

International de Conférences



# Annual Report 2024

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Center for Dialogue and Progress-Geneva



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*Annual Report*

2024

# CDP-G Annual Report

## 2024

Center for Dialogue and Progress-Geneva

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Geneva, Switzerland

[cdpg.ch](https://cdpg.ch)

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## MISSION, VISSION, AND VALUES

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Become an incubator where local and global solutions come together to address the pressing issues facing countries and societies in a state of fragility and transition through open and critical dialogue. While respecting and cherishing time-tested and cultural norms of different communities, the Center focuses on promoting best practices in inclusive, democratic, and sustainable development and peacebuilding.

Empower countries and societies in a state of fragility and transition to appreciate the beauty and harness the full potential of diversity and inclusiveness.

Our work revolves around the principle of fairness, inviolability of human dignity, open dialogue and empowerment of communities.

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## Our Activities Across CDP-G Strategic Pillars

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### I. Dialogue for Peace and Democracy

#### **National Dialogue, Role of Civil Society and Democratic Forces in the Future of Afghanistan (3rd Antalya Conference), 4 - 5 March 2024, Antalya, Turkiye**

Over 80 civil society leaders, young professionals, activists, intellectuals, human rights activists, journalists, members of Afghanistan's community, and men and women with diverse socio-political backgrounds gathered in Antalya on March 4th and 5th, 2024 to engage in a thorough and constructive dialogue on Afghanistan's complex trajectory.



Acknowledging the significance of this conference series, participants emphasized its role as a crucial platform for unveiling fresh perspectives on Afghanistan's current political, social, and economic landscape. The attendees delved into discussions surrounding vital issues such as state legitimacy, popular sovereignty, and popular participation. Notably, they recognized the pivotal role of civil society and young democratic forces in shaping a constructive engagement and dialogue based on shared values. [Read the conference outcome document here.](#)





## Organization of a Peace Panel during the Geneva Peace Week 2024

On October 16, 2024, the Center for Dialogue and Progress – Geneva (CDP-G) organized a peace panel during the Geneva Peace Week. Hosted at the conference hall of the Geneva Center for Security Policy this year, it is the second year that CDP-G has organized a peace panel. While last year’s peace panel focused on the role of minorities during peace negotiations and processes, this year the topic of the event was “Social contract and trust building: can another UN-supervised constitutional process bring peace to Afghanistan?”.

The Peace Panel, opened by interim Director Mr. Timory, focused on the role and value of a UN-backed constitution-making process in Afghanistan. Moderated by Ambassador Marc George, a senior advisor on diplomatic affairs at GCSP and a member of the board of CDP-G, the discussion featured distinguished speakers including Sima Samar, former Chairperson of the Independent Human Rights Commission, Prof. William Maley, Emeritus Professor of Diplomacy at the Australian National University, Ghizaal Haress, former member of Afghanistan’s Independent Oversight Commission on Implementation of the Constitution, Haroon Mutasem, former Deputy Ombudsperson of Afghanistan, Amb. Mirwais Samadi, ambassador of Afghanistan in Athens, and Zulfia Abawe, professor at the South Wales University, who examined past efforts, shortcomings, and the future direction of Afghanistan’s constitutional process.

Ambassador Mirwais Samadi gave an overview of the political and social environment in Afghanistan and emphasized that instability is caused by a lack of continuity in the Afghan constitutional process, pointing out that past constitutions were ideologically driven, politicized, and violated by Afghan rulers themselves. He highlighted the negative impact of foreign interventions on these processes. He added that despite the 2004 constitution establishing democratic principles, it failed to bring about stability or security, as seen in the Doha peace process, which sidelined the legitimate government. Amb. Samadi stressed that the Taliban does not respect the rule of law or human rights, and urged the formation of a political front committed to constitutional governance. He emphasized the UN’s crucial role in helping Afghans restore a legitimate, law-abiding state.



Dr. Sima Samar reflected on the post-2001 UN-facilitated peace process, noting that it was rushed and lacked a long-term vision for peace in Afghanistan. She mentioned the weak role of the UN and more prominent role of the involved states, including the United States government. She argued that human rights must be the foundation of any future constitutional process, warning that without this, the process would fail. She criticized the lack of grassroots consultation in the drafting process before finalization of the 2004 Constitution, particularly the manipulated membership of the constitutional Loya Jirga, which promoted over-centralization. Dr. Samar also pointed out the sidelining of human rights in the 2020 peace talks and urged international actors not to normalize rights violations. She called for supporting anti-corruption initiatives and standing with Afghan women as critical agents of resistance.

