

## Asia

### 14. The situation in Afghanistan

During the period under review, the Security Council held seven meetings under this item. Except for a meeting which was convened for the adoption of a decision, six meetings took the form of a briefing.<sup>531</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is provided in the table below. In addition, in 2022, Council members held informal consultations of the whole to discuss this item.<sup>532</sup>

During the year 2022, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), and the Deputy Special Representatives provided quarterly briefings in meetings further to the reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan.<sup>533</sup> The Council also heard remarks by the Secretary-General,<sup>534</sup> as well as briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.<sup>535</sup> The representative of India in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#) provided briefings twice in 2022.<sup>536</sup> In addition, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) briefed Council members once in 2022.<sup>537</sup> In 2022, Council members also heard briefings by seven civil society representatives.<sup>538</sup> The representative of Afghanistan also delivered statements at six of the seven meetings held.<sup>539</sup>

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<sup>531</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II.

<sup>532</sup> See [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 8.

<sup>533</sup> See [S/2022/64](#), [S/2022/485](#), [S/2022/692](#) and [S/2022/916](#).

<sup>534</sup> See [S/PV.8954](#).

<sup>535</sup> See [S/PV.9075](#), [S/PV.9118](#), and [S/PV.9227](#).

<sup>536</sup> See [S/PV.8954](#) and [S/PV.9227](#).

<sup>537</sup> See [S/PV.9137](#).

<sup>538</sup> The following representatives provided briefings to the Council: Afghan women human rights defender and Executive Director of the Afghan Women Skills Development Centre, on 26 January 2022 ([S/PV.8954](#)); Executive Director of the Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies, on 2 March 2022 ([S/PV.8984](#)); a journalist as well as a consultant for VOICE Amplified, on 23 June 2022 ([S/PV.9075](#)); independent researcher and author, on 29 August 2022 ([S/PV.9118](#)); Former Deputy Speaker of the Afghan Parliament, on 27 September 2022 ([S/PV.9137](#)); and an Afghan women's rights activist, on 20 December 2022 ([S/PV.9227](#)).

<sup>539</sup> See [S/PV.8954](#), [S/PV.8984](#), [S/PV.9075](#), [S/PV.9118](#), [S/PV.9137](#), and [S/PV.9227](#).

At the outset of 2022, on 26 January, Council members held a high-level meeting.<sup>540</sup> In addition to the Special Representative, Council members heard remarks by the Secretary-General as well as briefings by the representative of India in his capacity as the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#), and by the Afghan women human rights defender and Executive Director of the Afghan Women Skills Development Centre.

During his remarks, the Secretary-General stated that half of all Afghans were facing extreme levels of hunger and the country was facing its worst drought in two decades, and the economy was also in dire straits.<sup>541</sup> He stated that human rights were also losing ground, with women and girls out of offices and classrooms, as well as reports of arbitrary arrests and abductions of women activists. In this context, the Secretary-General urged the Taliban to work closely with the global community and the Security Council to suppress the global terrorist threat in Afghanistan and build institutions that promote security, and to recognize and protect the fundamental human rights that every person shares. He also reiterated his appeal for or an increase in humanitarian operations, suspension of rules and conditions that constricted not only the economy of Afghanistan but also life-saving operations, and international funding to pay the salaries of public sector workers.

Following the Secretary-General, the Special Representative emphasized that it was past time for the Taliban to initiate a wider dialogue on a process for national reconciliation, while welcoming the recent statements by the de facto authorities' leaders that girls of all ages would be educated nationwide, on which she added that future incentives from some international donors would likely be determined by whether the de facto authorities deliver on their stated commitments. She reported that the United Nations had provided life-saving assistance to almost 18 million people by the end of 2021, but the humanitarian needs continued to be pressing and more funds were needed in assistance for 2022. In this context, she added that the adoption of the humanitarian exemption resolution [2615 \(2021\)](#) and the issuing of new general licenses by the United States in the previous year had provided some welcome assurances that facilitated humanitarian activities of the Mission. She also announced the launch of a comprehensive and system-wide strategy called the One-UN Transitional Engagement Framework for Afghanistan,

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<sup>540</sup> See [S/PV.8954](#). For more information on high-level meetings and videoconferences, see part II.

