

Welcome and Opening

*Lena Hjelm-Wallén, President of SCA Afghanistan
Elizabeth Winter, of ENNA*

The Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) has the pleasure to welcome the participants, both experienced and fresh, and a big audience to this conference: Peace Building in Afghanistan. This year, for the first time, our conference is arranged in partnership with ENNA (European Network of NGOs in Afghanistan), and therefore a special welcome goes to its representative here, Elizabeth Winter.

Afghanistan continues to be at the heart the international attention. The problems and solutions of the country are very complex, and, as we all know, they are linked to the situation in the whole region – Afghanistan and its neighbours – as well as to the responsibility of the international community.

In some areas there has been progress, in others the situation has deteriorated, and a lot has not changed at all.

During these two conference days, there will be opportunities to listen to highly qualified experts on Afghanistan and discuss with them the situation in the country, the lives of ordinary Afghans, the way the international society acts, international assistance, civilian/humanitarian aspects and development cooperation as well as the support to building security, and the so-called war on terror.

These issues will be discussed and analysed from local, national and international perspectives.