

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 14 September 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to the 8853rd meeting of the Security Council convened on 9 September 2021 under the item entitled “The situation in Afghanistan”. The interventions of the briefers and Council members as well as of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Turkey will be published as an official record of the Security Council ([S/PV.8853](#)).

In accordance with the understanding reached among Council members for the 8853rd meeting, the following delegations submitted written statements, copies of which are enclosed: Australia, the European Union, Germany, Indonesia, Italy and Japan. These statements will be issued as a document of the Security Council in accordance with the procedure set out in the letter dated 7 May 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council ([S/2020/372](#)), which was agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and reference to the document will be made in [S/PV.8853](#).

(Signed) Geraldine **Byrne Nason**  
President of the Security Council



**Annex I****Statement by the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, Mitch Fifield**

The people of Afghanistan are facing a looming humanitarian crisis. Our interests, and those of the international community, are best served by reinforcing regional stability. This includes through our humanitarian support mechanisms, with the effective distribution of aid to those who are in need. We must ensure that humanitarian assistance does not fund or contribute in any way to terrorist objectives.

Now, more than ever, we need to be working together and coordinating responses, in particular to ensure that women and girls continue to participate fully in public life, including through access to work and education. When women are fully included in decision-making, societies are more likely to prevent and resolve conflict. Women should have the opportunity to decide on policies and programmes that determine their safety and security.

Like many, we are now focused on those who remain in Afghanistan and those who want to leave. The international community needs to work together to establish protection and support to foreign citizens and to visa holders, to facilitate their leaving Afghanistan safely and freely, should they so wish. We call on the Taliban to uphold their promise of free passage.

We want to work with other nations on very clear and firm engagement with the Taliban regime, including ensuring that there are consequences for violations of the norms of international conduct. Counter-terrorism is a significant focus for Australia, deterring any transnational terrorism resurgence. A key component is to ensure that funding for terrorism is stifled. We are particularly concerned about any potential impacts in South-East Asia.

We will judge the Taliban by their actions, and we will work with you to require the Taliban to adhere to their commitments. The announcement of the interim regime is a very poor start. The new cabinet includes senior members of the Haqqani Network, well known for its criminal and terrorist activities; no members from the Hazara community, which comprises 20 per cent of the Afghan population; few from other ethnic minorities; and no women at all. This is in no way an inclusive government. Without such, Afghanistan will not be able to reach a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

As an international community, we need to hold the Taliban responsible for its actions, particularly for violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including specifically the rights of women and girls. This is vital to the stability of Afghanistan and the region.

We urge the Taliban to recognize that the only path to legitimacy is through constructive engagement in the political process and a fully inclusive, representational government. We urge the Taliban to recognize the benefits of a more inclusive government and society, where the gains made over the past 20 years are maintained and built upon, in line with international norms and standards.

Australia's Special Representative on Afghanistan will be leading Australia's diplomatic work from our embassy in Doha in Qatar, where Australia's interim admission to Afghanistan is currently located.

We commend the advocacy of the United Nations in obtaining guarantees from the Taliban authorities this week for continued humanitarian access to those Afghans most in need and for the safety and security of humanitarian staff, including for the critical work that will be delivered by female humanitarians. The role of the United Nations is more important than ever as Afghanistan faces a humanitarian crisis.

## Annex II

### Statement by the Head of Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Olof Skoog

The consequences of the violent takeover of power in Afghanistan by the Taliban are still materializing, but we are monitoring the developments closely.

The humanitarian situation of the Afghan people is reaching crisis proportions and needs urgent attention. The European Union has increased the humanitarian contributions almost fourfold, and the European Union member States are also increasing their contribution to the humanitarian efforts. To ensure that the assistance is delivered, we need the United Nations. The steadfast promise to “stay and deliver” is needed and deeply appreciated.

Afghanistan is facing an economic and governance crisis which will only get worse if a functioning system of governance is not established quickly. The announcement of a caretaker cabinet by the Taliban this week showed no intention to ensure the inclusion of other political stakeholders, minorities or, crucially, women.

The achievements from the past 20 years are under severe threat. This is not the time to disengage, but to continue our partnership with the people of Afghanistan, guided by our principles and values with the aim of assisting them.