Dr. Haroon Mutasem identified key shortcomings in Afghanistan's past constitutional efforts, particularly the urban-rural divide that has shaped societal tensions. He argued that the highly centralized government structure did not account for Afghanistan's diverse cultural identities. The lack of accountability for past violations, particularly with respect to transitional justice, also undermined the constitutional process. Professor William Maley asserted that while the Afghan constitution remains relevant, there needs to be a comprehensive discussion on the structure of a future constitutional framework. According to him, the previous UN-backed process was rushed, and future efforts should be more deliberate, laying the foundation for a peaceful and stable Afghan state. Although he acknowledged that the Taliban might not participate, he stressed that the process must begin now.

Ms. Ghizaal Haress highlighted the complexity of constitution-making, underscoring that any new process must reflect the values and diverse identities of Afghanistan's population while establishing clear principles of governance. She noted that the Taliban rejected constitutional efforts in the 1990s, and the one constitution they proposed, based on Hanafi jurisprudence, was not inclusive. She expressed concerns that any future Taliban-driven constitution would likely serve to legitimize authoritarian rule rather than create a representative system of governance.

Dr. Zulfia Abawe concluded by stressing the importance of indigenous, community-driven processes rather than “copycat” Western models. She emphasized that the constitutional process must reflect the customary values of Afghan society and provide genuine ownership to the Afghan people through broad-based consultations. In summary, the panelists underscored the importance of inclusivity, human rights, and grassroots involvement in future constitutional processes, while highlighting the UN’s pivotal role in supporting Afghanistan’s journey towards a stable, representative, and law-abiding state.

The panel discussions were followed by a series of questions from the participants in the room and those who joined online.

### **Afghanistan’s Constitutional Law Expert Group**

The Expert Group, which was established in 2022 continued its activities in 2024 with various activities. The public statement of the Expert Group issued in November 2023 had created a lot of attention about constitutionality in Afghanistan. Therefore, most of the panel discussions at the National Dialogue Conference of CDPG in Antalya in February 2024 centered around this topic, and members of the Expert Group had significant contributions in leading the discussions in the conference.

The Expert Group also continued working on the report on the status of constitutionalism and the rule of law in Afghanistan. The report intends to give a clear picture of the changes that occurred after the Taliban came to power and their impact on the constitutional rights of the citizens. The report introduces the changes in the systems and power structures in Afghanistan and how the Taliban are managing the government. It also highlights the key changes to the rule of law agencies like the courts, the prosecution offices, the police, and the role of defense lawyers. As the Taliban claim their government is based on Sharia, one chapter of the report gives a historical perspective of governance and legitimacy in Islam. The report examines the governance system of the Taliban and concludes how the Taliban misinterprets the principles of Sharia for their advantage. Furthermore, the report gives in great detail the changes in judicial proceedings that have resulted in ignoring the principles of a fair trial. The final section of the report concerns the status of fundamental rights since the takeover of power by the Taliban. The report is expected to be released in February 2025.

The expert group continued its engagement with the key figures and stakeholders in 2024. In February 2024, the Export Group had a discussion with Richard Bennett, the Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Afghanistan. The Special Rapporteur gave an account of the human rights situation in the country and the impact of the systematic violations of human rights on the population, particularly the women. Members of the Expert Group also gave their feedback on the work of the Special Rapporteur and highlighted the importance of addressing the absence of a representative and legitimate constitution in Afghanistan. The members of the Expert Group also provided practical recommendations to the Special Rapporteur on the consideration of constitutional and rule of law in the reports of the Special Rapporteur. Both sides showed their interest in interacting with each other on constitutional issues.

Members of the Expert Group also took part in some activities arranged by CDPG. For example, two members of the Export Group took part in the peace panel on constitutionalism and the role of the UN in peace-building in Afghanistan during the Geneva Peace Week in October 2024. Furthermore, the Expert Group decided to become a member of the Afghanistan Civil Society and Democratic Forces Network which was established by CDPG in 2022. Prof. Haroun Mutasem was elected as the representative of the Expert Group in the Network.

