



KIIT
INTERNATIONAL
MODEL
UNITED
NATIONS



Crisis Committee
STUDY GUIDE-UNODC

Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings delegates,

Though we shall try our level best to give you all a very comprehensive guide, however, the responsibility of reading between the lines and joining the dots lies on you. We as moderators can just bring information on the table; it's on you how you wish to pursue that information as.

So, in this guide, we shall bring in a wide range of information to your notice, ranging from official statements to scholarly views however the responsibility of prioritizing what to focus on and not is totally yours. When we talk of prioritizing information, what we mean is not to prioritize information according to what you think should be focused on, but to prioritize information according to what your country thinks should be focused on. Before coming to the conference, it is very important to break the larger agenda into smaller subtopics and ask questions to yourself about the agenda.

It is also crucial to enhance your leadership skills and lobbying capacity since we would give equal importance to overall participation in the committee.

We would take this opportunity to elaborate upon the criteria for judgment which we will follow in the committee:

1. Directives
2. Guidance of debate
3. Adherence to portfolio policy
4. Points
5. Lobbying
6. Yields
7. Documentation
8. Verbatim

We shall, to the best of our abilities, ensure that a fair simulation is conducted and there is ample scope for fruitful and meaningful discussion which paves the way for a nuanced learning experience.

Regards,

Shikhar Tripathi
Chairperson

Daniel
Vice-Chairperson

Introduction to the Committee

This committee shall work as an unconventional formal proceeding wherein the delegates are supposed to represent and vouch for the interest of their nations, amidst a new and improved Afghanistan Peace Agreement.

In this meeting, the Taliban shall formally represent the Afghan delegation and shall deliberate over the multifactorial issues surrounding peace and security in Afghanistan, with the National delegations, present in this meeting. Each nation shall be responsible for a collective effort towards the establishment of peace, and also towards the achievement of the best interests of their own nation. Moreover, the representatives of the different organizations that are a part of this meeting shall be expected to maintain the principles of their organizations within the scope of discussion, while regulating the interests of all the parties involved.

On day 1, the cabinets shall operate separately and will begin a formal discussion, with round-robin opening statements, and shall then move towards moderated informal discussions. On day 2 & 3 the cabinets shall be functioning together. Backdoor negotiations shall play a key role in this committee. To facilitate backdoor negotiations, the delegates shall be allowed to get into breakout rooms, or, separate meeting rooms, so as to hold their negotiations.

As far as documentation is concerned, the delegates shall be expected to come up with a framed and documented agreement, as a committee, or, in a case where no amicable collective decision can be reached, a press release shall be expected, addressing the same. Additionally, delegates can formulate and submit bilateral agreements between parties to this meeting, specifically on the pertaining issue, irrespective of whether a collective agreement is reached or not.

Since this is an unconventional formal proceeding, no formal 'UN' ROP or 'UN' formalities shall be adhered to, however, since it is a formal meeting, the basic etiquette of a formal meeting shall be observed. Moreover, for the ease of habit, interjections can still be made via 'Point of Information' and, since Point of Orders are in order during any formal meeting, they shall be here as well. However, considering the nature of the gathering, representatives shall enjoy greater leeways than at a conventional meeting. However, it is advised not to misuse this.

There shall be no substantive voting, however, if a committee document is presented, it shall be discussed, and at the end of the discussion, the Dias shall call for signatures, for the agreement. The concept of 'majority' shall only be utilized to ease moderation during the process of taking up and passing proposed motions.

Background of the Committee

To understand and address the security situation in Afghanistan, it is vital to understand the history of Afghanistan and the current situation in the country. Since becoming independent from the British in 1919 and joining the UN in 1946, Afghanistan has experienced a number of tumultuous events, including King Zahir Shah's "experiment with democracy" from 1964-1973; a military coup in 1973 that resulted in the creation of parliamentary democracy; and Marxist coups in 1978 and 1979 followed by an insurgency and Soviet intervention. At first, the Soviet Union provided support to the new government. Later, when the government refused to take Soviet advice, the USSR toppled the government, installed a different leader, and invaded the country. In 1980, the Security Council met to discuss (but due to the Soviet veto never passed) a draft resolution condemning Soviet actions.

In 1984, the UN again tried to intervene, sponsoring talks among the US, Soviet, Afghan and Pakistani governments. But an end to the war was not negotiated until 1988, when "the Governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan, with the United States and the Soviet Union serving as guarantors, signed an agreement settling the major differences between them." This agreement, known as the Geneva Accords, "called for U.S. and Soviet noninterference in the internal affairs of Pakistan and Afghanistan, the right of refugees to return to Afghanistan without fear of persecution or harassment, and ... full Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan by February 15, 1989."

The ten-year war-devastated Afghanistan. According to the US Department of State, from 1979- 1989, "An estimated one million Afghan lives were lost." In addition, approximately 4.5 million refugees fled the country. Of those, about three million went to Pakistan, and 1.5 million went to Iran. Afghanistan's economy was at a standstill. The war destroyed schools, businesses, and industrial areas, as well as irrigation projects that moved water to arid regions throughout the country.

