



Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations

STATEMENT

BY

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Madam President,

I congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Council and thank you for convening today's important meeting, and for the joint statement issued earlier. As this is the last meeting for the outgoing members of the Council on Afghanistan, we would like to express our appreciation for their leadership of all those members, particularly Slovenia, the Republic of Korea, and Guyana, for your continued support and principled position to the people of Afghanistan. I also thank DSRSG Ms. Gagnon of UNAMA, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Fletcher, and the civil society briefer, Ms. Yari for their very compelling presentations.

We are grateful to all previous speakers for their expressions of support with the Afghan people, particularly Afghan women and girls. We also thank donors, humanitarian partners, NGOs, UN agencies, and the frontline humanitarian personnel for continuing to provide life-saving support under extraordinarily difficult circumstances.

Madam President,

Nearly five years have passed since the Taliban's takeover. In this period, and despite repeated appeals from Afghan people and the consistent calls of this Council, the Taliban's policies have not changed. Instead, Afghanistan has descended further into a crisis defined by institutional repression, economic collapse, acute humanitarian need, forced displacement, shrinking civic space, and rising regional tensions.

The Secretary-General's report confirms what Afghans endure daily: deliberate and systematic violations of fundamental rights. Public executions, corporal punishments, arbitrary detentions, media censorship, and extrajudicial killings continue without accountability. Space for civil liberties continue to shrink drastically, and access to information including the internet is increasingly restricted.

But it is the women and girls of Afghanistan who face the most extreme persecution and systematic discrimination. Afghanistan remains the only country in the world where girls are banned from secondary and higher education, where women are barred from most forms of employment, and where even female UN staff cannot carry out their duties. The banning of books written by women, the exclusion of female students from medical education, and the prohibition on training future female medical professionals have already generated serious consequences, and their long-term impact will be devastating, especially for maternal health, women's access to healthcare, and the country's human capital.

Esteemed Members of the Council,

These policies are not rooted in Afghan culture, Islamic values, or social tradition. They are deliberate decisions taken by the Taliban which amount to gender persecution on a scale that constitute crimes against humanity. These are violations that take lives, erase identities, deprive half of the population of their dignity and existence and ultimately pose a serious danger to the future of a nation.

Madam President,

Afghanistan faces a profound humanitarian emergency. More than 23 million Afghans require assistance. Poverty, unemployment, drought, food insecurity, and Taliban-imposed restrictions on livelihoods have deepened the level and scope of suffering. Yet humanitarian funding continues to decline.

In 2025, over 2.5 million Afghans have been forced to return from Pakistan and Iran. These mass returns disproportionately affect women, girls, and minorities, many of whom are sent back to areas where they face persecution, insecurity, or lack of shelter and basic services. We call on neighboring states, particularly Pakistan and Iran, to uphold, in the spirit of brotherhood, the principle of non-refoulement and ensure that any return occurs voluntarily, safely, and with dignity.

Madam President,

The security environment remains volatile and increasingly alarming. UN Monitoring Team's reports indicate that terrorist groups, including foreign terrorist fighters and organizations affiliated with Al-Qaida, ISIL continue to operate, recruit, and train inside Afghanistan. The proliferation of extremist madrasas further endangers Afghan youth and regional stability. This validates what has been often stated: that an unstable Afghanistan will have dangerous security implications regionally and globally.

On the other hand, recent escalations between the Taliban and Pakistan, including shellings and airstrikes, have resulted in over 503 civilian casualties, including women and children inside their homes. We strongly condemn any targeting of civilians, whether committed by terrorist groups or carried out under the pretext of counterterrorism.

For over four decades, Afghanistan has been a frontline victim of terrorism sustained by regional dynamics and cross-border sanctuaries. Genuine, coordinated, and non-selective counterterrorism efforts are essential to address these root causes and ensure Afghanistan is never again used for proxy violence.

Madam President,

The key question now is how to proceed forward to move towards the path of progress? The Taliban have failed to adhere to the commitments they undertook in the Doha Agreement, endorsed by Security Council Resolution 2513 (2020), including counterterrorism, respect for human rights and pursuit of political process, none which have been implemented. These commitments must be upheld, and the Taliban must be held accountable for non-compliance.

After nearly five years, there is no political roadmap, no institutional reform, and no credible intra-Afghan dialogue.

Instead of inclusion, exclusion has intensified.

Instead of reconciliation, repression has deepened.

Instead of legitimacy, unilateral control persists.

Afghanistan cannot stabilize through isolation, coercion, or imposed authority. Humanitarian aid alone cannot sustain a nation. Sustainable development, economic recovery, and lasting peace require legitimate and accountable governance grounded in respect for national and international obligations, conditions that Afghanistan currently lacks.

The independent assessment mandated by this Council provides a principled pathway. It calls for:

- A coherent international strategy;
- Clear political benchmarks tied to progress;
- Appointment of a Special Envoy; and
- Launch of an inclusive political process reflective of Afghanistan's diversity and the will of its people.

We call on the Council to reach the consensus that is needed to address these outstanding issues. Moreover, the very source of Afghanistan's crisis remains political. And the solution can be an inclusive, representative government that ensures Afghanistan's political stability and national unity.

The international community must use the leverage in its possession to influence the Taliban's decision on accepting political dialogue and negotiations with a cross-section of Afghan democratic forces for a settlement resulting in an inclusive and legitimate government that is based on the will of the people. Such a political process under UN supervision will mark a breakthrough in the current impasse.

The Doha platform must no longer remain symbolic or serve as a tacit endorsement of unilateral rule. It must become the mechanism through which a credible political process begins with all Afghan credible representatives, including the Taliban, women, civil society, and youth, meaningfully engaged. This is what the people of Afghanistan expect and await.

Madam President,

UNAMA's role is indispensable not only for humanitarian operations and monitoring, but also for facilitating structured political dialogue. Appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General with deep knowledge of Afghanistan and unwavering commitment to human rights and the principles of the UN Charter is essential.

We welcome the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and the establishment of an independent investigative mechanism, as their continued work is crucial for documenting violations and advancing accountability, and we call for adequate funding to ensure these mandates can be implemented effectively.

Madam President, Distinguished Delegates,

Afghanistan stands at a defining moment. Its people suffered from decades of imposed conflicts and especially its women have endured systemic exclusion, economic hardship, fear, and displacement. Yet they continue to show remarkable resilience, courage, and hope.

They ask only for principled international support: support for their rights, their voice, and their rightful place in their own country and within the international community.

For that future to remain possible, this Council can and should act with unity, coherence, and urgency.

We therefore present the following priority actions:

1. Hold the Taliban accountable for measurable commitments under the Doha Agreement and the UNSC resolutions.
2. Adopt a coordinated and benchmark-based international engagement framework.
3. Support an inclusive intra-Afghan negotiation process leading to legitimate governance.
4. Place the rights of women and girls at the center of all engagement.
5. Sustain humanitarian support at adequate and predictable levels.
6. Pursue accountability for grave violations, including gender-based persecution.
7. Ensure counterterrorism efforts are lawful, consistent, and non-selective.

Madam President,

A stable Afghanistan requires legitimate and representative governance, full respect for fundamental rights, effective regional cooperation, and reintegration into the international community. It is our shared responsibility to ensure that the path toward such a future remains open. The people of Afghanistan have not abandoned hope; the international community must not abandon them.

Thank you.