



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

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**Security Council Meeting on the Situation in Afghanistan**

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**Mr. President,**

Let me begin by thanking Ms. Roza Otunbayeva, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, for her comprehensive briefing on the challenging situation in Afghanistan. I also thank Ms. Fatima Gailani for her remarks and good wishes. Her wish list lacked condemnation and criticizing Taliban's policies and wishes for them to end their anti-human rights violations and respecting and listening to the aspirations of the people of Afghanistan and the international community. I would also like to join the Council members in emphasizing and supporting the vital role of United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in fostering peace, stability, and prosperity in Afghanistan. We fully support the renewal of UNAMA's mandate, which is under current discussion and negotiation.

We also express our gratitude to the Council members for their continues commitment to peace, stability, and prosperity in Afghanistan. We are especially grateful to all who have reaffirmed their support for the people of Afghanistan, emphasizing inclusivity, respect, and the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of all Afghan citizens, particularly women and girls, and minority groups.

Further we extend our appreciation to all donors, the UN system, as well as national and international NGOs for remaining engaged and continuing to provide vital humanitarian and life-saving support, in a principled manner, to the people of Afghanistan. We echo the Secretary-General's call for donors to sustain their life-saving responses and support the funding of Afghanistan's humanitarian response plan.

**Mr. President,**

The deepening social, political, economic, and humanitarian challenges in Afghanistan underscore the urgency for unified and immediate action by the United Nations and this Council. We are grateful for the UN Secretary-General's efforts to enhance global focus on Afghanistan. The special envoys meeting on Afghanistan held on February 18-19 was a welcome step toward unity and consensus on the international community's ongoing engagement with Afghanistan in a coherent, coordinated, and structured manner.

The Doha meeting is anticipated by the Afghan people as the beginning of a new phase of international support for achieving genuine peace in an inclusive, united, and democratic Afghanistan. The inclusion of civil society, including women representatives, at the meeting was crucial. We commend the UN for its principled stance on ensuring that the participation of civil society and democratic voices is uncompromised. Maintaining such participation as a priority in all future discussions on Afghanistan is essential.

We hope that discussions in upcoming UN meetings will lead to a renewed approach that aligns with the long-standing aspirations of the Afghan people. This approach must acknowledge a clear reality: the current status quo of unilateral rule, systematic human rights violations—particularly against women and girls—and disregard for the people's demands on political and social issues are in direct conflict with the shared values and objectives of both the Afghan people and international community.

We emphasize that any future international actions or engagements with the Taliban, must maintain Afghanistan's international obligations regarding counterterrorism, human rights, especially women's and girls' rights, as a conditional component. No concessions should be made concerning the Taliban's institutionalized, systematic, and widespread discrimination and persecution based on gender, and gender apartheid policies in Afghanistan. The people of Afghanistan are concerned about normalization or legitimization of Taliban without any demonstrated, measurable and interpedently verified improvements in the human rights situation.

**Mr. President,**

We have emphasized that lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan is only possible through an inclusive, representative, and broad-based system, resulting from national dialogue and which is able to reflect the will and aspirations of all Afghans. The experience of the past two and a half years affirms that this perspective holds true as ever and should now be the guiding principle for the international community's efforts in the way forward.

What is now needed is to build international consensus through adoption of a "roadmap" or an "action-plan" with defined objectives and specific timelines. Hence, outreach with all Afghan and international stakeholders shall begin through the proposed implementation mechanisms, including the Special Envoy and Contact Group, after such a "roadmap" or "action-plan" is adopted.

It is essential that all future meetings ensure inclusivity and balanced representation of all relevant Afghan groups, including representatives from women, civil society, diplomats and other democratic forces and movements. Taliban are only one internal stakeholder and do not represent the people of Afghanistan.

**Mr. President,**

We have welcomed the recommendation to appoint a Special Envoy by the UN Secretary-General in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 2721 (2023) for Afghanistan. This envoy will play a critical role in achieving a more effective international engagement with Afghanistan through stronger consensus and initiating intra-Afghan dialogue with support from all relevant stakeholders to achieve a secure, stable, prosperous, representative and inclusive Afghanistan that is fully committed to respecting its obligations under international conventions. This goal requires a special envoy who is capable, trusted, and possesses the necessary experience for this challenging but crucial task.

The selection process should take into consideration factors such as leadership, personality, diplomatic skills, and the relevant experience of the Special Envoy. These traits are among the characteristics required to ensure optimal output and progress during outreach and dialogue with regional and international stakeholders, as well as resisting pushbacks that arise during communication with the Taliban. Expertise, including with respect to human rights issues, and a solid background in diplomacy and conflict resolution, particularly concerning Afghanistan and the surrounding region are other issue that require consideration.

The outcome the independent assessment concluded that lack of a sufficient focus on start of political process, through intra-Afghan dialogue, was a key element missing in international efforts thus far on Afghanistan. Thus, the Special Envoy should pursue the start of a result-oriented political process as a matter of priority. Increased and sustained engagement with democratic/non-Taliban groups aimed at consensus and convergence within the group in preparation for direct talks with the Taliban shall be an integral part of the Special Envoy's outreach effort with Afghan stakeholders.

The paramount importance lies in his/her unwavering dedication and conviction towards universal values and principles, encompassing human rights, freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

The Special Envoy must be perceived as unbiased and committed to promoting the best interests of the Afghan people, free from external influences. The utmost priority should be given to integrity and impartiality.

**Mr. President,**

We thank the UN Secretary-General for his report and the emphasis on the importance of accessible, quality education for girls in Afghanistan. We support his calls for reversing the bans on education and employment and appeal to member states and donors to fund humanitarian response and support to Afghan refugees.

We also welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, which highlights the deteriorating human rights situation. This includes the erasure of women and girls from public life, the harsh enforcement of dress codes on women, the arbitrary detention of activists and journalists, public executions, and the use of corporal punishment by the Taliban. Additionally, the report's insights into extrajudicial killings, ill-treatment, disappearances, and torture of former security personnel, previous government officials, opponents of the regime, and marginalized communities such as the Hazaras are particularly concerning.

**Mr. President,**

In conclusion, I emphasize that the end state objective of achieving a peaceful Afghanistan, fully reintegrated into the international community, can only be realized through national legitimacy and a more constructive and principled international engagement. This approach is necessary to reverse the current negative trajectory and set Afghanistan on the path to stability. The way forward should be guided by the will and interests of the Afghan people, along with a genuine spirit of international support and cooperation.