



Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations

STATEMENT

BY

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Security Council Meeting on the Situation in Afghanistan

Adoption of UNAMA's Mandate

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Madam President,

It is always great to see women leaders in decision-making and leading at the UN. We thank the members of the Security Council for the unanimous adoption of this resolution extending the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) for another year. We also express our appreciation to the Peoples Republic of China, as penholder, for its leadership and efforts in facilitating consensus on this important resolution.

At a time when Afghanistan continues to face a multidimensional political, humanitarian, economic, and human rights crisis, the continued presence of the United Nations remains indispensable. UNAMA plays a vital role in promoting peace and stability, facilitating political dialogue, coordinating humanitarian assistance, monitoring and reporting human rights, and maintaining international attention on the plight of the people of Afghanistan. The adoption of this resolution comes as the human rights situation in Afghanistan continues to deteriorate.

Just days ago, on 6 and 7 June, the Taliban's so-called morality police arbitrarily detained dozens of women and girls in Herat because of their appearance and dress. When residents peacefully protested these arrests, Taliban forces responded with live fire, resulting in civilian casualties, including the death of a woman and a child. Following that, the Taliban have stepped up the interrogation, detention, and imprisonment of social activists and social media users across the province. UNAMA described the arrests as arbitrary, while the UN Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan expressed alarm over the reported use of force against peaceful protesters.

These events are not isolated incidents. They reflect a broader pattern of systematic discrimination, repression, and exclusion that has, for nearly five years, sought to erase women and girls from public life and deny them access to education, employment, freedom of movement, and meaningful participation in society. The Taliban leader's recently issued ban on smartphones across government institutions, alongside broader controls on information and communication, is aimed at suppressing dissent, concealing abuses, and isolating the Afghan people further.

We therefore welcome the Council's strong emphasis on the protection and promotion of human rights, particularly the rights of women and girls and the reference to UNSC resolution 1325, and its call for the reversal of policies and practices that are inconsistent with Afghanistan's international human rights obligations as well as to Islamic values and Afghanistan's traditions.

We also welcome the resolution's emphasis on inclusive, representative, participatory, and responsive governance. Sustainable peace and stability cannot be achieved through exclusion. A durable political solution requires the meaningful participation of all Afghans — women and men, diverse ethnic and religious communities, youth, civil society, political actors, and persons with disabilities.

In this regard, we encourage UNAMA to continue implementing its mandate fully and impartially, with particular attention to facilitating political dialogue and engagement with all credible Afghan stakeholders, both inside and outside the country.

We also underscore the importance of implementing Security Council Resolution 2721 and advancing a credible, inclusive, Afghan-owned political process that leads to a legitimate, representative, and accountable political order. In this context, the timely appointment of a highly qualified Special Representative of the Secretary-General will be essential. We also welcome the resolution's request for a strategic review of UNAMA and look forward to recommendations that further strengthen the Mission's effectiveness and coherence.

We further welcome the resolution's support for humanitarian assistance, socioeconomic development, regional cooperation, and dialogue between all Afghan stakeholders and the international community. While these efforts remain essential, they should continue to be pursued alongside UNAMA's political and human rights responsibilities. Afghanistan also continues to face serious security challenges. The continued presence of terrorist groups on Afghan soil remains a matter of concern for Afghanistan and for regional and international peace and security. We therefore welcome the continued attention given to counterterrorism efforts and cooperation with the Security Council's Monitoring Team.

Madam President,

As UNAMA enters another year of its mandate, we encourage the Mission to continue its vital work with impartiality, professionalism, and determination. We particularly value its role in monitoring and reporting on human rights, supporting humanitarian operations, facilitating inclusive political dialogue, and advancing international efforts aimed at peace, stability, and the well-being of the people of Afghanistan.

The people of Afghanistan continue to look to the United Nations as a trusted partner and a source of hope during one of the most difficult periods in our contemporary history. We urge the international community to remain united and principled in its engagement with Afghanistan. Efforts to address the country's challenges must remain firmly anchored in respect for human rights, the meaningful participation of women, the fight against terrorism, and the pursuit of an inclusive, representative, and legitimate political future. The Council's unity in support of a strong UNAMA mandate sends an important message. The people of Afghanistan deserve protection, dignity, accountability, and a future defined by rights, opportunity, and hope rather than fear and repression.

In closing, we express our appreciation to the members of the Security Council, the Secretary-General, UNAMA leadership, and all United Nations personnel serving under extremely difficult circumstances. Their work remains essential, and their safety, freedom of movement, and unhindered access throughout Afghanistan, including for Afghan women staff, must be fully respected. Thank you.