After 1989, the war continued despite Soviet withdrawal. According to the State Department, "the mujahidin were party neither to the negotiations nor to the 1988 agreement and, consequently, refused to accept the terms of the accords." Thus there was "a new round of internecine fighting ... between the various militias, which had coexisted only uneasily during the Soviet occupation. With the demise of their common enemy, the militias' ethnic, clan, religious, and personality differences surfaced, and the civil war continued."

From 1989-1994, “the country sank even further into anarchy.” Different parts of the territory were held by different mujahidin groups and warlords. On March 19, 1992, then Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, called for an end to the “human tragedy” that had been occurring in Afghanistan for more than a decade, while at the same time noting that the country had been “subjected to total devastation.” The civil war continued until 1999 when the Taliban – which had captured the southern city of Kandahar from a local warlord in 1994 and slowly expanded its influence over the country – controlled about 90% of Afghanistan. Members of the Taliban are largely from the southern Pashtun ethnic group, which ruled Afghanistan for hundreds of years and today accounts for about 40% of Afghanistan’s population.

The Taliban rose to power in reaction to the devastation and anarchy of the civil war. In addition to establishing order, however, the Taliban “implemented an extreme interpretation of Islam – based upon the rural Pashtun tribal code – on the entire country and committed massive human rights violations,” especially against women, girls, and Afghan minority populations. Despite international condemnation of the Taliban’s many human rights violations, international military forces did not enter Afghanistan until after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center, which killed 2,974 people, mostly American civilians. The September 11 attacks were carried out by the Al Qaeda organization of Osama bin Laden, a citizen of Saudi Arabia who participated in the mujahidin fight against the Soviets in the 1980s and who operated terrorist training camps in southern Afghanistan beginning in the 1990s. After Al Qaeda carried out bombings in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, the Security Council imposed sanctions on the Taliban to encourage it to expel bin Laden and his group, but the Taliban refused. After the September 11 attacks, the Taliban again refused to expel Al Qaeda, so the US and its “coalition of the willing,” which included a number of Afghan warlords wishing to retake their territory, attacked the capital city of Kabul, forcing the Taliban to flee. This military operation was not explicitly authorized by the Security Council but is generally considered to have been in accordance with the UN Charter, which authorizes the use of force in self-defense.

In 2001, after the US-led coalition ousted the Taliban government from control in Kabul, the UN sponsored a conference in Bonn, Germany, where Afghan factions opposed to the Taliban created an interim government, the Afghan Transitional Authority (ATA) with Hamid Karzai as chairman. The Bonn Conference also established the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to protect Karzai and the ATA in Kabul.

In 2002, Security Council Resolution 1401 established the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) to support the Bonn Agreement and coordinate the UN’s peace and stability operations in the country. The mandate of UNAMA has been renewed annually. In June 2002, a nationwide “Loya Jirga” (Grand Council) named Karzai president of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan (TISA), which drafted a constitution that was ratified by a Constitutional

Loya Jirga on January 4, 2004. Democratic presidential elections were held in October 2004. According to the US State Department, "more than 8 million Afghans voted, 41% of whom were women." Karzai was the winner. In November 2009, Karzai has announced the winner of another presidential election. According to the UN, however, that election was marked by widespread fraud, as was a parliamentary election in 2010. In a tumultuous election in 2014, which included attacks from the Taliban in an effort to violently disrupt the political process, Ashraf Ghani was elected president of Afghanistan. After five months of negotiation with his primary competitor, Abdullah Abdullah, Ghani agreed to grant some political powers to Abdullah. The agreement was necessary following Abdullah's claims that Ghani had committed fraud during the election, and a later agreement by both candidates to audit the presidential elections and to form a unity government between the two. The US, in response, demanded that Ghani and Abdullah come to an agreement as a precondition for continued assistance.

Initially, ISAF was just a small peacekeeping force whose job was to provide security to the Karzai government in the capital city of Kabul. Over time, ISAF's job expanded. In 2003, at the US's request, NATO took over ISAF command from the UN and began to operate in the provinces. By October 2006, ISAF commanded international military forces that were fighting local warlords and Taliban insurgents throughout Afghanistan.

Beginning in 2011, ISAF gradually transferred responsibility for Afghanistan's security to Afghan forces. ISAF completed its mission officially in 2014 when it was replaced by a NATO-led non-combat mission called Resolute Support (RSM), which "provide[s] further training, advice, and assistance to the Afghan security forces and institutions." At that time, the Afghan military also assumed full control over Afghanistan's security. At its peak in 2009, ISAF consisted of more than 130,000 troops from 51 contributing NATO members.

While most NATO members have assumed an advisory role in Afghanistan (in addition to financial support, which, in addition to its RSM, it hopes to maintain until 2020), the US has continued to provide more direct aid in the form of "protection, logistical support, and counterterrorism activities." To be sure, most US troops in Afghanistan are part of RSM, but, unlike the other 39 NATO members involved in the country, the US presence in Afghanistan includes troops outside of the NATO mandate.

