



Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations

STATEMENT

BY

H.E. Mr. Naseer Ahmad FAIQ

Chargé d'Affaires of Afghanistan Mission to the United Nations

Security Council Meeting on the Situation in Afghanistan

8 June 2026

NEW YORK

(Please check against delivery)

Madam President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate Colombia on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council and to wish you and your team every success this month.

We thank Ms. Georgette Gagnon, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and Ms. Edem, Wosomu, Director of Crisis Response Division for Humanitarian Affairs, for their sobering briefings, and Ms. Metra Mehran, Founder of Afghanistan Justice Archive, for bringing the voices of Afghan women into this Chamber. We also thank the Council members and previous speakers for their continued solidarity and support for the Afghan people.

Madam President,

Today, I want to share the perspective of ordinary people of Afghanistan - the deep concerns, frustrations, and aspirations they convey to us every day from inside the country.

Nearly five years after the Taliban's military takeover, Afghanistan remains trapped in a deep political, economic, social, and human rights crisis. The facts are clear and well-documented. The real question before this Council is whether this situation is sustainable, and whether the international community is prepared to move beyond managing the consequences of the crisis toward addressing the root causes in the interest of the Afghan people and the international community.

Allow me to highlight five realities that cannot be ignored, and five suggestions or imperatives that should guide our collective response.

First: Afghanistan faces a profound human and social crisis.

Twenty-two million Afghans - two-thirds of the population - remain dependent on urgent humanitarian assistance. Poverty and unemployment are widespread, economic opportunities are shrinking, and an entire generation of young Afghans and women no longer see a future for themselves in their own country. The loss of human capital, deepening poverty, rising forced and early marriages, psychological distress, and growing criminality are clear signs of a society breaking under the weight of exclusion and injustice.

The Imperative:

Afghanistan needs a national vision focused on job creation, standard and modern education, and human development. The country cannot move forward while excluding large segments of its population from contributing to its future. And most importantly, this vision requires a political horizon that leads to broad-based, legitimate and representative government that provides the foundation for long-term stability.

Second: and that in that context, The Taliban governance has failed the people of Afghanistan.

A model of governance designed by the Taliban and exclusively for the Taliban, has no accountability to the people it claims to govern. Corruption, the abuse of power, and the concentration of wealth within a narrow circle are well-documented. Meanwhile, Afghanistan's mineral wealth is extracted without transparency or public oversight. The Taliban have consistently ignored both the demands of the people of Afghanistan and the repeated appeals of the international community.

The Imperative:

Afghanistan needs a legitimate, accountable, and law-based system of governance that derives its authority from the consent of its people and uses national resources for the benefit of all citizens.

Third: Systematic exclusion and discrimination have pushed Afghanistan further into isolation.

This year marks the five consecutive years in which Afghan girls have been denied access to secondary and higher education. Women have been removed from public life, civil society spaces have been restricted, and independent media has been subjected to censorship. The Taliban have further codified this discrimination through laws that restrict accountability for domestic violence and permit child marriage under the guise of "silent consent."

These are not temporary measures; these are deliberate and systematic efforts to exclude half of society from public life - an approach that has absolutely no basis in the true principles of Islam or in Afghanistan's own history and traditions. We remain deeply concerned by continued and verified reports of arbitrary detention, torture, sexual violence, forced marriages, targeted reprisals, and other serious human rights violations, particularly against women and girls, human rights defenders, former security forces, and media personnel.

The Imperative:

Besides the UN, EU, and regional organizations, Islamic countries and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) must play a more active role in making clear to the Taliban that these draconian policies not only pose a threat to the future of Afghanistan but also harm the image of Islam worldwide. The re-opening of schools and universities to girls must remain a non-negotiable priority for the international community as a whole. Additionally, monitoring, reporting and accountability mechanisms should be strengthened and used effectively to end the impunity.

Fourth: Normalizing the current situation serves neither the people of Afghanistan nor international peace and security.

Engagement without tangible results and concessions without behavioral change have not improved governance, human rights, or political inclusion. Normalizing systematic exclusion

and political repression will not bring stability. Mixed messages and contradictory approaches have only prolonged the current impasse and emboldened the Taliban.

