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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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Statement on the International Criminal Court's (ICC) Action to Pursue Justice for Afghan Women and Girls
New York, 23 January 2025

The Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations, on behalf of the people of Afghanistan, particularly our courageous women and girls, welcomes the International Criminal Court's (ICC) announcement regarding the pursuit of accountability for crimes against humanity committed by the Taliban leadership.

The ICC's decision to investigate and seek arrest warrants for the Taliban's Supreme Leader, Haibatullah Akhundzada, and the Chief Justice of the so-called "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan," Abdul Hakim Haqqani, on charges of gender-based persecution, marks a historic step toward justice. This decisive action affirms that the severe violations of fundamental rights endured by Afghan women and girls since August 15, 2021, cannot and will not be ignored.

Afghan women and girls have endured profound suffering—denied the rights to work and education, silenced, confined, and excluded from public life. Many have endured horrific violence, including imprisonment, torture, and sexual assault, as part of the Taliban's oppressive regime. These acts constitute persecution and other crimes under the Rome Statute, as highlighted by the ICC's findings.

We commend the ICC Prosecutor's Office for its rigorous, independent, and impartial investigation. This action sends a resounding message to the world: the suffering of Afghan women and girls is not forgotten, and their rights and dignity must be upheld. The Taliban's attempts to justify these crimes through distorted interpretations of religious principles hold no legitimacy under international law.

As a State Party to the Rome Statute, Afghanistan reaffirms its commitment to justice and accountability. We call on all States Parties and the international community to fully cooperate with the ICC, ensuring that those responsible for these heinous crimes are held to account.

The Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations stands firmly with Afghan women and girls in this fight for justice. We remain resolute in our commitment to uphold their rights, amplify their voices, and ensure that their suffering leads to meaningful and lasting accountability.

Justice will prevail. Afghan women and girls deserve no less.