

Appendix III: Speakers, Chairs and Moderators

Speakers

Mary Akrami has been the Director of Afghan Women Skills Development Center (AWSDC) since 1999. She set up AWSDC during her exile in Pakistan in order to build the capacity of Afghan women through English and computer literacy classes. In 2001 she represented Afghan Civil Society in Bonn and has since conveyed her experiences of civil society work at numerous international fora, including the World Social Forum in Brazil 2005. Ms Akrami has continued her work in AWSDC after her return to Afghanistan and has been involved in shelters for battered women, micro enterprise schemes for women, and has set up Peace Shuras and Committees with strong female representation in Parwan Province.

Gunilla Carlsson is the Swedish Minister for Development Cooperation and is a member of the Swedish Conservative Party. She has served as Member of the European Parliament (1995-2002) where she held the post of Vice Chair of the European People's Party. Ms Carlsson was also member of the committees on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy.

Anders Fänge has been working with Afghanistan since the beginning of the 1980s. First he worked as a journalist and later as the Country Director of SCA; a post which he has held for several periods – 1983 to 1990, 1997 to 2001, during 8 months in 2003, and now since February 2007. He also worked as the Field Coordinator, Political Affairs, in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) under Lakhdar Brahimi from 2001 to 2003.

His work experience in other countries include Ethiopia with Save the Children Sweden, Central Asia with the Red Cross Federation, Somalia with UNOPS, and the Occupied Palestinian Territories with UNRWA (the UN Agency mandated to provide assistance to Palestine refugees).

Carlotta Gall is a reporter with The New York Times in Pakistan and Afghanistan. She has been based in Afghanistan since November 2001. From 1999 to 2001 she worked in the Balkans,

also for the New York Times, covering the wars in Kosovo, Serbia and Macedonia as well as the development in Bosnia and the rest of former Yugoslavia.

She started her newspaper career with The Moscow Times in Moscow, Russia, in 1994, and covered the first war in Chechnya intensively, among other stories, all over the former Soviet Union. She also freelanced for the British papers The Independent, The Times, The Sunday Times, USA Today, Newsweek and The New York Times. In 1998 she moved to the Financial Times and The Economist reporting on the Caucasus and Central Asia from Baku, Azerbaijan.

Ms Gall read Russian and French at Newnham College, Cambridge. She holds a Masters from City University, London in International Relations and Journalism.

Kristian Berg Harpviken is Senior Researcher and Deputy Director of the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO). He heads the Working Group on the Transnational and International Facets of Civil War within PRIO's Centre for the Study of Civil War (CSCW). Mr Harpviken is a sociologist, whose research areas include the dynamics of civil war (mobilisation, conflict resolution, post-war reconstruction and peace building), migration and transnational communities, and methodology in difficult contexts. Mr Harpviken worked for the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee as Director and Agricultural Coordinator in Peshawar, Pakistan 1990-92. In his research, he has a particular interest in Afghanistan and has worked extensively on topics such as peace building, migration and the Taliban. Mr Harpviken's forthcoming publications include 'Social Networks and Migration in Wartime Afghanistan'.

H.E. **Jawed Ludin** was appointed Afghanistan's Ambassador to Norway by His Excellency President Hamid Karzai in February 2007. Ambassador Ludin is also the non-resident Envoy to Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland. Between 1994 and 1998, Mr Ludin worked for various non-governmental organisations engaged in humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, as the country descended deeper and deeper into poverty and conflict. In 2002, Mr Ludin earned a Master of Science Degree in Political Theory at the University of London. In 2001 he worked with the

United Nations in organising the Bonn Conference that laid out the democratic framework for a post-Taliban Afghanistan. From 2001 to 2003 he worked for British Overseas NGOs for Development (BOND).

Ambassador Ludin has written extensively about Afghanistan, as well as on conflict and development issues. He co-authored the book *Working with Conflicts: Strategies and Skills for Action* in 2002, and has published articles and commentaries in various publications including the Guardian, the UK.

H.E. **Jelani Popal** is General Director and founding director of the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) in Afghanistan. IDLG is currently focusing its efforts on eleven priority provinces in Afghanistan which are characterised by extreme poverty and lawlessness, and are therefore most threatened by the growing insurgency. IDLG also seeks to address the growing alienation between the government and the citizens by expanding the decision-making power of local Afghans.

Mr. Popal was previously Deputy Minister of Finance. He is the founder and former director of the Afghan Development Association, a leading Afghan NGO for over twenty years.

Ahmed Rashid is a Pakistani journalist and writer living in Lahore. He is the author of four books including the best sellers 'Taliban' and 'Jihad – the Rise of Militant Islam in Central Asia.' In June 2008 he published his new book 'Descent into Chaos: US Policy and the Failure of Nation Building in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia.' He writes for the Daily Telegraph, the BBC, the Washington Post, El Mundo, The International Herald Tribune, the New York Review of Books and other newspapers worldwide as well for as for Pakistani newspapers. He has been covering the wars in Afghanistan since 1979. He is a member of the Advisory Board of Eurasia Net of the Soros Foundation, a scholar of the Davos World Economic Forum and a consultant for Human Rights Watch. In 2004 he was appointed to the Board of Advisers to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. He is a Fellow at the Pacific Council on International Policy.

At the invitation of the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, he

became the first journalist to address the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2002 and the first journalist to address NATO ambassadors in Brussels in September 2003. After the 2001 war in Afghanistan he donated one third of his book earnings to set up the 'Open Media Fund for Afghanistan', which has handed out nearly USD 400,000 in start-up funds for newspapers and magazines in all Afghan languages. In 2001 he won the 'The Nisar Osmani Courage in Journalism Award,' given by the Human Rights Society of Pakistan.

