



Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations

STATEMENT

BY

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Mr. Chair,

The promise of the 2030 Agenda must be measured by improvements in people's lives: freedom from poverty and hunger, access to education and healthcare, and opportunities for decent work. For Afghanistan, fulfilling that promise requires restoring rights, rebuilding livelihoods and addressing the barriers to sustainable recovery.

Five years after the Taliban's forcible takeover, Afghanistan faces overlapping economic, humanitarian and development crises. UNDP reports that 74 per cent of Afghans could not meet their basic subsistence needs in 2025. Modest economic growth has been insufficient to improve living standards or generate adequate employment. Young people face shrinking prospects, while qualified professionals are denied opportunities to contribute to their country's future.

The Taliban's exclusion of women and girls from education, employment and public life compounds these challenges. It deprives families of income, weakens essential services and erodes the human capital on which recovery depends. Afghanistan cannot achieve the Sustainable Development Goals while half its population is systematically excluded.

Furthermore, recurrent droughts, floods and water scarcity undermine agriculture and food security, while earthquakes compound already severe deprivation. UNICEF estimates that 11.6 million children require humanitarian assistance in 2026. Hunger, interrupted schooling and inadequate healthcare risk turning today's crisis into intergenerational poverty.

Mr. Chair,

Our response must address immediate needs while enabling people to rebuild their lives.

First, we call for predictable assistance that connects humanitarian relief with livelihoods, social protection and essential services, including for returnees and host communities. Investment in skills, small businesses, women's enterprises and decent employment can reduce dependence on aid.

Second, we urge accessible, grant-based development and climate finance to support climate-resilient agriculture, water management, renewable energy and resilient infrastructure in line with the Sendai Framework.

Third, as a least developed and landlocked developing country, Afghanistan calls for effective implementation of the Doha and Awaza Programmes of Action. Affordable transit, reliable regional connectivity and access to markets are essential.

Support for the Afghan people must not be held hostage to political deadlock. Equally, assistance cannot substitute for legitimate, inclusive, representative and accountable governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law are the foundations of lasting development.

I thank you.