Afghanistan marks 80 Years of Membership in the United Nations

On the eve of the anniversary, diplomats of Afghanistan reaffirm that the country's place at the United Nations belongs to its people, whose will must be reflected in legitimate, inclusive and accountable governance grounded in the rule of law and justice

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Issued jointly by the Permanent Missions of Afghanistan to **the United Nations in Geneva, New York and Vienna, and the former Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan to the United Nations and multilateral organizations** who took part in the commemoration.

On 18 November 2026, the eve of the 80th anniversary of Afghanistan's admission to the United Nations on 19 November 1946, the Permanent Missions of Afghanistan in Geneva, New York and Vienna convened an online commemorative event, *Afghanistan and the United Nations: Eight Decades of Engagement, Contributions and Lessons for the Future*.

The event brought together former Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan to the United Nations and multilateral organizations, who have represented the country in New York, Geneva and Vienna across successive periods of its history. They were joined by serving and former diplomats, representatives of the civil society of Afghanistan, scholars, students and other participants from inside Afghanistan and abroad.

Afghanistan is one of the earliest members of the United Nations. For eight decades it has contributed to multilateral diplomacy, and the United Nations has accompanied the people of Afghanistan through periods of political change, conflict and reconstruction, with support for peace, humanitarian assistance, development, human rights and democracy.

The event traced the history of Afghanistan's diplomatic engagement with the United Nation through archival images, landmark moments and excerpts from speeches by former ambassadors of Afghanistan.

During the session on Afghanistan's history at the United Nations, former Permanent Representatives reflected on the country's contributions across UN forums, the initiatives and partnerships in which its diplomats took part, and the contributions that deserve wider recognition.

Participants also examined the role of the United Nations in Afghanistan, its achievements and limitations, and the lessons that should guide future engagement, with attention to the service of the pioneering women among Afghanistan's diplomats and to the aspirations of the women and youth of Afghanistan.

The Missions and the participating former ambassadors jointly affirm that:
Afghanistan's place at the United Nations belongs to its people, whose will must be reflected in legitimate, inclusive and accountable governance, consistent with the principles of the UN Charter, international law and the conventions to which Afghanistan is a party.
This anniversary carries significance beyond commemoration. At a time when the Taliban's policies deny the people of Afghanistan their fundamental rights and freedoms, particularly those of women and girls, Afghanistan's international identity and commitments endure.

The rights and aspirations of the people of Afghanistan must remain central to international engagement. Any international engagement should support an Afghan-led, UN-facilitated political process towards legitimate, inclusive and accountable governance, with the full, equal and meaningful participation of representative Afghan voices, including women, youth, civil society and ethnic and religious minorities. Engagement must uphold the rights of the Afghan people and avoid normalizing the exclusion of women and girls and others from public life. The United Nations should address the current crisis more effectively.
The continued exclusion of Afghan women from their workplaces within United Nations premises in Afghanistan is particularly troubling. Since September 2025, Afghan women national staff have been prevented from entering UN offices in the country to perform their duties. This is not only a violation of their rights and dignity as professionals, but also undermines the principles of equality and non-discrimination that lie at the heart of the United Nations Charter. This situation demands clear and concerted action by the United Nations so that national women staff can return to their workplaces and resume their work without discrimination.

Openness, dialogue and cooperation remain central to Afghanistan's diplomatic identity, and the country's multilateral legacy should inform its future engagement with the world, including an Afghanistan at peace with itself and its neighbours.
For eighty years, Afghanistan has had a voice in the community of nations. That voice was built by generations of diplomats who represented the country, served its people and upheld international commitments, not any single government or ideology. On this anniversary we honour that legacy, and we reaffirm our commitment to carrying it forward in this spirit.

Call for reflections and contributions

To preserve institutional memory and leave a lasting public record, the Missions invite current and former diplomats, the people of Afghanistan and the wider public to contribute written reflections, recorded video or audio messages, photographs, articles and historical documents relating to Afghanistan's eight decades at the United Nations.
Contributions may be sent to **mission.afghanistan@bluewin.ch** or **info@afghanistan-un.org** by **10 December 2026**. With contributors' permission, selected materials will be compiled into a video and photo collection and published on the Missions' official websites and social media accounts, with contributors and sources acknowledged.