

# The Institute for Inclusive Security

## **2009 Afghanistan Recommendations**

*The following recommendations for strengthening Afghanistan's peace and reconstruction processes were developed by a group of Afghan women leaders convened by the Institute for Inclusive Security in October 2009.*

- 1. Strengthen Afghan ownership of development initiatives by:**
  - Identifying development priorities in partnership with the local population, specifically through shuras and village councils;
  - Using culturally appropriate interlocutors such as women doctors and community leaders to consult with both men and women; and
  - Partnering with local civil organizations to implement development initiatives, helping ensure their sustainability.
  
- 2. Expand strategies for tackling government corruption by:**
  - Establishing an independent oversight and investigative body to monitor and hold the Afghan Government accountable for increasing the transparency and responsiveness of government;
  - Developing a more comprehensive and consistent vetting process that is applied stringently to government appointments at all levels;
  - Expanding education programs across the country to develop a professionalized, competent workforce; and
  - Addressing obstacles to women's voting (i.e., lack of adequate women staff, voter coercion, etc.) in preparation for the 2010 parliamentary elections.
  
- 3. In defining US strategy, emphasize equally creation of a strong Afghan National Army and Police and establishment of a functioning, independent judicial system by:**
  - Increasing the emphasis on strengthening judicial process, training judges, and increasing the number of female judges at all levels in the judicial system;
  - Mandating that all Afghan National Police and Army officials are trained on the constitution, civil code, and human rights law—with a particular emphasis on women's rights; and
  - Adapting traditional justice mechanisms, which are inherently discriminatory toward women, to ensure judicial recourse for all Afghans. The use of these traditional mechanisms should be integrated into a much larger effort to create a professionalized, independent, national justice system.
  
- 4. Collaborate with women civil society leaders to disseminate information about the US mission and objectives in Afghanistan in order to increase public awareness of and the legitimacy of efforts.**