Online meetings of the Expert Group provide an excellent opportunity to discuss the status of constitutionalism in Afghanistan. For instance, the Expert Group members had various discussions on the 3rd Doha Conference, Istanbul Conference, the impact of interventions by the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court on justice in Afghanistan and the Vice and Virtue Law. In addition, members of the Expert Group took part in interviews and discussions with the media outlets and a podcast by CDPG to discuss different aspects of constitutionalism, fundamental rights and rule of law in Afghanistan.

Cognizant of limited financial resources, the Expert Group organized a reflection meeting on how to implement activities in 2024 and 2025. The members decided to focus on online activities, such as webinars, and issuing statements on key dates or constitutional changes in Afghanistan. In addition, the Expert Group will focus on analyzing laws, decisions and policies on the constitutionalism and fundamental rights of the citizens. In the meantime, the members showed their willingness to work with CDPG on preparing proposals to potential donors for future activities of the Expert Group.

## Joint Roundtable: “Potentials & apacity of the Private Sector for Partnership in the Provision of Humanitarian & Essential Services in Afghanistan”. 06 February 2024, Geneva International Conferences Center (CICG)

The Center for Dialogue and Progress-Geneva (CDP-G) in partnership with Joint Chambers of Commerce Switzerland, Central Asia and Caucasus (JCC) organized a roundtable on the role of the private sector in delivering humanitarian and essential services in Afghanistan. This hybrid event brought together economic experts, business leaders from Afghanistan (including Afghan Chambers of Commerce - ACCI) and abroad, policymakers, and diplomats from the region to discuss Afghanistan’s economic challenges and explore opportunities for collaboration among business leaders. Key topics included the potential of the private sector involvement in humanitarian assistance and trade and the empowerment of women-led enterprises.



Participants highlighted practical recommendations, such as increasing transparency, reducing tax burdens, direct cash transfers, and sourcing products locally to engage the private sector and stimulate economic activity. Empowering women entrepreneurs was a central focus, with calls for mentorship, microfinancing, and dismantling barriers to women’s economic participation. [Read the summary of the discussions here.](#)



## II. Civil Society Reorganisation and Network-Building

### **Meeting of the Afghanistan Civil Society Organizations Network, held on June 20 and 21 in Geneva, Switzerland.**

Since its inception in October 2022, the Afghanistan Civil Society Network has been actively organizing and discussing various aspects of the Network. A significant milestone was reached in November 2023 when an agreement was reached on a governance structure, leading to the establishment of a leadership committee and a temporary secretariat for the Network. The Center for Dialogue and Progress-Geneva (CDP-G), as a member of the leadership council and the secretariat, has played a pivotal role in facilitating the interactions among the Network members. Their continued efforts in organizing future meetings and interactions of the Network are commendable.

In one of the sessions of the Antalya Conference in March 2024, the members of the Network and several civil society experts discussed the structure and the future of the Network. Due to the increase in the number of Network members, it was suggested that the structure of the Network be reviewed again, and the new members of the Network also get the opportunity to provide their feedback on the governance and introduce candidates for the executive structure of the Network. Based on this discussion, CDP-G organized an online interaction with the Network on 17 May 2024 to consult with the Network members on the agenda for the next meeting of the Network during the month of June 2024. The Network members proposed the inclusion of items on the governance of the Network, strategy, and work plan of the Network, as well as discussions on key opportunities and challenges that the civil society organizations are facing as part of the agenda of the next in-person meeting.

The second in-person meeting of the Network took place on 20 and 21 of June 2024 in Geneva International Conferences Center. All 43 members of the network, including those operating inside Afghanistan, were invited; however, a few members were not able to join due to difficulties related to visas or personal emergencies. Some members who were not able to join the meeting in person took part in the discussions virtually through Zoom. This workshop aimed to address three main issues:

- The geographical dispersion of civil society organizations, coordination difficulties,
- Identity and governance issues, and

- How can dialogue for change among members of civil society be fostered?

The network's overall aim is to strengthen its structure and engage in collective advocacy efforts, establishing a credible platform for coordinating civil and political actors.

