



**Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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Thank you, Madam President, for convening today's meeting and I want to congratulate you and your team on your successfully presiding over the Council throughout the month of September.

Let me join others by thanking the briefers for their insightful and yet alarming briefings. I want to also thank the UN Secretary-General for his report. Taking this opportunity, I also wish to express the appreciation of the people of Afghanistan to the UN Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres for the appointment of a dedicated and highly experienced woman, Ms. Roza Otunbayeva as his new Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA.

**Madam President,**

Today's meeting is held in a time that the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA session has just began. During last week's plenary session, we heard from the world leaders about the unprecedented challenges facing the world today and the ways to address them.

Unfortunately, Afghanistan is currently suffering from the combined impact of such global challenges as well as severe social, political, economic and humanitarian crises following the takeover of the Taliban. While our main motto at the UN is to leave no one behind and while Afghan women constituting half of the society played a critical role in all aspects of political and socioeconomic development under both MDGs and SDGs in Afghanistan for two decades, Afghan women and girls in Afghanistan under the rule of Taliban are now deprived of their fundamental human rights and freedoms and they are being systematically erased from all social, political and economic spheres of life.

It has been more than a year that the door to secondary and high schools for girls closed. More than 24 million people in Afghanistan need humanitarian assistance and 19 million people are suffering from acute food insecurity, Afghan refugees and migrants are faced with dire situation and uncertain future.

While many countries continue to make efforts for achieving 2030 development agenda, Afghanistan's two-decades' worth of hard-earned gains including national action plans and progress in social, economic, security and political sectors devised and adopted by Afghan experts with the support of the international community have been reversed or undone completely.

I want to reiterate that fundamental rights and freedoms of all Afghan women and girls must be restored and the doors of schools to the girls should be opened immediately and women should be allowed to fully exercise their God-given rights, build their capacities and equally take part in the rebuilding of our war-torn country. I call on this Council to join us in this call and

support Afghan women. I want to thank the previous speakers who strongly expressed their support to the people of Afghanistan particularly to women and girls.

**Madam President,**

Let me express our profound appreciation to all international partners, regional countries, UN funds and programs, local and international NGOs and donors who have stood, during these difficult days, by the people of Afghanistan. and, despite all challenges and impediments, continue to deliver humanitarian aid and essential services to the people of Afghanistan.

We hope that the pledging countries will continue their support to the UN humanitarian response plan for Afghanistan. It is highly important that humanitarian aid is delivered without hindrance to all vulnerable people including women, children and minorities across the country.

Let me stress, however, that humanitarian assistance is not a sustainable solution to prevent the growing humanitarian crisis or to combat poverty in the long run. A sustainable, long-term approach will involve taking concrete steps, including resumption of development assistance based on national economic and development programs which must be implemented by an accountable, legitimate and inclusive government.

**Madam President,**

It has been more than a year that the people of Afghanistan and the international community have waited and expected the Taliban to respond to their calls and fulfill their commitments towards core issues. These include the reopening of girls' secondary and high schools and protecting and respecting fundamental human rights of all citizens without any gender, ethnic and religious discriminations as well as formation of an inclusive and accountable system based on rule of law, justice and the will of people. However, this has not been materialized and the Taliban has disappointed all of us.

I want to thank all regional and international partners for supporting the demands of the people of Afghanistan and for constantly highlighting these calls in their statements and in their engagements with the Taliban.

Contrary to the Taliban's claims and their announced general amnesty, there are credible reports by the UN and other international institutions on widespread violations of human rights, including extrajudicial killings, torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary arrests and detentions of former government officials, security forces members, journalists, human rights activists, civilians, protesters, individuals accused of affiliations with armed groups and NRF, forced displacement of particular ethnic groups in different provinces of Afghanistan including Baghlan, Panjsher, Takhar, Sare-Pol and Badakhshan as well as shooting of prisoners of war. These acts

are gross violations of human rights and war crimes and subject to prosecution in the International Criminal Court.

Restrictions on freedom of opinion and expression as well as the repression of media mean that many incidents including cases of forced marriages and child marriages are not reported, and perpetrators are not held accountable.

