



United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Spokesperson's Office
Kabul, Afghanistan

Tel: 00 39 0831 24 6121
00 93 (0) 20 297 6121

Email: spokesperson-unama@un.org

Website: www.unama-afg.org

UN ENVOY APPEALS FOR PARTNERSHIPS WITH PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT AUTHORITIES TO IMPROVE AID EFFECTIVENESS

Kandahar, 23 August 2008 – Partnerships with provincial and district authorities are key to improving aid effectiveness in the south, said the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Kai Eide, addressing a conference today for Governors from four southern provinces of Afghanistan.

The conference hosted in Kandahar city by the Director-General of Afghanistan's Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG), Jelani Popal, was warmly welcomed by Eide and was attended by the newly appointed Governor of Kandahar, Rahmatullah Raufi and the Governors of Helmand, Uruzgan and Zabul.

Speaking at today's conference the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Kai Eide said: "This conference should not be a one-time event, but the start of a process aimed at bringing the Government in Kabul, provincial authorities and the people together around one common agenda.

"I appeal to provincial and district authorities to be our partners in improving aid effectiveness. During the Paris conference earlier this year, the UN was given the task of improving the effectiveness of aid delivery and strengthening coordination amongst donors and with the Afghan authorities. It is here in the districts and provinces that the lack of effectiveness is most acutely felt. It is here that the lack of coordination has the greatest impact. We need all your assistance in order to make sure that in the future we do not lose more time and that we do not waste more resources."

Eide also urged the participants to combat corruption across the board more vigorously. "Corruption steals resources so desperately needed by the people. If we allow corruption to continue at the current level then it will have a serious negative impact on the development of this country; in the faith of the Afghan people in its institutions; and on the attitudes and values of the young people who constitute the great majority of the Afghan population. If we do not step up these efforts, the security situation will be negatively affected," said Eide.

Finally, Eide emphasised the urgent need for training and equipping more police.

"While solid progress has been made in the training of the Afghan army, we are clearly behind on developing an effective and well-equipped police service. Stronger efforts must urgently be made to build a stronger police, which can provide security and be trusted by the people."