<sup>541</sup> See [S/PV.8954](#).

aiming to prevent a further deterioration of the humanitarian situation and to generate economic stability. She noted, however, that donors were reluctant to show more flexibility until they had a better idea of what kind of government the de-facto Administration intended to create.

The representative of India, as the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#), provided a briefing during which he reiterated that the main goal of the sanctions regime was to facilitate conditions to promote dialogue between the Taliban and the Afghan Government intended to result in a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. He reported that the Committee had once again extended the three-month travel ban exemption on 22 December 2021 for 14 listed Taliban members so that they could continue attending talks in the interest of promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan, and urged Member States to respect the annexes to resolutions including resolution [2611 \(2021\)](#), to consult in confidence with the Monitoring Team to facilitate the sharing of information, and to strengthen implementation of sanctions measures.

In her briefing, the Afghan women human rights defender and the Executive Director of the Afghan Women Skills Development Centre stated that the hasty exit of the international community from Afghanistan in August 2021 had undermined the achievements of the people of Afghanistan, especially women and girls, and had dashed their hopes for a democratic nation. While urging the Council, the international community and the United Nations to do everything in their power to provide life-saving assistance in order to avert further suffering, she also noted that it was in the collective interest of ordinary Afghans to ensure a robust international presence through UNAMA, monitoring developments in the country and ascertaining whether the Taliban were following through on their commitments, especially important at a time when civil society, the media and international non-governmental organizations were unable to do so.

On 2 March, Council members held a meeting and heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies.<sup>542</sup> In her briefing, the Special Representative stated that the worst fears of famine and widespread starvation had perhaps been avoided. She cautioned however that providing short-term relief was not the same as giving hope or preparing a strong foundation

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<sup>542</sup> See [PV.8984](#).

for Afghan self-reliance. Explaining that UNAMA could not truly assist the Afghan people without working with the de facto authorities, she also acknowledged that there remained an enduring distrust between the Taliban and much of the international community, and that the Taliban had made complaints including that the reports did not reflect the reality as they saw it. In this regard, she said that UNAMA had addressed issues through constructive engagement and cooperation with the de facto authorities, both on humanitarian delivery as well as on some of the sensitive issues.

The Executive Director of the Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies focused on priorities for the new mandate of UNAMA, the humanitarian crisis and the political path forward for Afghanistan. Stressing that the Mission had to have the resources and capacity to extend its reach and support local organizations to carry out their human rights work, she urged the Council to ensure that UNAMA prioritized gender equality and the rights of women in terms of both their protection and their participation. Highlighting that the participation of women was essential in delivering humanitarian assistance, she emphasized that the humanitarian response had to be carried out in partnership with Afghan civil society which was ready to support if given the resources. Explaining that while the Taliban wanted an Islamic emirate, a form of Government where power is consolidated in a leader selected by a council, in the past 20 years Afghans had experienced life under a democracy, where citizens choose their leaders through elections, she proposed that the international community could play an important role in facilitating discussions between Afghans and the Taliban, as well as in monitoring progress towards that goal. To do so effectively, she cautioned that it had to unite and set clear benchmarks on fundamental issues such as women's rights, freedom of the press, inclusive governance and the equal representation of men, women, young people, civil society, victims and LGBTQI+ individuals from all ethnic and religious communities, which could then be supported and monitored through UNAMA.

