

**President Ashraf Ghani's War Cabinet**  
**Intra-Step By Step Model United Nations**  
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## **Letter from the Executive Board:**

Dear delegates,

Welcome to President Ashraf Ghani's War Cabinet. With the rapidly deteriorating situation in Afghanistan, and the nebulous structure of the government, the fate of 40 million citizens of Afghanistan is left to the will of an unstable government and an extremist group. The withdrawal of the United States from the country is bound to leave a power vacuum with no one left to keep the Taliban in check. Amidst this, increasing reports of Taliban expansion have surfaced and the organisation has once again reared its fierce head in open defiance of Afghanistan's legitimate government and the international community. As a member of the War Cabinet, you are in a prime position to promulgate effectual change, and your choices will determine the future of your people. Any crisis does not exist in isolation: the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs that is currently in session in this MUN expects strong leadership from the Afghan government to stop the refugee exodus. The stakes are as high as can be- the fate of your country lies firmly in your hands.

We look forward to seeing in-depth research, outstanding debate, and conclusive action to the crises as they come. To this end, the Executive Board wishes all of you the best of luck in the trying endeavours that await the War Cabinet Committee, with the hope that terror finds no place in the future of our world as we see it. For any queries or clarifications, please feel free to reach out to any one of us at: [arya.goyal2004@gmail.com](mailto:arya.goyal2004@gmail.com), [tanishar246@gmail.com](mailto:tanishar246@gmail.com), and [neelanshagarwal1@gmail.com](mailto:neelanshagarwal1@gmail.com)

The Executive Board

President Ashraf Ghani's War Cabinet

Intra-SBSMUN 2021

## **Introduction to the War Cabinet: Nature of the Committee**

President Ashraf Ghani's War Cabinet is a continuous crisis committee (CCC) part of a joint crisis committee (JCC). The full duration of committee will involve crises throughout, ranging from Taliban attacks on government structures, to persecution of international peace workers, and many other events that will test the mettle of the delegates. This committee is a war cabinet enabled with executive presidential powers vested by the Constitution of Afghanistan. The country is in a state of civil war and the war cabinet is tasked with responding adequately to threats to the peace and security of Afghanistan. You will have to think on your feet and be able to respond instantaneously to the threats the nation is faced with. The UNA-USA rules of procedure (as enclosed) will be followed, and delegates, through debate and action through documentation (as enclosed), will dynamically move the committee forward with both short-term and long-term solutions. In addition, the War Cabinet is a JCC with the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs that is in session in this MUN, meaning that all decisions and outcomes of one committee will have an impact on the functioning of the other, and vice-versa. Therefore, while working on the crises and subject matter of this committee, it is important to consider the impact on and response from the Europarl's Committee as well. Through diplomatic discourse and tangible action, delegates of President Ghani's War Cabinet should demonstrate a keen analytical and fast response temperament: a war is a game of chess- before you make a move, you have to think 5 turns ahead!

## **History of the Afghan Conflict**

### **The Soviet Era and the Rise of the Mujahideen:**

The territory known as modern day Afghanistan has a long drawn history full of domination by foreign conquerors and wars between international powers and warriors. Since the formation of the Afghan communist party in 1965, with leaders Babrak Karmal and Nur Mohammad Taraki, the country has been following a system of policies based on Islamic principles, Afghan nationalism and socioeconomic justice. During the same time period from the 1970-1980s conservative Islamic and ethnic leaders began objecting to social changes and revolting in the countryside. These movements were in response to the government's firm ties with the USSR and signing of the friendship treaty between the President Nur Mohammad Taraki and the Soviet Union with backing from the United States. By 1978, strong organizations of the Mujahadeen guerrilla movement were created to protest against the same. Until 1979, the United States was a neutral party showing support and backing for the Afghan republic, but withdrew its support with the killing of American ambassador Adolph Dubs. Simultaneously, a power struggle between the government leaders (Taraki and Deputy prime minister Amin) began.

On September 14, 1979, the first president of Afghanistan- Taraki- was killed in a confrontation with Amin supporters. The regime fell and the USSR invaded Afghanistan to bolster the communist regime. Following this, Amin was executed and Taraki's former ally Babrak Karmal was named Prime Minister. In rebellion of Soviet intervention and government changes, the Mujahideen rebels unite against Soviet invaders and the Afghan army. They are the leaders of the militant guerrilla war which started off in the 1980s. By taking control of rural areas, the Mujahideen rebels start spreading their influence and recruiting more soldiers for their cause. They gained widespread support and recognition

during the decade and even received aid from the Saudi Islamist Osama Bin Laden. Under his influence and connections, the rebels start to gain power and receive increased amounts of ammunition from the United States, Britain and China- all via Pakistan.