In 2017, US President Donald Trump announced a shift in US foreign policy from that of the Obama Administration. Under the new policy, the US would reject "arbitrary timetables" for withdrawal from Afghanistan and instead continually assess the situation in Afghanistan to determine US policy towards the country. In fact, in August 2017, the US Department of Defense announced that it actually had about 11,000 US troops in Afghanistan, almost 2,500 more than it had formally reported in previous years. This information came weeks after the Trump administration announced that it planned to send 4,000 troops in addition to the existing 11,000 currently stationed there.

Trump's new strategy towards Afghanistan also rejects diplomatic approaches, which Obama and other NATO members had begun in 2014, and instead promulgated a military approach to the situation. By 2019, the Taliban and US government entered a round of peace talks that one US special envoy described as "more productive than they have been in the past." The two sides reached a tentative peace agreement that involves the US withdrawal of troops and a commitment that the Taliban will not harbor other jihadist groups. However, by September, Trump had canceled the deal and towards the end of Trump's presidency, the Pentagon had announced plans to withdraw troops from Afghanistan, in a systematic manner. Instead, when Joe Biden came to power, he erratically hastened the withdrawal process, which has led to the current situation where the Taliban quickly took over one Afghani city after another and has been successful in taking over the power in the country, with President Ghani's resignation. On top of that, a coalition of militant groups under the leadership of Vice President Saleh has announced war against the Taliban, and Saleh has claimed that he is taking over the presidency in the government in exile.

THE DOHA AGREEMENT

KIIT MUN

Joint Declaration between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United States of America for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, a member of the United Nations and recognized by the United States and the international community as a sovereign state under international law, and the United States of America are committed to working together to reach a comprehensive and sustainable peace agreement that ends the war in Afghanistan for the benefit of all Afghans and contributes to regional stability and global security. A comprehensive and sustainable peace agreement will include four parts: 1) guarantees to prevent the use of Afghan soil by any international terrorist groups or individuals against the security of the United States and its allies, 2) a timeline for the withdrawal of all U.S. and Coalition forces from Afghanistan, 3) a political settlement resulting from intra-Afghan dialogue and negotiations between the Taliban and an inclusive negotiating team of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and 4) a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire. These four parts are interrelated and interdependent. The pursuit of peace after long years of fighting reflects the goal of all parties who seek a sovereign, unified Afghanistan at peace with itself and its neighbors.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United States have partnered closely since 2001 to respond to threats to international peace and security and help the Afghan people chart a secure, democratic and prosperous future. The two countries are committed to their longstanding relationship and their investments in building the Afghan institutions necessary to establish democratic norms, protect and preserve the unity of the country, and promote social and economic advancements and the rights of citizens. The commitments set out here are made possible by these shared achievements. Afghan and U.S. security forces share a special bond forged during many years of tremendous sacrifice and courage. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the people of Afghanistan reaffirm their support for peace and their willingness to negotiate an end to this war.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan welcomes the Reduction in Violence period and takes note of the U.S.-Taliban agreement, an important step toward ending the war. The U.S-Taliban agreement paves the way for intra-Afghan negotiations on a political settlement and a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan reaffirms its readiness to participate in such negotiations and its readiness to conclude a ceasefire with the Taliban.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan furthermore reaffirms its ongoing commitment to prevent any international terrorist groups or individuals, including al-Qa'ida and ISIS-K, from using Afghan soil to threaten the security of the United States, its allies, and other countries. To accelerate the pursuit of peace, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan confirms its support for the phased withdrawal of U.S. and Coalition forces subject to the Taliban's fulfillment of its commitments under the U.S.-Taliban agreement and any agreement resulting from intra-Afghan negotiations.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United States, therefore, have made the following commitments:

PART ONE

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United States recognize that al-Qa'ida, ISIS-K, and other international terrorist groups or individuals continue to use Afghan soil to recruit members, raise funds, train adherents and plan and attempt to conduct attacks that threaten the security of the United States, its allies, and Afghanistan. To address this continuing terrorist threat, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United States will continue to take the following steps to defeat al-Qa'ida, its affiliates, and other international terrorist groups or individuals:

1. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan reaffirms its continued commitment not to cooperate with or permit international terrorist groups or individuals to recruit, train, raise funds (including through the production or distribution of narcotics), transit Afghanistan, or misuse its internationally-recognized travel documents, or conduct other support activities in Afghanistan, and will not host them.
2. The United States reaffirms its commitments regarding support for the Afghan security forces and other government institutions, including through ongoing efforts to enhance the ability of Afghan security forces to deter and respond to internal and external threats, consistent with its commitments under existing security agreements between the two governments. This commitment includes support to Afghan security forces to prevent al-Qa'ida, ISIS-K, and other international terrorist groups or individuals from using Afghan soil to threaten the United States and its allies.
3. The United States reaffirms its readiness to continue to conduct military operations in Afghanistan with the consent of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in order to disrupt and degrade efforts by al-Qa'ida, ISIS-K, and other international terrorist groups or individuals to carry out attacks against the United States or its allies, consistent with its commitments under existing security agreements between the two governments and with the existing understanding that U.S. counterterrorism operations are intended to complement and support Afghan security forces' counterterrorism operations, with full respect for Afghan sovereignty and full regard for the safety and security of the Afghan people and the protection of civilians.
4. The United States commits to facilitate discussions between Afghanistan and Pakistan to work out arrangements to ensure neither country's security is threatened by actions from the territory of the other side.

