



**Statement by Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent  
Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, at the meeting  
of the UN Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan  
(21 June 2024)**

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**Mr. President,**

Let me first of all commend the delegation of the Republic of Korea and Ambassador Jungkook for your successful presidency of the Council this month.

2. I would like to express my gratitude to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNAMA, Ms. Roza Otunbayeva, for her very cogent and thoughtful briefing and to express our appreciation for the work she is doing in Afghanistan in an extremely challenging environment. I would also like to thank Ms. Lisa Doughten from OCHA and Ms. Wafeq for their insightful thoughts at this meeting of the Council. We take note of the Secretary-General's report on the situation in Afghanistan.

**Mr. President,**

3. Pakistan has consistently advocated sustained engagement with the Afghan Interim Authorities to normalize the situation in Afghanistan. We are encouraged that the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) has announced its decision to participate in the Doha meeting at the end of this month. This is an opportunity for constructive dialogue on all key issues relating to Afghanistan.

4. It is essential that both the international community and the AIG should be clear about the overall objectives they seek. Unless we know where we are going, we will never get there. The UN Special Coordinator on Afghanistan, Ambassador Feridun Sinirlioglu, in his report last November, outlined the major issues which need to be addressed to normalize the situation in Afghanistan. He envisaged the formulation of a realistic roadmap with reciprocal steps taken by the AIG and the international community towards the normalization of Afghanistan and its integration within the international community.

**Mr. President,**

5. The international community for its part is obliged to help the 23 million Afghans who need urgent humanitarian assistance. Unfortunately, the Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan has received only 16.2% of the required \$3.06 billion for the

targeted 17.3 million Afghans. This Plan must be fully funded from all possible sources.

6. Second, it is equally important to take adequate measures for the revival of the Afghan economy and to find pathways for sustained development in Afghanistan. This requires reviving the Afghan banking system and restoring commercial activities, including private sector investment. Most critically, we must explore means to create the necessary conditions for the release of Afghanistan's frozen assets and their transfer to its Central Bank.

7. It is also important to kick start the planned infrastructure and regional connectivity projects. Pakistan remains committed to expanding trade and economic relations with Afghanistan. In March of this year, Pakistan and the AIG signed a 9-point agreement on trade and transit issues to help promote economic relations.

**Mr. President,**

8. On the other hand, the AIG must also take steps to abide by its obligations in conformity with international law and established norms.

9. The world remains concerned about the restrictions imposed on women and girls in Afghanistan. These do not conform with international law or the tenets of Islam. The AIG is expected to ensure the rights of women and girls to education, work and other human rights.

10. We also hope that progress can be made towards promoting greater political inclusivity. We support the efforts UNAMA is making in this direction. This will help to stabilize Afghanistan.

**Mr. President,**

11. The highest priority – for the international community, for Afghanistan's neighbours and for Afghanistan itself – remains the elimination of terrorism within and from Afghanistan. While the AIG is fighting Daesh (ISKP) and has made some progress, there are a number of other terrorist groups in Afghanistan – Al-Qaeda, TTP, ETIM, IMU – all these groups, against whom the AIG must take

effective and sustained action, including in compliance with several resolutions of the Security Council. The impunity which some of these terrorist groups seem to enjoy within Afghanistan poses a dire and direct threat to all of Afghanistan's neighbours as well as to the international community. Ultimately, these terrorist groups will pose a threat to the AIG itself and to their economic and social development objectives. While these terrorists operate in and from Afghanistan, private sector investment in Afghanistan will remain limited; nor will it be possible to smoothly implement the connectivity and infrastructure projects. And, counter narcotics policies will be frustrated since several of these terrorist groups are involved in drug trafficking and trade.

**Mr. President,**

12. Among these terrorist groups, the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) poses the most direct and serious threat to Pakistan. The TTP and its associates have been responsible for numerous cross-border attacks against Pakistan, resulting in hundreds of civilian and military casualties. The TTP has acquired sophisticated weapons, which has intensified the lethality of its terrorist attacks.

13. Pakistan has repeatedly conveyed to the AIG, at very senior levels, that it must act decisively to halt the cross-border terrorist attacks by the TTP and its associates; disarm the TTP fighters, capture and hand over the TTP terrorists to Pakistan. Unfortunately, despite promises, no meaningful action has been taken so far. TTP safe havens remain close to Pakistan's borders. Cross-border attacks have continued, including one by a TTP associate that killed several Chinese engineers working on the Dasu hydro power project.

**Mr. President,**

14. On 16 March, TTP terrorists, belonging to the Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group, conducted a cross-border terrorist attack which resulted in the martyrdom of a number of Pakistani soldiers. On 18 March, Pakistan carried out intelligence based anti-terrorist operations in the border regions inside Afghanistan, to defend our territory against such cross-border attacks by TTP terrorists. Terrorists were killed, not civilians.

15. The Security Council Mr. President has condemned several of these terrorist attacks against Pakistan. The Council should call on the AIG to:

- sever its links with the TTP and its associates;
- prevent them from carrying out cross-border attacks against Pakistan;
- disarm the TTP terrorists and;
- capture the TTP's leadership and hand them over to Pakistan.

16. We also expect the UN to take a similar position consistent with Security Council resolutions and the reports that have been submitted to the 1267 and 1988 Sanctions Committees. The UN should also investigate how the TTP acquired its advanced weapons and the sources of the TTP's funding, including from external sources, which enables it to maintain up to 50,000 TTP fighters and their families.

17. While UNAMA does not have the counter-terrorism mandate, this should not imply inaction by the UN. The relevant UN bodies must be activated to enable the UN to play its part in putting an end to the terrorist menace which, once again, has emerged from Afghanistan.

**Mr. President,**

18. Pakistan enjoys close bonds of ethnicity, history, faith, language and culture with Afghanistan, our immediate neighbor. Pakistan has a national compulsion to promote peace, stability and development in Afghanistan. And we will continue to work at all levels – bilateral, regional and international and with the UN– to achieve these objectives.

**I thank you.**