

UN Security Council Debate on
United Nations Assistance
Mission in Afghanistan
[UNAMA]

INDIA'S STATEMENT
by
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Permanent Representative

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Mr. President,

Thank you for organizing today's debate on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

I also thank SRSO Nicholas Haysom, for his briefing and express our appreciation for the important statement made by Amb. Mahmoud Saikal of Afghanistan.

We offer our sincere condolences at the loss of lives and property in the bomb attack in Kabul on June 20, 2016 in which around 20 people including from Nepal and India lost their lives.

2. Mr. President, while there has been no dearth of efforts by the Government and the people of Afghanistan as also the international community, we do note that the security situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated. The Taliban are continuing attacks at an unprecedented rate since the beginning of the year and there is continued violence by other armed groups. As per the Secretary General's Report armed clashes have increased this year compared to the same period in 2015. This situation has put renewed focus on the need for enhanced engagement and action by the international community.

3. The Security Council needs to look into the deteriorating security situation and the means to contain it as it could pose serious threats to the gains made by the people of Afghanistan in the last 15 years.

Mr. President,

4. Groups and individuals that perpetrate violence against the people and the Government of Afghanistan cannot have safe havens and should not be allowed to exercise control and wield influence over any part of Afghanistan's territory. This, in our view, is critical for lasting peace in the country. The effective implementation of the Security Council sanctions regime including the 1267 ISIL / Al-Qaeda Sanctions regime and the 1988 Taliban's regime should also be carried out consistently and with perseverance for it to serve as a strong deterrent to the listed entities / individuals. It is sheer folly that the leader of a proscribed entity is not yet designated as a terrorist individual. As pointed out by the Representative of New Zealand, we need to address this forthwith.

Mr. President,

5. Afghanistan has our full support for strengthening its defence capabilities to preserve its unity and territorial integrity, as it is the most important antidote to the worsening security situation in the country.

6. On 4 June 2016 the Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi and the President of Afghanistan Mr. Ashraf Ghani inaugurated the Afghanistan-India Friendship Dam. As, Prime Minister Modi mentioned then, India's capacity may be limited but our commitment to Afghanistan is without limits.

Mr. President,

7. On 23 May 2016 India, Afghanistan and Iran also signed the Chahbahar trade and transit agreement which we hope will provide a new path to prosperity and reliable access to Afghanistan.

8. We are strongly committed to supporting Afghanistan in various plurilateral and multilateral fora. India looks forward to hosting Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference in December 2016. We welcome cooperation of Participating Countries as well as Supporting Countries and Organizations for the Ministerial Conference and related events in political, security, economic, connectivity and cultural spheres, to be organized in the run-up to the Conference.

Mr. President,

9. We believe that the path to reconciliation in Afghanistan should be through an Afghan-led and Afghan owned process respecting the red lines drawn by the people of Afghanistan and the international community especially the ones regarding giving up of violence and abiding by the constitution of Afghanistan. The ideas and philosophy of understanding and

reconciliation have deep and ancient roots there. I am reminded of a famous son of the Balkh region, the Sufi poet 'Rumi' who as far back as in the 13th century had said "I always thought that I was me - but no, I was you and never knew it".

Mr. President,

10. We applaud the role of UNAMA in providing assistance in the various sectors of Afghanistan's transformation decade. Finally, Mr. President, I end by recalling the words of Prime Minister Modi when he said that for many others their commitment may have a sunset clause but India's relationship with Afghanistan is timeless. We would like to reiterate our strong commitment and faith in the will of the brave people and Government of Afghanistan to have a peaceful, prosperous, united, inclusive and democratic nation.

I thank you, Mr. President.