Dr **Sima Samar** is Chairwoman of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), the first human rights commission in Afghanistan's history. She is also serving as United Nation's Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Sudan. Previously, she served as the Deputy Chair and Minister of Women's Affairs for the interim administration of Afghanistan and as the Vice-Chair of the Loya Jirga assembly. During the interim administration, Dr. Samar established the first-ever Afghanistan Ministry of Women's Affairs.

Dr. Samar founded and directs the Shuhada organisation in Quetta, Pakistan. The organisation is running health, education and income generation projects for women and girls in Afghanistan and those living as refugees in Pakistan. She has received numerous international awards for her work.

Shahrbanou Tadjbakshsh is the Director of Program for Peace and Human Security at the CERI (Centre d'Etudes et Recherches Internationales). She is also the academic Director of the Concentration on Human Security at Sciences Po's Master of Public Affairs. She teaches Mphil and Master classes on human security and on international organisations and is the Editor-in-chief of the programme's Journal of Human Security/la Revue de Sécurité Humaine.

She has a long-standing academic career including postings at Columbia University, Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi), the Russian Centre for Strategic Research and International studies (Moscow), and the Academy of Sciences in Dushanbe (Tajikistan). She has worked as a staff member of the UNDP in various field assignments and with a last posting as Policy Advisor to National Human Development Reports (NHDR) at the

human Development Report Office at UNDP New York. Her current research concentrates on human security and Liberal Peace building. Her main field of current research is Afghanistan and Central Asia.

She is of Iranian origin, an American citizen and a resident of France.

Farishta Sakhi is the Executive Director of Women's Activities and Social Services Association (WASSA). WASSA was the first independent women's organisation in Herat Province, and was set up to help Afghan women gain access to basic health and education services. The organisation also provides practical support to women who have been traumatised by nearly three decades of war. Previously, Ms. Sakhi was a civil/political affairs assistant for the United Nations Assistant Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA). She holds a Bachelor's degree in Commerce.

Barbara Stapleton studied Middle East history and politics at the School of Oriental & African Studies at London University and completed her Master of Laws in international law of human rights at the University of Essex in 1991. She spent the 1980s working in Eritrea, Iranian Kurdistan, Pakistan, Burma and at the Thai-Cambodian border. From 1992-1997 she was a consultant to the BBC series 'Human Rights, Human Wrongs.' She moved to Afghanistan in 2002, joining ACBAR, the main NGO coordination body based in Kabul, as Advocacy and Policy Coordinator. In May 2006 she joined the Office of the Special Representative of the EU for Afghanistan in Kabul where she is Deputy to the EU Special Representative.

Mirwais Wardak is the Programme Director of Cooperation for Peace and Unity (CPAU) in Afghanistan. He set up the research and advocacy unit of the organisation in 2003 after having been directly involved in establishing CPAU's peace councils in four different provinces. Mr Wardak holds an MA in post-war recovery studies, an MBA specialising in financial management, and studied for a BSc in engineering which was interrupted by political changes in Afghanistan in 1995. As a Programme Director, Mr Mirwais, is managing the community based peace building and peace education programme of CPAU. He also assists the Research and Advocacy Department in field research

and was part of the research team that conducted fieldwork for ENNA's and BAAG's independent research of civil-military relations. Mr Wardak is a member of the Steering Group of ACBAR and is frequently representing CPAU at international conferences.

Chairs and Moderators

Lena Hjelm-Wallén is the President of the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan since 2002. She served as Sweden's Deputy Prime Minister (1998-2002) and as Minister for Foreign Affairs (1994-1998). During her 20 years in the Swedish Cabinet she held positions as Minister of Education and Cultural Affairs and Minister with Special Responsibility for the International Development Cooperation.

Ms Hjelm-Wallén chairs several institutions besides the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan: International IDEA, the Olof Palme International Centre, the Forum for Living History and the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research. She is a board member of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and International Crisis Group.

Nina Hjelmgren is a journalist, photographer and author, working on free-lance basis for the Swedish Public National Radio. Previously she worked for the Swedish Public National TV. From 1989 to 1994 Ms Hjelmgren reported from Los Angeles, USA. Since 1996 she has travelled extensively in Afghanistan, which has resulted in numerous reports for radio, television and newspaper articles. She has also written two books about Afghanistan.

Torbjörn Pettersson entered upon his duty of Secretary General for the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan in July 2008. He comes from a background of work in Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), most recently as Head of development cooperation at the Embassy in Dar es Salaam. Mr Pettersson has also been active in the Swedish Liberal Party as a Party Secretary and Chair of Young Liberals. His first encounter with SCA was in 1998 – 1990 when he worked as Programme Coordinator for the organisation in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Agneta Ramberg is one of the most experienced Swedish radio journalists covering foreign affairs. She has been a correspondent in the Middle East, Head of foreign affairs at the Swedish Public National Radio, and has hosted a number of radio shows covering political and foreign affairs. She has worked with development support in Afghanistan where she lived for a few years in the 1970s and also had a short working period at Radio Afghanistan. Currently she is heading a weekly programme called “Conflict”. Among Agneta Ramberg’s areas of special interest are the Middle East, the Muslim world and its relations to the West.

Elizabeth Winter is a researcher and social scientist, who has become an independent specialist on Afghanistan since first travelling there in 1977/78. She has been an adviser to governments, the UN and NGOs, setting up and running programmes in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. Ms Winter has been the Specialist Advisor to the International Development Select Committee and assisted the British government in bringing the voice of civil society into the London Conference in 2006. She is currently Special Advisor to the British Agencies Afghanistan Group, BAAG, and the European Network of NGOs in Afghanistan, ENNA, and a Research Fellow at the Centre for Civil Society of the London School of Economics.