



**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**

**(18 September 2024)**

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**Madam President,**

Let me first congratulate you and the Slovenian delegation on your very successful presidency of the Council this month.

2. We welcome the Secretary-General's latest report on the situation in Afghanistan and the briefing provided by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNAMA, Ms. Roza Otunbayeva. We commend her wise leadership and her efforts to promote normalization in Afghanistan, under very difficult circumstances. We also welcome the informative briefing provided to us by Madam Sima Bahous.

**Madam President,**

3. Three years after the Taliban assumed the reins of power in Afghanistan, the situation there continues to be dire and deeply concerning: 23.7 million Afghans are destitute and need urgent humanitarian assistance. The international community has an obligation to provide such humanitarian assistance without conditions. Regrettably, the Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan has received less than 25% of the required \$3.06 billion that was suggested. This Plan should be fully funded from all possible sources for the sake of the Afghan people.

4. Pakistan also supports Afghanistan's economic revival, including revival of the Afghan banking system, addressing the liquidity crisis and creating conditions for unfreezing Afghanistan's national reserves. Pakistan remains committed to expanding trade and commercial relations with Afghanistan and the implementation of the planned infrastructure and regional connectivity projects which have been mentioned here by previous speakers.

**Madam President,**

5. Pakistan was the first to advocate sustained engagement with the Afghan Interim Government (AIG). We welcome the AIG's participation in the Doha process initiated by the Secretary-General, and the establishment of the two working groups on counter narcotics and the private sector at the Doha III meeting. Pakistan desires to take the co-lead in the working group on the private sector.

6. However, it is clear that Afghanistan is nowhere near normalization three years after the Taliban assumed power. There will be no normalization until the fundamental issues that trouble Afghanistan are addressed: terrorism, human rights, political inclusion, illegal Afghan migration and the problem of Afghan refugees.

**Madam President,**

7. Terrorism within and from Afghanistan poses the single most serious threat to the country, to the region and to the world. The 34th Report of the Monitoring Team to the 1267 (Al-Qaeda and Daesh) Committee illustrates the disturbing dimensions of the terrorist threat from Afghanistan. While the AIG is fighting ISIL-K i.e. (Daesh) – without complete success so far – other terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda, and the TTP and others, are not only present in Afghanistan; they appear to have been provided safe havens and protection by the AIG.

8. The TTP (which we in Pakistan call Fitna Al Khawarij) is an organization of special concern to Pakistan and should be of concern to the entire region and the world. The TTP with around 6,000 fighters, with around 50,000 family members, is now the largest designated terrorist organization in Afghanistan. It has been provided safe havens close to Pakistan's borders. From there, the TTP is conducting almost daily terrorist attacks against Pakistan. Hundreds of Pakistani soldiers and civilians have been martyred. We have hard evidence that at least some of the TTP's cross-border infiltration and attacks are being facilitated by the elements of the AIG. The TTP also obtains sponsorship from Pakistan's major adversary. The TTP has also been provided some of the modern weapons acquired by the AIG from the stocks left behind by the withdrawing foreign forces. Indeed, some of the AIG's own commanders have promoted border incidents with Pakistan's forces, with casualties on both sides.

9. Enjoying the protection of the AIG, the TTP is emerging as an umbrella organization for other terrorist groups, whose objectives are the destabilization of other neighbours of Afghanistan. The TTP is also now coordinating with secessionist groups like the Majeed Brigade. And, given its long association with Al-Qaeda, it will not be long before the TTP becomes the spearhead for Al-Qaeda's planned regional and

global terrorist goals. Thus, while some of our friends may believe that they are only threatened by ISIL-K i.e. (Daesh), they should also be concerned by the threat they could confront from a strengthened TTP in the not too distant future.

10. Pakistan for its part will take national action and we will cooperate with regional and international organizations to eliminate the threat from the TTP and its associates.

**Madam President,**

11. Pakistan also shares the desire of most of our neighbours, and the international community, to promote greater political inclusivity in Afghanistan. This will enhance the prospects of stability and normalization in Afghanistan.

12. Likewise, we share the international community's concern at the AIG's violations of human rights, especially the rights of women and girls. The AIG has resiled from its earlier commitments regarding women and girls, as it has resiled from its commitments on counter-terrorism. Instead of easing earlier restrictions, the AIG has doubled down on misogyny with new edicts to literally stifle the voices of women and girls. We are especially appalled that these abhorrent measures are being justified by reference to Islam. These backward and obscurantist measures violate the principles of our enlightened religion which was the first to uphold equal rights for men and women.

**Madam President,**

13. While Pakistan has been the first and strongest advocate of constructive engagement with the Taliban regime, we cannot allow them to gain the impression that they can play off their neighbours and the international community against each other to ignore their own obligations and pursue policies that are both a violation of Afghanistan's international obligations and the source of internal, regional and global instability.

14. Unfortunately, the international community appears to have lost the clarity of our objectives regarding Afghanistan. Engagement cannot be pursued for its own sake. If we don't know where we are going, we will never get there. We must seek the steps that are essential to establish normalcy in Afghanistan and its eventual integration as a member of the international community.

15. To this end, we would propose that the international community build on the report of the Secretary-General's Special Coordinator, Ambassador Feridun Sinirlioglu, which envisaged a Road Map of reciprocal actions by the AIG – on counter-terrorism, human rights and political inclusivity – and by the international community – on economic revival and development and the eventual easing of sanctions and political recognition.

**Madam President,**

16. In terms of history, geography, ethnicity, language, faith and culture, there is no country which is closer to Pakistan than Afghanistan. Our sympathy and affection for our Afghan sisters and brothers is boundless. Peace, stability, and development in our two nations are inextricably interlinked. We will continue to endeavour, at the bilateral, regional and international level, to achieve these mutually beneficial objectives.

**I thank you.**