



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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Madam President,

At the outset, I wish to thank you for convening this important meeting on the situation in Afghanistan and congratulate you on assumption of the UN Security Council Presidency. We're also thankful to Special Representative Roza Otunbayeva and Azadah Raz Mohammad for their sobering briefings today.

We express our deep appreciation to those Security Council members who expressed their support to the people of Afghanistan, particularly women and girls.

This being the first Security Council meeting on Afghanistan in 2025, we congratulate the new Council members and hope that, through cohesion and solidarity, the Council will better address the current global conflicts, including the grave realities facing my people, through a renewed approach and form of engagement.

This briefing comes at a time of escalating crisis in Afghanistan. We are approaching the fourth year of the Taliban's illegitimate hold on power, and Afghanistan remains trapped in a deep crisis of repression of basic rights and freedoms, economic decline, political instability and humanitarian disaster.

The latest report from the UN Secretary-General paints a grim picture of a nation where basic freedoms are systematically violated, livelihoods are rapidly deteriorating, and millions of ordinary Afghans, including refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), are left in utter desperation and zero hope of any degree of improvement in their daily lives.

Afghanistan today is one of the most repressive places on Earth for women and girls. The Taliban's continued systematic erasure of women from public life is not just a violation of fundamental rights—it is a crime against humanity.

After years of demand by ordinary citizens and international friends of Afghanistan for an end to the Taliban's repressive policies – women are still banned from education, including medical training, exacerbating an already fragile healthcare system.

Afghan women are also still barred from working in NGOs, directly affecting life-saving humanitarian assistance.

We welcome the OIC Summit organized by Pakistan and its declaration that explicitly condemned the Taliban's ban on girls' education and emphasized girls' education is both a religious obligation and a fundamental right protected by Islamic teachings, international law, and national constitutions.

Public corporal punishments, summary executions, arbitrary arrests, and torture remain widespread, targeting women, former government officials and security forces, journalists, activists and individuals accused of armed opposition or affiliations with Daesh. Leaked records

reveal around 18,000 detainees in Kabul and provincial prisons, including 16,507 men and over 1,300 women.

Last month, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Afghanistan presented his report on the so-called 'Law on the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice' to the Human Rights Council. The report exposes the Taliban's systematic oppression, particularly against women and girls.

The report also confirms that the Taliban's policies amount to crimes against humanity, including gender persecution. He noted that the law violates the human rights of all Afghans, echoes the Taliban's regime from 1996-2001 and that the Taliban are continuing to impose new edicts particularly restricting the rights of women and girls.

We welcome and reaffirm its recommendations, and those in his regular report. And we urge the Security Council to take decisive action to hold the Taliban accountable and support the Afghan people in their fight for their dignity and their rights.

We welcome the recent steps taken by the International Criminal Court to hold Taliban leaders accountable for gender persecution as a crime against humanity, as well as the joint initiative launched last September by UN Member States to hold Afghanistan and the Taliban accountable for violations of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

These actions mark a significant milestone in the fight against impunity. They also send a powerful message to the women and girls of Afghanistan that the international community is attentive to their plight and is hearing their call for freedom and justice.

We urge all Member States to support these efforts and to affirm that impunity for such crimes is unacceptable.

Madam President,

In the past three years and seven months, the international community engaged the Taliban for a change in position and improvement in the situation. However, the Taliban has rejected the legitimate and joint demands of the Afghan people and their global partners.

Instead, they have consolidated power under a rigid, unelected, theocratic, and misogynistic regime that seeks to silence Afghanistan's diverse voices, deepen the country's isolation in the global community, and intensify repression against women and girls, pushing Afghanistan to poverty and dependency on international aid.

The international community needs to act to help end the oppression that is being carried out against women and girls - and other citizens of the country for that matter.