On 17 March, the Council adopted (with one abstention) resolution [2626 \(2022\)](#), extending the mandate of UNAMA for one year.<sup>543</sup> The Council further decided that UNAMA and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General were to continue to carry out their mandate in close consultation with all relevant Afghan political actors and stakeholders including relevant

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<sup>543</sup> See resolution [2626 \(2022\)](#), para. 4.

authorities as needed, in support of the people of Afghanistan in a manner consistent with Afghan sovereignty, leadership and ownership.<sup>544</sup> Following the adoption of the resolution, nine Council members provided explanations of their vote.<sup>545</sup> While welcoming the adoption of the resolution and affirming that it provided a clear and unambiguous foundation upon which UNAMA could engage with all relevant Afghan stakeholders in support of a better future for Afghanistan and its people, the representative of Ireland expressed regret that the Council could not agree to include a reference to climate insecurity.<sup>546</sup> The representative of the Russian Federation stated that his country was compelled to abstain in the voting on the resolution because the reference to the importance of achieving the agreement of the host country on the presence of the United Nations was met with opposition during the discussions on the draft. He also regretted the ignorance of the new realities in the country and the promotion of irrelevant approaches as well as the omission of a more substantive cooperation between the special political mission and the Taliban authorities which he said could jeopardize the effectiveness of the Mission in achieving its mandate and, on the whole, could undermine international efforts to stabilize the situation.

On 23 June, Council members held a briefing. In addition to the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan, Council members heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, an international correspondent and news presenter for BBC News, as well as a consultant for VOICE Amplified. In his briefing, the Deputy Special Representative focused on the recent deadly earthquake in Afghanistan with search-and-rescue operations ongoing, and other emergencies the population in Afghanistan faced.<sup>547</sup> He stated that the de facto authorities had increasingly restricted the exercise of basic human rights, including the freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, limiting the rights and freedoms of Afghan women and girls, which included the ban on secondary schooling for girls and the decision to impose a face covering on women. He also reported on the economic crisis and the ongoing humanitarian emergency and underscored the need for continued engagement with the de facto authorities.

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<sup>544</sup> Ibid., para. 5. For more information on the mandate of UNAMA, see part X, sect. II.

<sup>545</sup> See [S/PV.8997](#). Norway, United Kingdom, United States, Ireland, Albania, Brazil, Russian Federation, China and the United Arab Emirates. The draft resolution [S/2022/237](#) was submitted by Norway.

<sup>546</sup> See [S/PV.8997](#).

<sup>547</sup> See [S/PV.9075](#).

Following the Deputy Special Representative, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs reported on his visits to Afghanistan. While highlighting the economic crisis, ongoing humanitarian emergency, and the need for continued engagement with the de facto authorities in Afghanistan, he stated that poverty was the most common reason people left their homes in the country, and that a lack of money was the main barrier to accessing basic services such as health care and electricity. He further highlighted that the humanitarian exception approved by the Council through its adoption of resolution [2615 \(2021\)](#) had been critical to ensuring that humanitarian partners continued to receive funds and do their work.

In her briefing, the international correspondent and news presenter for BBC News shared observations drawn from the years of reporting on Afghanistan. She underscored that the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan on 15 August 2021 had a transformative impact on the position of women and girls in Afghan society. Afghanistan had become the only country in the world where girls were prevented from receiving an education, and millions of Afghan girls across Afghanistan had been forced to contemplate a life without formal education. In that regard, she said that what was happening in Afghanistan was unique. She stated that it was the most sudden and significant change in the position of women to take place anywhere in the world in modern history.

Council members also heard a briefing by the consultant of VOICE Amplified. She noted that UNAMA had the potential to meaningfully serve the Afghan people going forward. In this context, she called on UNAMA to prioritize the participation of diverse Afghan women's organizations and politicians in exile, to resume regular public reporting immediately, and to ensure that its reports provide accurate and unvarnished information reflecting the realities on the ground. She also called on the Council to end all exemptions for the sanctioned Taliban leaders if there was no progress on women's rights in 60 days, and to call on UNAMA to prioritize facilitating an inclusive intra-Afghan dialogue as soon as the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General had been appointed.

On 29 August, the Council held a meeting at which it heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, and an independent researcher and author. The Under-Secretary-General reported that close to 19 million people were facing acute levels of food insecurity, and that more than half of the population needed humanitarian

assistance.<sup>548</sup> He added that the malnutrition crisis had been fueled by recurrent droughts, while some 25 million people were living in poverty. He also noted that large-scale development assistance had been halted for a year. In this context, he underscored that it was imperative for the international community, as reflected in the Council, continued to stay and deliver for the people of Afghanistan and that the de facto authorities of Afghanistan had to also do their part. He stressed that female humanitarian aid workers – national and international – had to be allowed to work unhindered and in safety and that girls had to be allowed to continue their education.

