

MOHAMMAD UMER DAUDZAI

Umer Daudzai is an Afghan politician who most recently served as Minister for Interior Affairs (2013 to 2014). He was two-terms Chief of Staff to the President of Afghanistan (2003-2005 and 2007-2011), as well as Afghanistan's Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran (2005-2007) and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (2011-2013).

Mr. Daudzai has had the distinctive privilege of helping manage post-2001 Afghanistan's major challenges: building a state amidst domestic political and armed obstacles; pursuing regional solutions to ending militancy and terrorism. In 2005, during deteriorating relations between the United States and Iran, Mr. Daudzai was dispatched to Tehran to ensure cooperative relations with Kabul despite Afghanistan's partnership with the United States. In 2011, as the agenda of political end to the fight in Afghanistan came to the forefront, Mr. Daudzai was appointed as Ambassador to Islamabad to seek Pakistani cooperation with the peace process. In 2013, while seen as [a potential successor to President Hamid Karzai](#), Mr. Daudzai ceded his plans for candidacy after being asked to become Minister of Interior Affairs and manage the security for the 2014 elections.

Mr. Daudzai joined Afghanistan's politics after a long career in international aid management for the region—including stints with the United Nations Development Program in Geneva. Born in Kabul province, he is a graduate of Kabul University, and holds a MSc. from Victoria University in Manchester.