



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.

Excellencies, before I begin, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening us today and congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Council for this month.

I extend further thanks to Ms. Roza Otunbayeva, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, and Ms. Zubaida Akbar for their insightful briefings.

Mr. President,

This International Women's Day, I join the international community in extending a message of solidarity and support to all courageous women and girls around the world. Particularly to the brave and resilient women and girls of Afghanistan who fearlessly fight against the oppressive rule of Taliban to restore their social, economic, and political rights.

Mr. President,

In just over a year and a half, Taliban has systemically stripped Afghan women and girls of their fundamental human rights and effectively erased them from society. Under Taliban rule, women and girls have faced gender-based discrimination, including forced marriage, that has deprived them of healthcare, education, and freedom of movement.

In just over a year and a half, the doors of science, technology, and knowledge closed to Afghan women and girls. The quality of once-modern Afghan education, from primary school to university, descended into extremism. As a result, millions of Afghan youth have faced educational uncertainty.

In just over a year and a half, essential Afghan services, including those in administrative, electronic, banking, and internet sectors, have been dismantled.

In just over a year and a half, poverty and unemployment have increased. Our people have resorted to selling their body parts because of starvation and hunger. 28 million Afghans are

suffering from food insecurity, Taliban boast that domestic revenue has increased without explaining where this revenue is spent. Contrary to Taliban claims, they have fostered corruption in Afghan institutions insofar as resorting to robbery by collecting taxes under different names and false justifications.

In just over a year and a half, natural and man-made disasters have caused immense human casualties and financial losses without effective preventive action.

In just over a year and a half, millions of Afghan refugees and migrants have fled the country and been trapped by human traffickers. Oftentimes, these Afghans are tortured, killed, imprisoned, or lost their lives crossing borders and seas. Recently, we witnessed the tragic loss of numerous Afghan lives in Italy and Bulgaria.

In just over a year and a half, despite Taliban's claims of ensuring domestic security, the blood of hundreds of our innocent people has been spilled by terrorist groups. This bloodshed has occurred in Afghan homes, schools, and religious centers without transparency and accountability.

In just over a year and a half, Taliban have reversed all past-two decades achievements of Afghanistan made and have abolished human rights protection mechanisms. In the absence of effective judicial system, the country is ruled by the force of rifle without national legitimacy.

In just over a year and a half, Afghanistan has been politically and globally isolated because of Taliban's barbaric and un-Islamic policies and behavior.

In just over a year and a half, our National Security Forces have been dismantled. Thousands of Security Forces have been arrested, tortured, forced to leave the country, or extrajudicially executed.

In just over a year and a half, competence, professionalism, and merit-based recruitment have lost their value. Thousands of skilled, experienced professionals, including doctors, engineers, military leaders, journalists, scholars, school teachers, university professors, and activists – specialists in agriculture, art, literature, economy, law, political science, history, and philosophy

– have left the country as refugees. These Afghans stay in dire economic states in neighboring countries, waiting on UNHCR for assistance.

Finally, it has been just over a year and a half since an extremist group has taken Afghanistan by force and against the will of the Afghan people.

Mr. President,

In this context, the people of Afghanistan continue to live their lives with resilience - with the hope for change. The dark regime will never be able to suppress the Afghan People's desire for freedom.

The oppressive regime of Taliban is a tragic reality for Afghans today; however, this regime does not represent the Afghan people. Without public support and national legitimacy, Taliban regime will not endure. Taliban has placed Afghanistan on the brink of a social, economic, and political precipice. Continuation of their policies will lead to further miseries and the destruction of Afghanistan. Their denial to formation of an inclusive and accountable system based on rule of law, justice and the will of people is indicative of their lack of interest for putting Afghanistan on a path to peace and prosperity.

Furthermore, their justification of their strict policies and actions is largely due to a lack of proper Islamic knowledge, modern management, and governance skills. They do not represent the culture of the people of Afghanistan or Islamic values. The Taliban's practices defame Islamic principles and disseminate Islamophobia. The Taliban's actions and policies are biased propagation and a false interpretation of Islam that stems from religious teachings in Madrassas beyond Afghanistan.

In addition, Taliban are either incapable or unwilling to respond to national and international calls for reversing their oppressive policies towards women and girls. Contrary to their claims of serving the people of Afghanistan suffering from poverty, they use the people's dire economic and humanitarian situation as a bargaining chip for their demands and consolidation of their power.

This is especially true concerning women's and girls' rights to education and work. They are implementing a distortion policy against donor countries. By banning female workers at the

NGOs, Taliban are intervening in aid delivery and creating obstructions to the distribution of and access to humanitarian assistance.

We are grateful to the UN-Secretary General, the international community, and donor countries for their patience and continued support to the people of Afghanistan through strong statements, life-saving services including aid delivery and funding UN humanitarian response plan.

Let me welcome the decision and judgement of U.S District Judge George Daniels about the \$3.5 billion of assets belonging to Afghanistan's Central Bank. We hope that these funds, the national reserves of Afghanistan, will be used by a legitimate government with strict, transparent monitoring for the long-term benefit of the Afghan people, not for humanitarian aid.

Mr. President,

We commend the recent visit of the UN-Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammad, and Under Secretary-General, Mr. Martin Griffiths, to Afghanistan to express solidarity and support for Afghan women, engage with diverse groups and stakeholders and open a momentum for a political track. Let me emphasize that we welcome principled engagement with Taliban without making any concessions or compromises on the legitimate demands and rights of the people of Afghanistan, as well as the UN Charter and universal human rights norms and principles.

We must be cautious that we should not help unacceptable become a norm. Engagement must not hinder the social, economic and political rights of progressive Afghans and democratic forces inside and outside Afghanistan.

I would like to ask the UN, UNAMA and international partners to support and provide platforms for progressive and democratic movements of Afghans inside and outside Afghanistan and they are against the current situation and would like to find a solution.

The UN has all the right tools, such as targeted sanctions, and the UN Security Council should use them to pressure the Taliban to comply with their commitments effectively. In addition, a

collective approach and unified response from all international partners including UN Security Council members, regional countries and OIC is required.

Mr. President,

It is very alarming that Taliban recently have increased crackdown and targeted killings of former security and defense forces. Despite their amnesty announcement, there are credible reports of extrajudicial killings and detaining of former security forces and asking for money for their release. Last month, Mr. Sirat, a former special forces member, was first taken out of a public bus in Shiberghan. The Taliban tortured him, and his body was cut into two pieces. Just recently, Taliban fighters released a video of merciless execution of Commander Badruddin Shir Mohammad, another former national police officer in Bala Karz in Kandahar, who was taken out of his home at midnight and killed. This happens in the capital of Taliban's leader Mullah Haibatullah. These are crimes against humanity and should be prosecuted by the International Criminal Court.

Let me express our appreciation to Mr. Richard Bennet, Special Rapporteur for the human rights situation in Afghanistan, for documenting these human rights crimes and reporting it to the Human Rights Council.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, as we are discussing UNAMA mandate extension, I want to express our appreciation to the United Nations funds and programs, particularly to the UNAMA, for coordinating and delivering humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan. As we are discussing a UNAMA mandate extension, we would like to support UNAMA's strong mandate. We underline the implementation of all mandate components, especially a political solution with the engagement of all Afghans.

In this regard, we would like to reiterate once again the robust role of the United Nations leadership in addressing the current crisis and dilemma in Afghanistan by initiating a political process supported unanimously by the Security Council and under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General to bring all stakeholders to achieve a truly representative and inclusive political settlement.

I thank you!