The opening session of the workshop included speeches from the President of the Board of CDP-G, who emphasized the importance of coordination and expansion of the Network, and Amb. George Marc, former Swiss Ambassador to Afghanistan and a member of the Board of CDP-G, highlighted collaboration as the main need of Afghanistan's civil society to overcome the challenges posed by the current restrictions.

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*The first working session of the Network members concentrated on three main questions*

1. How can we overcome the geographical dispersion of the CSOs and increase harmony?
2. How do you create an identity for the Network and take positions?
3. How can we be relevant and influence the current and upcoming processes in the future of Afghanistan?

All present members and those who joined online were divided into three groups for each group to discuss one of the above questions. At the end of the session, group representatives shared their recommendations in the plenary.







The final session of the first day of the workshop focused on possible scenarios for civil society in Afghanistan and conducted research on the understanding and expanding the definition and functionality of civil society organizations inside and outside Afghanistan under the current situation. Ms. Elham Kohistani, who facilitated the session, presented four possible scenarios for the work of civil society organizations. These scenarios were developed and analyzed in another forum led by the Swedish Folke Bernadotte Academy and the network members provided their feedback on the probability of each scenario two and a half years after the fall of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Members of the Network also discussed how the Network can contribute to defining the civil society of Afghanistan in the post-Republic era. Given the answers to the three main questions that had been discussed in the morning session, the participants provided their feedback and opinions on how research can help the Network align



its future activities with the realities on the ground but also how CDP-G can work more closely with the members of the Network and respond to their capacity development and other needs. The Network members decided to appoint a working group to work on the scope and modality of conducting this research. Further discussions on the composition of the working group were deferred to the second day of the workshop.

### **Day Two: working groups meeting**

The second day of the workshop took place, with the presence of a selected number (over 20) of the participants. The objective of this session was to ensure that members of two working groups were identified to work on the network's governance strategic plan and conduct research on the current state and future of work of the Afghan civil society.

To facilitate the work of these working groups, CDP-G was assigned to create contact groups and provide necessary support to the members to convene and pursue their activities. Working groups will meet with Secretariat members to organize their plans and work on the assigned tasks.

## **III. Human Rights Resource Center**

The Afghanistan Human Rights Resource Center, a specialized subsidiary of the CDP-G, is dedicated to advancing human rights through research, education, monitoring, advocacy, and support for Afghan-focused civil society organizations and activists. The center facilitates engagement with Geneva-based human rights platforms and mechanisms. Since its inception in early 2022, it has evolved from a mere concept into a dynamic entity driving advocacy, reporting, research, and efforts to strengthen human rights protections in Afghanistan.

In 2024, the Afghanistan Human Rights Resource Center (AHRRC) remained steadfast in its priority areas: increasing international scrutiny of the Taliban, advocating for stronger accountability for human rights violations and abuses in Afghanistan, and providing platforms and access for victims, women's rights activists, and human rights defenders to engage with Geneva-based human rights mechanisms. To achieve these objectives, the Center undertook the following activities:

### **Advocacy Events:**

In 2024, as in previous years, the CDP-G organized multiple in-person and hybrid events focused on human rights advocacy, monitoring, and fostering collaboration among civil society organizations. These initiatives were organized directly and/or in partnership with the Permanent Missions of Afghanistan and Albania in Geneva, and prominent Afghan and international civil society partners.

## UNHRC Event: “All-Tools Approach for Accountability in Afghanistan: The Role of the Treaty Bodies”. 10 September 2023, Palais des Nations, Geneva

This side event held during the 57th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council was organized by the Center for Dialogue and Progress-Geneva (CDP-G) and co-sponsored by key civil society organizations; Action for Development (AfD-Suisse), Center for Human Rights Advocacy (CHRA), Human Rights Defenders Plus (HRD+), and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), focused on leveraging UN treaty bodies to hold perpetrators accountable for human rights violations and abuses in Afghanistan. Panelists discussed the legal and practical challenges of utilizing treaty bodies including the absence of accession to protocols that enable individual communication to the treaty bodies.



