



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
International Trade Administration

Washington, D.C. 20230

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MARKET ACCESS
AND COMPLIANCE

Ms. Mina Sherzoy
Director of Women Entrepreneurs
Ministry of Commerce
Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan
Kabul

Dear Ms. Sherzoy:

I wish to commend you for your leadership and ability to promote women's entrepreneurial development in Afghanistan. I was delighted to meet with you and so many women that have benefited from your programs. It is evident to me that these women are making a major contribution to Afghanistan's overall economic development.

Women's participation in the economic and political life of their country provides empowerment and the opportunity to improve livelihoods for themselves, their children and families, and the society at large. They also have an obligation to engage in the government's policy-making, especially as overall private sector development efforts have an impact on women-owned businesses too. You are their advocate and their voice in this regard.

We are closely monitoring your progress. Should you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

William H. Lash, III

