity at all levels.

In this context, the discussions on aid effectiveness and national stakeholders’ inclusion with a view to eradicate poverty and promote prosperity are expected to contribute to future knowledge products and help identify areas for aid effectiveness that will support member States’ efforts in eradicating poverty, particularly in the least developed countries.

III. Objectives

The objective of the side event on “**Improving aid effectiveness and building partnerships with national stakeholders to eradicate poverty and promote prosperity**” is to provide a focused discussion on aid effectiveness in the LDCs for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development.

IV. Program details

1:15 pm – 1:25 pm	Afghanistan’s experience in improving aid effectiveness and building partnerships to eradicate poverty	H.E. Abdul Sattar Murad, Minister of Economy of the I.R. of Afghanistan
1:25 pm – 1:30 pm	UNDP’s perspective in supporting the implementation of the SDGs through partnerships and the engagement of national stakeholders	Mr. Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator
1:30 pm – 1:40 pm	The role of the Sustainable Development Goals Fund in foster public-private partnerships through integrated and multidimensional joint programs.	Ms. Paloma Duran, Director, SDGs Fund
1:40 pm – 2:20 pm	Open Discussion – Q&A	
2:20 pm – 2:30 pm	Closing remarks	H.E. Mahmoud Saikal + Panelists

Focal Point for the side event: Mr. Mohammad Yama Aini, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan. Contact: aini@afghanistan-un.org.