The European Union will closely monitor the actions of the caretaker cabinet in Afghanistan, and our engagement will be based on the actions taken by the Taliban. At last week’s meeting, the European Union foreign ministers agreed on the following five benchmarks for engagement with the Taliban:

1. The commitment that Afghanistan will not serve as a base for the export of terrorism to other countries.
2. Respect for human rights, in particular women’s rights, the rule of law and freedom of the media.
3. The establishment of an inclusive and representative transitional government through negotiations.
4. Free access for humanitarian aid, respecting our procedures and conditions for its delivery.
5. Allowing the departure of foreign nationals and Afghans at risk who wish to leave the country in line with what was already decided by Security Council resolution [2593 \(2021\)](#).

In order to assess the actions of the Taliban, and to what extent the benchmarks are met, the European Union has initiated plans for a joint presence in Afghanistan, provided that the security conditions for such a presence can be established. In this regard, we note with concern reports of the violation of evacuated foreign embassies by the Taliban in Kabul.

The European Union will continue its operational engagement for the Afghan people, but this does not constitute political recognition of the Taliban or its caretaker government.

The political, humanitarian and economic consequences of the Taliban’s takeover of power will impact Afghanistan’s neighbours, our regional partners. The European Union will continue, and strengthen, our engagement and assistance to help create capacity to receive Afghans who are leaving, to prevent the spread of terrorism and to fight against organized crime, including drug and human trafficking. We do this in close cooperation with the United Nations.

The European Union will not abandon the Afghan people. We will continue to promote the principles and values that the State of Afghanistan itself has signed up to in international treaties and conventions. We expect these international commitments to be honoured and will hold those in power accountable for this.

The Taliban must now show that they are willing and able to establish meaningful relationships with the outside world, to conduct dialogue and to respect human rights. To give Afghanistan a safe and stable future, they must embrace the diversity of the people and engage in an inclusive form of governance and human rights, especially of minorities, women and children.

## Annex III

### Statement by the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations

As Afghanistan is entering into a new phase in its already difficult history, Germany is deeply concerned about the future of the country and reaffirms its solidarity with the people of Afghanistan. They will not be forgotten!

The Secretary-General, together with the Security Council in its resolution [2593 \(2021\)](#), sent clear and important messages with a view to the immediate and the next phase in Afghanistan. Germany echoes the calls for the utmost restraint, for safe, rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access, for an immediate end to violence, for the safety, security and rights of all Afghans to be respected and for adherence to Afghanistan's international obligations, in particular under international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

#### Fight against terrorism

Germany strongly condemns the attacks of 26 August 2021, near Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, for which responsibility was claimed by the Islamic State in Khorasan Province. Violence in Afghanistan must stop. Afghanistan must never again become a safe haven for terrorism or a source of terrorist attacks.

#### Humanitarian assistance and access

The Secretary-General warned that Afghanistan faces a looming humanitarian catastrophe. We thank him for convening a high-level ministerial meeting in Geneva on 13 September 2021 to address the growing humanitarian needs in the country. Germany calls on all parties to allow full, safe and unhindered humanitarian access for the United Nations, its implementing partners and all humanitarian actors to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches all those in need, with a particular focus on forthcoming winter season programmes.

The people in Afghanistan can continue to rely on our support and solidarity. Germany has provided emergency humanitarian assistance for many years and has been reacting in a swift, targeted and flexible manner by significantly increasing its humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries by €100 million. We plan to dedicate another €500 million, also partly for humanitarian assistance.

#### Human rights

We are deeply concerned about recent reports that human rights are severely restricted and that human rights violations occur throughout the country, in particular against women and girls. We stress the importance of adhering to the rule of law and of respecting and protecting the human rights and freedoms of all Afghans, including the rights of women, girls and ethnic and religious minorities.

#### Government

Our future engagement with and the legitimacy that we lend to any future Afghan Government will be assessed on the basis of its actions. The respect for its international obligations and commitments, in particular with regard to human rights, will play a key role. It is also essential to establish an inclusive and representative government which includes the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and all minority groups. The most recent announcements of the Taliban do raise serious questions. They do not meet the expectations of the international community. Nevertheless, we must maintain channels of communication with the Taliban in order

to achieve essential commitments with regard to humanitarian access, the secure operation of airports and the safe passage of Afghans who want to leave their country.

### **International cooperation**

The situation in Afghanistan is posing major challenges for the international community and for the neighbouring countries in particular. Foreign Minister Heiko Maas therefore travelled to Turkey, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan and Qatar last week and discussed the security and geopolitical impact of the latest developments.

