



GENEVA CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN

27 – 28 November 2018

Side Event Concept Note

Private Sector

27 November 2018, 11:30 – 13:00
Council Chamber

OBJECTIVES

This side event will explore how the private sector plays an increasingly central role in economic growth. The discussion will feature key economic leaders from Afghan Government, the private sector, and donor agencies involved in improving the business climate.

The purpose of the event is to show how the Afghan Government is willing and ready to be an enabler to private investments in Afghanistan in the areas of extractives, energy, construction, and export infrastructure. By unleashing the private sector's potential to accelerate economic growth the Afghan government can make great strides in addressing the mounting poverty, rising unemployment, and donor dependence.

The side event will serve as a high-level platform to remind the international community, and the Afghan Government, that the largest opportunity in Afghanistan's economic development is a private sector-led approach. A desired outcome will be to hold Afghan counterparts accountable for results and committed to private sector-friendly reforms.

FORMAT

The panel discussion will focus on issues surrounding Afghanistan's WTO compliance and the expected improvements in the business enabling environment that will have been announced by the Afghanistan Doing Business Indicators Report due in late October 2018. To present a full picture of the investment climate and government's pronounced accomplishments in this area, leading figures from Government, the private sector and international organizations will serve as panelists and presenters in this event. At the end of the session, the audience will have an opportunity to discuss ideas, ask questions, provide comments and draw conclusions. H.E. President Ashraf Ghani will deliver a keynote speech to open the event while the U.S Ambassador to Afghanistan, Joh R Bass, will deliver closing remarks.

PROPOSED AGENDA

Time	Agenda	Speaker
11:30	Opening Remarks	H.E. Mr. Ashraf Ghani, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
11:40	Introductions	Moderator Ms. Arancha Gonzalez
11:45	Panel Discussion Highlights of Accomplishments, Challenges, and the Way Forward Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ajmal Ahmady, Presidential Banking and Finance Adviser• Qurban Haqjo, Afghanistan Permanent Representative to WTO• Emily King, CEO and Founder, De Zawan Ghar “Young Mountain Mining”• Ehsanullah Bayat, Chairman, Bayat Foundation• Ms. Kamila Sediqi, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Commerce & Industry• Ms. Afsana Rahimi, Chairperson, Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry
12:55	Closing Remarks	H.E. Mr. John R Bass, Ambassador of the USA to Afghanistan