



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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(Please check against delivery)

Madam President,

Thank you for convening this important meeting on the situation in Afghanistan. We commend your excellent leadership of the Council throughout the month of June.

We also thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Roza Otunbayeva, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Joyce Msuya, and UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous, for their compelling and informative briefings.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the members of the Council, regional and international partners, UN funds and programs, NGOs, and donor countries for their continued, consistent, and principled support to the people of Afghanistan—particularly in addressing the dire situation of women and girls, including refugees and returnees, and for their efforts in meeting urgent humanitarian and basic needs.

Madam President,

Nearly four years since the Taliban's return to power, under a non-inclusive, repressive and non-legitimate regime, the people of Afghanistan - amid despair and uncertainty- continue to endure one of the world's most severe human rights and humanitarian crises. The absence of formal conflict should not obscure the gravity of the suffering on the ground. The population lives under deepening repression, widespread poverty, and the systematic dismantling of rights—especially for women and girls.

The latest report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan confirms that since August 2021 the Taliban have institutionalized systemic, gender-based discrimination, excluding women and girls from public life and dismantling the legal and civil institutions that once protected their rights.

The Secretary-General's report further underscores the devastating impact of the Taliban's so-called Law on the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, which has entrenched a framework of authoritarian control across all sectors of Afghan society. This law not only restricts fundamental freedoms—of movement, expression, and belief—but has effectively criminalized everyday life, especially for women. Afghan women are denied access to education, barred from employment in most sectors, and excluded from all public and political spaces. Their freedom of movement is curtailed, their voices silenced, and their presence erased from society.

Afghanistan remains the **only country in the world where girls are banned from secondary and higher education**. Four academic years have now passed with no pathway forward for Afghan girls. This is a moral and strategic failure that cannot be normalized. The future of Afghanistan cannot be built while half its population is locked out of learning, decision-making, and opportunity.

These egregious violations stand in stark contradiction to Afghanistan's national interest and demand urgent action from the international community. This includes exerting pressure on the Taliban to reverse their discriminatory policies through existing tools and accountability mechanisms—such as CEDAW, the implementation of relevant UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, and the imposition of targeted sanctions. Moreover, recognizing and codifying gender apartheid as a crime under international law is essential to ensuring justice, accountability, and the protection of women's rights in Afghanistan and beyond.

Madam President,

The United Nations has rightly acknowledged that political progress and inclusive governance are indispensable for Afghanistan's future. In this context, we welcome the renewed efforts under the United Nations in support of a comprehensive approach, based on the recommendations of the Independent Assessment mandated by this Council. In this context, we take note of the Mosaic Approach draft concept note. However, serious concerns remain.

The draft Mosaic Approach, as it stands, lacks **genuine Afghan ownership**. Afghan democratic forces, political actors, civil society, women's organizations, and youth representatives have not been meaningfully consulted in its development. The process has been perceived by many as top-down and non-participatory, undermining its credibility and legitimacy.

If the proposed draft Mosaic Framework is to serve as a pathway toward national reconciliation and international reintegration, it must be transformed into an **inclusive, transparent, and accountable process**. The people of Afghanistan—those who have long defended democracy, human rights, and pluralism—must be at the center of this effort, not relegated to the margins.

We are also concerned about the **imbalance in expectations**. The Taliban's demands—such as formal recognition, unfreezing of assets, and sanction relief—are clear and time-bound. In contrast, the international community's expectations on human rights, inclusivity, and governance are vague, non-conditional, and lack enforceable benchmarks. This asymmetry risks normalization of Taliban rule without meaningful reform or accountability.

We therefore urge the United Nations and all stakeholders to adopt the following principles in any future deliberations:

- **Ensure a participatory and inclusive process**, including through establishing a well-defined and structured platform that reflects the collective voice of non-Taliban Afghan stakeholders, empowering them to shape both content and direction of political dialogue.
- **Elevate Afghan women and civil society** as core actors in all working groups and decision-making structures—not as symbolic participants but as full partners.
- **Define clear, measurable, and time-bound benchmarks** for Taliban compliance, linked to conditional international engagement.

- **Prioritize the political process and inclusive governance** as the central enabler of peace, stability, and international reintegration. The UN must facilitate a broader intra-Afghan dialogue that includes credible non-Taliban democratic actors, opposition groups, civil society organizations, including women-led initiatives, and youth representatives.
- **Appoint a UN Special Envoy** to coordinate inclusive intra-Afghan dialogue and unify international efforts under UN auspices.

Madam President,

Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis is deeply concerning. As the Assistant Secretary-General reported, over **22 million Afghans need life-saving assistance**. Yet funding shortfalls have forced health facilities to close, food assistance to scale down, and protection services to disappear. The impact on women and girls is especially severe, with aid operations unable to hire or reach them due to Taliban restrictions.

We must not allow a funding crisis to compound an already man-made political and human rights catastrophe. We urge all donors to urgently step up and ensure that humanitarian aid remains principled, predictable, and gender-responsive.

The situation of Afghan refugees in neighboring countries is worsening, marked by uncertainty and forced deportations. Returnees face severe hardship, lacking identity documents and access to basic services. Urgent international action is needed to uphold their rights, dignity, and protection.

Madam President,

The Taliban continue to govern without inclusion, legitimacy, or respect for the Afghan people's will. Reports of **public executions, arbitrary arrests, extrajudicial killings, and torture** are profoundly disturbing and run contrary to all international norms and obligations. The Taliban's suppression of media freedom, closure of civic space, and refusal to honor their own amnesty for former government personnel is a further breach of trust.

There are also grave concerns about the growing threats posed by terrorism. As highlighted in the latest report of the UN Monitoring Team, more than two dozen terrorist groups are now operating within Afghanistan. The alarming proliferation of so-called *jihadi* madrasas across the country exacerbates these risks—serving as breeding grounds for radicalization and recruitment. These developments continue to fuel instability within Afghanistan and pose a serious threat to regional and international peace and security.

Afghanistan's reintegration into the international community cannot proceed under a regime that systematically violates international law, marginalizes its citizens, and obstructs all paths to a peaceful political resolution. There must be no impunity for these grave violations. We therefore call for the activation of appropriate international accountability mechanisms, including the

International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ), to address crimes under international law—particularly gender persecution and other serious human rights abuses.

In conclusion, we urge this Council to act with urgency and resolve. The future of Afghanistan must not be dictated by force, exclusion, or fear. It must be shaped through **inclusive dialogue**, **genuine accountability**, and a shared commitment to the **rights, dignity, and aspirations of all Afghans**—especially the women and girls who have borne the brunt of this crisis.

The United Nations has a pivotal role to play. But that role must be principled, not permissive; inclusive, not imposed; and grounded in the values that brought this Organization into being: peace, justice, and human rights for all.

Thank you.