



PRESS RELEASE

Afghan Youth to celebrate International Youth Day and discuss on their priorities in the Youth Conference

Kabul, 04 August 2008— International Youth Day will be celebrated on 5 August 2008 in Kabul. Two youth representatives between age 18 and 25 (50% female) who have completed secondary education from each of the 34 provinces plus some 250 youth from Youth Organisations, UN agencies, Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) will participate in the International Youth Day conference.

The main objective of the Afghanistan-International Youth Day (A-IYD) 2008 will be to use the 2007 Youth Declaration as starting point to organize working groups to discuss and raise awareness on youth issues and to consult the youth on Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) implementation as well as strengthening partnership and collaboration between the government and the youth in order to facilitate establishment of Youth Associations based on volunteerism.

These working groups will focus on Education, Health/Drug Abuse, Employment and Youth Advocacy as well as Local Governance and involving Civil Society Organisations in youth issues. In addition, Gender, Volunteerism, Security and Peace, Anti-corruption Strategies and Child Rights Protection will be cross cutting issues common to all the thematic areas. Participants are expected to inform youth on issues discussed in the A-IYD Conference through Youth Centers and Youth Directorates in their provinces of origin.

The A-IYD Conference will also provide an opportunity for awareness raising and discussions around the Joint National Youth Programme and how it can more effectively support the youth of Afghanistan. The Joint National Youth Programme (JNYP) is a Government/UN Joint Programme, currently under implementation with eight participating ministries and nine UN agencies under the leadership of the Ministry of Information and Culture, Office of the Deputy Minister for Youth Affairs.

UNDP's National Goodwill Ambassador, Farhad Darya, will address the Conference and sing for Afghan youth at the end of the conference to show his commitment to youth issues and support to the JNYP to better address youth development goals.



Should you require more information about this press release, please contact Fezeh Hosseini, Public Information Officer, UNDP Afghanistan, at fezeh.hosseini@undp.org