The international community, including the countries in the region, must be united and speak with one voice in order to achieve stability and security in and around Afghanistan. Germany will continue its political and humanitarian engagement and strongly supports international efforts to support Afghanistan. All regional and international stakeholders should be involved. There is no alternative: international cooperation is crucial if we want to deal with the risks and challenges emanating from the new situation in Afghanistan.

### **United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan**

The international community will of course not be able to deliver on what is needed in Afghanistan and the region without the United Nations. We highly welcome the presence and further recommend an active role of the United Nations in Afghanistan and call on all members of the Security Council to send a strong signal of support by extending the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) now.

We share the penholders' assessment that, under the current circumstances, a rollover of the current UNAMA mandate, followed by a report of the Secretary-General, is the best way forward. The mandate should then be adapted in the light of the realities on the ground.

As facilitator of the resolution on Afghanistan in the General Assembly, Germany also stands ready to help when it comes to possible action in the Assembly. We intend to adapt the Assembly resolution on the situation in Afghanistan accordingly and in close cooperation with partners.

## Annex IV

### **Statement by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations, Mohammad K. Koba**

I thank all briefers for their insightful briefings.

Indonesia is closely following the situation in Afghanistan and calls on all parties to exercise restraint and ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

We also would like to voice our full support to the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in fulfilling this essential role for the people of Afghanistan.

On this note, let me focus on three points.

First, the work of UNAMA needs to continue.

While situation on the ground has changed, the role of UNAMA remains important to fulfil the growing needs on the ground, especially in the delivery of humanitarian assistance. This is even more crucial as Afghanistan is still fighting to curb the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Moreover, Indonesia hopes for the continued work of UNAMA in supporting the continuation of an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led national reconciliation dialogue that could lead to the formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan.

Given the importance of the work of UNAMA as well as other United Nations agencies in Afghanistan, we emphasize the importance of ensuring the safety and security of all personnel and assets of United Nations Member States and entities operating in the country.

Second, ensuring that women's rights and participation are continuously respected and promoted: Indonesia firmly believes that all elements of Afghan society, especially women, have a stake in participating in the development of their country.

Hence, we call on all stakeholders to ensure the protection of women's rights and participation in Afghanistan.

All stakeholders need to ensure that all progress achieved in Afghanistan could be sustained and further progressed in the years to come.

Third, commitments on counter-terrorism must be upheld.

Indonesia joins the international call on all stakeholders to ensure that Afghanistan should never be the base for the activity of any terrorist organizations.

We call on the Security Council as well as other relevant stakeholders to increase their partnership in the global fight against terrorism.

In the end, Indonesia is confident that peace and stability are what the people of Afghanistan and the international community are truly wishing for.

We welcomed the Council's prompt response to the rapid developments on the ground. We hope that the Council will remain united to ensure that UNAMA will have the necessary mandate in a timely manner.

Indonesia remains committed to supporting the formation of a united, inclusive and representative government that respects women's rights and participation in Afghanistan.

We are ready to work together to support UNAMA in this endeavour.

## Annex V

### Statement by the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations

Italy would like to start by thanking Special Representative of the Secretary-General Lyons and her staff for their tireless efforts during the last challenging months.

Afghanistan is now at a crossroads that we would have rather not reached: all the progress painstakingly made over the last 20 years by Afghan society, especially in terms of women's rights, is at risk. The international community must do its utmost to avoid the materialization of this risk while continuing to stand by the Afghan people.

The rapid unfolding of past weeks' events required an unprecedented effort, focused on evacuations. Through this complex operation, Italy was also able to transfer and host 4,890 Afghan civilians, more than half of whom were women and girls.

Now that this emergency is over, a new phase must begin, the objective of which should be the definition and implementation of a sustainable strategy on the Afghan dossier. The main challenges ahead are effectively managing migration flows, combating terrorism and narco-trafficking, allowing the delivery of humanitarian assistance and guaranteeing the protection of universal rights. To achieve these important goals, close cooperation among all relevant international actors should be pursued, as the Afghan crisis clearly points to the need for a more effective and inclusive multilateralism.

One key issue will be the position towards the Taliban authorities in Kabul. Italy is of the opinion that the Taliban rule will have to be judged on the basis of its actions rather than in the light of its statements. In this respect, five parameters will be essential: (a) the rejection of terrorism and cooperation in fighting narco-trafficking; (b) respect for human rights, particularly of women and minorities, and respect for the rule of law and freedom of the press; (c) the inclusiveness of the political and social system that the new "de facto" authorities will establish in Afghanistan; (d) unconditional and secure humanitarian access for international organizations, particularly United Nations agencies and entities; and (e) safe passage for those who intend to leave the country, in line with Security Council resolution [2593 \(2021\)](#).