PART TWO

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United States have consulted extensively on U.S. and Coalition force levels and the military activities required to achieve the foregoing commitments including through support to Afghan security and defense forces. Subject to the Taliban's fulfillment of its commitments under the U.S.-Taliban agreement, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the United States, and the Coalition jointly assess that the current levels of military forces are no longer necessary to achieve

security objectives; since 2014, Afghan security forces have been in the lead for providing security and have increased their effectiveness. As such, the parties commit to take the following measures:

1. The United States will reduce the number of U.S. military forces in Afghanistan to 8,600 and implement other commitments in the U.S.-Taliban agreement within 135 days of the announcement of this joint declaration and the U.S.-Taliban agreement, and will work with its allies and the Coalition to reduce proportionally the number of Coalition forces in Afghanistan over an equivalent period, subject to the Taliban's fulfillment of its commitments under the U.S.-Taliban agreement.
2. Consistent with the joint assessment and determination between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the United States, its allies, and the Coalition will complete the withdrawal of their remaining forces from Afghanistan within 14 months following the announcement of this joint declaration and the U.S.-Taliban agreement and will withdraw all their forces from remaining bases, subject to the Taliban's fulfillment of its commitments under the U.S.-Taliban agreement.
3. The United States reaffirms its commitment to seek funds on a yearly basis that support the training, equipping, advising, and sustaining of Afghan security forces, so that Afghanistan can independently secure and defend itself against internal and external threats.
4. To create the conditions for reaching a political settlement and achieving a permanent, sustainable ceasefire, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will participate in a U.S.-facilitated discussion with Taliban representatives on confidence-building measures, to include determining the feasibility of releasing significant numbers of prisoners on both sides. The United States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will seek the assistance of the ICRC to support this discussion.
5. With the start of intra-Afghan negotiations, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan commits to start diplomatic engagement with members of the UN Security Council to remove members of the Taliban from the sanctions list with the aim of achieving this objective by May 29, 2020, and in any case no later than 30 days after finalizing a framework agreement and a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire.

PART THREE

1. The United States will request the recognition and endorsement of the UN Security Council for this agreement and related arrangements.
2. The United States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan are committed to continuing positive relations, including economic cooperation for reconstruction.
3. The United States will refrain from the threat or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Afghanistan or intervening in its domestic affairs.
4. The United States will continue to work to build regional and international consensus to support the ongoing effort to achieve a political settlement to the principal conflict in Afghanistan.

CONCLUSIONS FROM THE EXTENDED DOHA TALKS

THIS IS A FICTIONAL DOCUMENTED DRAFT.

AS A RESULT OF THE EXTENDED TALKS ON THE DOHA PEACE AGREEMENT, THE TALIBAN, THE AFGHAN DELEGATION, AND THE PARTNER NATIONS, UNDER THE MEDIATION & INSIGHTS OF THE UNAMA CONCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

- LOOKING AT THE CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN IT IS IMPORTANT TO TAKE STEPS TOWARDS RELEASING FROZEN FUNDS, AS WELL AS PREPARE PLANS ABOUT POSSIBLE HUMANITARIAN AID MISSIONS. HOWEVER, THIS SHALL REQUIRE COOPERATION FROM BOTH ENDS OF THE TABLE.
- IT IS INTEGRAL TO DISCUSS GROUNDS FOR RECOGNITION OF THE CURRENT REGIME, TO ALLOW EASE OF COOPERATION. HOWEVER, THIS SHALL REQUIRE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MIDDLE GROUND BY BOTH ENDS OF THE TABLE.
- PROVIDING TEMPORARY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES ON LOCAL LEVELS WHILE ALSO WORKING ON LONG-TERM MEASURES OF INCREASING TEACHING STAFF IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES AND ALSO INCREASING FUNDS DIVERTED TOWARDS EDUCATION BOTH ON TEMPORARY AND LONG-TERM LEVELS IS A NECESSITY.
- CREATING ADEQUATE DUE DILIGENCE STANDARDS WHILE RECEIVING FUNDS FROM INTERNATIONAL DONORS THAT INCLUDE BOTH MEMBER STATES AND RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS AND FURTHER MONITORING THE USAGE OF FUNDS USING CURRENT MEASURES OF UNAMA IS A STEP THAT NEEDS TO BE ADHERED TO.
- WOMEN PROTECTION, MINORITY PROTECTION & PREVENTING ILLICIT DRUGS, AND ARMS TRADE ARE OTHER TOPICS THAT SHOULD BE LOOKED AT, POST INITIAL STABILIZATION.