In his briefing, the Deputy Special Representative stated that the current regime in Afghanistan had not been recognized by any member of the international community. On the economic situation, he expressed that there was no question that the sanctions on the Taliban had affected the Afghan economy since the Taliban had taken control. He added that the de facto authorities were faced with a growing number of governance challenges, including the practice of governing by decree and through policy decisions which had further curtailed fundamental human rights and freedoms. He also noted that the previous three weeks had seen the highest number of civilian casualties in a one-month period since 15 August 2021, in a series of improvised explosive device attacks in Kabul, most of them claimed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan Province (ISIL-KP). Finally, he underscored the importance for the Taliban to understand that their neighbours, regional partners and the wider Islamic world wanted them to be part of the international community.

The independent researcher and author said that the rapid disintegration of Afghanistan following the departure of the international community in 2021 was no surprise adding that to know why that catastrophic failure occurred, it was necessary to understand what the main characteristics of what she termed the post-2001 Western intervention of Afghanistan had encompassed. In her briefing, she addressed a series of factors which she concluded indicated the extreme deception about what had been at the heart of the 20-year Western occupation of Afghanistan and what prompted the sudden withdrawal.

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<sup>548</sup> See [S/PV.9118](#).

On 27 September, the Council held a meeting further to the report of the Secretary-General.<sup>549</sup> In addition to the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, the Council heard briefings by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the former Deputy Speaker of the Afghan Parliament. The Deputy Special Representative reported that the ongoing ban on secondary education for girls and growing restrictions on women's rights were signals that the Taliban were indifferent to more than 50 per cent of the population and of its willingness to risk international isolation.<sup>550</sup> He also noted that the economic situation in Afghanistan remained tenuous, while a part of the enduring economic downturn was due to liquidity problems that were related to Afghanistan's isolation from the international banking system. In this context, he emphasized that humanitarian assistance alone could not replace essential service delivery systems such as health and water, nor prevent an economic collapse, and pointed to a continued lack of political inclusiveness and transparency in decision-making. He said that in addition to the significant curtailment of the rights of women and girls, as well as potential violations of international human rights, UNAMA continued to record violations of the amnesty declaration that the Taliban laudably declared but had inconsistently enforced.

The Executive Director of UNODC explained that, with an alarming increase in methamphetamine production, the Taliban de facto authorities announced a complete ban on the cultivation and production of all narcotics, while granting a grace period that practically exempted the most recent major opium-poppy harvest which had ended in July 2022. Stating that severe droughts had destroyed food harvests at a time when the Afghan economy was collapsing, he noted that it remained unclear to what extent the ban could or would be enforced by the de facto authorities, considering the economic and political realities in Afghanistan and the presence of at least a dozen armed groups challenging the authorities' rule across 18 provinces. He also explained that UNODC was conducting its opium-cultivation surveys remotely, and publishing estimates of how much heroin had been produced from the most recent harvest.

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<sup>549</sup> See [S/2022/692](#).

<sup>550</sup> See [S/PV.9137](#).



In her briefing, the former Deputy Speaker of the Afghan Parliament noted that Afghanistan had yet again become a safe haven for international military extremist groups in the region. She also alerted that a wave of violence had taken on a new form, including through targeted extrajudicial and mass killings of different segments of the population, amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity. She emphasized that the only solution to the question of Afghanistan was a political dialogue and requested that the Council initiated and facilitated a stronger mechanism and collectively used all the leverage over the Taliban towards a meaningful and genuine commitment to dialogue and a peace process.

