



**Farooq Wardak**  
Minister of Education  
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Farooq Wardak was born in 1959 in Wardak Province. He finished his secondary and High School education at Rahman Baba Lycée, in Kabul. In 1978 he enrolled in the Faculty of Pharmacy, Kabul University, but because of the Soviet invasion the following year his university studies were interrupted and he was forced to take refuge in Pakistan. For the first four years he provided medical assistance to the War wounded Afghans in the areas controlled by the freedom fighters.

In 1982, Mr. Wardak resumed his studies in pharmacy at the University of Punjab, in Lahore, Pakistan and graduated in 1986. In the same year he began a decade of service to the people of Afghanistan (1986-1996) with the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA), one of the largest international NGOs working for the people of Afghanistan from across the border. He first started as a Deputy Director and later worked as Director of the health department of SCA implementing the most comprehensive health service program in Afghanistan at the time.

From April 1996 till December 2001, Mr. Wardak managed the UNDP's largest Community Based Rehabilitation Program for Disabled People, establishing and directing physical rehabilitation and social reintegration services for thousands of disabled people across Afghanistan. In 1999-2000, alongside his job, he completed with honors a Master of Business Administration at Princeton University, in Peshawar.

In 22 years of refugee life in Pakistan (1979-2001), Mr. Wardak had many opportunities to settle in the West, but remained committed to serving the Afghan people by organizing and directing support programs in Afghanistan and standing with his people in the most difficult period of their history.

In January 2002, shortly after the establishment of the Interim Administration of Afghanistan, following the Bonn Agreement, Mr. Wardak returned to Afghanistan. He started working as UNDP Assistant Resident Representative, and continued that job till October 2001.

Between November 2002 and February 2004, Mr. Wardak was appointed as Director of the Constitutional Commission Secretariat and later as the Operational Manager of the Constitutional Loya Jirga (a Grand Assembly that approved the Constitution), responsible

for developing a new constitution for Afghanistan. Mr. Wardak, in addition to managing the staff members involved in the process, also managed a major program of civic education, public consultation gathering 2.7 million views of the Afghan people and public opinion analysis, which resulted in providing concrete proposals for the new constitution, ensuring that the timetable of the Bonn Agreement was met.

In February 2004, following the completion of the Constitution Drafting and Adopting Process, Mr. Wardak was appointed as the Director of the Joint Election Management Body Secretariat (a joint UN and Afghan body). As Chief Election Officer, he was responsible for recruiting, training, coordinating, and directing over 140,000 staff involved in the voter registration of 11.5 million eligible voters, public information and education campaigns and the implementation of the first ever 2004 Presidential Election.

In February 2005, Mr. Wardak became Secretary to the Council of Ministers and Director-General of the Office of Administrative Affairs of the President, the main central coordinating agency of the Afghan Government.

In January 2006, soon after the Parliamentary Election, Mr. Wardak was appointed as Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs while keeping his responsibilities as Secretary to the Council of Ministers and Director-General of the Office of Administrative Affairs. He managed establishing and maintaining working relationship amongst the three pillars of the Afghan Government.

In October 2006, Mr. Wardak was appointed as Member and Director of Secretariat of the Commission responsible for preparation of the Afghan – Pak Joint Peace Jirga. Later, he became Deputy Head of the Commission following the decision of the Afghan-Pak Joint Peace Jirga, alongside with his responsibilities as Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Director General of the Office of Administrative Affairs and Council of Ministers Secretariat.

On October 20th, 2008, as result of the cabinet reshuffling, Mr. Wardak was appointed as Minister of Education. He is responsible for overall strategic and day to day leadership of the Ministry of Education in the country.

Besides his job as Minister of Education, he was appointed in April 2010 by the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as chairman of the Commission responsible for holding the first ever National Consultative Peace Jirga and later as its operational manager, bringing 1700 representatives from all walks of life in Afghanistan, which put forth a declaration for bringing a lasting peace and reconciliation in the country. In November 2010, he was elected as chairman of the international affairs committee of the High Peace Council, established by the President following recommendations of the National Consultative Peace Jirga.