AIM FOR THE COMMITTEE

THE DELEGATES SHOULD FOCUS ON REACHING AN AMICABLE AND LASTING AGREEMENT BETWEEN PARTIES THAT CAN ENSURE 'REALISTIC' PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFGHANISTAN, AND BE AIMED AT PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE, THAT CAN BE A NEW AGREEMENT ALTOGETHER OR ADD ON TO THE CURRENT AGREEMENT AND BE AN ADDENDUM TO IT, THAT INCLUDES THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE PARTIES AND NOT JUST TWO, SINCE THE ISSUE DOES AFFECT MULTIPLE PARTIES, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. THE DELEGATES SHOULD BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THE ISSUES THAT CONCERN THE GOVERNMENT THEY REPRESENT AND TRY TO DIFFUSE THEM VIA DIPLOMACY, BE IT COLLECTIVE OR BILATERAL/MULTILATERAL.

PROFILES

SHER MOHAMMAD ABBAS STANEKZAI

SHER MOHAMMAD ABBAS STANEKZAI IS A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE TALIBAN FROM AFGHANISTAN AND HAS RECEIVED THE POSITION OF THE DEPUTY HEAD OF THE TALIBAN'S POLITICAL OFFICE IN DOHA. SINCE THE 1990s, HE HAS BECOME A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TALIBAN IN NUMEROUS MEETINGS AROUND THE WORLD. SUCH AS THE 1996 MEETING WITH THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON, D.C. SHER MOHAMMAD ABBAS STANEKZAI ALSO ESTABLISHED RELATIONS FOR THE TALIBAN WITH UZBEKISTAN AND INDONESIA. CONSIDERING HIS AMICABLE TIES WITH THE USA, HE HAS BEEN AN ARDENT VOICE FOR COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL LEADERS LIKE INDIA.

ABDUL HAKIM HAQQANI

ABDUL HAKIM HAQQANI IS ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE TALIBAN MOVEMENT, THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, THE AFGHAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE, AND ALSO THE HEAD OF TALIBAN'S NEGOTIATING TEAM. HIS CHIEF CONCERNS INCLUDE RECOGNITION FOR THE ISLAMIC EMIRATES OF AFGHANISTAN AND HAVE BEEN VOCAL ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN COOPERATION WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

ABDULLAH ABDULLAH

ABDULLAH ABDULLAH WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HIGH COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION (HCNR) AND ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE INTRA-AGHAN PEACE TALKS WITH THE TALIBAN, UNDER THE ASHRAF GHANI PRESIDENCY. HE HAS PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BEFORE THE TALIBAN TAKEOVER OF AFGHANISTAN. POST COLLAPSE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN, HE MET WITH THE TALIBAN IN DOHA TO PRESENT THE SOLUTION FOR PEACE IN AFGHANISTAN. HE IS PRESENT IN THE MEETING AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN.

HAMID KARZAI

HAMID KARZAI IS THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF AFGHANISTAN AND THE KHAN OF THE POPALZAI DURRANI PASHTUN TRIBE. DURING THE US INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN, HAMID KARZAI RALLIED PASHTUN TRIBES IN KANDAHAR AGAINST THE TALIBAN. DURING HIS ADMINISTRATION, HE ESTABLISHED FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE USA, RUSSIA, IRAN, INDIA, AND PAKISTAN. IT WAS SUSPECTED THAT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO GET AN OFFICE IN THE CURRENT TALIBAN GOVERNMENT IN AFGHANISTAN POST HIS INITIAL MEETING WITH THE TALIBAN IN DOHA. HE IS PRESENT IN THE MEETING AS A VOICE OF THE PASHTUNS, A VOICE OF PEACE, AND A VOICE OF COOPERATION.

FAWZIA KOOFI

FAWZIA KOOFI IS A WOMEN'S RIGHT ACTIVIST THAT HAS WORKED WITH UNICEF TO HELP INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE. SHE ALSO DRAFTED THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN LEGISLATION, IN AFGHANISTAN. SHE WAS A MEMBER OF THE AFGHAN DELEGATION THAT NEGOTIATED WITH THE TALIBAN IN DOHA AND MADE THEM COME TO A COMMON GROUND FOR AGREING TO RESPECT WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND PROVIDE MODERN EDUCATION FOR ALL. SHE IS PRESENT IN THE MEETING AS A VOICE OF THE WOMEN OF AFGHANISTAN.

KHAIRULLAH KHAIRKHWA

KHAIRULLAH KHAIRKHWA IS THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE OF THE TALIBAN'S AFGHAN GOVERNMENT. POST THE US INVASION, HE WAS DETAINED BY THE USA IN GUANTANAMO BAY, ONLY TO BE RELEASED IN 2014. HE, NATURALLY, HAS HATRED TOWARDS THE USA AND HAS BEEN VOCAL ABOUT GARNERING RECOGNITION FOR THE IEA WITHOUT INVOLVING THE USA. HE IS A RADICAL ISLAMIST WHO HAS OFTEN BEEN REFERRED TO AS 'MAULAVI'.

