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Today date: **Dec 05, 2007**

UN ready to aid dialogue to boost prospects for peace

Date : Dec 05, 2007
Category : General
Sources : BNA

The UN is ready to facilitate dialogue between the Afghan government and anti-government elements who want to end violence and be part of Afghanistans current political process, with the aim of strengthening peace and development in the country, according to a top UN official.

"2008 can be a year of success for Afghanistan," Christopher Alexander, deputy special representative of the UN Secretary-General for Afghanistan and deputy head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), told journalists in Kabul on 3 December.

The UN will spearhead efforts to resolve conflict and accelerate a process of reconciliation and peace-building through political outreach work: "We will try to include those Afghans who feel excluded from current institutions and make them part of development and rebuilding," Alexander said.

UNAMA has placed "political outreach, rule of law and re-integrated strategy" at the top of its agenda for 2008.

Strengthening of judiciary

The UNs second top priority for Afghanistan in 2008 will be galvanizing multilateral efforts to rebuild and consolidate institutions which ensure law and order in the country.

With international support the UN will help Afghans to create and implement a national justice strategy through which judicial institutions will be strengthened and made more effective, Alexander said.

Over 800 Afghan police have been killed in various security incidents so far in 2007, Afghanistans Interior Ministry reported on 2 December.

The UN will advocate deeper reform, transparency and an end to corruption in the Interior Ministry, Alexander said.




Furthermore, the UN would like to see the international community helping the government of President Hamid Karzai to reach Afghans in rural communities and improve governance at sub-national level.

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