



The Center for Strategic and International Studies, UN Foundation, and  
U.S. Committee for UNDP (UNDP-USA) invite you to join us for

## Bringing Democracy to Afghanistan: The Role of the UN in the Afghan Elections

October 31, 2005  
1pm (light lunch served at 12:30pm)

Location: CSIS B1-C Conference Room (1800 K Street, NW)

Please RSVP online at [www.undp-usa.org](http://www.undp-usa.org)

Featuring  
Ms. Ameerah Haq  
Principal Deputy Special Representative to the Secretary General, UNAMA and  
UNDP Resident Representative

With remarks by  
Kenneth Wollack  
President, National Democratic Institute and Chairman, UNDP-USA

### Background:

On 18 September Afghanistan continued its transition to democracy by holding elections for the lower house of parliament and the 34 district councils. Over 12 million Afghans registered to vote in their second election in 12 months. The election was widely held up as a success: fifty percent of Afghans cast ballots and fewer than 1% of polling stations reported irregularities.

The United Nations Development Programme and other UN agencies played a crucial role in supporting the Afghan Joint Electoral Management Body (<http://www.jemb.org/>) in the areas of polling, public outreach, security, and monitoring. For more information about the Afghan election and the UN's work advancing the rebuilding of the country visit UNAMA's website (<http://www.unama-afg.org/>) or UNDP Afghanistan (<http://www.undp.org.af/>).

### Speaker Biographies:

Ameerah Haq is one of the two Deputy Special Representatives for Afghanistan appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan. She is responsible for Relief, Recovery and Reconstruction (RRR). In addition, Ms. Haq is also the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative,

Resident Coordinator, and Humanitarian Coordinator in Afghanistan. Previously, she was the Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Director of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery at UNDP Headquarters. Ms. Haq served as the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Malaysia from 1994 to 1997 and also in the same position in Laos from 1991 to 1994. She worked in the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific at UNDP Headquarters from 1980-1990 overseeing aid coordination mechanisms and acting as the Desk Officer for Thailand, Myanmar and Bhutan. She was also assigned with UNIFEM from 1985 to 1987. Originally from Bangladesh, Ms. Haq graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from Western College in Oxford, Ohio and holds Master's Degrees in Community Organization and Planning from Columbia University and Business Administration from New York University.

Kenneth Wollack is President of the National Democratic Institute (NDI). He has been actively involved in foreign affairs, journalism, and politics since 1972. Mr. Wollack joined NDI in 1986 as Executive Vice President. The Institute's board of directors elected him President in March 1993. Mr. Wollack has traveled extensively in Eastern and Central Europe, the former Soviet Union, Latin America, the Middle East, Asia and Africa on behalf of the Institute's political development programs. Before joining NDI in 1986, Mr. Wollack co-edited the Middle East Policy Survey, a Washington-based newsletter. He also wrote regularly on foreign affairs for the Los Angeles Times. From 1973 to 1980, he served as Legislative Director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). Mr. Wollack has been active in American politics, serving on the national staff of the McGovern presidential campaign in 1972. He is a graduate of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, and has studied abroad at the University of London. Mr. Wollack currently is a member of the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid and is the President of the US Committee for UNDP.