



GENEVA CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN

27 – 28 November 2018

Side Event Concept Note

Food Security and Livelihoods in Times of Drought

27 November 2018, 16:30 – 18:00

Council Chamber

BACKGROUND

Food security is a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

Afghanistan is experiencing high – and rapidly rising – rates of food insecurity. The 2017 Afghan Living Conditions Survey (ALCS) found that 44.6 percent of the population is food insecure, an almost 12 percent increase from 2014. While conflict is a significant driver of this deteriorating situation, it is increasingly recognized that climate change is also having profound impacts on the food security of the Afghan population. It is already manifesting itself in more severe and frequent natural hazards. In Afghanistan, the water sources are heavily dependent on annual rainfall and snowfall but lack of snowfall in the winter season has intensified concerns over increase of droughts and climate change effects in Afghanistan. Officials from the Ministry of Disaster Management believe that Afghanistan has suffered enormously from the impact of climate change in the world and the level of the country's underground water table has dropped considerably and that lack of rain and snowfall this year threatens the grasslands and agriculture sector in the country and It is already manifesting itself in more severe and frequent natural hazards.

In 2018, a major drought has left over 1.4 million people in need of urgent assistance. Given the country's highly fragile ecosystems, the negative impacts will only increase over time, undermining agriculture, the leading economic sector, and contributing to displacement and continued instability, reinforcing the conflict.

The country is a signatory to the Paris Agreement. While significant resources have been dedicated to providing emergency relief to address natural disasters in the past, there is growing consensus that a more holistic, long-term approach is required, by working at the humanitarian-development-peace nexus through a strong focus on resilience building. This 'triple nexus' approach will ensure that humanitarian, development, and peace efforts are mutually reinforcing, helping the country to achieve not only zero hunger and climate resilience, but also its broader aspirations of reduction in outmigration, sustainable development and lasting peace.

Drawing on perspectives and good practices from Afghanistan as well as similar context across the world, the side event will discuss both the challenges and opportunities of adopting this more holistic,

non-linear, and long-term approach built on strong joint multi-agency partnerships to addressing the impact of climate change on food insecurity and livelihoods in the country.

OBJECTIVES

The side-event aims to:

- Increase awareness about the impact of climate change on food insecurity and livelihoods in Afghanistan.
- Explore how a triple nexus approach, with focus on resilience building, can address these issues and potentially contribute to the achievement of the wider aspirations of the country
- Propose concrete measures both developmental and humanitarian to address food security, nutrition and livelihood in Afghanistan context.

FORMAT

The side event will be chaired by Minister of Finance with panelists giving carefully curated, highly-visual talks, rather than reading from prepared statements. Each talk will be 15 minutes, totaling 45 minutes of presentations. The panel talks will be followed by a 45-minute question-and-answer session. The donor host will then provide concluding remarks.

PROPOSED AGENDA

Time	Agenda	Speaker
16:30	Welcome and Introduction	Moderator: H.E. Suraya Dalil, Ambassador of Afghanistan to the United Nations in Geneva
16:35	Keynote Address	H.E. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive of the National Unity Government
16:45	Panel Discussion:	H.E. Mohammad Humayon Qayoumi, Minister of Finance Mr. Junichi Yamada, Vice President, JICA Ms. Karen Freeman, Assistant to the Administrator, USAID Ms. Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Secretary-General, World Food Programme Mr. Edress Malyar, Environment Expert, Afghanistan Ms. Khwaga Kakar, Water Expert, Afghanistan
17:00	Q&A	All
17:50	Closing Remarks	Mark Lowcock, Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations