

**Forum: SC**  
**Issue: The Afghanistan Conflict**



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## **Introduction:**

The Afghanistan conflict is one of the most complex conflicts of the century. The conflict has involved many parties, including the United States, the Taliban, and the Afghan government. To this day the situation in Afghanistan remains unstable as there is a humanitarian crisis, violations of human rights and large-scale displacement of civilians. The conflict has had huge impact in both local and international community, as there has been significant economic, political, and social instability. This research report's goal is to give a broad summary of the war, including its history, current state, and the main players. This paper also seeks to examine the UN Security Council's involvement in resolving the war and discuss possible avenues for peace and stability in Afghanistan. The report will offer helpful information for Security Council members to make wise choices and create winning plans to deal with the Afghan conflict.

## **Definition of Key terms:**

**Humanitarian crisis:** Millions of people have been forced from their homes as a result of the war in Afghanistan, and they are in need of food, water, and medical care. Aid organizations have encountered challenges in aiding those in need because of the ongoing violence.

**Guerilla campaign:** Conflict between small, unorganized groups of combatants and a more substantial, organized military force.

**Militant organization:** A group, like the Taliban or Al Qaeda in Afghanistan, that uses violent or aggressive tactics to further its objectives in the context of a social or political dispute.

**Insurgency:** The ongoing battle between the Afghan government and numerous insurgent groups, such as the Taliban, who want to topple the government and impose their own rule, is referred to as the insurgency in Afghanistan.

**Counterinsurgency:** The military, political, and economic steps a government takes to put an end to an insurgency and bring peace and stability back to a nation are referred to as counterinsurgency.

**Nation-building:** The efforts of a government or outside actors to construct a prosperous, democratic, and stable society in a country that has experienced bloodshed or instability.

**Foreign aid:** The international community's billions of dollars in aid to Afghanistan's reconstruction and development programs have had a significant impact on the war there. According to reports, most of the aid was wasted or siphoned off by dishonest officials, and the lives of ordinary Afghans have not improved significantly as a result.

**Women's rights:** Women's rights have been a major concern in Afghanistan, where the Taliban imposed strict gender segregation and barred women from working or attending school. There have been initiatives to enhance women's rights and increase their participation in political and economic life, however progress has been gradual and inconsistent.

## **Background:**

The conflict in Afghanistan began with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, which initiated a ten-year battle between Soviet forces and Afghan rebels known as the Mujahideen. Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and the United States all backed the Mujahideen. Following the withdrawal of Soviet soldiers in 1989, Afghanistan descended into civil conflict, with several factions competing for authority. After the Taliban, a militant organization, overran Kabul in 1996, an Islamist Emirate of Afghanistan was founded. In the mid-1990s, the Taliban developed as a prominent force.

The Taliban regime was notorious for mistreating women, encouraging terrorism, and erasing cultural traditions. Al-Qaeda, the terrorist organization responsible for the September 11, 2001, attacks in the United States, sought asylum with the Taliban. Following the attacks, the US and NATO launched Operation Enduring Freedom, a military operation in Afghanistan aimed at removing the Taliban and destroying Al-Qaeda's infrastructure.

The initial part of the operation was successful, and the Taliban regime was deposed in a short time. However, the Taliban regrouped and launched a guerilla campaign against the Afghan government and foreign soldiers. As the fighting intensified, the Taliban seized control of a significant portion of Afghanistan. The US and its partners shifted their focus to counterterrorism operations, which included educating and assisting Afghan security personnel as well as conducting targeted assaults against the Taliban and other insurgent organizations. Afghans have immensely suffered as a result of the battle in Afghanistan, having been subjected to bloodshed, displacement, and the

destruction of their social and economic infrastructure. The fight has also resulted in a humanitarian disaster, with reports of targeted executions, torture, and sexual assault. The conflict has had regional and worldwide ramifications due to the influx of migrants, the spread of extremism, and the destabilization of neighboring countries.

### **Current situation:**

The current situation in Afghanistan is one of political chaos, extreme violence, and humanitarian disaster. Despite significant training and help from the international community, Afghan security forces have failed to defeat the Taliban, and the security situation has deteriorated. The Taliban declared victory against international forces and created the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan as their new government. The Taliban's ascension to power has sparked concerns for the country's future human rights, particularly for women and girls. The group is notorious for upholding conservative radical social norms and restricting women's rights, such as prohibiting girls from attending school and enforcing clothing codes. Although the Taliban has committed to respect human rights and allow female students to attend school, there are concerns that they would not fulfill their word.

### **Timeline of Events:**

**1979:** The Soviet Union invades Afghanistan, seeking to install a friendly government and extend its influence in the region.

**1980:** The United States begins providing aid to Afghan resistance groups, known as the Mujahideen, who are fighting against the Soviet-backed government.

**1989:** The Soviet Union withdraws from Afghanistan, but the country is left in a state of civil war as different Mujahideen groups vie for power.

**1994:** The Taliban emerge as a political and military force, aiming to establish a puritanical Islamic state in Afghanistan. They initially gain support by providing security and stability in areas they control.

**1996:** The Taliban capture Kabul and establish the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. They impose strict social codes, banning music, television, and movies, and severely restricting the rights of women and minorities.

**2001:** Following the September 11 attacks in the United States, the US and its allies launch a military campaign in Afghanistan, aiming to dismantle al-Qaeda and remove the Taliban from power.

**2001-2002:** The Taliban are ousted from power, but the country remains unstable and fragmented. The international community begins to provide aid and support to the new government of Afghanistan.

**2003:** NATO assumes responsibility for security in Afghanistan, and a new constitution is adopted, establishing a democratic government.

**2006-2007:** The Taliban begin a new insurgency, launching a series of attacks against government and civilian targets. The conflict intensifies in the following years, with a significant increase in violence.

**2009:** The United States deploys additional troops to Afghanistan, seeking to stabilize the country and defeat the Taliban insurgency.

**2011:** Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaeda, is killed in a US raid in Pakistan.

**2014:** The US and NATO end combat operations in Afghanistan, transitioning to a support and training role for Afghan security forces.

**2018:** The US announces a new strategy for Afghanistan, aiming to increase pressure on the Taliban and bring them to the negotiating table.

**2019:** The US engages in direct talks with the Taliban, seeking to reach a peace agreement and end the conflict.

**2020-2021:** The US begins withdrawing troops from Afghanistan, with the final withdrawal completed in August 2021. The Taliban make significant gains in the country and eventually capture Kabul, establishing a new government known as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

### **Major parties involved:**

**The Taliban:** This political and military group dominated the majority of Afghanistan from 1996 until 2001. They were known for their extremist interpretation of Islam, merciless treatment of minorities and women, and for springing from the chaos of Afghanistan's civil war. The Taliban, which played a key part in the US invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, provided safe haven for Al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations.

**The United States:** Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the United States took initiative in the military campaign in Afghanistan. The Americans' goal was

to destroy al-Qaeda and overthrow the Taliban, and they have been involved in the conflict in various ways ever since.

**The Afghan government:** President Hamid Karzai presided over the Afghan government in 2001. Following the Taliban's demise, the US appointed Karzai to lead the transitional administration. The Taliban resistance has made it impossible for the Afghan government to develop efficient governance and provide basic amenities to the people.

**NATO:** NATO took over counterterrorism in Afghanistan in 2003 and has been a part of the conflict ever since. NATO forces have assisted and trained Afghan security forces while also conducting counterterrorism operations against the Taliban and other extreme groups.

**Pakistan:** Pakistan has played a critical role in Afghanistan's fighting due to its wide border with Afghanistan and historical ties to the Taliban. Pakistan has been accused of assisting the peace process by providing safe havens for Taliban fighters.

**UNAMA:** Afghanistan Assistance Mission in United Nations. This political mission was established by the UN in 2002 with the purpose of aiding the Afghan government and people in achieving peace, stability, and development.



**Al-Qaeda:** They carried out the September 11 attacks in the United States. Because the organization was based there and was protected by the Taliban, the US invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 was partially meant to dismantle al-Qaeda operations there.

### **Previous attempts to solve the issue:**

The international community is concerned about the situation in Afghanistan and the likelihood of the conflict intensifying. The UN has called for a stop to hostilities and urged all parties to engage substantive discussions to seek a peaceful conclusion. The UN has also emphasized the need of protecting people and aiding those in need.

The United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 2593 in September 2021, expressing support for an inclusive, Afghan-led, and Afghan-owned peace process. The resolution emphasized the need of protecting people, improving human rights, and preventing Afghanistan from becoming a safe haven for terrorists. The Security Council also requested increased assistance for humanitarian organizations and expressed concern about the country's humanitarian condition.

Several initiatives aimed at furthering peace and stability in the country have been launched as part of ongoing attempts to address Afghanistan's conflict for more than 20 years. The Bonn Accord of 2001 made elections feasible, while the Tokyo Conference of 2012 set commitments to support the Afghan government's development priorities. In 2020, the US and the Taliban reached a peace agreement with the goal of putting an end to the conflict and opening the way for discussions within Afghanistan. However, the conflict has not ended, and the peace process has come to a halt.

Security Council Resolution 2626 is one of the most recent resolutions to be adapted. Reiterating its firm support for Afghanistan's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and national unity, as well as its continuous assistance to the Afghan people. The importance of the United Nations and UNAMA in supporting peace and stability in Afghanistan is emphasized.

### **Possible solutions:**

**Negotiated Settlement:** A possible resolution to the crisis is a negotiated deal between the Afghan government and the Taliban. This method would entail meeting with the Taliban to negotiate a power-sharing agreement that would allow them to participate in governance while also ensuring that they did not serve as a safe haven for terrorist organizations. This method could lead to a more stable and peaceful Afghanistan, but it would necessitate a significant amount of political will and trust-building.

**Increased Diplomatic Engagement:** Another option for resolving the disagreement is for regional and international powers to increase their diplomatic efforts. This approach would bring together key participants in the conflict, including Pakistan, Iran, Russia, and the United States, to work together to stabilize Afghanistan. These diplomatic efforts may be aided, and communication between the parties involved may be promoted in part by the Security Council.

**Strengthening Afghan Security Forces:** Another potential way to end the conflict is to focus on improving the capabilities of Afghan security forces. This approach would

include training and assistance to increase Afghan security forces' ability to battle the Taliban and other terrorist groups. The Security Council may be of considerable assistance in coordinating these activities and ensuring that they are consistent with the plan for stabilizing Afghanistan.

**UN Peacekeeping Mission:** A UN peacekeeping operation may be sent to Afghanistan to help stabilize the country and enhance safety and security. This policy would include the deployment of UN soldiers to provide security and aid in development and reconstruction activities. Given the situation's complexity and volatility, the Security Council would need to carefully consider the viability and effectiveness of such a mission.

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