



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
Ministry of Economy



GENEVA CONFERENCE ON  
AFGHANISTAN  
27 – 28 November 2018



## Geneva Ministerial Conference on Afghanistan

### Population Dynamics in Afghanistan: Side Meeting

Concept Note

**28 Nov 2018 from 8:00 – 9:30AM**

**Palais Des Nations - Concordia I**

In line with the Security Council mandate for the UN to coordinate international donor assistance to Afghanistan, the UN has been co-chairing ministerial and senior official's meetings. Following the senior officials meeting held in Kabul on 5 October 2017, the Afghan Government (H.E. President Ghani and the Minister of Finance) asked the United Nations to hold the ministerial conference of 2018 at its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

The ministerial conference will be held between two pledging conferences: The Brussels Conference on Afghanistan (2016) and the next pledging conference expected to be held in 2020. Thus, this is a crucial moment for the government and international community to demonstrate progress, commitment and maintain the momentum in the implementation of the Afghan National Peace and Development Framework.

The Ministerial Conference on Afghanistan will be hosted by the United Nations on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November at Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. The Afghan government will co-chair the conference. UNAMA SRSG will present a document titled "Key Challenges for Afghanistan" at the Geneva Conference as well as host side meetings on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018.

Population Dynamics in Afghanistan is a side meeting at the sideline of the Geneva Ministerial Conference co-hosted by the Ministry of Economy and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2018 at Palais Des Nations.

Population dynamics refer to an interaction between the three main demographic variables in the total population: fertility, mortality and migration. It is challenging to make a precise description of the population dynamics in Afghanistan due to the fact that no population census has been conducted since 1979. There is no reliable vital statistics system or population registration system, leading to very considerably variations in population estimates. However, the existing data estimates an annual

population growth rate of 2.03 percent placing the country as having the highest population growth rate among countries in South-Central Asia. The high population growth in Afghanistan is mainly due to the high total fertility rate (TFR) of 5.3 children per woman.

With very limited natural resources and the continuing insecurity, a high population growth poses serious challenges when designing and envisioning the path to national development.

The purpose of this side meeting is to discuss:

1. Current population dynamics in Afghanistan; concerns and opportunities
2. Role of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Family Planning in Population Management
3. Role of donors in supporting Afghanistan to support youth health and development
4. Role of Government in coordination and implementation of Population Policy in Afghanistan
5. Role of civil society in advocacy and promotion of Family Planning in population management
6. Strengthening National Statistics systems to collect analyze and disseminate data for development

## Agenda

<b>8:00 – 8:05</b>	<b>Introduction by Moderator – Ms. Monica Ferro, Director, UNFPA Geneva</b>
<b>8:05 – 8:15</b>	Key Note Speaker: H.E. Dr. Mustafa Mastoor, Minister of Economy, GoIRA.
<b>8:15– 8:45</b>	<p>Comments from Panel Members (5 mins each):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr. Dereje Wordofa, Deputy Executive Director (Programme), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</li> <li>2. Ms. Diane Harper, Executive Director of the Afghanistan Division at Global Affairs Canada</li> <li>3. Dr. Ian Askew, Director, Sexual and Reproductive Health in Population and Development, WHO Geneva</li> <li>4. Mr. Ahmad Jawed Rasuli, President General, Afghanistan National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA)</li> </ol> <p>The following topics will be addressed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Current population dynamics in Afghanistan; concerns and opportunities</li> <li>2. Role of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Family Planning in Population Management</li> <li>3. Role of donors in supporting Afghanistan to support youth health and development</li> <li>4. Role of Government in coordination and implementation of Population Policy in Afghanistan</li> <li>5. Role of civil society in advocacy and promotion of Family Planning in population management</li> <li>6. Strengthening National Statistics systems to collect analyze and disseminate data for development</li> </ol>
<b>8:45 -9:20</b>	Open discussion and questions from the audience and the moderator
<b>9:20 – 9:30</b>	Closing Remarks by Panel Members and Moderator’s Key Messages.