The Mujahedeen, now formed a terrorist group- The Taliban- with the covert backing of the CIA and the Pakistani Intelligence agency- ISI. They started extending their influence beyond Afghanistan and increasingly recruited Pashtun tribesmen from Pakistan. Out of the many groups of mujahedeen, the Taliban was the most influential and financially equipped organisation. Thus its movement attracted popular support in the initial post-Soviet era by promising to impose stability and rule of law after four years of conflict among rival mujahideen groups. The Taliban entered Kandahar in November 1994 to pacify the crime-ridden southern city, and by September 1996 seized the capital, Kabul, from President Burhanuddin Rabbani, an whom it viewed as anti-Pashtun and corrupt. That year, the Taliban declared Afghanistan an Islamic emirate, with Mullah Mohammed Omar, a cleric and veteran of the anti-Soviet resistance, leading as *Amir al-mu'min in*, or “commander of the faithful.” The regime controlled some 90 percent of the country. During the regime, The Taliban outlawed cultivation of poppies for the opium trade, cracked down on crime, and curtailed the education and employment of women. Women were required to be fully veiled and were not allowed outside alone. Taliban jurisprudence was drawn from the Pashtuns’ pre-Islamic tribal code and interpretations of sharia law coloured by the austere Wahhabi doctrines of the madrassas’ Saudi benefactors. The regime neglected social services and other basic state functions even as its Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice enforced prohibitions on behaviour the Taliban deemed un-Islamic. It required women to wear the head-to-toe burqa, or *chadri*; banned music and television; and jailed men whose beards it deemed too short. Islamic law was enforced via public executions and amputations and the United States refused to recognize the authority of the Taliban. From the mid 1990, citizens

of Afghanistan started fleeing- some in fear of the increasing Taliban/ Al Qaeda influence, others due to uninhabitable rural areas, droughts and famines. More than 1 million Afghans flee to neighbouring Pakistan, where they languish in squalid refugee camps.

### **The United States and Afghanistan**

The United Nations punished Afghanistan with sanctions restricting trade and economic development. Ignoring international opposition and warnings from the UN, the Taliban didn't deter from their purpose to create a primarily Islamic state while destroying Buddhist sites present in the Bamiyan region of Afghanistan, dubbing the violence as affront to Islam. International aid workers in Afghanistan were put on trial under the charges of spreading Christianity. These efforts in 2001 marked the first extreme efforts by the group to extend their influence in direct opposition to other nations and their non-violent citizens.

The attacks on 11th of September in 2001 (9/11) marked the beginning of active United states intervention in Afghanistan. Hijackers commandeered four commercial airplanes and crashed them into the World Trade Centre Towers in New York, the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C., and a Pennsylvania field, killing thousands. Days later, U.S. officials said bin Laden, the Saudi exile believed to be hiding in Afghanistan, was the prime suspect in the attack.

The United States officially entered Afghanistan under the presidency of George Bush in 2001 for the extradition of Bin Laden. The US and its allies rapidly drove the Taliban from power by December 17, 2001, and built military bases near major cities across the country. Most al-Qaeda and Taliban members were not captured, escaping to neighbouring Pakistan or retreating to rural or remote mountainous regions during the Battle of Tora Bora.

In December 2001, the United Nations Security Council established the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to oversee military operations in the country and train



Afghan national forces. At the Bonn conference in December 2001, Hamid Karzai was selected to head the Afghan interim association which after a meeting of the Loya Jirga (grand assembly) in Kabul became the Afghan transition association. In August 2003, NATO became involved as an alliance, taking the helm of ISAF. One portion of US forces in Afghanistan operated under NATO command; the rest remained under direct US command. Taliban leader Mullah Omar reorganized the movement, and in 2002, it launched an insurgency against the government and ISAF that continues to this day. Taliban fighters abandoned their final stronghold in Kandahar as the militia group's hold on Afghanistan continued to disintegrate. Two days later, Taliban leaders surrendered the group's final Afghan territory, the province of Zabul. The move led the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press to declare "the rule of the Taliban in Afghanistan has totally ended."

The next 5-6 years marked a period of strategic planning and collection of information with passive responses from the United States who had deployed a limited number of troops in Afghanistan. On October 7, 2001, the US officially launched military operations in Afghanistan. Airstrikes were reported in Kabul, at the airport, at Kandahar (home of Mullah Omar- close associate of bin Laden), and in the city of Jalalabad. The day before the bombing commenced, Human Rights Watch issued a report urging that no military support be given to the Northern Alliance due to their human rights record. In 2009, President Obama announced a new strategy for the Afghanistan war that would dispatch more military and civilian trainers to the country, in addition to the 17,000 more combat troops he previously ordered. The strategy also includes assistance to Pakistan in its fight against militants. In 2011, the United States' primary goal had been fulfilled. U.S. forces overtook a compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, and killed al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden on May 2 local time. Following this operation, the Afghan government stressed for eradication of international powers from primary military and security operations, asserting to develop its



governmental stronghold. In 2014, Ashraf Ghani became president of Afghanistan in September after two rounds of voting, claims of election fraud and a power-sharing agreement with main rival Abdullah Abdullah.

In December, NATO officially ended its combat mission in Afghanistan. U.S.-led NATO troops and bases remained to advise and train Afghan army soldiers and intelligence personnel.



## **Recent withdrawal of the forces of the United States of America**

On 29 February 2020, the U.S. consented to an arrangement with the Taliban to pull out troops in 14 months if the Taliban promised to maintain the provisions of their understanding. As of February 2020, around 13,000 American soldiers were as yet in the country. The different sides concurred a slow, conditions-based withdrawal more than 14 months and the withdrawal understanding incorporates "all tactical powers of the United States, its partners, and Coalition accomplices, including all non-discretionary regular citizen faculty, private security workers for hire, coaches, guides, and supporting administrations staff." In the principal stage the U.S. will at first diminish its powers in Afghanistan by around 5,000 soldiers to 8,600 inside 135 days of the U.S.– Taliban understanding. During the steady withdrawal, the Taliban and the Afghan government would need to work out a more substantial force sharing settlement. That time period would give the public authority the front of American military insurance while arranging. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the excess U.S. troops will fill in as influence to guarantee the Taliban satisfies its guarantees. In the event that the Taliban satisfies its responsibilities to disavow al-Qaeda and start intra-Afghan harmony talks, the U.S. consented to a total withdrawal of all excess American powers from Afghanistan inside ten months. The U.S. what's more, its NATO partners have consented to pull out all soldiers inside 14 months if the aggressors maintain the arrangement.

Some U.S. troops pulled out from Afghanistan on 9 March 2020 as needed in the U.S.– Taliban nonaggression treaty. On 10 March 2020, U.S. Headquarters (CENTCOM) dismissed reports that the U.S. military had fostered an arrangement to pull out all U.S. troops from Afghanistan. General Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr., head of CENTCOM, likewise expressed that the arrangement was to decrease the quantity of U.S. troops in Afghanistan to

8,600 over a 14-month time span. The U.S. Armed force later affirmed that more soldiers would be shipped off Afghanistan in the late spring of 2020. As per CENTCOM, the U.S. had diminished its Afghan troop numbers to 8,600 by 18 June 2020, as per the February 2020 Taliban harmony deal. On 1 July 2020, following media reports of Taliban support in a supposed Russian abundance program to target U.S. troops, the U.S. House Armed Services Committee decided in favor of a National Defense Authorization Act alteration to set extra conditions to be met before President Trump could proceed with the troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, including requiring an evaluation on whether any nation has offered impetuses for the Taliban to assault U.S. what's more, alliance troops alongside forbidding financing to lessen troop numbers to under 8,000 and again at 4,000 except if the organization guarantees that doing as such would not think twice about interests in Afghanistan.

The Pentagon reported on 17 November 2020 that it would decrease the quantity of U.S. powers in Afghanistan from 4,500 to 2,500 by mid-January, for example by 15 January 2021, preceding President Trump's term of office lapses on 20 January 2021. U.S. Public safety counselor Robert C. O'Brien expressed that the leftover soldiers in Afghanistan will shield American ambassadors, the American international safe haven and different wings of the U.S. government accomplishing significant work in Afghanistan, empower partners of the United States to take care of their job in Afghanistan and dissuade adversaries of America in Afghanistan. The declaration was censured by individuals from the United States Senate like Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell or Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg cautioned in an articulation that "the cost for leaving too early or in an ungraceful manner could be exceptionally high." Critics said that the Afghan withdrawal would not just subvert effectively delicate security in the area, yet additionally expressed that the troop decreases would not just hurt the continuous harmony talks between Taliban contenders and the public authority of Afghanistan, yet additionally sabotage

sensitive security in Afghanistan. As indicated by a senior safeguard official the conditions used to quantify the drawdown are currently founded on whether public safety would be compromised by a decrease in Afghanistan to 2,500 soldiers. "We don't feel that it is," said the authority. The other condition was, "would we be able to keep a power act in Afghanistan that grants us to do our main goal with our partners and accomplices." The declaration made nervousness in Afghanistan in light of the fact that U.S. troops are viewed as a support against the Taliban. There is a dread of a Taliban renewal in Afghanistan. Atiqullah Amarkhel, a resigned Afghan Army general and military expert, told the New York Times that the Taliban "are more grounded than previously, and if the Americans leave and don't support and help the Afghan Army they will not avoid long, and the Taliban will dominate. This is the thing that alarms me the most."

The Trump administration finished its promised troop reduction and brought the number down to 2,500 soldiers in January 2021, the least number of American fighters in Afghanistan since 2001. As of January 2021, there are in excess of seven workers for hire for each U.S. military help part staying in Afghanistan, adding up to more than 18,000 contractors, according to figures from U.S. Headquarters. In January 2021, then, at that point approaching president Joe Biden's public safety consultant Jake Sullivan said that the U.S. would survey the nonaggression treaty to viably pull out its leftover 2,500 troopers from Afghanistan. Biden upheld a full withdrawal in 2014 yet it was at first indistinct regarding whether he would maintain Trump's May 2021 withdrawal cut-off time. In March 2021, news reports expressed that President Biden was conceivably thinking about keeping U.S. powers in Afghanistan until November 2021. On 14 April 2021, Biden reported his goal to pull out all standard U.S. troops by 11 September 2021, the twentieth commemoration of the September 11 assaults and four months after the at first arranged 1 May cutoff time. The day preceding the declaration, Biden called previous U.S. presidents George W. Shrub and

Barack Obama in regards to his choice to pull out. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the choice was made to focus assets on combating China and the COVID-19 pandemic. Following withdrawal, the U.S. is purportedly considering choices for redeploying troops, for example, shifting them to U.S. Naval force bases, other nations in the Middle East, or Central Asian nations like Tajikistan.

On 18 February 2021, Secretary-General of NATO Jens Stoltenberg said that the organisation has not settled on a choice on the best way to continue in regards to the withdrawal. Britain is required to pull out its leftover 750 Resolute Support Mission troops simultaneously as the U.S. As per the arrangement, NATO troops would likewise follow a similar withdrawal timetable. The U.S. demonstrated that a few soldiers (the specific number had not yet been chosen) will stay in the nation to give discretionary security, and is hazy what will befall the few hundred U.S. unique tasks powers working for the CIA on counter-psychological oppression missions. New CIA Director William Joseph Burns told the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee on 14 April 2021 that "there is a huge danger once the U.S. military and the alliance militaries pull out" however added that the U.S. would hold "a set-up of abilities." The administration of President Biden plans to utilize an expansive exhibit of unfamiliar police apparatuses extending from military occupation to add up to deserting. On 2 July 2021, Germany and Italy pulled out their soldiers from Afghanistan. Around the same time, American powers emptied Bagram Airfield. Afghan authorities grumbled that the Americans had left without advising the new Afghan officer until over two hours in the wake of leaving the base. Accordingly, the base was stripped by thieves before they could assume responsibility for the runway. In the meantime, battling seethed between the Taliban and Afghan government powers, with examiners from Al Jazeera saying that the Taliban is "at the entryway of Kabul." On 8 July 2021, President Biden declared that the final end to the conflict in Afghanistan will be on 31 August 2021.

## Expansion of the Taliban

Since 2001, Taliban-a radical Islamic body, has troubled the nation of Afghanistan with savagery, carnage, and so forth meaning to turn into the decision force of the country. With the new development, it appears to be that this fantasy of the Taliban to turn into a tyrannical government alongside the in-your-face Sharia being the solitary method for administration is changing into a reality.

The 'Long War Journal' expresses "the Taliban is removing the key income sources to the Afghan government by assuming responsibility for significant boundary intersections that fill in as dry ports for merchandise delivered abroad. The Taliban currently controls three of Afghanistan's eight dry ports, remembering two for the line with Iran." The Journal that has widely investigated over the Taliban issue further says that "Afghanistan is in danger of a total breakdown after the Taliban has made sensational additions lately, striking at the core of the Afghan government's base of force in the north while holding onto control of enormous spaces of the nation – regularly unopposed by government powers.

The security circumstance has disintegrated quickly. Over the most recent six days alone, the Taliban has assumed responsibility for 38 of Afghanistan's 407 regions – almost 10% of the nation – and generally every one of them in basic regions. On the whole, the Taliban as of now controls 195 regions and challenges another 129 locale, as indicated by the constant appraisals by FDD's Long War Journal."

