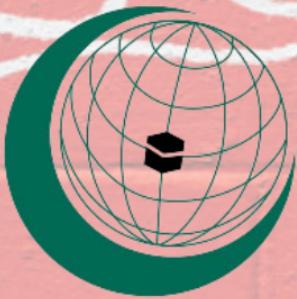


ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

STUDY GUIDE



Megha Bhattacharai
Co-Chairperson

Binisha Thapaliya
Co-Chairperson

Letter from the chair

Honorable Delegates,

We extend our warmest welcome to all of you. Your presence at this conference signifies a commitment to understanding, debating, challenging the world's problems, and providing solutions for them.

This year's agenda: Stabilizing Afghanistan: Addressing Security Challenges, Promoting Peace Talks, and Enhancing Regional Cooperation, focuses on Afghanistan's stability and solutions to achieve it. Delegates must focus on strategies to prevent further instability in Afghanistan that of security, terrorist attacks, and regional threats. While promoting peace talks and strengthening security might be helpful, at the same time the rising power of terrorist and their control will be a challenge.

As a representative of your respective countries, you are expected to negotiate and promote concrete strategies that will contribute to the stability of Afghanistan. That said, come to the conference with an open mind and a collaborative spirit to challenge and commit to finding practical solutions. The conference's success relies on your participation, negotiating skills, and research. We do not doubt that you are more than capable of doing so. Welcome to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, we look forward to having a shared experience together!

Warm regards,

Binisha Thapaliya and Megha Bhattarai

Co-chair of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Model United Nations 2023

Introduction to the Committee

The OIC is the second largest intergovernmental organization (after the UN) founded in 1969 after a fire at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, seen by many as a "Jewish crime", consists of 57 member states with a collective population of over 1.8 billion and a total GDP of \$27.949 trillion. It is headquartered in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and has permanent delegations to the UN and EU. It aims to "safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world" and promote international peace and harmony. Arabic, English, and French are its official languages.

The OIC has held 15 Islamic Summits since 1969, most recently in Banjul, Gambia in May 2024. In 2008, its charter was revised to promote human rights and good governance, removing mention of the controversial Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam. However, it still faces criticism for failing to address human rights abuses against ethnic minorities in member states. Some Muslims also criticize the body for lacking effective solutions for Muslim countries in crisis. Furthermore, the OIC's Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) has condemned rights violations against groups like the Rohingya and Uyghurs.

The OIC has several key bodies:

- Islamic Summit (heads of state, every 3 years)
- Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (annual)
- Secretary General (elected for 5-year terms)
- Permanent Secretariat (an executive organ in Jeddah)
- It also has subsidiary organizations, specialized institutions, and affiliated bodies across the Muslim world.

The OIC has tried to engage with the Taliban on women's rights and the humanitarian crisis, but the Taliban's actions have not matched their rhetoric so far.

The OIC held an "emergency meeting" in December 2022 to discuss the humanitarian crisis and women's rights situation in Afghanistan under Taliban rule. At the meeting, the OIC called on the Taliban to reverse their ban on girls' secondary education and ensure women's rights are protected. The Taliban welcomed the OIC declaration and claimed the ban on women's education was only "temporary". However, the Taliban's restrictions on women's rights have continued and deepened the crisis in Afghanistan according to the International Crisis Group. The OIC is seeking to address the looming humanitarian and economic crisis in Afghanistan, with the Taliban facing international isolation and aid cuts

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Introduction to agenda

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has been established by the Taliban, with it being under the leadership of Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada donning the title Amir al-Mu'minin. The political structure is fashioned after a Sharia law model that places strict restrictions upon any citizen within its jurisdiction. The cabinet is composed solely of males, with most hailing from Pashtun. Parliament was dissolved, and the Attorney General's office and the Supreme Court were replaced by Islamic courts.