Looking to the support that can be provided to the Afghan people, Italy's National Action Plan rests on five pillars: first, providing humanitarian assistance; second, devising a structural response to the flow of refugees from Afghanistan to neighbouring countries and, potentially, to Europe, with the help of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration; third, creating educational opportunities for Afghan university students; fourth, promoting initiatives in international forums, starting with the United Nations, for the protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Afghans, first and foremost of Afghan women and girls; and fifth, contributing to the elaboration of a shared strategy among international partners, assessing also the possibility of using the Group of 20 platform.

All these efforts, both at the national and international levels, should target one common overarching objective: preserving the advancements that the Afghan society has reached, with great sacrifice and investments, in the past 20 years in terms of human rights and civil liberties.

The international community helped this development to happen and should now help to ensure that these gains are preserved. Not abandoning the Afghan people now is in our interest and, at the same time, represents our moral duty.



## Annex VI

### **Statement by the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, Ishikane Kimihiro**

I thank the President for convening this debate on Afghanistan. I also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Deborah Lyons, for her briefing and her leadership at a time when the support of the United Nations for the people of Afghanistan is most needed.

Afghanistan is a country that holds the key to peace and stability in the region and the world. Japan hopes that true peace and prosperity will come to Afghanistan, which is blessed with natural resources and young and talented people.

Japan reiterates its strong belief that a sustainable peace in Afghanistan can only be achieved by a political settlement that reflects the voices of all segments of society. Japan has supported all efforts to this end while urging all parties concerned to cease acts of violence. In this light, it is with strong pain and regret that we continue to witness further suffering and loss of life among the people of Afghanistan.

Japan stresses the need for the international community to speak with one voice in sending a clear and united message to Afghanistan. Japan underlines the need to maximize our leverage to ensure the full implementation of Security Council resolution [2593 \(2021\)](#).

Japan will continue to urge the Taliban to ensure the safe passage and departure of those who still wish to leave Afghanistan. At the same time, Japan will be persistent in calling on the Taliban to ensure the following three points.

First, to protect the lives and property of all Afghans, regardless of ethnicity or religious sect, and restore social order.

Second, to safeguard and advance basic human rights, in particular the rights of women.

Third, to pursue nation-building that upholds an inclusive political process where diverse ethnic and religious groups are included.

If these are put into practice under the new administration, Afghanistan will be able to regain the trust of the international community, resulting in the return of the people, funds and support needed to rebuild the country.

In the midst of continued tensions in Afghanistan, Japanese Foreign Minister Motegi visited several Middle Eastern countries and concurred with each country on the need to work together to prevent the current situation in Afghanistan from becoming a further destabilizing factor. In the light of the growing need for humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, Japan is ready to offer total assistance of around \$200 million this year, including \$65 million in new assistance in such areas as shelter, health, water and sanitation, food, agriculture and education through international organizations. Japan will continue its efforts to help achieve peace and stability in Afghanistan in coordination with the concerned countries.

The people of Afghanistan must be at the centre as the international community helps the country address both its immediate humanitarian needs and mid- to long-term challenges of stability and socioeconomic development. An approach based on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus is essential. While we await the restoration and strengthening of governance, we will have to focus on delivering aid to people and communities on the ground by all means.

Under the current circumstances, the United Nations is one of the few entities that can deliver assistance on the ground. Now, the United Nations system is being tested as to whether it can deliver as one under the concept of human security, and Member States need to be united in supporting the Organization's efforts. In this regard, Japan believes that the role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan will remain critical, while recognizing the need for the Security Council to review its mandate in due course.

Afghanistan, with the help of the international community, has made significant progress over the past two decades, in particular with the development of infrastructure, the promotion of education, and increased participation of women and youth in the public domain. It is to the benefit of the people of Afghanistan to preserve and promote those gains.

As a long-standing partner of Afghanistan, Japan reaffirms its commitment to addressing the country's immediate humanitarian needs as well as supporting its long-term path to peace and prosperity. As we watch the evolving situation and the actions of the Taliban, Japan will continue to actively engage all stakeholders to explore the best possible way to assist the country and its people.

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