MULLAH AMIR KHAN MUTTAQI

MULLAH AMIR KHAN MUTTAQI IS THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE TALIBAN'S AFGHAN GOVERNMENT. HE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE NEGOTIATION TEAM IN QATAR. POST COLLAPSE, HE HAS BEEN VOUCHING FOR INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE AND HE WAS THE ONE INVOLVED IN INITIAL TALKS WITH THE AFGHAN DELEGATION, INCLUDING ABDULLAH AND KARZAI.

MAULAVI MOHAMMAD YAQUB MUJAHID

MAULAVI MOHAMMAD YAQUB MUJAHID IS THE ACTING AFGHAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE. HE IS ALSO THE DEPUTY TO HIBA-TULLAH AKHUNDZADA, WHICH IS THE HEAD OF THE ISLAMIC EMIRATE OF AFGHANISTAN AND THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE TALIBAN. SINCE 2016, HE HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF OVERSEEING ALL OF THE MILITARY AFFAIRS INSIDE THE TALIBAN. HE HAS GREAT RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND THE REST OF THE ARAB WORLD. HIS PRIMARY FOCUS SINCE TAKING OFFICE HAS BEEN TO CURB INTERNAL RESISTANCE AND ENSURE SECURITY FOR AFGHANISTAN.

DEBORAH LYONS

DEBORAH LYONS HAS 21 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL CAREER AS A DIPLOMAT. HER MOST RECENT STATION BEFORE BECOMING THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AFGHANISTAN IS CANADA'S AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL. SHE ALSO PREVIOUSLY HELD THE POSITION AS THE DEPUTY AMBASSADOR AT THE EMBASSY OF CANADA IN WASHINGTON, D.C. SHE IS THE HEAD OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN (UNAMA). SHE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL UN ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRY AND DIRECTLY OVERSEES THE SECURITY SECTION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE, HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION, AND PEACE AND RECONCILIATION. IN THE MEETING, SHE SERVES THE PURPOSE OF THE UN, TO MEDIATE AND FACILITATE COOPERATION AND ENSURE PEACE IN AFGHANISTAN.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

IN 2001, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA), INVaded AFGHANISTAN AND TOPPLED THE TALIBAN GOVERNMENT THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED. THE US DEMANDS AT THAT TIME WERE FOR THE TALIBAN TO HAND OVER OSAMA BIN LADEN AND THE EXPULSION OF AL-QAEDA. ON 29 FEBRUARY 2020, THE US UNDER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP SIGNED THE DOHA AGREEMENT WITH THE TALIBAN TO WITHDRAW US TROOPS FROM AFGHANISTAN, WHICH WAS COMPLETED ON 30 AUGUST 2021. THE USA LOOKS TO PROTECT ITS INTEREST IN AFGHANISTAN, AS WELL AS SHOWCASE ITS PRESENCE IN GLOBAL GEOPOLITICS.

INDIA

SINCE THE 1990s, INDIA HAS SUPPORTED THE UNITED ISLAMIC NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE SALVATION OF AFGHANISTAN AGAINST THE TALIBAN AND SUPPORTED THE US INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN IN 2001. HOWEVER, SINCE AFGHANISTAN HAS BEEN USED BY PAKISTAN AS THE SUPPORTING GROUND FOR THEIR FRICITION AGAINST INDIA, INDIA HAS CHANGED ITS FOREIGN POLICY INTO A MORE NEUTRAL APPROACH, HAS BEEN INVESTING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFGHANISTAN, AND HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN FORMING AMICABLE TIES. EVEN WITHIN THE TALIBAN, THERE IS A FACTION THAT INCLINES TOWARDS INDIA AND IS NOT IN FAVOR OF PAKISTAN. IN THE MEETING, INDIA WOULD LOOK OUT TO PUT UP ITS OWN INTERESTS IN AFGHANISTAN, ALONG WITH SERVING STABILITY FOR THE REGION, WHILE SHINING IN THE STATUS OF A REGIONAL LEADER.

UNITED KINGDOM

THE UNITED KINGDOM (UK) HAD MAINTAINED ITS PRESENCE IN THE AFGHAN SECTOR EVEN BEFORE THE US INVASION, AND THEN WAS ONE OF THE KEY ALLIES OF THE USA IN THE WAR. HOWEVER, POST-WITHDRAWAL, THE UK SEEMS TO HAVE LOST A FOOT IN THE PLOT AND HAS BEEN VYING TO REGAIN IMPORTANCE IN THE REGION. THEY SHALL ACT AS A KEY FOR RECOGNITION AS WELL AS NEGOTIATION WITH THE CURRENT REGIME.