When it took over, the Taliban's life wasn't as rosy as they had anticipated. It received a shock following the sudden termination of external assistance amounting to about \$8 billion annually. This was compounded by suspension in global money flow, continued disintegration of its banking sector, as well as past U.S.-imposed sanctions on its leaders and similar punitive measures by the U.N. not forgetting that Afghanistan's foreign reserves were put on ice.

These difficulties notwithstanding, the Taliban have shown surprisingly economic proficiency. They have kept the money exchange rates stable, lessened inflation, made revenue collection systems operative, and fostered exports. In addition, the Taliban have worked on corruption to an extent where now it can no longer be described as rampant or even capital flight which was normal under previous regimes. However, the economy remains fragile and precarious, with most Afghans falling short of their subsistence needs and requiring large amounts of humanitarian assistance.

Women's rights have been dramatically restricted by the Taliban since they are confined indoors. It is no longer permissible for girls to go to school beyond grade six or for women to be accepted into universities. Work is out of the question for individuals who are female; neither leisure centers nor welfare organizations will accept them; every hair salon for ladies has been shut down. In addition, the Taliban have placed limits on certain rights such as civil and political freedom of expression, the press, and association in case one formulates ideas that are contrary to those imposed by it one might face death sentences hence leading to the closure of most free press houses.

The release of the prisoners resulted in a stop to the fighting between the United States, Afghanistan government troops, and the Taliban. This has led to better general security and fewer human deaths. Nevertheless, there is a high incidence of violence because the Islamic State in Khorasan has intensified its attacks.

The Taliban have profound connections with universal mistrust of humanity, more precisely Al-Qaeda. They completely dominate the border regions linking Afghanistan and Pakistan, which has kept international monitoring bodies from reaching out to them and facilitated the Taliban in effectively hiring and backing up the terrorist groups. The Taliban have also managed to garner support from some countries, including Russia and Iran, which have handed over the Afghan embassies in Tehran and Moscow to the Taliban.

The Taliban's taking over Afghanistan resulted in substantial changes in the nation's politics, economy, and society. The economy's management by the Taliban has exceeded expectations, yet it is still fragile and vulnerable. This country's safety is not guaranteed due to its current state which is still fragile because over half of it belongs to the Taliban; furthermore, women's rights were severely violated together with civil rights while there was an increase in insecurity. International observers remain concerned about the Taliban's ties to terrorist organizations and their potential to pose a threat to regional and international security.

History

1. Soviet Invasion and Occupation (1979-1989)

On December 24, 1979, the Soviet Union launched an invasion of Afghanistan to prop up its communist government against resistance fighters. This intervention came following an upsurge of unrest in this area perpetrated by the guerrilla warriors inhabiting among others, the region as well as being represented by such as Mujahideen- a coalition formed between various Islamic fundamentalist organizations that sought to dethrone such regime according to them, clearly illustrating these stakes for both sides engaged.

The government of the Soviet Union infuriated the mujahideen, and they militantly stood up against it. America, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and other countries assisted the mujahideen in this struggle. Through the biggest ever hidden action of the Central Intelligence Agency, financial support came from the American allies. All this enabled these people to persist in their efforts, culminating in the retreat of Soviet military units from Afghanistan.

The end of its presence in Afghanistan came when the Soviet Union removed its units on February 15, 1989. The event was celebrated as something greater, meaning also the end of USSR involvement in the war and the disappearance of the Afghan communist regime in 1992.

Afghanistan and the region were greatly impacted by Soviet occupation. The death toll from the war was in hundreds of thousands involving military and civilians alike. Furthermore, millions of Afghans ran away from their country into Pakistan and Iran among others.

Afghanistan also had significant economic and social repercussions from the Soviet occupation. The country's economy was affected during the fighting leading to high levels of destitution and joblessness. Furthermore, significant proportions of the nation's infrastructure like roads, bridges, and construction fell apart during the invasion.



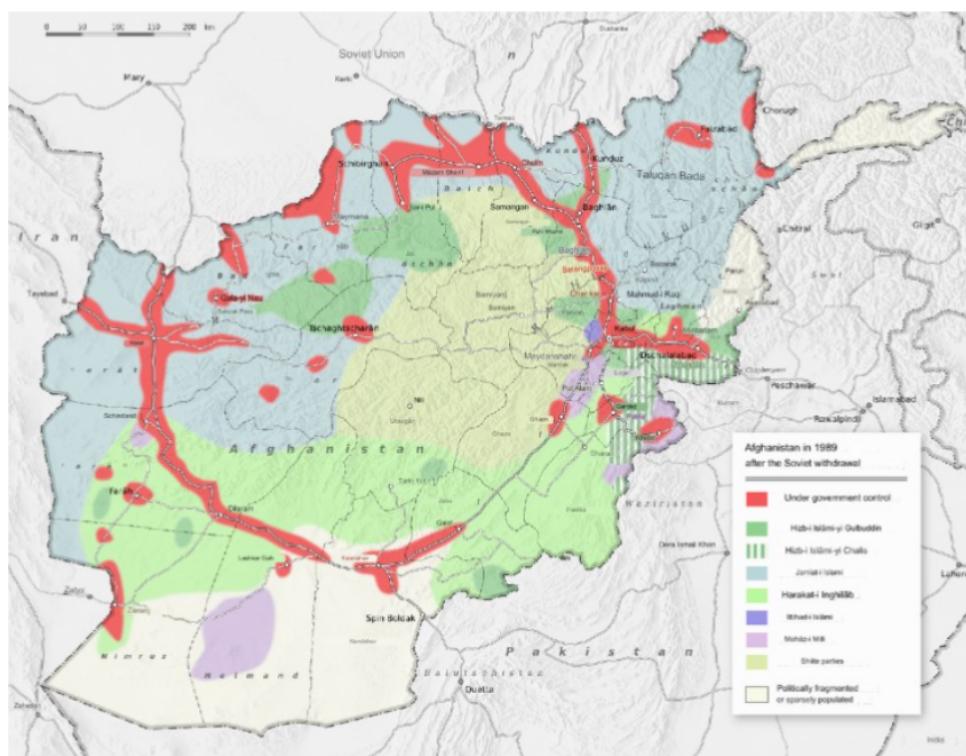
Afghanistan's Soviet occupation had an enduring effect on the nation and the region as a whole. The war prompted the advent of radical factions, among them the Taliban, who later assumed control over Afghanistan in 1996. This act of occupation equally resulted in the evacuation of millions of Afghans who still have to grapple with major difficulties each day

2. Civil War and Rise of the Taliban (1992-2001)

The Afghan Civil War that took place from 1992 to 1996, also known as the Second Afghan Civil War, was a period of intense conflict. It all started on April 28, 1992, when a new interim Afghan government was supposed to replace President Mohammad Najibullah's Republic of Afghanistan. However, things didn't go as planned, and the Taliban eventually took over Kabul on September 27, 1996, establishing the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

The fighting and power struggles over Kabul began on April 25, 1992, involving six armies: Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin, Jamiat-e Islami, Harakat-i-Inqilab-i-Islami, Ittehad-e Islami, Hezb-i Wahdat, and Junbish-i Milli. One of the key figures, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar of Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin, was offered the position of prime minister in the interim government led by President Mujaddidi but declined, which only escalated the conflict further.

In January 1994, the forces of Dostum's Junbish-i Milli and Mazari's Hezb-i Wahdat joined forces with Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin. The fighting broke out in the northern town of Mazar-i-Sharif. By November 1994, the Taliban had conquered Kandahar city, and by January 1995, they had gained control over 12 Afghan provinces.



Throughout 1995, the civil war raged on with at least four major parties involved: the Burhanuddin Rabbani-led "interim government" with Ahmad Shah Massoud and his Jamiat-e Islami forces, the Taliban, Abdul Rashid Dostum and his Junbish-e Melli-ye Islami forces, and the Hezb-i Wahdat.

