

SECURITY COUNCIL (SC)

TOPIC B:

The situation in Afghanistan: ensuring humanitarian aid and regional stability.



I. Introduction of Topic:

After decades of conflict, recurrent natural hazards and a high level of poverty, the Taliban *de facto* authorities (DFA) takeover of Kabul in August 2021 resulted in increased instability and worsening of Afghanistan's situation.

Today the country is facing one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world and over 28.3 million Afghans require urgent humanitarian assistance and regional stability. Over 17 million people deal with acute hunger, food insecurity and risk of malnutrition due to a rapid economic decline, inflation and high unemployment which have raised the average household's debt, leading to drastic rises in urban and rural poverty. Not to mention the near-collapse of the national public health system because of critical underfunding, which means that at least 8 million people in Afghanistan will lose essential health assistance. The natural hazards, such as the earthquakes that occurred in October 2023, are direct effects of climate change and they cause further increase in the population's vulnerability. Moreover the Taliban regime imposed severe restrictions on girls and women who are banned from all aspects of public life and deprived of their human rights such as the right to education and employment.

II. Definition of key terms:

Taliban: Ultraconservative political and religious faction that emerged in Afghanistan for the first time in 1992.

De Facto Authority: A person or a group that exerts control over a country but does not have the legal authority to do so and whose legitimacy is broadly rejected.

Humanitarian aid: Material and logistic assistance to people who need help provided, in this case, by the United Nations and it is meant to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during crises.

Malnutrition: Faulty nutrition due to inadequate or unbalanced intake of nutrients or their impaired assimilation or utilisation.

Inflation: a continuing rise in the general price level usually attributed to an increase in the volume of money and credit relative to available goods and services.

United Nation Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA): A UN political mission tasked with assisting the people of Afghanistan

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA): A UN body established in 1991 by the General Assembly to strengthen international response to complex emergencies and natural disasters.

Afghanistan Humanitarian Need and Response Plan (HNRP): A document that provides a shared understanding of the crisis and the most important humanitarian needs incorporating priorities identified by Afghans.

Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF): An OCHA's country-based pooled funds (CBPFs) established in 2014 for swift and strategic humanitarian action in Afghanistan.

III. **Background information:**

Afghanistan has long been entrenched in a complex web of social, political, and military challenges. Starting with the Soviet invasion in the 1980s, a subsequent civil war, between the Afghan communist government and the anticommunist Islamic guerrillas, that ended in 1992 with the overthrow of the government and the rise of the Taliban against the country's governing parties and warlords, they established a theocratic regime (1996–2001) that soon fell under the influence of a group of well-funded Islamists led by an exiled Saudi Arabian, Osama bin Laden. In 2001, following the 9/11 attacks, the United States and its allies intervened to oust the Taliban and dismantle terrorist networks operating in the country. Over the years, efforts were made to establish a stable government, but challenges persisted, including political corruption, insurgency, and the resurgence of the Taliban. The withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces in August 2021 marked a significant turning point, leading to the rapid takeover of the Taliban, who regained control of the country. The international community closely monitored the situation, with concerns about the humanitarian and security implications for Afghanistan and the broader region.

IV. **Major countries and agencies involved in the issue:**

United States

Historically, the U.S. has played a significant role in Afghanistan, from military involvement to diplomatic efforts and aid distribution. The US is the largest humanitarian donor in Afghanistan, providing approximately \$2 billion in humanitarian assistance since August 2021, including more than \$1.46 billion from USAID.

Pakistan

Given its shared border and historical ties, Pakistan's role in facilitating peace talks, offering refuge to Afghan refugees, and influencing regional stability is crucial. Especially after the 2023 earthquake the country has also pledged to send in food, blankets, medicines, tents and funds.

China

China has a vested interest in the stability of the region due to its economic ventures and regional dynamics. It has engaged diplomatically and economically in Afghanistan, aiming for stability and security and it has pledged to send essential life resources to the Afghan people.

Russia

Similarly, Russia has been involved in diplomatic efforts, participating in peace talks, and has concerns regarding regional security and stability in Central Asia.

Iran

As a neighbouring country, Iran has been engaged in humanitarian efforts, hosting Afghan refugees, and has interests in the stability of the region.

European Union

Various European nations, collectively through the EU, have provided aid, supported diplomatic initiatives, and offered asylum to Afghan refugees.

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan

These countries have been involved in regional security discussions, border management, and providing humanitarian aid to Afghans.

V. Previous resolutions and decisions:

https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/2023-03-16_-_res_2678.pdf

<http://unscr.com/files/2022/02626.pdf>

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