The Imperative:

The Security Council needs a stronger, more unified and coherent approach. The message must be clear and consistent: there is no path toward legitimacy or Afghanistan's reintegration into the international community without full respect for human rights, women's rights, inclusive governance, and international obligations.

Fifth: The rise of insecurity and the risk of Afghanistan again becoming a platform for extremism and terrorism.

The absence of war should not be mistaken for the presence of genuine peace. True peace exists when girls and boys have equal access to quality education, when women can participate fully and meaningfully in society, and when all citizens enjoy their fundamental rights and freedoms without intimidation and prejudice and not forced to armed resistance. The targeted killings of members of the Shia and Hazara communities in public places, including the Injil district of Herat Province, alongside the unexplained deaths of civilians, hostage taking, and a female UN staff member, do not reflect genuine peace and security in Afghanistan.

Furthermore, the continued expansion of jihadi madrassas and the persistent presence of international terrorist groups, as confirmed by successive UN reports, raise serious concerns for the people of Afghanistan, the region, and the international community. The Taliban's policies and continued links with terrorist groups have endangered the people of Afghanistan in the past and continue to do so today. But this also presents a threat to regional and international peace and security. And we hope this issue receives the attention it warrants by this Council.

The recent escalation of hostilities between Pakistan and the Taliban has added a dangerous new dimension to this crisis and resulted in significant civilian casualties. Particularly alarming was the reported strike on the Omid Drug Rehabilitation Hospital in Kabul, a civilian medical facility, where UNAMA verified at least 269 people killed and 122 injured. We strongly condemn all attacks that result in civilian harm, the destruction of critical infrastructure, and violations of Afghanistan's territorial integrity. We ask this Council to condemn and prevent such attacks. No security concern, however legitimate, can justify actions that place civilians at risk or undermine the principles of the United Nations Charter and international humanitarian law.

Afghanistan has long been a victim of terrorism, and its people have suffered immensely from its devastating consequences. We therefore also strongly condemn all terrorist attacks in Pakistan and elsewhere and reaffirm the need for collective efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations everywhere.

The Imperative:

The international community and regional countries must adopt a comprehensive, coordinated, and principled strategy to address terrorism, violent extremism, and narcotics trafficking. Such threats can only be addressed sustainably through the establishment of a legitimate, inclusive, representative, and accountable government that is committed to upholding its national and international obligations and ensuring that Afghanistan never again becomes a source of instability and insecurity for its people, the region, or the wider world.

Madam President,

All of these realities point to one unavoidable conclusion: at its core, Afghanistan's crisis remains a complex political crisis. Humanitarian and economic assistance remain essential to alleviating suffering, but they cannot substitute for a durable and sustainable political solution. Without a credible political process, we risk pushing Afghanistan towards a civil war. We continue to support the central role of the United Nations, the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2721, and efforts to advance a credible, inclusive, and Afghan-owned political process that leads to a legitimate, representative, and accountable political order.

In this regard, the role of UNAMA remains crucial in facilitating such a process in accordance to its mandate and ensuring the meaningful participation of all credible and relevant stakeholders. As negotiations on the renewal of UNAMA's mandate continue, we reiterate our support for preserving a strong, balanced, and effective mandate. We also emphasize the importance of the timely appointment of a highly qualified Special Representative of the Secretary-General who possesses deep knowledge of Afghanistan, is firmly committed to impartiality, human rights, and conflict resolution, and is capable of advancing a comprehensive political process aimed at achieving lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Madam President,

In conclusion, we call on the Security Council to maintain a strong, unified, and consistent position: there is no path to legitimacy, stability, or reintegration without respect for human rights, inclusive governance, and international law. Engagement with the Taliban should be principled and conditioned on measurable and verifiable progress. All stakeholders and especially Islamic countries and the OIC have a unique responsibility to make that message heard in Kabul. Accountability mechanisms should be used to end impunity. And effective action against terrorism and extremism ultimately requires a government in Afghanistan that is legitimate and accountable to its people and to the world.

The people of Afghanistan are not the cause of this crisis; they are its victims. They want a country where girls can go to school, where young people can look to the future with hope, where women can work and live freely, and where government derives its legitimacy from the will of its people. Helping them achieve that future should remain our shared responsibility. Thank you.