We all know that the Taliban's actions violate international law, including multiple UN Security Council resolutions. We therefore ask the Council to send a clear and unified message:

- Women's rights are non-negotiable.
- Taliban leaders must be held accountable.
- And that the Security Council will explore targeted measures against those responsible for these grave violations.

Madam President,

The Taliban's claim of stability and security is a façade. The reality is that Afghanistan is increasingly vulnerable to terrorism and regional conflict. The 35th report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team confirms that Afghanistan remains a terrorism hotspot, with the presence of over two dozen terrorist and extremist groups. ISIL-K continues to pose a global and regional threat. Al-Qaida, TTP, are among the broad range of such groups that benefit from Taliban control. The Taliban have no serious intention to combat or contain threats posed by any groups, including ISIL-K. There is an urgent need for stronger regional cooperation and countermeasures.

More over, as of late - cross-border clashes between the Taliban and neighboring countries have escalated, with civilian casualties mounting.

Internally, armed opposition against the Taliban, resulting from the group's repressive policies is becoming more mobilized with targeted attacks on specific Taliban targets. This evolving dynamic will only gain momentum without any change in the Taliban's position on the demands and expectations of the people.

The international community must contemplate: What will be the long-term consequences of an Afghanistan ruled by extremism and lawlessness? A state with no legitimate governance, no respect for human rights, and an unchecked security vacuum is not just a threat to the people of Afghanistan—it is a threat to global security.

Madam President,

On the economic front, Afghanistan's fragile economy continues to rely on humanitarian aid, with:

- Over 85% of Afghans now live below the poverty line. 23 million Afghans—more than half the population—requiring humanitarian assistance.
- Malnutrition rates soaring, with children at severe risk of starvation.

- The Taliban's economic policies—including the exclusion of women from the workforce—have made self-reliance impossible.

Yet, at a time of unprecedented need, international aid to Afghanistan has declined sharply. The UN's humanitarian response plan for 2025 remains critically underfunded.

We express our deep appreciation to the neighboring countries that continue to host Afghan refugees, providing them with safety and shelter during this critical time. We also recognize the urgent plight of those whose lives remain at grave risk and are awaiting relocation and resettlement to safer countries. We call upon UNHCR and the international community to strengthen their efforts in facilitating timely and effective resettlement processes, ensuring that those in danger are provided with the protection and support they desperately need.

We must ask ourselves: Will we allow an entire population to suffer because of the actions of their rulers?

Madam President,

The world cannot look away. The Security Council must act with urgency and resolve. I call upon this body to:

1. Strengthen accountability mechanisms—including supporting the ICC's investigation into Taliban crimes.
2. Ensure humanitarian aid reaches those in need while preventing Taliban manipulation of resources.
3. Demand the immediate reversal of restrictions on women and impose targeted consequences for Taliban leaders refusing to comply.
4. Strengthen regional and international coordination to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a hub for extremism.
5. Maintain pressure on the Taliban through diplomatic, economic, and security measures—engagement must be principled and conditional on respect for human rights, international obligations and inclusivity.
6. And lastly, without addressing the political stalemate in Afghanistan, there will be no lasting peace, stability, and prosperity. Hence, there is a need for a comprehensive and inclusive political process backed by the UN to develop a roadmap based on the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's Independent Assessment Report and inclusive process with all Afghans. Any process or dialogue with the Taliban without the engagement of all Afghan stakeholders is a repetition of failed past experiences and will not ensure a legitimate outcome.

Madam President,

As the Council adopts the extension of UNAMA's mandate, we express our full support for a stronger, impartial, and transparent UNAMA to ensure its full and effective implementation for the benefit of all Afghan people.

The Afghan people—especially women, journalists, human rights defenders, and former security forces now living in fear—deserve more than words. They deserve action.

The credibility of the United Nations, this Council, and UNAMA depends on it.

Let history not say that we watched, debated, and did nothing. Let it say that we stood up for justice, dignity, and human rights – as called for in the Charter of this noble organization!

Thank you.