4th HearUs Summit

23 NOVEMBER 2026 | MADRID

Afghan Women's Leadership in Achieving Justice and Peace through Accountability

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain
Calle General Pardiñas, 53 · Madrid

Programme at a glance

09:00–09:30	Welcome and Registration
09:30–10:45	Opening Session & Keynote Addresses
10:45–11:15	Letters of Appreciation to Afghan Women Athletes
11:15–11:45	Launch of the One Million Signatures Campaign
11:45–12:15	Coffee Break & Networking
12:15–13:30	Parallel High-Level Panels 1 & 2
13:30–14:30	Lunch Break & Networking
14:30–15:45	Parallel High-Level Panels 3 & 4
15:45–16:00	Coffee Break & Networking
16:00–16:30	Traditional Robab Performance
16:30–17:00	Reflections & Key Takeaways
17:00	Departure for the Cultural Event venue
18:00–19:30	Cultural Event · Film Screening

Opening session · 09:30–10:45

Opening keynote address by H.E. José Manuel Albares Bueno, Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain

Keynote addresses:

Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (TBC)

Ms. Navi Pillay, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (TBC)

Ms. Fawzia Koofi, President of the Board, Women for Afghanistan

Special moments

10:45–11:15 Letters of Appreciation to Afghan Women Athletes, in recognition of their recent achievements.

11:15–11:45 Launch of the One Million Signatures Campaign, keynote and campaign presentation by Katrín Jakobsdóttir, former Prime Minister of Iceland.

Parallel high-level discussions · 12:15–13:30

PANEL 1 | Building Resilience: Education, Economic Agency and Sustainable Support for Afghan Women

Objective To move beyond emergency responses and discuss practical ways to strengthen the long-term resilience, education, economic independence, and leadership of Afghan women and girls.

Briefers

- A woman entrepreneur from inside Afghanistan
- Ms. Shabana Basij-Rasikh, co-founder and president of the School of Leadership, Afghanistan (SOLA). (TBC)
- Ms. Åsa Regnér, Deputy Director-General, UNESCO
- Ms. Susan Ferguson, UN Women country representative for Afghanistan (TBC)
- Victoria Tur Gómez, Director of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)
- Mr. Farid Salangi, Director of Women online university/education initiative
- Ms. Palwasha Hassan, Executive Director of Mina's List and Founding Member of the Afghan Women's Network (AWN).
- Ms. Zarqa Yaftali, Founder of Women and Children Research and Advocacy Network
- Ms. Rayhana Karim, Humanitarian & Civil Society Advisor, represented CSOs from inside Afghanistan in UN-led Doha meetings in 2024

Moderator: Ms. Manizha Wafeq, Founder and Executive Director, Global Women's Trade Caravan.

Rapporteur: Batool Ghulami, Girls Education Activist

PANEL 2 | From Accountability to Justice: Advancing an "All-Tools" Approach through the Guiding Framework for Afghanistan's Accountability

Objective To examine how the Guiding Framework can support the coordinated, complementary, and effective use of international legal and normative mechanisms, while identifying meaningful roles for civil society organizations throughout the accountability process.

Briefers

- Ambassador Isabelle Rome, Ambassador-at-large for Human Rights. French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Baktash Siawash, Former Member of Parliament and activist on the campaign to end Gender apartheid.
- Dr. Carlos Castresana Fernández, Prosecutor at the Court of Auditors of Spain.
- Mr. Zia Mubaligh, Yaar Organization & Member of HRD+
- Ms. Ana Peláez Narváez, representing the CEDAW Committee
- Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, EU Special Representative for Human Rights (TBC)
- Farukh Liqa Unchizada, Expert on the Afghanistan Situation at the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- Ms. Horia Musadiq, Founder of The Right Monitor

Moderator: Mr. Hamid A. Formuli, Senior Fellow, Center for Dialogue and Progress - Geneva (CDP-G)

Rapporteur: Ms. Hoda Khamosh, Founder and President of the Afghanistan Women's Justice Movement (AWJM)

Parallel high-level discussions · 14:30–15:45

PANEL 3 | Islamic Perspectives on the Rights of Women and Girls in Afghanistan

Objective To bring together international and Afghan Islamic scholars to examine the Taliban's restrictions on the rights of women and girls through Islamic teachings, challenge the misuse of religion to justify discrimination, reaffirm Islamic principles supporting women's rights, and contribute to international efforts for justice, accountability, and the restoration of their rights.

Briefers

- Dr. Salima Dalibey, Counselor, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Geneva.
- Ms. Jamila Afghani, Founder and Executive Director, Noor Educational and Capacity Development Organization (NECDO)
- Prof. Dr. Fazl Hadi Wazin, Islamic scholar and President of the Movement for Understanding and Reform of Afghanistan
- Professor Mustapha Sheikh, Chair in Islamic Thought and Muslim Societies
- Ambassador Mohammad Moheq, Islamic Scholar and Former Ambassador of Afghanistan to Egypt.

Moderator: Ms. Nazifa Jalali, Director of Dialogue hub for common ground

Rapporteur: Rahela Hashim Sidiqi, Founder and Director of Rahela Trust for Afghan Women's Education

PANEL 4 | Women Shaping Peace and Security: Leading Change, What Works in the Current Space in Afghanistan.

Objective To examine how Afghan women can move from symbolic consultation toward meaningful participation and leadership in decisions concerning Afghanistan's political future and peace processes. With consideration of UN Resolution 1325.

Briefers

- Rina Amiri, Co-Founder and Principal, Alliance for Justice and Diplomacy; Former U.S. Special Envoy for Afghan Women, Girls, and Human Rights. (TCB)
- Ambassador Manizha Bakhtari, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to Austria and the United Nations in Vienna.
- Mr. Abdy Yagana, Strategic Engagement Manager, Independent Diplomat
- Mr. Zalmai Nishat, Founder and Executive Chair of Mosaic Global Foundation
- Ms. Lara Scarpitta, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues and Head of the Gender Issues Program, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- Erja KAIKKONEN, Assistant EU Special Ambassador for Afghanistan
- Ambassador Shinkai Karokhil, Former Ambassador of Afghanistan to Canada, and Women's Rights Advocate
- Ms. Parasto Yari, Afghan Women Leader Forum (AWLF)

Moderator: Ms. Nabila Musleh, former Deputy Minister of Women's Affairs and Member of FoND

Rapporteur: Mr. Ghulam Sakhi Bayramli, Afghanistan Affairs Advisor, Kroc Institute, and associated with the Dialogue and Vision Process (DVP)

Closing programme

15:45–16:00 Coffee Break & Networking

16:00–16:30 Traditional Robab Performance

16:30–17:00 Reflections & Key Takeaways: Presentation of key insights from the parallel discussions by the rapporteur of each high-level panel. Closing remarks by Katharina Samara, Board Member of WFA.

17:00 Departure for the Cultural Event venue.

18:00–19:30 Cultural Event — Film Screening: No Good Men (2026), directed by Afghan filmmaker Shahrbanoo Sadat.