With the choice of the United States to pull out its powers from Afghanistan the aggressor Islamic association has been acquiring the middle stage in this tussle of force with the justly chosen government.

The US government is on track to clear the US forces from Afghanistan by ninth September, 2021-the twentieth commemoration of the 9/11 assault on the Twin Towers. Significant strides for this were taken during Trump's system when the US and Taliban

wrapped everything up for Afghanistan. The Biden government has chosen to push ahead with this without getting much into the repercussions it could cause in the area.

Normal Afghan residents have for since quite a while ago been denied common freedoms because of both inside and outer powers. In the meantime, the US is fleeing from getting what it really asked for during Operation Cyclone-where during 1979-89 the CIA financed and prepared the Mujahideen who at last shaped the association called Taliban. This was likewise upheld by Britain and Pakistan.

The U.S. under Biden hopes to finish talks between the Taliban and the Afghan Government that will eventually culminate in a sustainable peace deal. Many experts have warned however, that disproportionate resource and support levels between the two parties may make this an impossible task.





## **The Refugee Crisis in Afghanistan**

The refugee crisis is a human crisis: Behind the statistics are people filled with unique life experiences and dreams for the future. They are mothers longing to return home, fathers yearning to work again, children searching for a childhood.

Years of unemployment, insecurity and political instability have led to a massive migration from Afghanistan. More than 2.5 million people are estimated to be living in new and prolonged displacement, while more than 2.7 million people have been forced to leave the country to Iran, Pakistan or Europe.

Today, Afghans account for 2.6 million of the world's 21.1m refugees around ten per cent of the total, and the second-largest refugee population after the Palestinians. The flight of refugees from Afghanistan began with the Soviet occupation in 1979, and has continued with civil war and Taliban rule. The vast majority are in neighbouring Iran and Pakistan (an estimated 2m in each country), but Europe in particular has seen a steep increase in arrivals in the past four years, mostly in Germany, the Netherlands and the UK. Asylum applications increased particularly significantly after the US air strikes in August 1998, and following the imposition of UN sanctions in 1999 and December 2000.

Over 6m refugees left Afghanistan for Pakistan and Iran during the Soviet occupation in the 1980s. The 3.2m in Pakistan were mostly housed in refugee camps along the Afghan border, and provided with rations and access to basic services. Over time, they built their own housing, and many were able to enter local labour markets or develop businesses. Donors responded by gradually withdrawing aid and, by 1995, food provision had ended for all but identified vulnerable groups.

New waves of refugees arriving in Pakistan since the collapse of the Soviet-backed government in 1992 have received short-term support, before being left to fend for

themselves like their predecessors. A study of livelihood strategies in December 1996 found that the vast majority faced enormous difficulties, with most dependent on intermittent day-labouring. Those who were too old or disabled to work depended on the charity of other refugees. In January 2001, the Pakistani government announced that it would no longer allow the registration of new refugees, thereby preventing the provision of tents, food and other forms of support. Since the beginning of August, the Pakistan government and UNHCR have embarked on a new screening programme aimed at differentiating between economic migrants and asylum-seekers. Islamabad has also started forcibly returning refugees to Afghanistan. The risk of abuse is heightened by the fact that a significant proportion of the refugee population lacks the appropriate documentation. The 2.9m Afghans who fled to Iran during the Soviet occupation were largely absorbed into Iranian society, with permission to work, albeit in menial jobs, and access to state services and benefits. However, a strict new law forbidding employers to use foreign labour has deprived thousands of Afghans of work, and has unleashed violence against them. The government has become frustrated with the continued presence of Afghan refugees, and has been forcibly returning them to Afghanistan. UNHCR has been powerless to contain this, despite an agreement with the Iranian government aimed at a more orderly return. The five countries bordering Afghanistan-Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan have closed their frontiers to refugees from Afghanistan. Meanwhile, Afghans seeking asylum in Europe face what UNHCR has termed an ever-growing barricade of exclusionary measures designed to keep them out. In addition to legal and bureaucratic challenges, refugees also face public and media hostility towards asylum-seekers, and find themselves stigmatised as bogus refugees seeking economic advantage.

Afghan refugees are thus increasingly unprotected as economic pressures lead to demands from the public in Pakistan, Iran, Europe and elsewhere for their return, and for

strong measures to prevent new influxes. Meanwhile, the conditions that fuel the refugee flows persist. Escalating conflict, a serious drought and high levels of human-rights abuse are leaving people in many parts of Afghanistan with no option but to flee their homes. Large numbers are taking refuge in cities (there are about 300,000 internally-displaced people in Afghanistan), but employment opportunities are limited and wages low. Families are therefore opting to send their sons to Pakistan or Iran in the hope of securing an income. Young men are also leaving for fear of being forcibly recruited by either the Taliban or the opposition, while Tajiks are being displaced by fighting in the north-east. Intellectuals and ethnic minorities also fear persecution. The efforts of European governments to seek regional solutions by asking Pakistan and Iran to take on a greater burden are, therefore, particularly inopportune.

Despite this dangerous situation, the international community continues to show a callous indifference towards Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers – who have been forcibly returned in large numbers from Europe, Iran, and Pakistan, or subject to cruel conditions in Australia's offshore detention camps on Manus Island and Nauru

According to official EU statistics, between 2015 and 2016, the number of Afghans returned by European countries to Afghanistan nearly tripled: from 3,290 to 9,460. The returns correspond to marked fall in recognition of asylum applications, from 68% in September 2015 to 33% in December 2016.

The people forcibly returned included unaccompanied children, young adults who were children when they arrived in Europe, people who have never lived in Afghanistan before. The people returned have included those who have been injured, committed suicide, killed in bomb attacks, or left to live in constant fear. Far from being ignorant of the

dangerous situation in Afghanistan, European governments recognized it when the European Union (EU) signed the “Joint Way Forward,” an agreement to return Afghan asylum-seekers.

Last week, the World Health Organization warned it was struggling to get medicines and supplies into Afghanistan where facilities have come under attack and some staff have fled. It estimates that more than 3 million Afghan children are at risk of acute malnutrition.



## **Humanitarian Problems in Afghanistan**

### **Situation in the Early 2000s:**

The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan has rapidly deteriorated over the last months, as the conflict between the Taliban and the international community has intensified. UN sanctions and isolation has strengthened the influence of radical and anti-western elements within the movement. This tension needs to be reduced if pressing humanitarian problems are to be properly addressed. The drought has led to increased migration and internal displacement, now reaching 700,000, as neighbouring countries have closed their borders. The spring and summer is traditionally the "fighting season", expected to lead to further displacement. Two major issues influencing provision of humanitarian assistance are reviewed in this report: The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (Taliban) has gradually established an administrative structure in areas under their control, with an administrative capital in Kabul and a political and religious capital in Kandahar. It builds on the pre-war structure, re-establishing the prominence of the middleman function at the village level. But, a controlling ministry had been added and shuras (councils) at village and district level have been granted influence. The latter could open up for the population and the humanitarian agencies to influence Taliban's policies and priorities. Gender issues is major "bone of contention" in the relationship between the Taliban and the international community, as gender reforms have historically been highly contested in Afghanistan. Despite a range of restrictions a number of NGOs have managed to establish innovative projects that enhance women's influence on the projects. Long-term refugee experience has changed the perception of relationships between the sexes, representing an untapped resource for more gender sensitive programming.

### **The current situation:**

The country has come a long way since 2002 but the indices for human development aren't discussed in policy circles. Corruption and weak institutions have been major setbacks for development in the country. To understand the nature of the humanitarian crisis that the country faces, it is important to discuss some of the parameters used to measure the human development report. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the Afghan economy too, and there has been a steady decline in government revenue collections, because of the low economic activity, caused by the restrictions and trade disruptions. A report by the World Bank warns that the percentage of the Afghan population living in poverty increase from 55 in 2017 to 72 in 2020. The income of the people has decreased during the pandemic, and the rising prices of food, owing to supply shortage, has made the situation worse. The pandemic has also opened up a major problem of limited economic diversification. The economy is heavily dependent on the Torkham border-crossing with Pakistan and it suffered badly in this pandemic. The country's healthcare is often regarded as one of the world's most inferior ones. Post-Taliban regime, the government has tried to rebuild most of the healthcare infrastructure with the help of foreign aid. The number of healthcare facilities has increased from around 500 in 2003 to 2500 in 2018. There has also been a significant increase in the number of healthcare workers in the country. The maternal mortality and infant mortality rates have decreased significantly over the years. There are, however, apprehensions about the peace deal and how the healthcare system will work as the Taliban has a moderate ideology. In the last few months, there have been deliberate attacks on healthcare workers and a total of 12 such attacks were recorded in the first two months of the pandemic. The attack on Dasht-e-Barchi in Kabul killed

24 persons, including two new-borns, and forced the hospital to cease its operations from June.

The Afghan education system has been largely affected by the sustained conflict over the last three decades. The Education Ministry mentioned that out of 12 million school-aged children, over five million children are currently out of school and the majority of them are girls. The reason for low girl enrolment ratio and lack of equal access to primary education can be explained by the fact that only 16% of Afghanistan's schools are girls only and many of these schools lack basic sanitation and infrastructure. The Education Ministry also acknowledged that 6,000 schools have no building at all and over 17,000 schools lack adequate facilities. The schools aren't always motorable and the students don't receive a quality education in those institutions. The socio-cultural factors further affect the already fragile education system in the country. During the time of Covid-19, the education of most of the students got affected as schools remained shut for months. A lot of students were forced to help their parents at work and it is unlikely they will ever return to school again. The government promoted distance learning through radio and television but as much as 70 percent of the population doesn't even have access to electricity. The schools reopened in September for face-to-face classes but it was again closed for the winter break in November, thus wasting one entire academic year due to the pandemic. The quality of education can only improve when the government invests more on education and partners with private organisations. A girl's right to education should not only be treated as a method to promote inclusivity but also an economic necessity. The education system should look for enrolments as well as retention of the students. The situation of women, particularly living in the urban area, has significantly improved post-2001 but there is much to lose for them from a bad intra-



Afghan deal. The Taliban imposed harsh social and political restrictions on women, including mandatorily covering their face, restricting access to education, healthcare and jobs. The women weren't allowed to be present in public spaces without the presence of a male member of the family. enrolment of girls in secondary education also saw a sharp increase of 33 percent. As of 2021, 21 percent of civil servants and 27 percent of members of parliament are women.

The Taliban doesn't have any women in their negotiating team and have denied commenting on the inclusion of women in government bodies or their earlier position of continuous marginalisation of women. The US, even as it withdraws its troops from Afghanistan, should make sure that there is a strong policy tabled to preserve and protect the rights of the women and it must impose sanctions on the foreign aid if they are violated. The US is leaving Afghanistan in the hands of the Taliban. It didn't even include the internationally recognised Afghan government in the deal. The Taliban did commit to preventing the use of Afghanistan's territory to launch attacks on the US or its allies but mentions nothing of the Taliban's presence in Pakistan or renouncing its ties with Al Qaeda.

## **The Condition of the Afghan Economy**

Afghanistan's monetary development is required to recuperate this year and speed up the following year after a sharp decrease in 2020 from the Covid infection (COVID-19) pandemic and proceeded with viciousness and insecurity, said another report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

In its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2021 delivered today, ADB gauges Afghanistan's total national output (GDP) development to bounce back to 3.0% in 2021, ascending to 4.0% in 2022 as business action and market conclusion standardize. Gross domestic product shrunk by an expected 5.0% in 2020 as COVID-19 control estimates exacerbated the financial effect of constant brutality and political precariousness. ADO is ADB's lead yearly financial distribution.

"Afghanistan's economy experienced uncommon disturbance in 2020 because of COVID-19 pandemic, political unsteadiness and proceeded with brutality, what cut settlements, exchange, and income," said ADB Country Director for Afghanistan Narendra Singru. "With a fruitful COVID-19 antibody rollout and post-pandemic recuperation, the nation ought to be on target to accomplish monetary development this year and in 2022 as business movement and market assumption standardize."

As per the report, swelling dramatically increased from 2.3% in 2019 to 5.6% in 2020 driven by higher food costs. Food value expansion in 2020 was assessed at 10% with the most elevated spike recorded in April, when boundary conclusion and frenzy purchasing impelled it to 16.6%. Expansion is projected to direct to 5.0% in 2021 and 4.0% in 2022 as food supplies improve.

Notwithstanding, chances remain, incorporating executing inoculations in far off and uncertain regions, struggle, culpability, debasement, political insecurity, and more extensive

social delicacy. In the event that unaddressed, these could weigh vigorously on the economy and obstruct recuperation.

Supporting the recuperation of miniature, little, and medium-sized endeavors (MSMEs) hard hit by the pandemic is essential to shielding laborers' earnings and occupations, as per the report. Prior to the pandemic, MSMEs were assessed to offer almost 1.6 million support and industry occupations. The public authority endorsed a 2-year support bundle worth \$295 million in October 2020 to further develop business conditions and carried out countercyclical measures that incorporate help for MSMEs.

To further develop the business climate, Afghanistan ought to work with MSME admittance to business sectors by creating foundation, further developing security, battling debasement, improving on guideline, reinforcing property rights and agreement requirement, and advancing advancement and better work abilities. Expanding admittance to credit and further growing the conventional bank area is likewise significant.

