

UN Security Council Debate
Situation in Afghanistan and its implications for
International Peace & Security
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INDIA STATEMENT
Ambassador Tanmaya Lal
Deputy Permanent Representative



Thank you for organizing this debate. We thank Secretary-General's Special Representative in Afghanistan Ambassador Yamamoto, for his briefing and wish him well in his endeavors for peace in Afghanistan. We also thank the distinguished Permanent Representative of Afghanistan Ambassador Mahmoud Saikal for his important Statement.

Madam President,

2. We offer our sincere condolences at the loss of lives and destruction of property in several recent terrorist attacks in Afghanistan that have killed and maimed hundreds of innocent people.

3. While Taliban's increased attacks and military gains in the country have been resisted by Afghan security forces, these attacks have only gone up in the last couple of months, a trend which cannot be explained as simply a peak in the fighting season. The current efforts by the international community to assist Afghanistan have clearly not been adequate. We need to do things differently and more coherently.

Madam President,

4. We have noted the flash appeal issued by the UN to assist Afghanistan in managing and minimizing the huge humanitarian costs that an expected mass migration of more than 1 million people in such a short period, will entail, in the midst of the increasing violence.

5. The Security Council needs to find the means to reverse the deteriorating security situation so that the gains made by the people of Afghanistan in the last 15 years are not withered away.

Madam President,

6. Groups and individuals that perpetrate violence against the people and the Government of Afghanistan must not be allowed safe havens in Afghanistan's neighbourhood. We note that Afghanistan, along with the Resolute Support Force, has taken steps to eliminate terrorist leaders who were operating from those parts of Afghan territory controlled by Taliban and other terrorist groups. While Afghanistan Government has made efforts to combat terrorism, others have callously looked the other way when Afghanistan is targeted by Taliban, Haqqani Network, ISIS, Al-Qaeda, LeT and JeM.

7. The effective implementation of the Security Council sanctions regime including the 1267 ISIL / Al-Qaeda Sanctions regime and the 1988 Taliban regime is absolutely essential for it to serve as a strong deterrent to the listed entities / individuals.

Madam President,

8. The fact that the leader of Taliban - a proscribed entity - is not yet designated as a terrorist individual remains a mystery to us. Can we know the rationale for such an approach? Is it now the thinking that leaders of proscribed entities will not be held accountable for the deeds of the listed groups that they head? Is this how we now intend to address one of the most serious threats to international peace and security?

9. Or will the response to our queries be a deafening silence as was the case the Security Council Committee 1988, which deals with issues relating to Afghanistan met last month on 8th August? We are unaware of what was discussed and what was the outcome of these discussions. Are Member States entitled to know what this Committee, which acts on their behalf, considers and decides upon on, for all of us? This appears to be one more instance of the secrecy practiced in the subterranean universe of the Security Council which has now enshrined the principles of anonymity and unanimity to ensure lack of accountability to Member States.

Madam President,

10. Afghanistan has India's full support for strengthening its defense capabilities and in preserving its sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, which is essential for the stability of the region.

11. India remains strongly committed to Afghanistan. The Prime Minister of India has conveyed to the President of Afghanistan H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani during his ongoing

visit to India, our offer of an allocation of a further sum of USD 1 billion for requirements of Afghanistan for capacity building in spheres such as education, health, agriculture, skill development, empowerment of women, energy, infrastructure and strengthening of democratic institutions. India is proud, privileged and honoured that its engagement in Afghanistan through our development partnership has been a harbinger of hope and predictability, as conveyed by President Ghani to Prime Minister earlier today.

Madam President,

12. We believe that the path to reconciliation in Afghanistan should be through an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process in adherence to the internationally accepted red lines reflecting the aspirations of the people of Afghanistan. India would continue to engage with the international community to assist the Government of Afghanistan in all possible ways in this regard.

Madam President,

13. We applaud the role of UNAMA in providing assistance for Afghanistan in various sectors in this crucial transformation decade.

14. I would like to conclude by reiterating what Prime Minister Modi had told President Ghani, and I quote, *"1.25 billion people of India stand with their Afghan brothers and sisters"*. India reposes its full faith in the brave and resilient people of Afghanistan and the National Unity Government for a peaceful, prosperous, stable, unified, sovereign and democratic Afghanistan as a land-bridge between West, Central and South Asia.

Thank you, Madam President