**Committee:UNSC**

**Country: Afghanistan**

**Delegate: Kashish**

**Agenda** : The Taliban issue in Afghanistan.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA:-

An agreement signed between the United States and the Taliban on February 29, 2020, marks a Milestone in America’s longest ever war. Accordingly, the majority of U.S. troops are expected to Withdraw from Afghanistan by the end of 2021. In turn, and if this agreement is successfully Implemented, sections of the Taliban could be expected to play a larger role in Afghan politics. This is Hardly desirable for a country like India. Indian assets in Afghanistan have been targeted by the Haqqani group, a major Taliban faction. India has also been able to invest in Afghanistan’s future Partially because of the presence of U.S.-led troops and the relative stability it brought. With this Stability at risk, India needs to urgently reposition its priorities. In these fast-changing times, this paper Identifies the risks to India’s continued presence in Afghanistan and recommends a set of strategies To mitigate them. The first risk has to do with terrorism.

While the U.S.-Taliban agreement states that the Taliban will prevent terrorist outfits from operating on Afghan soil, there is little clarity on how the agreement will be verified and enforced. The second risk Has to do with the growing influence of Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate, which shares An undeniable link with the Taliban, especially the Haqqani group. The third risk to India’s long-term Interests in Afghanistan has to do with the increasing political instability in Kabul. Notwithstanding a Power-sharing agreement signed between Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and former chief executive Abdullah Abdullah, on May 17, 2020, it is clear that such alliances cannot be taken at face value.

**HISTORY**

Back in 2001, the US was responding to the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington, in which Nearly 3,000 people were killed. Officials identified Islamist militant group al-Qaeda, and its leader Osama Bin Laden, as responsible.Bin Laden was in Afghanistan, under the protection of the Taliban, the Islamists who had been in

Power since 1996.When they refused to hand him over, the US intervened militarily, quickly removing the Taliban and Vowing to support democracy and eliminate the terrorist threat.The militants slipped away and later regrouped. Nato allies had joined the US and a new Afghan government took over in 2004 but deadly Taliban Attacks continued. President Barack Obama’s “troop surge” in 2009 helped push back the Taliban but It was not long term.In 2014, at the end of what was the bloodiest year since 2001, Nato’s international forces ended their Combat mission, leaving responsibility for security to the Afghan army.That gave the Taliban momentum and they seized more territory.Peace talks between the US and the Taliban started tentatively, with the Afghan government pretty Much uninvolved, and the agreement on a withdrawal came in February 2020 in Qatar.The US-Taliban deal did not stop the Taliban attacks – they switched their focus instead to Afghan Security forces and civilians, and targeted assassinations. Their areas of control grew.

**Background**

In February the Afghan Taliban signed a peace agreement with the USA ahead of a proposed Withdrawal of US troops. The agreement included a pledge to release “up to 5,000” Taliban fighters Held in Afghan government prisons from a list initially given to the USA, in exchange for 1,000 Members of the Afghan security forces held by the armed group. The Afghan government resisted Releasing 400 fighters from the list, who were alleged to be responsible for serious crimes. The Proposed release of certain Taliban fighters also triggered concerns from France and Australia as itproposed release of certain Taliban fighters also triggered concerns from France and Australia as it included those responsible for killing their soldiers. However, under pressure from the USA they too were released; a few who were accused of killing foreign citizens were subsequently transferred to Qatar. Eventually, more than 5,000 Taliban prisoners were released, including prisoners accused of serious crimes. The US-Taliban peace agreement deferred the question of a political settlement in Afghanistan to direct talks between representatives of the Afghan government and various mainly political groups on one side, and representatives of the Taliban on the other. The so-called “intra-Afghan talks” began in September in Doha, Qatar. There was little representation of women on the side of the Afghan government, and no representation of women in the Taliban delegation. There was also no representation of conflict victims, despite the demands of human rights groups. By December, the negotiating teams had only agreed on an internal guiding principle for the negotiation processes. The newly formed interim government in Afghanistan includes neither women nor minority leaders,but contains many figures who are on the United Nations Sanctions List, speakers in the Security Council said today, urging the now‑ruling Taliban to live up to their promises and establish a more inclusive and representative administration.

“The lives of millions of Afghans will depend on how the Taliban choose to govern,” said Deborah Lyons, the Secretary-General’s Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), describing the all-male cabinet as “disappointing”. Of the 33 names presented, many are the same figures who were part of the Taliban leadership between 1996 and 2001, she added, noting that the prime minister, the two deputy prime ministers and the foreign minister are under United Nations sanctions.Although the 15-member Council must do something about those sanctioned individuals, Afghanistan’s current humanitarian situation cannot wait for such political decisions, she stated, emphasizing the immediate need to deliver, on a huge scale, the required aid in such areas as health,food security, non-food items and sanitation. Another crisis that must be avoided is economic collapse, she cautioned, stressing the need to resolve the issue of frozen overseas Afghan assets,while ensuring that those resources will not fall into the wrong hands.

“The best, and still possible outcome,” she continued, “would be for the Taliban to demonstrate that they seek to create an Afghanistan where people do not live in fear, where those with talents are invited to participate in rebuilding their country, and where boys and girls, young women and men, can receive the sort of education that will allow this development to continue “Included those responsible for killing their soldiers. However, under pressure from the USA they too Were released; a few who were accused of killing foreign citizens were subsequently transferred to Qatar. Eventually, more than 5,000 Taliban prisoners were released, including prisoners accused of Serious crimes. The US-Taliban peace agreement deferred the question of a political settlement in Afghanistan to Direct talks between representatives of the Afghan government and various mainly political groups on One side, and representatives of the Taliban on the other. The so-called “intra-Afghan talks” began in September in Doha, Qatar. There was little representation of women on the side of the Afghan Government, and no representation of women in the Taliban delegation. There was also no Representation of conflict victims, despite the demands of human rights groups. By December, the Negotiating teams had only agreed on an internal guiding principle for the negotiation processes. The newly formed interim government in Afghanistan includes neither women nor minority leaders, But contains many figures who are on the United Nations Sanctions List, speakers in the Security Council said today, urging the now‑ruling Taliban to live up to their promises and establish a more Inclusive and representative administration. Pend on how the Taliban choose to govern,” said Deborah Lyons, the Secretary-General’s Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), describing the all-male cabinet as “disappointing”. Of the 33 names Presented, many are the same figures who were part of the Taliban leadership between 1996 and 2001, she added, noting that the prime minister, the two deputy prime ministers and the foreign Minister are under United Nations sanctions. Although the 15-member Council must do something about those sanctioned individuals,