Speakers, including members of UN committees like CEDAW, HRC Advisory Committee, legal scholars, and the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to UNOG, highlighted opportunities such as the submission of Afghanistan’s overdue reports and the complaint mechanism under the CRPD. Recommendations called for greater coordination among UN bodies, prioritization of treaty body reviews, enhanced regional diplomacy, and active participation of Afghan scholars and activists to strengthen accountability efforts. The session underscored the importance of innovative strategies and an all-tools approach in addressing Afghanistan’s ongoing human rights crisis.



Read the summary of the panel here: <https://cdpg.ch/media-publications/>


**CDP-G**  
Center for Dialogue and Progress - Geneva


**action for development**


**CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY**


**HRD+**  
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS PLUS


**OMCT**  
SOS-Torture Network

**HRC57 Side Event**

## All-Tools Approach for Accountability in Afghanistan: The Role of the Treaty Bodies

This event aims to inform on the potential role that treaty bodies play in assuring accountability, advocate for a more active response from the committees, and explore ways to enhance their role in addressing the violations and abuses, including in the absence of accession to optional protocols related to the individual communications.

**10 Sept. 2024**  
**13:00-14:00 (CEST)**

Room XXV  
 Palais des Nations



**Ms. Bandana Rana**  
CEDAW Committee Member & Chair, Afghanistan Task Force



**Amb. Nasir A. Andisha**  
Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the UN-Geneva



**Vasilka Sancin, PhD**  
Professor of International Law, Vice-Chair UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee



**Dr. Malek Sitez**  
Professor of International Politics-Selinus University & Chairperson of HRD+



**Shoaib Timory**  
Legal scholar & CDP-G Executive Director  
Moderator

Register for virtual participation:  
<https://forms.gle/e3D42Ys5kDuCyPPI8>  
 Or email at: [ahrc@cdpg.ch](mailto:ahrc@cdpg.ch)

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## UNHRC event: “Countering Gender Apartheid & Gender Persecution in Afghanistan: Call for Global Action for Accountability and Codification”. June 2024, Palais des Nations, Geneva

The CDP-G supported the organization of this Panel Discussion at the margin of the 56th Session of the UN Human Rights Council held in partnership with the Permanent Missions of Albania and Afghanistan to UN-Geneva, and leading civil society



organizations: the Canada Feminist Forum for Afghanistan, Women Regional Network, Atlantic Council, Womenkind Worldwide, and Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. The event aimed at advocacy at the UN Geneva level for greater accountability for women's rights violations in Afghanistan, in particular through the codification of gender apartheid. In addition to raising awareness on the legal accountability avenues, including the codification of gender through the draft Crimes Against Humanity Convention, the findings of a research report documenting the lived experiences of hundreds of Afghan women inside the country and the region, which could support an apartheid case based on Gender, were presented to the audience.



Speakers included the permanent representatives of Afghanistan and Albania, the UN Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan, and renowned researchers and experts from the co-organizing institutions.

## Countering Gender Apartheid & Gender Persecution in Afghanistan: Call for Global Action for Accountability and Codification

**Side Event – 56th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**Wednesday 19 June 2024 13:00-14:00 CEST**

**XXII UNOG Building - Palais des Nations Geneva**

<i>Panelist:</i>			<i>Speakers:</i>		
 <b>Richard Bennett</b> Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Afghanistan	 <b>Metra Mehran</b> Human Rights Activist	 <b>Rita Manchanda</b> South Asia Regional Expert	 <b>Amb. Nasir A. Andisha</b> Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the UN-Geneva	 <b>Amb. Vasilika Hysi</b> Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania to the UN-Geneva	 <b>Nargis Nehan</b> Founder Canada's Feminist Forum for Afghanistan <i>Moderator</i>

  
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WOMEN'S REGIONAL NETWORK  
AFGHANISTAN - AFGHANISTAN - AFGHANISTAN

  
Canadian Feminist Forum for Afghanistan

  
GIWPS  
Georgetown Institute for  
Women, Peace and Security

  
Atlantic Council  
STRATEGIC LITIGATION PROJECT

## Afghan Civil Society Networking Lunch & Informal Exchange with the UN Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan, June 2024, CICG, Geneva

The 56th Session of UNHRC coincided with a 2-day consultation meeting attended by over 30 representatives of the Afghan Civil and Democratic Forces Network (facilitated by the CDP-G), a delegation of women's rights advocates, and multiple human rights activists attending the Session. With a focus on enhancing coordination and collaboration among civil society activists and human rights defenders working on Afghanistan, the Human Rights Resource Center (HRRC) organized an informal exchange between participants and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Afghanistan, Richard Bennett, and his team.