On 20 December, further to the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>551</sup> the Council held the last meeting of the year in relation to this item. In addition to the new Special Representative, who provided her first briefing since her appointment in September,<sup>552</sup> the Council heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, the representative of India in his capacity as the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#) as well as an Afghan women's rights activist.<sup>553</sup> In her briefing, the Special Representative assessed that the Taliban remained essentially in control of the country, but unable to satisfactorily address the problem of terrorist groups operating inside Afghanistan. She expressed concern about the recent activity of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan (ISIL-K), as well as the attacks on the embassies of the Russian Federation and Pakistan and a hotel hosting many Chinese nationals resulting in significant civilian casualties. Moreover, the media and civil society, which were already suffering from serious financial constraints, continued to be stifled through intimidation by the de facto security institutions and at times through repressive actions. She also reported that the social space of women was being restricted as much as their political space, and that the banning of secondary education would mean that no girls would be entering university in two years. On the economic front, the Special Representative reported some positive developments, including that corruption had significantly decreased compared to the days of the Republic. She indicated, nonetheless, that there had been worrying signs of an uptick in the previous six months. Lastly, she mentioned that UNAMA was undertaking

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<sup>551</sup> See [S/2022/916](#).

<sup>552</sup> See [S/2022/671](#) and [S/2022/672](#).

<sup>553</sup> See [S/PV.9227](#).

an internal review to assess the effectiveness in the implementation of its mandate which would yield recommendations for its future mandate. She concluded by expressing that engagement with the de facto authorities had to continue in some form.

Following the Special Representative, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs reported that 97 per cent of Afghans lived in poverty, and two thirds of the population needed humanitarian assistance to survive.<sup>554</sup> He explained that the humanitarian community in Afghanistan was fully mobilized to address the most urgent needs. In that regard, he discussed the challenges, including the routine interference and restrictions with the de facto authorities, the continued bank de-risking, the daunting financial challenge to fund humanitarian assistance, and the paucity of progress on restarting urgently needed development initiatives, without which the humanitarian situation was likely to further deteriorate, resulting in more people requiring emergency assistance.

In his briefing, the representative of India in his capacity as the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#) reported that the number of UN-sanctioned individuals occupying Cabinet and senior positions in the Taliban Administration had risen from 41 to over 60, and conveyed concerns that the Taliban had reversed policies and gone back on commitments. He noted that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan (ISIL-K) remained a primary threat in Afghanistan and the neighboring countries. He concluded by reiterating the goal of the Committee's sanctions measures to promote a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan by deterring support to terrorist entities and by supporting peace and stability discussions. In that context, he emphasized the need for Member States to further support and assist the work of the Committee and the Monitoring Team, as outlined in paragraph 1 of resolution [2255 \(2015\)](#) and the annex to resolution [2611 \(2021\)](#).

In her briefing, the Afghan human rights' activist provided reflections in comparison to the briefing she had delivered to the Council in January. She reported that the situation had only worsened since then, as Afghanistan was the only country in the world where girls were banned from going to school, and that minorities had vanished and had been banished from

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<sup>555</sup> See [S/PV.8954](#), Norway, Ireland, Mexico, France, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Albania, Brazil, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Afghanistan's public and social life. She added that international terrorist groups had also been wreaking havoc with impunity. She concluded her briefing requesting that the Council continued to provide life-saving aid to the Afghan people and emphasizing the need for support to reinvigorate the economy, as well as to make sure to keep the interests of the people of Afghanistan in mind when engaging with the Taliban.

Throughout 2022, many Council members and participants continued to call for formation of inclusive governance, and for inclusive dialogue with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women as well as ethnic and religious minorities.<sup>555</sup> Against the lack of progress, several Council members and participants reiterated their call for an inclusive intra-Afghan dialogue, and affirmed that a broad-based, inclusive and representative government in Afghanistan was necessary for both domestic and international engagement.<sup>556</sup> In this context, the representative of China stated that constructive engagement had to be strengthened to support Afghanistan in realizing autonomous and effective State governance. Participants at Council meetings also argued that continued engagement with the de facto authorities was necessary to advance peace in Afghanistan.<sup>557</sup>