The Taliban must stop these acts that contradict international humanitarian and international human rights laws and Islamic values. These acts have also caused fear and uncertainty about the future and have pushed the human capital to leave the country and increasing the influx of migrants and refugees.

Let me thank the Special Rapporteur for his efforts and for presenting the first report on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan since the takeover by the Taliban on 15 August 2021. I want to highlight that there is a need for an effective reporting, monitoring and investigation mechanism to impunity and ensure a stronger response to human rights violations in Afghanistan.

**Madam President,**

In the course one year alone, due to the Taliban's stubbornness and unwillingness to adhere to their commitments and their continued ruling by force, Afghanistan has become entrenched in the worst economic and humanitarian crises in the history, making Afghanistan the only country in the world that denies girls the full right to education and the worst place for women and girls.

In addition to this, natural hazards, earthquakes, and droughts along with the fallout of the banking system, precarious security situation and inadequate access to services have further exacerbated this dire situation.

Furthermore, the continued presence and operation of terrorist groups in Afghanistan, including Al-Qaida and Daesh have highly increased the security threats to the people of Afghanistan, region and beyond. The presence of the leader of Al-Qaida who was killed in Kabul last month is a clear indication of their continued ties with Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups and an evident violation of counter-terrorism commitments by the Taliban. Additionally, the recent ISIL-KP attacks on civilian targets including Shia Hazara, Hidus, Sikh and Sufis are indicative of the inability of the Taliban to ensure peace and security across the country.

**Madam President,**

I would like to underline that Afghan people have been victim of terrorism in the past and now. I want to stress that there are no good and bad terrorists and terrorism does not recognize borders. We must condemn and fight genuinely against all forms and manifestations of terrorism collectively inside and outside of our borders, including its root causes, sanctuaries and financial resources.

**Mr. President,**

As Afghanistan stands on the verge of a large-scale economic collapse, there is a need for collective and genuine cooperation by all stakeholders - Afghan people, including the Taliban, regional and international partners to support convening of a national dialogue to overcome the current political deadlock and provide the people of Afghanistan with the opportunity to agree on core issues through a framework or roadmap for formation of a representative and accountable system based on the rule of law, justice and will of the people.

I would like to welcome the recent Communique of the Special Representatives of US-Europe Group on Afghanistan which has, among other important issues, emphasized that enduring peace and stability in Afghanistan requires a credible and inclusive national dialogue leading to a constitutional order with a representative political system.

I reiterate that only with an inclusive, representative, accountable and functional system with involving professionals and credible people from all backgrounds with good reputation and with full participation of women we can save Afghanistan from the ongoing crisis. Hence, we call on this Council to extend its full support to this plea in line with the mandate entrusted upon them by the UN Charter and the existing UNSC resolutions on the situation in Afghanistan.

I thank the UNAMA and the entire the United Nations family for staying and delivering humanitarian aid and for helping prevent a humanitarian catastrophe so far. However, we expect a stronger and more effective role and engagement by the UN in Afghanistan. I want to thank the UNHCR and other international organizations for their efforts to address issues of Afghan migrants. I want to call and stress that Afghan migrants and refugees need their support and attention.

I would like to call on this Council to use all the existing resources including sanctions effectively for ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan. We urge the international community to actively stay engaged in Afghanistan and in helping create people-centered and long-lasting solutions that will improve the lives and livelihoods of all Afghans.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to remind the Taliban that no system can survive without respecting and embracing the will of the people and that ruling the country by

force and fear will only result in continued conflict, and will deprive Afghanistan from sustainable peace, security and development. We appeal to the UNSC to take a united position in addressing the situation in Afghanistan to eliminate terrorist threats, protect Afghan women and girls, increase humanitarian support to Afghanistan and help ensure a truly inclusive future for all Afghans including through implementing the UNSC resolutions for self-sustaining and long-lasting solutions for Afghanistan. An Afghanistan that is at peace with itself, region and the world. The people of Afghanistan deserve peace, tranquility and prosperity. I end with a quote from Somaya Faruqi former Capitan of Afghan Robotics Team, “ Do not let our country become the cemetery of our goals and dreams.”

I thank you!