

## Opening

### Alison Blake CMG

Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Afghanistan



Prior to becoming UK's ambassador to Afghanistan, she was British High Commissioner to Bangladesh from 2016 to 2019 and a member of the FCO's Management Board to represent the FCO Overseas network. She was appointed Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (CMG) in 2017.

A career diplomat, Alison has considerable experience in South Asia and has helped shape British foreign and security policy, including in times of crisis and transition, over three decades. A previous posting was as Deputy High Commissioner Islamabad in Pakistan (2011-2014).

### Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

Minister of State, UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office



Lord Ahmad is the Minister for South Asia and the Commonwealth at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). He was first appointed as the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict and as Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the United Nations on 13 June 2017.

He was educated at Rutlish School and London South Bank University (LSBU) as well as the Chartered Institute of Financial Services.

### Jutta Urpilainen

Commissioner for International Partnerships, European Commission



Before joining the Commission, Ms Urpilainen served as a Member of the Finnish Parliament from 2003 to 2019. In 2008, she became the first woman leader of the Social Democratic Party of Finland. From 2011 to 2014, she served as Finland's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister. During that time, she became involved in development issues, joining the Development Committee of the World Bank Group and IMF and chairing the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development. She served as the Foreign Minister's Special Representative on Mediation (2017-19) and chaired the Finnish National Commission for UNESCO (2015-18).

### Deborah Lyons

Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Afghanistan



Ms. Lyons is a diplomat with 21 years of professional experience in political affairs, international cooperation, and economic development. Most recently she served as Ambassador of Canada to Israel and from 2013 until 2016 as Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Deborah Lyons was appointed her current position in March 2020 and took up responsibilities in April 2020. Ms. Lyons holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of New Brunswick and completed studies at the Canadian National Defence College.

## Keynote Address

### Amrullah Saleh

First Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



Amrullah Saleh is an Afghan politician who is serving as the 1st Vice President of Afghanistan. He served as the Minister of Interior Affairs of Afghanistan until January 19, 2019, and as head of the National Directorate of Security from 2004 until his resignation in 2010.

In March 2017, he was appointed as State Minister for Security Reforms by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. In December 2018, he was appointed as the Interior Minister. He resigned as the Interior Minister on January 19, 2019 to join President Ashraf Ghani's election team.

## Panel Discussion

### Romana Schweiger – Moderator

Senior Judicial Affairs Officer, Head of Rule of Law Section, UNAMA

### Lailuma Nasiri

Vice President for Afghanistan Justice Organization



Lailuma Nasiri has more than 17 years of gender justice, human rights, governance, and counter corruption, counter and prevent violent extremism experience, working with national and international organizations. She has a bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Bircham International University. She has extensive experience P/CVE and topics relevant to South Asian countries and women, peace, and security in Afghanistan.

### Andreas van Brandt

Ambassador of the EU delegation in Afghanistan

### Mohammad Farid Hamidi

Attorney General of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



Mohammad Farid Hamidi is currently the Attorney General of Afghanistan. He is a well-known lawyer with extensive experience in the fields of criminology and investigation. Previously, he has served as a Commissioner in the Commission of the Emergency National Assembly, where he supervised elections in the four provinces. He also worked as a Deputy Commissioner at the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission for 14 years.

**Heather Marquette****University of Birmingham & Senior Research Fellow, FCDO**

Heather Marquette is Professor of Development Politics and is currently seconded part-time to DFID's Research & Evidence Division as Senior Research Fellow (Governance and Conflict).

Heather's research focuses on corruption and anti-corruption interventions, the politics of aid and, increasingly, serious organised crime. Heather has also been a major voice in evolving debates on 'thinking and working politically' and is a founding Steering Committee member of the global Thinking and Working Politically Community of Practice.

**Ghizaal Haris****Director of the Ombudsperson Office**

Ms. Haris holds an LL.M. degree from the University of London. She has served as commissioner to oversee the implementation of constitution and taught at a private university. Her experience in Afghanistan includes working in the areas of human rights, economic rights/empowerment, and support to legal professionals, women's political participation, strengthening political parties, governance, and election monitoring.

She has assumed office in August 2019.

**John Brandolino****Director, Division of Treaty Affairs, UNODC**

Mr. John Brandolino joined United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in October 2015 as Director, Division for Treaty Affairs. He previously served 15 years in a variety of management and senior advisor positions at the U.S. State Department's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), most recently as Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary and Director for the Office of Anticrime Programs. In that capacity, Mr. Brandolino oversaw policy and technical assistance programs related to anti-corruption, anti-money laundering/counter-financing of terrorism, wildlife trafficking, transnational organized crime, cybercrime, and alien smuggling. He has a long-standing career in other related capacities.

**Concluding Remarks****Alison Blake CMG****Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Afghanistan**

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