

**UN Security Council**  
Quarterly Open Debate on  
**United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)**

**INDIA STATEMENT**  
by  
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**Deputy Permanent Representative**

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Mr. President,

Thank you for organising this debate. We also thank the Special Representative of Secretary General Mr. Yamamoto and other briefers for their remarks, as also the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan for sharing his perspectives on the recent developments in his country.

Mr. President,

While the situation in Afghanistan continues to cause serious concern, there have been several positive developments of significance as well.

The millions of Afghans - women and men - who turned out to vote in the recently held elections, despite the Taliban threat, demonstrated their courage and strong desire to work for a better future by exercising their democratic rights. It was a bold refusal to be cowed down by the terrorist groups.

We commend the National Unity Government, the Independent Election Commission and the Security forces of Afghanistan who made sure that these elections went ahead despite the serious challenges and threats.

Democracy is clearly taking firmer roots in Afghanistan.

As the SRSG had earlier stated, these elections were the first that were completely run by Afghan authorities since 2001. These indeed mark an important milestone in Afghanistan's transition to self reliance.

Mr. President,

Many member states attended the recently concluded Geneva conference on Afghanistan last month, thus reaffirming the commitment of the international community and the UN to Afghanistan.

Ten days ago, the UN General Assembly also reiterated its support to the cause of Afghanistan through its adoption of the annual resolution.

However, this is clearly not enough.

Mr. President,

Even as the reports of the Secretary General have continued to stress that the violence and terror in Afghanistan show no signs of abating, terrorists are now attacking places never imagined before including hospitals, schools, mosques, and even mourners at funerals. One quarter of all the terrorism related deaths in the world sadly were on account of attacks in Afghanistan.

Despite all the signs of the deterioration in the security situation, the international community and this Council with all its tools have simply been unable or unwilling to deal effectively with the source of the problem.

The Council's actions against ISIL can serve as a template for action against the terrorists and their supporters in Afghanistan. The illicit narcotics, illegal mining and other criminal industries controlled by these terror groups are stealing the resources of Afghan people and funding ever more violence.

The sanctuaries and safe havens provided to these terror networks for years are well known. The activities of Taliban, Haqqani Network, Da'esh, Al Qaeda and its proscribed affiliates including the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed have to be stopped.

The Security Council sanctions committee, which refuses to designate new leaders of the Taliban or to freeze the assets of the slain leader of Taliban, is falling short of what is expected of it by the Afghans and international community. From the lessons from the past, we who are located in New York, are aware that peace in Afghanistan is tied to the peace and security in the entire world.

Mr. President,

Even as the challenges of security, peace and development continue to mount, there has also been considerable progress in the last 17 years - especially in promoting education and health care, protecting the rights of women, children and the marginalized; securing lives; improving governance and reforms; generating livelihood and in moving Afghanistan towards self reliance.

India has age-old historical, cultural, civilizational and economic ties with Afghanistan. We are working closely with our Afghan partners in implementing development projects and will continue to do so in this transformation decade.

Building reliable connectivity for the land-locked Afghanistan is key component of our regional partnership. We are mindful that all such projects respect state sovereignty and territorial integrity and are based on universally recognized international norms, transparency and principles of financial responsibility, ecological and environmental protection and preservation standards.

It is with this spirit that we are engaged in various connectivity projects in the region including the Chabahar Port project and direct India-Afghanistan Air-Freight Corridor, which have been successfully operationalized.

We will continue to build on the gains made. We will continue to work with all those who share this spirit of helping Afghanistan without conditions.

Mr. President,

We support an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled inclusive peace and reconciliation process which promotes and protects unity, sovereignty, democracy, inclusiveness and prosperity of Afghanistan.

Any meaningful progress towards sustainable peace requires cessation of terrorist violence, renunciation of links with international terrorism, respect for rights of common Afghan people, especially the women, the children and minorities.

We hope that the courage, resilience and determination of Afghans can be matched by that of the international community in doing what needs to be done on its part to bring peace to this war-torn country.

Thank you.