

# AFGHANISTAN



DAVID PRICE, CHAIRMAN • VERN BUCHANAN, CO-CHAIR

## History of Partnership

The House Democracy Partnership (HDP) approved a legislative strengthening partnership with Afghanistan in March 2006.<sup>1</sup> The program has specifically focused on strengthening the bicameral Afghan National Assembly in the areas of research services, committee operations, budgeting, and oversight of the armed services and the executive branch. HDP has sent several congressional delegations to Afghanistan since 2006 and has organized training programs in the U.S. for visiting Afghan members of parliament (MPs) and parliamentary staff.



## HDP Engagement with the National Assembly of Afghanistan

- **MP and Regional Seminars:** Since 2006, Afghan MPs have participated in ten MP Seminars. These exchanges focused on issues including defense oversight, constituent services, committee operations, budgetary oversight, and enhancing the leadership and legislative skills of women MPs. In 2017, Afghan MPs participated in a regional seminar on parliamentary openness, ethics, and digital outreach.
- **Staff Seminars:** Since 2007, HDP has conducted 12 staff seminars with parliamentary staff from the National Assembly of Afghanistan. Seminar topics included parliamentary research services, committee operations, technology and parliamentary openness, budgetary processes and oversight, and strengthening legislative institutions in the wake of democratic transitions.
- **Self-initiated Delegations:** In 2012, members of the Wolesi Jirga (House of Elders) visited Washington, D.C. as part of a State Department IVLP program. HDP organized a two-day program as part of this visit.
- **Material Assistance:** In 2008, HDP dedicated a \$150,000 library project in Afghanistan to enhance the parliament's research and analysis capacity.

## HDP Congressional Delegations (CODELs)

- HDP has organized four congressional delegations to Afghanistan.
  - November 2006
  - May 2008
  - November 2009
  - June 2012

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<sup>1</sup>At the time the partnership was initiated, the House Democracy Partnership was known as the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC). The name was subsequently changed to reflect the nature of HDP as a partnership with partner countries.