FRANCE

FRANCE HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT ACTOR WITH THE NATO AND HAS BEEN VOCAL ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL COOPERATION. ALSO, JUST LIKE THE UK, IT HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET A STRONGHOLD ON THE LAND.

GERMANY

GERMANY HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT LEADER FROM THE EU TO BUILD RELATIONS IN THE AFGHAN SECTOR AND TO HELP WITH MEDIATION. GERMANY SHALL LOOK TO BE A LOBBYIST TO BRING PARTIES TO THE TABLE FOR PROPER NEGOTIATION AND TO UPHOLD THE INTERESTS OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT.

SAUDI ARABIA

SAUDI ARABIA HAS HAD CLOSE AND STRATEGIC TIES WITH THE USA AND IS ALSO KNOWN TO HAVE TIES WITH THE TALIBAN, THUS THEY SHALL ACT AS AN IMPORTANT CHANNEL FOR TALKS.

UZBEKISTAN

UZBEKISTAN'S APPROACH HAS BEEN TO URGE THE FORMATION OF AN INCLUSIVE GOVERNMENT IN AFGHANISTAN THAT CAN RESPECT THE INTERESTS OF ALL. MOREOVER, IT HAS BEEN VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE BORDER ISSUES AND REFUGEE CRISIS. UZBEKISTAN ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WANTS TO BE VIEWED AS A NEUTRAL PARTY.

TAJIKISTAN

TAJIKISTAN POSTHUMOUSLY HONORED BURHANUDDIN RABBANI AND AHMAD SHAH MASOUD, TWO OF THE TALIBAN'S MOST ARDENT ENEMIES. TAJIKISTAN HAS BEEN VOCAL THAT IT WILL NOT RECOGNIZE ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT FORMED IN AFGHANISTAN THROUGH OPPRESSION, WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE POSITION OF THE ENTIRE AFGHAN PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY ALL OF ITS TAJIK MINORITIES.

TURKMENISTAN

TURKMENISTAN HAS EMPHASIZED THAT BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF FRIENDSHIP AND GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS, AS WELL AS BEING GUIDED BY THE HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, AND CIVILIZATIONAL COMMONALITY OF THE PEOPLES OF TWO COUNTRIES, TURKMENISTAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND REMAINS FIRMLY INTERESTED IN THE DOMESTIC STABILITY AND SECURITY OF AFGHANISTAN, THE WELLBEING OF THE FRATERNAL AFGHAN PEOPLE. IT STANDS FOR THE SPEEDY NORMALIZATION OF THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN, THE STATEMENT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NEW STATE INSTITUTIONS IN THE COUNTRY WILL BE ESTABLISHED SOON WITHIN THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND WITH WIDE PARTICIPATION OF ALL ETHNIC GROUPS RESIDING IN AFGHANISTAN.

JOSEPH BORRELL

JOSEP BORRELL FONTELLES IS A SPANISH POLITICIAN SERVING AS HIGH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY POLICY AND THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION. THE EU PROMISED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES OF AFGHANISTAN TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND DIGNIFIED LIVELIHOOD FOR THE NEWLY DISPLACED REFUGEES. THIS CAME AS A MOVE TO KEEP THE AFGHAN MIGRANTS IN THE SAME REGION AND AVOID ANOTHER MIGRANT CRISIS LIKE THAT OF 2015.

CHINA

SINCE 1979, CHINA HAS SUPPORTED AFGHANISTAN AND HAS NEGOTIATED FOR ESTABLISHING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE TALIBAN SINCE 2016. TO WHICH IS 2021, THE TALIBAN RENOUNCES ITS TIES WITH THE EAST TURKESTAN ISLAMIC MOVEMENT FOR CHINA'S SUPPORT. CHINA HAS BEEN ACTIVELY EXPANDING ITS INFLUENCE IN AFGHANISTAN. CHINA HAS SIGNED MINING CONTRACTS WITH AFGHANISTAN SINCE 2010 AND HAS AN ACTIVE MILITARY BASE IN BADAKSHAN. IN THE MEETING, CHINA WOULD LOOK TO EXPAND ITS INFLUENCE AND SHALL TRY TO PUT ITS OWN INTERESTS ON THE NEGOTIATION TABLE.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

RUSSIA SUPPORTED THE UNITED ISLAMIC NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE SALVATION OF AFGHANISTAN AGAINST THE TALIBAN SINCE THE 1990s AND THE US INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN IN 2001. HOWEVER, SINCE 2017, RUSSIA CHANGED SIDES AND SUPPORTED THE TALIBAN IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE ISLAMIC STATE – KHORASAN PROVINCE. SINCE THE AFGHANISTAN TAKEOVER BY THE TALIBAN, RUSSIA SUPPORTED MEDIATION BETWEEN

THE TALIBAN AND THE NATIONAL RESISTANCE FRONT (NRF). RUSSIA HAS BEEN ACTIVELY TRYING TO MEDIATE PEACE BETWEEN THE DISPUTING PARTIES IN AFGHANISTAN SINCE 2018. SINCE, THE TALIBAN'S TAKEOVER OF AFGHANISTAN, RUSSIA HAS CALLED FOR RECONCILIATION FOR ALL OF THE DISPUTING PARTIES IN AFGHANISTAN. CLEARLY, RUSSIA SHALL TRY TO ENTER THE SECTOR, NOT JUST AS MEDIATORS BUT AS ACTORS. THEY HAVE IMPORTANT ECONOMIC AS WELL AS POLITICAL INTERESTS VESTED IN THE REGION WHICH THEY SHALL TRY TO MANIFEST.