The Taliban managed to capture Ghazni, Maidan Wardak Province, and made their way towards Kabul. They relentlessly shelled the city and launched attacks against Massoud's forces.

Finally, on September 27, 1996, the Taliban took full control of Kabul and established the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. Under their rule, they enforced a strict interpretation of Islamic law and provided shelter to al-Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden.

The Taliban emerged in southern Afghanistan with promises of restoring order and implementing Sharia law. They enjoyed support from Pakistan and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Eventually, they captured Kabul, solidifying their power and imposing their strict version of Islamic law. It's worth noting that they also harbored the notorious terrorist organization, al-Qaeda, which was led by Osama bin Laden.

3. U.S. Invasion and the Fall of the Taliban (2001)

October 2001 U. S. invasion of Afghanistan was a significant occurrence in the history of that country because it responded to September 11 2001 terrorist attacks by al-Qaeda that were based there under the aegis of Taliban regime.

Afghanistan has been governed by Taliban since 1996 giving al-Qaeda led by Osama bin Laden refuge. They did not hand over Bin Laden to the US or remove al-Qaeda from within its borders so that resulted in the American invasion.

The US invasion was initiated on October 7th, 2001 with air strikes directed against Taliban and al-Qaeda forces. This invasion was assisted by the UK and other foreign allies. The US troops' deployment in Afghanistan went a long way in boosting the Northern Alliance which had been engaged in war with the Taliban and was already losing this struggle during the Afghan Civil War.

Less than a month passed between the day when the Taliban troops were retreating and the moment when Kabul fell into Mazar e-Sharif's hands on November 13, 2001. The U.S. air forces targeting operations also resulted in the death of Mohammad Fazl who was the commander of the Taliban's army at that time, on the eve of the Kabul takeover – November 12, 2001. Therefore by December 2001, there was no longer any authority held over Afghanistan by the Taliban but it became now under an interim regime that is formed.

The United States led to the December 2001 formation of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) by invading Afghanistan. The ISAF's mandate was to run operations in Afghanistan and mold the young Afghan National Security Forces. Nevertheless, Taliban insurgency against the U.S.-supported Afghan government persisted with ensuing long-drawn-out conflict.

4. NATO-Led Coalition and Afghan Government (2001-2021)

A major period in the history of the country, from 2001 to 2021, saw the partnership between the NATO-led Coalition and the Afghan government take place. The Afghan government was assisted by the U.S. as well as the NATO forces to reconstruct their nation as well as annihilate insurgency by the Taliban. Although a significant amount of military and economic support was given, Taliban fighters persisted with guerilla warfare. The body politic of Afghanistan embraced a brand new constitution and experienced its premiere presidential election in which Hamid Karzai carried the day to set in motion the process of evolving into a democratic and stable polity. The president of the United States commanded an escalation of American soldiers against a repeat of the Taliban from taking power. This move was meant to make conditions less dangerous while at the same time creating some form of order.

5. Peace Efforts, U.S. Withdrawal and Taliban Takeover (2018-2021)

The peace efforts in Afghanistan saw the United States convene face-to-face talks with the Taliban to broker a peace accord. This marked a sea change in American tactics regarding the war, which shifted from the exclusively military to a more diplomatic standpoint. The agreement was made between the United States and the Taliban in Doha which specified the withdrawal of the United States military and the Taliban's assurance against the presence of terror groups in Afghanistan. It was a significant step towards peace and stability in that area.

President Joe Biden declared that the U.S.A.'s military will withdraw by September 11, 2021. The nation's politics took a new direction by abandoning a military strategy in Afghanistan and embracing a diplomatic one. The Taliban started a large-scale attack following the beginning of U.S. and NATO forces withdrawal making it a notable rise in violence. It was a significant escalation of violence and a major shift in the balance of power in Afghanistan. The provincial capitals and major cities came under the control of the Taliban in quick succession. By August 15, Kabul was taken by them and the government of Afghanistan fell. After 20 years in exile, President Ashraf Ghani left the nation, thus signifying the Taliban's resurgence.

