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**Public hearing on 22 May 2023**

**on the topic of “Strategy shift, adjustment and withdrawal 2015 to 2021: aims, changes and dynamics at international, national and local level”**

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**Key questions for the experts**

Afghan civil society perspective

**Ms Zarifa Ghafari (NGO “Assistance and Promotion of Afghan Women”)**

- Which projects for women’s rights and for the promotion of women at local level did you deem to be especially valuable?
- How has the gradual roll back of international engagement affected the women in Afghanistan?
- How did the international engagement over 20 years affect the young generation in Afghanistan in particular? Which factors have hampered the sustainable formation of an open and liberal society?
- What were the challenges you faced as the mayor of Maidan Shahr in offering services to the general public? Was international support helpful in that respect, and if so, in what way?
- Was there a realistic chance to successfully combat corruption in Afghanistan during the period between 2015 and 2021? What was the main focus of the German engagement during that time?

BMZ perspective

**Ms Ulrike Hopp-Nishanka (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – BMZ)**

- How do the Federal Foreign Office (AA) and the BMZ work together cross-departmentally in Afghanistan, what is your evaluation of this cooperation and what are some examples of best practices where improvements were already achieved over the years?

- To what extent were German government and non-government development cooperation projects adapted to local requirements and how sustainable were these?
- What did the national coordination mechanisms look like on the one hand in the context of operational implementation on the ground and on the other hand in the sense of joint target setting as part of a cross-departmental strategy?
- How did the strategic orientation of German development aid in Afghanistan change throughout the years and what consequences did this have for the activities in Afghanistan?
- What targets did the BMZ envisage and to what extent were these coordinated with the Federal Foreign Office, the Federal Ministry of Defence, the Afghan government and international actors, and were representatives of the Taliban in any way involved?