Concerning the security in the country, Council members and participants called on the Taliban to put an end to reprisal killings and forced disappearances, and to respect freedom of expression, including for members of the media, and freedom of peaceful assembly.<sup>558</sup> The representative of Kenya also urged the Taliban to also engage with other regional countries to address and resolve any tensions and security incidents along border areas with a view to enhancing a collective security approach. In this connection, some speakers also highlighted the role of regional countries and Islamic countries including the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which they believed play a special role in relation to engagement with the Taliban.<sup>559</sup> In Council meetings throughout the period, speakers condemned the terrorist attacks in the country emphasizing the need to prevent terrorism from taking hold in Afghanistan and to

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<sup>555</sup> See [S/PV.8954](#), Norway, Ireland, Mexico, France, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Albania, Brazil, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

<sup>556</sup> See [S/PV.9075](#), India, Ghana, Mexico, United Kingdom, Brazil, Albania, Iran and Uzbekistan.

<sup>557</sup> See [S/PV.9227](#), Norway, China, United Arab Emirates, Brazil, Mexico, Russian Federation, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Pakistan.

<sup>558</sup> See [S/PV.8954](#), United States, Ghana and Afghanistan.

<sup>559</sup> See [S/PV.9118](#), Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates and Pakistan.

prevent attacks from being planned or financed from the country. Specifically, some Council members noted their concerns about the security situation including the intensification of terrorist attacks, including those by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant - Khorasan Province.<sup>560</sup> The discussions in the Council also focused on the need for the Taliban to intensify efforts aimed at combating terrorism and protecting the population, deemed their responsibility, as well as to meet its commitments to ensuring principled, unhindered humanitarian access across the country, upholding basic human rights, most pressingly for women and girls.<sup>561</sup>

The question of the gravity of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the country was addressed by Council members throughout 2022 with a particular focus on the situation of women and girls. Council members highlighted the expectation for the Taliban to follow through their promise on the rights of women and girls, including to receive an education and access employment.<sup>562</sup> Many Council members also deplored the continued denial of access to education for girls by the Taliban, as well as the restrictions on women's participation in public life. Some participants condemned the announcement at the end of the year by the Taliban to ban women from public and private universities.<sup>563</sup>

Regarding the mandate of UNAMA, speakers reiterated their support for efforts and mandate of UNAMA on good offices, human rights monitoring reporting functions, its humanitarian coordination role, child and civilian protection activities and work to promote the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of public life.<sup>564</sup> Highlighting the importance of engagement, the representative of Norway stated that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and her team needed a strong mandate to promote political dialogue and engage with the Taliban, monitor and report on human rights and facilitate the provision of humanitarian and basic human needs. The representative of India underscored on his part that his country was working constructively with other members of the Council to

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<sup>560</sup> Ibid., Ghana, Kenya, Gabon, Russian Federation and France.

<sup>561</sup> Ibid., Norway, Gabon, United Kingdom, Albania, France, Kenya and Afghanistan.

<sup>562</sup> Ibid., Norway, Ghana, Ireland, China, United Kingdom), Mexico, Kenya, Gabon, Albania, United Arab Emirates, United States and France.

<sup>563</sup> See [S/PV.9227](#), United States, United Kingdom, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan and United Arab Emirates.

<sup>564</sup> See [S/PV.8954](#), France, United Kingdom, United States, Albania, Ghana, Kenya, Mexico, Gabon and the United Arab Emirates.

ensure that UNAMA’s new mandate focused on the welfare, well-being and expectations of the Afghan people.

