Infographic
Women's role in Afghanistan's Bonn negotiations (2001)

BACKGROUND ON AFGHANISTAN'S BONN NEGOTIATIONS (2001)
In 2001, the US carried out its war on terror and invaded Afghanistan to support the Northern Alliance to take control of the country and oust the Taliban, which had ruled since 1996. After the defeat of the Taliban in November 2001, Afghan political parties (excluding the Taliban and an international player, China), Germany, and the United Nations convened a conference in Bonn, Germany, to negotiate a new government and constitution for Afghanistan. The Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pledging the Establishment of a Luminous Government Institutions (the “Bonn Agreement”) signed on 12 December 2001 established the Afghan interim authority (AIA), and signed on 15 January 2002, the “Bonn Agreement” was amended and was signed on 1 December 2001, establishing a new government, the multiparty system, and a new constitution.

WOMEN’S INFLUENCE
Women’s participation in the negotiations in Bonn was an important milestone for Afghanistan, marking the shift from a highly exclusive society under Taliban rule to a more inclusive one.

In neighbouring Pakistan, two influential women groups mobilised mass rallies for women’s rights and participation. The two groups proposed an agenda that included a mirror of Afghan women’s situation and the goals affecting women in Afghanistan.

Women present in the consultative forum were able to influence the process by raising topics and themes affecting women in Afghanistan and bringing them to the attention of the official negotiators.

The Bonn Agreement established a Ministry of Women’s Affairs and established procedures for the inclusion of women in subsequent processes and governing structures.

WOMEN’S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PROCESS

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