

**Closing Remarks**  
**H.E. Mr. Naseer Ahmad Faiq**  
**Chargé d’Affaires**  
**Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations**  
**Event: Afghan Youth Perspectives on the Future of the United Nations in**  
**Afghanistan**

**German Mission to the United Nations, New York**

**15 June 2026**

**Distinguished colleagues,**  
**Dear young Afghan leaders,**

As we conclude today's discussion, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the German Mission and Afghans for Progressive Thinking for organizing this important event, and to all the remarkable young Afghans who shared their experiences, ideas, artwork, and recommendations with us today.

What we heard today was not simply a discussion about challenges. It was a powerful reminder of the resilience, courage, and determination of Afghanistan's young generation.

For nearly five years, Afghan youth, especially young women and girls, have faced unprecedented restrictions on their rights, opportunities, and aspirations. Yet despite these obstacles, they continue to learn, create, advocate, organize, and dream of a better future for their country.

The stories and perspectives shared today carry an important message: Afghan youth do not want to be seen merely as victims of circumstances. They want to be recognized as partners in shaping Afghanistan's future.

The future of Afghanistan cannot be built without its youth. More than two-thirds of Afghanistan's population is young. Excluding them from decisions about their country's future is not only unjust, it is unsustainable.

Today's discussions also remind us that the international community must do more than listen. Listening is important, but it must be accompanied by meaningful action.

Afghan youth, particularly young women, must have a seat at the table whenever decisions are made about Afghanistan. Their voices, expertise, and lived experiences are essential for any credible political process and for any sustainable path toward peace, stability, and development.

The United Nations has an important role to play in this regard. We hope to see continued support for education, human rights, civic engagement, and meaningful youth participation. We also hope that the recommendations presented today will inform future discussions within the United Nations and among Member States.

To the young Afghans joining us today, whether here in New York, elsewhere in the diaspora, or inside Afghanistan, I want to say this:

Your voices matter.

Your ideas matter.

Your future matters.

Many of you continue to demonstrate extraordinary courage under extraordinarily difficult circumstances. Your determination to pursue education, defend human rights, and remain engaged in shaping your country's future gives hope not only to Afghanistan, but to all those who believe in dignity, justice, and human potential.

Afghanistan's future will ultimately belong to its people, and especially to its young generation. No restriction can permanently extinguish the aspirations of millions of young Afghans who seek opportunity, freedom, and a better future.

Let us leave today committed not only to standing with Afghan youth, but to working alongside them.

Thank you.