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN HAS BEEN A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE TALIBAN SINCE THE 1990S AND HISTORICALLY PAKISTAN HAS BEEN THE NATION THAT SHIELDED THE TALIBAN BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. PAKISTAN ALSO APPEARED TO HAVE BECOME THE TALIBAN'S BASE OF OPERATION AND SAFE HAVEN, IN THE RECENT PAST. AFTER THE TALIBAN TOOK OVER AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN HAS COME TO REAP THE BENEFITS OF BECOMING THE STRONGEST SUPPORTER OF THE TALIBAN. PAKISTAN WILL LOOK TO USE THE TALIBAN AND THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO LOOK OUT FOR ITS OWN INTERESTS AS WELL AS TO GET AN UPPER HAND IN THEIR REGIONAL TUSSLE WITH INDIA.

IRAN

IRAN SUPPORTED THE UNITED ISLAMIC NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE SALVATION OF AFGHANISTAN SINCE THE 1990S AND HAS SUPPORTED THE US INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN IN 2001. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE RECENT CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE US AND IRAN, IRAN HAS VOICED ITS SUPPORT TOWARDS TALIBAN IN RECENT TIMES AND HAS EMERGED AS ONE OF THE STRONG SUPPORTERS OF THE TALIBAN, AS THE TALIBAN IS SEEN, BY MANY PARTIES, AS A TOOL FOR A PROXY WAR AGAINST THE USA. AFTER THE TALIBAN TAKE OVER AFGHANISTAN, IRAN SOUGHT TO DISCREDIT THE US EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN, WHICH IT SHALL LOOK TO CONTINUE IN THE MEETING AS WELL.

QATAR

QATAR'S 'ROOTED' CONNECTIONS WITH THE TALIBAN SHOW THAT THE RELATIONSHIP IS NOT A MOMENTARY ONE, INDICATING THAT THEIR RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE IN A STRONG SENSE. QATAR HAS LONG BEEN THE OFFICE FOR THE TALIBAN TO RESURGE AND WORK. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE WEALTHY GULF STATE LOOKS TO GAIN REGIONAL IMPORTANCE AND IT SHALL WALK THE SAME PATH IN THIS MEETING.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UAE HAS BEEN ACTIVE WITH ITS HUMANITARIAN AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO AFGHANISTAN AND SHALL CONTINUE TO LOOK TOWARDS ITS GROWING GRASP ON THE SECTOR.

TURKEY

TURKEY, WHICH HAS STRONG HISTORICAL AND ETHNIC TIES IN AFGHANISTAN, HAS BEEN ON THE GROUND WITH NON-COMBAT TROOPS AS THE ONLY MUSLIM-MAJORITY MEMBER OF THE NATO ALLIANCE THERE. TURKEY HAS DEVELOPED CLOSE INTELLIGENCE TIES WITH SOME TALIBAN-LINKED MILITIA. TURKEY HAS BEEN VOCAL FOR UNIFIED AND PEACEFUL AFGHANISTAN AND HAS ALSO CALLED FOR INTERNATIONAL AID AND INVESTMENT TO GO ON.

KYRGYZSTAN

KYRGYZSTAN SUFFERED DUE TO ITS POROUS BORDERS DURING THE TALIBAN'S EARLIER REGIME. HOWEVER, THIS TIME, THEY HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING RUSSIA'S LEAD AND HAVE ALSO ASSURED THE CONTINUANCE OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND SECURITY TO AFGHANS WHO'RE IN KYRGYZSTAN.

SYRIA

SUFFERING SIMILAR TURBULENCE TO WHAT AFGHANISTAN HAD BEEN, UNDER THE US PRESENCE, THEY ARE IN SUPPORT OF THE TALIBAN. THEIR SUPPORT IS ALSO ATTRIBUTED TO THEIR BLOC PRESENCE WITH IRAN AND RUSSIA. MOST IMPORTANTLY, THEY SHALL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO VOICING THEIR CONCERNs AND ALSO PUTTING UP THEIR INTERESTS THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF THIS MEETING.

ARMENIA

THE GHANI GOVERNMENT HAD BACKED AZERBAIJAN IN THE CONFLICT WITH ARMENIA, AND THUS, IT IS NATURAL FOR THE ARMENIAN DIPLOMACY TO INCLINE TOWARDS SUPPORTING THE TALIBAN.