Mr. Bennett briefed participants on the findings of his report on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan to the Human Rights Council, engaged in discussion with the Network members, and provided feedback on gender apartheid and other cases of human rights violations. Members of the Network shared their questions with the Special Rapporteur and offered their support to the work of the Special Rapporteur.





The consultation concluded with a networking lunch at the Geneva International Conference Center, fostering deeper connections and enabling further collaborative discussions.

## Advocacy Trips



In June 2024, the Center for Dialogue and Progress-Geneva (CDP-G) advanced its mission of enabling Afghanistan-focused civil society activists to engage with Geneva-based human rights platforms by supporting an advocacy mission of prominent women's rights activists to Geneva. The CDP-G assisted in visa arrangements, securing access to Human Rights Council meetings in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan, and with the support of partners CFFA, WKW, and WRN, and creating networking opportunities with Afghan civil society representatives present in Geneva.

Additionally, the CDP-G assisted in organizing advocacy engagements with diplomatic missions, ensuring the delegation could effectively present their perspectives and advance their agenda for women's rights in Afghanistan.

## Victims' Access to Human Rights/Accountability Mechanisms:

Assuring accountability for human rights violations and abuses in Afghanistan is an essential pillar of the work of the AHRRC, as we continue to advocate for the establishment of a dedicated accountability mechanism for Afghanistan, while also utilizing the full potential of existing platforms and mechanisms.

AHRRC seeks to represent victims and their families in presenting inquiries, petitions, and submissions to the UN special procedures, treaty bodies, and other existing international justice and accountability platforms, such as the ICC. As a Geneva-based organization with full knowledge of the work of the human rights institutions and mechanisms based in Geneva, we educate activists on these processes and raise awareness among the public, including through the dissemination and translation of audiovisual material on these mechanisms in Afghan local languages.

## Collaborations and Participation in Partner Activities

**Afghanistan Reports to Human Rights Mechanisms:** HRRC experts participated in consultations and, as part of the drafting committee, shared their technical and human resources with the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan in the preparation of the national report under the Universal Periodic Review mechanism. Similarly, we are taking part in ongoing preparations of the national implementation report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

**Joint Civil Society Letter to UNHRC Member States:** In September 2024, CDP-G took part in consultations and joined ninety Afghan, regional, and international non-governmental organizations in co-signing a letter to member states renewing their call on the Human Rights Council to establish an independent, comprehensive investigative mechanism for human rights violations and abuses in Afghanistan.

**Documentation Working Group (DWG):** HRRC continues to take part in the activities of the DWG, and plans to hold relevant training sessions for the members.

**Strategic Dialogue of Human Rights Defenders of Afghanistan, December 10, 2024, Berlin:** Our Senior Fellow and then Interim Executive Director, Mr. Shoaib Timory, actively participated at this conference organized by the Human Rights Defenders Plus, focused on examining the current state of human rights in Afghanistan and providing a solution-oriented discussion on the issues.

## Research and Publications

CDP-G Fellows and advisors have been active in writing numerous articles, blog posts, and op-eds on human rights, democracy, and governance in Afghanistan. Below are a select number of articles published in renowned international blogs/journals.

2024 U.S. Elections and Afghanistan's Uncertain Future, 5 November 2024, Written by Mustafa Muneer, Comms. Lead & Associate Researcher at CDP-G. Published on South Asian Voices. [Click here to read.](#)

Invite Afghanistan's Majority to the Table at Doha Envoy Talks, 11 July 2024, by Ambassador Nasir A. Andisha, Published on Just Security. [Read here.](#)

Panel Summary Report: All-Tools Approach for Accountability In Afghanistan: The Role of the Treaty Bodies, 17 September 2024. [Read here.](#)



## Organisation and Team Building

### CDPG Retreats: Strategy Review

CDPG is considering the staff retreats as an excellent opportunity to overview the progress and challenges of CDPG and identify the key action points the organization should take. Since several members of CDPG are based outside Geneva, staff retreats put the staff together under one roof for an exchange of ideas and experiences.

