



Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations

STATEMENT

BY

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Madam President,

Let me begin by thanking Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, for her comprehensive briefing on behalf of the UN Secretary-General regarding the recent Doha Conference and consultations on the appointment of the Special Envoy.

I also express gratitude to the members of the Council for their ongoing commitment to ensuring peace, stability, and prosperity in Afghanistan. We are especially grateful to all who have reaffirmed their support for the people of Afghanistan, emphasizing inclusivity, respect, and the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of all Afghan citizens, particularly women and girls, and minority groups.

Madam President,

As Afghanistan's social, political, economic, and humanitarian challenges deepen, the need for united and immediate action by the UN and this Council have been vital. We are grateful for the UN Secretary-General's efforts to increased international attention to Afghanistan and welcome the recent meeting of special envoys on Afghanistan in Doha.

The people of Afghanistan expect the meeting to be the start of a new phase of the international community's support of our efforts to achieve real peace in an inclusive, united and democratic Afghanistan. The non-participation of the Taliban in this conference once again showed that the Taliban ignore the interests of the Afghan people and prioritize their own interests. The presence of civil society, including women representatives was an important part of the meeting. And we thank the UN for its principled position in ensuring the presence of civil society and democratic voices would not be compromised. The participation of such groups should remain a priority in all future discussions on Afghanistan.

We also hope that discussions in the upcoming UN meetings lead to a renewed approach that aligns with the longstanding desires of the Afghan people. This approach must acknowledge a clear reality: the current status quo of unilateral rule, systematic human rights violations—particularly against women and girls—and disregard for the people's demands on political and social issues are in direct conflict with the shared values and objectives of both the Afghan people and international community.

We stress that in any future international measures or engagements with the Taliban, Afghanistan's international obligations on counterterrorism, human rights, especially women's and girls' rights, must be retained as a conditionality component.

We have emphasized that lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan is only possible through an inclusive, representative, and broad-based system, resulting from national dialogue and which is able to reflect the will and aspirations of all Afghans. The experience of the past two and a half

years affirms that this perspective holds true as ever and should now be the guiding principle for the international community's efforts in the way forward.

What is now needed is to build international consensus through adoption of a "roadmap" or an "action-plan" with defined objectives and specific timelines. Hence, outreach with all Afghan and international stakeholders shall begin through the proposed implementation mechanisms, including the Special Envoy and Contact Group, after such a "roadmap" or "action-plan" is adopted.

It is essential that all future meetings ensure inclusivity and balanced representation of all relevant Afghan groups, including representatives from women, civil society, diplomats and other democratic forces and movements. Taliban are only one internal stakeholder and do not represent the people of Afghanistan.

Madam President,

We have welcomed the recommendation to appoint a Special Envoy by the UN Secretary-General in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 2721 (2023) for Afghanistan with focus on ensuring a more effective international engagement on Afghanistan, through stronger international consensus, and help start intra-Afghan dialogue with support and cooperation from all relevant national and international stakeholders to achieve a secure, stable, prosperous, representative and inclusive Afghanistan that is fully committed to respecting its obligations under international conventions.

The special envoy's role is critical to ensuring a more integrated international approach for engagement through advancing dialogue and diplomacy. To realize this common goal, it is vital to consider past experiences and lessons learned from the work of previous special envoys for Afghanistan since 1980s in selecting a special envoy that is capable, trusted and able to carry out this important but challenging task successfully.

The selection process should take into consideration factors such as leadership, personality, diplomatic skills, and the relevant experience of the Special Envoy. These traits are among the characteristics required to ensure optimal output and progress during outreach and dialogue with regional and international stakeholders, as well as resisting pushbacks that arise during communication with the Taliban.

Expertise, including with respect to human rights issues, and a solid background in diplomacy and conflict resolution, particularly concerning Afghanistan and the surrounding region are other issue that require consideration.

The outcome the independent assessment concluded that lack of a sufficient focus on start of political process, through intra-Afghan dialogue, was a key element missing in international efforts thus far on Afghanistan.

Thus, the Special Envoy should pursue the start of a result-oriented political process as a matter of priority. Increased and sustained engagement with democratic/non-Taliban groups aimed at consensus and convergence within the group in preparation for direct talks with the Taliban shall be an integral part of the Special Envoy's outreach effort with Afghan stakeholders.

The paramount importance lies in his/her unwavering dedication and conviction towards universal values and principles, encompassing human rights, freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

The Special Envoy must be perceived as unbiased and committed to promoting the best interests of the Afghan people, free from external influences. The utmost priority should be given to integrity and impartiality.

Madam President,

In conclusion, I emphasize that the end state objective of achieving a peaceful Afghanistan, fully reintegrated into the international community, can only be realized through national legitimacy and a more constructive international engagement. This approach is necessary to reverse the current negative trajectory and set Afghanistan on the path to stability. The way forward should be guided by the will and interests of the Afghan people, along with a genuine spirit of international support and cooperation.