Current Situation

Within the premises of the time now Afghanistan is characterized by persistent levels of instability and violence it experienced for several years without any sign of reduction. At the time, the Taliban, an extremist Sunni Islamic group primarily consisting of Pashtuns, was in almost full control of Afghanistan until 2001.

After October 2001, when the US-led invasion occurred, the Taliban regime fled and moved to the South of Afghanistan as well as to Pakistan across the border. They started fighting against the Afghan national security forces and the international coalition troops backing up the Kabul government.

The Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) experienced high casualties when the Taliban carried out numerous suicide attacks in main cities as well as continued to attack rural districts. For about six years there was no major progress in the war except for a slight increment in the number of American troops in 2017 amid increasing fighting and a change of focus in how the American military was handling the Taliban in terms of fighting its methods; this new approach included using aerial bombardment against opium production facilities and drug manufacturing areas.

In May 2018, the capital of Farah Province was briefly captured by the Taliban. In August 2018, it also took over the capital city of Ghazni Province. In addition, there have been few notorious terrorist attacks on behalf of the Taliban such as an explosion in Kabul that led to a death toll estimated at exceeding 150 individuals or several explosions across Jalalabad that resulted in exactly twenty-six human casualties.

The country's stability and security remain severely threatened by the Taliban, which controls a large chunk of it, especially in rural areas. This has made it possible for them to launch numerous strikes against civil populations and government troops. Its indefinite continuation has caused a lot of suffering to people and has led to economic instability; millions of Afghans are homeless while the country's economy heavily depends on foreign grants.

Sample Position Paper



Committee: United Nations Economic and Social Council

Agenda: Reviewing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals

Country: Syrian Arab Republic

Sustainable development satisfies existing demands without jeopardizing the capacity of future generations to satisfy their own needs. A group of 17 global objectives known as the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) were approved by the UN General Assembly in 2015 as a component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The objectives are a call to action for everyone to alleviate poverty, safeguard the environment, and by 2030, make sure that everyone lives in peace and prosperity. As of the latest reports, the SDG score of the Syrian Arab Republic is 129 out of 163 countries with an SDG score of 57.37.

Syria has maintained SDG achievement as of the 2022 SDG reports in terms of climate actions, responsible consumption, and production, and is on pace to reach SDG in partnership for the goal and excellent health and welfare. Syria is slowly but surely working towards its

²³ ---. "Two Years after Taliban Takeover: Why Afghanistan Still Poses a Threat to the Region and Beyond." *The Conversation*, 11 Aug. 2023, theconversation.com/two-years-after-taliban-takeover-why-afghanistan-still-poses-a-threat-to-the-region-and-beyond-211052.

goals of having no hunger, access to clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent employment and economic growth, industry, innovation, and infrastructure, sustainable cities, and strong institutions.

The 2030 Development Agenda for sustainable development is the most urgent priority for the global. The work of the UN system on the economic, social, and environmental pillars of sustainable development is centered on ECOSOC. The United Nations has established 169 specific targets, held 3818 events, written 1344 publications, and performed 7548 measures to accomplish the goal. The SDG Acceleration Actions is a brand-new project that the UN started in 2021. This effort urges corporations, governments, and other stakeholders to take decisive action to solve important issues to accelerate progress towards the SDG. Besides this UN also actively keeps track of the progress of its member nations toward the goal.

The economically powerful member nations might invest or gather funds to assist the less developed nations in accomplishing the goals by 2030. To foster inclusivity, inequalities should be addressed and improved. Instead of demonstrations and wars, nations, governments, and people should turn to peace negotiations. The promotion of transparency among the officials is crucial for controlling corruption. To gather correct data, investments in both resources and labor need to be made.

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