In June 2024, CDPG held another retreat along with the meeting of the Network of Civil Society in Geneva. In this retreat, the strategic focus of CDP-G was discussed, and the success and failure of CDP-G were examined in the different areas it has focused on so far. Furthermore, the retreat allowed the members to examine funding potentials for our current and future activities.

### Strategic Partnerships

During the year, the CDP-G established and strengthened several important strategic partnerships with various governmental and non-governmental organizations.

In 2024 in pursuit of our shared goals we continue to maintain and expand partnerships with some of the most notable partners on various activities including the Foundation of Open Society Institutes, National Endowment for Democracy, International Development Law Organization (IDLO), the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the UN Office in Geneva - Afghan Witness/Center for Information Resilience, Action for Development-Suisse, and Joint Chambers of Commerce Switzerland, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus (JCC).

Exhibiting high standards of efficiency, expert knowledge and proficiency in the primary areas of activity, CDP-G was awarded grants from notable international non-governmental institutions.

We welcome collaborations with like-minded organisations and continue to expand our reach, establish new partnerships, and diversify our network.

## **Fund-raising Efforts**

All CDPG members took fundraising as their top priority for 2024. During the year, we identified various potential donors and prepared project proposals based on the requirements of those donors. For example, we submitted a proposal to the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs which was accepted, and we received a small funding for the civil society component in 2025.

We also worked on proposals to a number of other donors including FCDO, NED, Open Society Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation. The team continues reaching out to donors and applying for calls for proposals.

## **Board and General Assembly Meetings**

CDPG organized two board meetings and one general assembly meeting in 2024. The role of the board and the general assembly is quite significant for the direction of the CDPG. In 2024, the General Assembly decided to add one more female board member. In addition, the President of the Board was changed.

The General Assembly and the Board received updates from the CDPG members on the status of different activities, approved financial reports, and extended their support for fundraising and partnership building. Members of the board also helped with our activities by moderating events and taking part in them. The board also decided on the appointment of interim executive directors to lead the operations of CDPG.

CDPG benefits from the wisdom of its advisors as well, who had joint meetings with the board and the general assembly and took part in other activities of CDPG.

## **Looking Forward**

Since its inauguration, CDP-G has been able to establish itself and undertake important activities in the spheres of national dialogue, peace-building and human rights. We will reinforce our activities in these areas and expand our activities in the area of civil society reorganisation and network-building, human rights advocacy, rule of law, and fragility assessment.

In the coming year, we will continue to support the permanent secretariat and leadership board of the civil society in the diaspora. We will also work closely with the democratic forces and will try to give them a venue to advocate for a democratic future in which all men and women, from different walks of life, can share their view points and participate in the political life of the country. While we will organize the fourth conference on national dialogue and the future of civil society and democratic forces in Afghanistan in 2025, we continue searching for resources for organization of a conference in central Asia on the role of the civil society to gather the civil society leaders and democratic forces who reside in Central Asia to have a dialogue on the future of Afghanistan and the role of the civil society.

Furthermore, our focus would be on smaller expert groups. For instance, we will support the already established expert group on constitutionalism and the rule of law. The objective for this expert group is to have an in-depth analysis of the legal changes introduced post August 2021 and provide legal analysis of the required measures to reintroduce a constitutional government that adheres to rule of law and human rights of the citizens. The Group will continue engaging with relevant actors and constitutional law actors and practitioners. Given the importance the latest Security Council resolution gave to a new constitutional framework, the work of this Expert Group is of utmost importance.

The AHRRC will continue its advocacy for enhanced international accountability through supporting expert and candid discussions on the need and hurdles facing international accountability. It also seeks to raise awareness of civil society-led initiatives for monitoring and documentation. We will facilitate coordination and collaboration among them to avoid duplication, streamline their activities with UN mechanisms, and enhance the impact of all.

The AHRRC intends to organize human rights literacy training for the media workers and citizen journalists covering the conflict and human rights violations in Afghanistan, coupled with training on access to UN Special Procedures and effective advocacy within the United Nations system.

We will continue to raise public awareness of the existing avenues of international accountability and aspire to assist and represent victims and their relatives in accessing mechanisms such as the Human Rights Council's special procedures and international tribunals.