## **International Involvement**

From August 2003, NATO drove the UN-ordered International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Its main goal, which planned to make the conditions whereby the Afghan government could practice its position all through the nation and assemble the limit of the Afghan public safety powers, was finished in December 2014 when the Afghans accepted full accountability for the security of their country. At the July 2018 NATO Summit in Brussels, the Allies and their functional accomplices submitted. In April 2021, the Allies and their RSM accomplices chose to begin the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan on 1 May 2021. The arrangement is to finished the systematic, facilitated and intentional drawdown of all US and RSM troops inside a couple of months. The Allies keep on supporting the continuous Afghan-claimed and Afghan-drove harmony measure. They ask the Afghan government and the Taliban to satisfy their responsibilities to running after a complete nonaggression treaty that stops savagery and expands on the advancement of the most recent 20 years to shield basic freedoms, maintain law and order and guarantee that Afghanistan never again fills in as a sanctuary for fear mongers.

The Enduring Partnership – set up in 2010 and reinforced at the 2016 NATO Summit in Warsaw – is NATO's political association with Afghanistan. Fostering a political and useful association with Afghanistan remains NATO's drawn out objective. NATO's Senior Civilian Representative addresses the political initiative of the Alliance in Kabul, prompting the Afghan experts on the Enduring Partnership just as liaising with the public authority, common society, agents of the global local area and adjoining nations.

NATO and Afghanistan marked a Declaration on Enduring Partnership at the 2010 NATO Summit in Lisbon. The archive gives a structure to long haul political discussions and reasonable collaboration in spaces of explicit interest for Afghanistan where NATO can share

ability. The underlying arrangement of Enduring Partnership exercises, concurred by unfamiliar partners in April 2011, unites various beforehand separate drives. The Enduring Partnership will add to NATO's advancing mission and the supported improvement of Afghan foundations. In May 2015, NATO unfamiliar partners supported rules and standards for the improvement of the Enduring Partnership. These incorporate a proceeded with presence of regular citizen and military faculty on the ground after the current Resolute Support Mission.

Tending to Afghanistan's difficulties requires a thorough methodology, including regular citizen and military entertainers, pointed at giving security as well as at advancing great administration, law and order and long haul improvement. The Alliance acts in a supporting job to the Afghan government and works in close coordination with other global accomplices, remembering the United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA), the World Bank, the European Union and the improvement local area.

From the beginning of NATO's commitment in global endeavors to assist with getting Afghanistan's future, the Alliance has likewise worked intimately with numerous non-part nations. ISAF troop benefactors included accomplices from as far abroad as Australia and Latin America, addressing in excess of a fourth of UN part nations, underlining the expansive worldwide help for ISAF's main goal. Australia, Georgia and Jordan were among the top non-NATO troop-contributing nations to ISAF.

## Questions to consider

1. How can the Taliban be stopped from entering further cities?
2. How and which members of the international community can be relied upon for support in this civil war?
3. The US will still offer financial support and support in international forums to Afghanistan- how can the War Cabinet achieve the most optimum utilisation of this?
4. With the resources given to you, how can you overcome the Taliban's forces at various locations?
5. How can you preserve and expand the Afghan economy in the throes of war?
6. What is the solution to the question of the refugees?
7. To what extent are the international agreements on human rights applicable in this war? Is it possible to win while adhering strictly to them?
8. Is a peace agreement with the Taliban prudent, and if yes, what nature will it take?

**NOTE 1:** *Do go over in detail, the economic and military resources of the Afghan Government, since they will be the basis of the directives you pass in committee. For example, "5 Chinook Helicopters from X Air Base in X city to begin evacuations at Y.*

**NOTE 2:** *Please be familiar with the landscape of Afghanistan, particular cities, regions, etc. since committee discussions and crises will involve specific terminology. Usage of maps is highly recommended.*

**NOTE 3:** *Please visit <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-war-afghanistan> for an excellent, extremely comprehensive, and up-to-date timeline of the Afghan conflict. This is a highly recommended resource.*

**Links for further reference:**

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<https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/SR314.pdf>

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War\\_in\\_Afghanistan\\_\(2001–present\)#2001–2017](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Afghanistan_(2001–present)#2001–2017)

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<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020/country-chapters/afghanistan>

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<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/afghanistan-behind-severe-humanitarian-crisis/>

<https://www.cmi.no/publications/921-humanitarian-challenges-in-afghanistan>

<https://www.adb.org/news/afghanistan-economy-rebound-2021-despite-challenges-adb>

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/afghanistan/overview>

<http://biruni.af/2019/08/07/afghanistans-economic-problems-and-insidious-development-constraints/>

[https://nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_8189.htm](https://nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_8189.htm)

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/48505112>

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-afghanistan/>

<https://globaledge.msu.edu/countries/afghanistan/government>

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