

Biography of HE Mohammed Haneef Atmar

National Security Advisor

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



Mohammad Haneef Atmar is National Security Advisor of the government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Prior to his current position, he held several senior positions in the government. He served as Afghanistan's Minister of Interior between 2008 – 2010, Minister of Education (2006-2008) and Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (2002-2006). He is credited with introducing major reforms to the police force and the administration of the Ministry of Interior. He commissioned and successfully launched Afghanistan's National Education Strategic Plan, which has produced significant results in education expansion and quality improvement across the nation with remarkable gains for girls and women, in particular. The design and implementation of Afghanistan's flagship rural development effort, the National Solidarity Programme, under his leadership, has led to major improvements in local governance, livelihoods, infrastructure and social and economic conditions of over two-thirds of Afghan rural communities. In his role as a member of the Presidential Oversight Committee, Mr. Atmar played a key role in directing the formulation of the first Afghanistan National Development Strategy.

Prior to his service with the government, Mr. Atmar worked as an aid worker with various national and international NGOs in 1990s. Mr. Atmar holds MA degree in public policy and post-war development studies from the University of York, UK and has published various academic works on the role of humanitarian aid in Afghanistan.

Between 2010 and 2015, Mr. Atmar also worked as a consultant with the Hambastagi Consulting Group (HCG), which he and his colleagues established in 2010. HCG was credited as a highly qualified national consulting company specialising in current affairs, security, development and governance of Afghanistan providing research and advisory services to donors, private sector and civil society contributing to policy formulation and combined national and international development and reconstruction efforts for Afghanistan.