Regarding sanctions, Council members welcomed the unanimous adoption of resolution [2615 \(2021\)](#) of 22 December 2021 to facilitate conditions for continuing the humanitarian assistance without violating the United Nations sanctions regime.<sup>565</sup> Speakers recalled that Afghan financial institutions had to have access to its assets which were subject to unilateral sanctions and the unfreezing of the assets was of importance, if Afghanistan was to have a chance at preventing a severe economic downturn and a dreadful rise in poverty and hunger.<sup>566</sup> In addition, a few speakers expressed regret that the Council could not reach a consensus on renewing exceptions to the travel ban for some of the individuals listed by the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#).<sup>567</sup> In this context, the representative of the Russian Federation called on the countries concerned to take a constructive stance by supporting the extension of the existing exemption. A number of participants also recalled the issue of the management and distribution of Afghan frozen assets to the benefit of the Afghan people.<sup>568</sup>

Developments in Afghanistan were also considered elsewhere under the item entitled “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts”.<sup>569</sup>

### **Meetings: The situation in Afghanistan**

| <i>Meeting and date</i>                         | <i>Sub-item</i> | <i>Other documents</i> | <i>Rule 37 invitations</i>                                       | <i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>  | <i>Speakers</i>  | <i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i> |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| <a href="#">S/PV.8954</a><br>26 January<br>2022 |                 |                        | Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and Uzbekistan | Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, | Secretary-General, all Council members, <sup>a</sup> all invitees <sup>b</sup> |   |

<sup>565</sup> See [S/PV.8954](#), Norway, United States, Mexico, France, Russian Federation, China, Ghana, United Arab Emirates, Brazil, India. For further information on the sanctions measures concerning the Taliban, see part VII, sect. III.

<sup>566</sup> See [S/PV.8954](#), Russian Federation, China, Brazil, Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

<sup>567</sup> See [S/PV.9118](#), Brazil and Pakistan.

<sup>568</sup> See [S/PV.9227](#), Gabon, China, Kenya, Ghana, Russian Federation, Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan.

<sup>569</sup> For more information, see part I, sect. 30.

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|   |   |  |  | Afghan women human rights defender and Executive Director of the Afghan Women Skills Development Centre  |  |   |
| <a href="#">S/PV.8984</a><br>2 March 2022   | Report of the Secretary General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security<br>( <a href="#">S/2022/64</a> )  |  | Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan             | Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Executive Director of the Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies  | All Council members, all invitees              |   |
| <a href="#">S/PV.8997</a><br>17 March 2022  | Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security<br>( <a href="#">S/2022/64</a> )  | Draft resolution submitted by Norway<br>( <a href="#">S/2022/237</a> ) |  |  | Nine Council members <sup>c</sup>              | Resolution <a href="#">2626 (2022)</a><br>14-0-1 <sup>d</sup> |
| <a href="#">S/PV.9075</a><br>23 June 2022   | Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security<br>( <a href="#">S/2022/485</a> ) |  | Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and Uzbekistan | Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, journalist, consultant for VOICE Amplified | All Council members, all invitees <sup>e</sup> |   |
| <a href="#">S/PV.9118</a><br>29 August 2022 |   |  | Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan                | Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Independent researcher and author  | All Council members, all invitees <sup>f</sup> |   |

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| <a href="#">S/PV.9137</a><br>27 September<br>2022 | Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for peace and security<br>( <a href="#">S/2022/692</a> ) | Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan             | Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Former Deputy Speaker of the Afghan Parliament | All Council members, all invitees <sup>g</sup>              |
| <a href="#">S/PV.9227</a><br>20 December<br>2022  | Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for peace and security<br>( <a href="#">S/2022/916</a> ) | Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan | Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Afghan women's rights activist  | All Council members, <sup>h</sup> all invitees <sup>i</sup> |

<sup>a</sup> The meeting was presided by the Prime Minister of Norway. The representative of India spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Committee pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#).

<sup>b</sup> The Special Representative participated in the meeting via videoconference.

<sup>c</sup> Norway, United Kingdom, United States, Ireland, Albania, Brazil, Russian Federation, China and the United Arab Emirates.

<sup>d</sup> *For:* Albania, Brazil, China, France, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States *Against:* None. *Abstaining:* Russian Federation.

<sup>e</sup> The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan, and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator participated in the meeting via videoconference.

<sup>f</sup> The Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Deputy Special Representative, and the independent researcher and author participated in the meeting via videoconference.

<sup>g</sup> The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime participated in the meeting via videoconference.

<sup>h</sup> The representative of India spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Committee pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#).

<sup>i</sup> The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator participated in the meeting via videoconference.