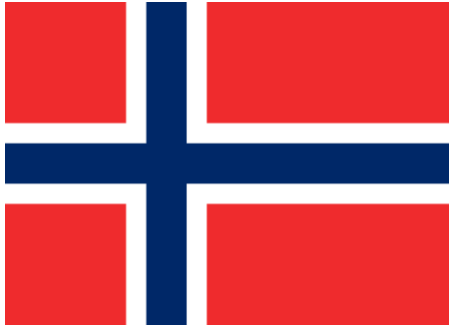


POSITION PAPER



COUNTRY: NORWAY

COUNCIL: UN SECURITY COUNCIL

AGENDA: THE ISSUE OF TALIBAN
VIOLENCE IN AFGHANISTAN

As the Representative of the kingdom of Norway, I'm immensely interested in thoroughly discussing the topic of Taliban violence in Afghanistan. Our nation, lead by **Jonas Gahr Støre**, has made it a priority to have strong stance against the Taliban violent activities in Afghanistan.

Our tireless efforts with the United Nations Security council is a token of our commitment to improving world peace standards and ensuring safe and secure development by cooperating with the United Nations Security Council.

Our main concern regarding this issue, is the security and well-being of the people of Afghanistan. Right now, thousands of Afghan civilians - young and old are once again leaving their homes in fear of their lives and future. The country and its population are now facing a multi-layered crisis of very significant proportion.

We support the immediate end to the violence in Afghanistan and the restoration of security and civil order. We must hold the Taliban responsible for upholding international humanitarian law and to respect without fail the human rights of every Afghan child, woman, and man. The Taliban must know that based on past experience, we are particularly concerned about the situation for women and girls, human rights defenders, media workers, and civil society representatives. Restoring law and order in Kabul must have the utmost priority. There have been disturbing reports of looting and chaos.

Norway also provides substantial humanitarian support to Afghanistan.

‘Over 18 million people in Afghanistan are currently in need of protection and life-saving assistance. Half of the children under age 5 are on the brink of acute malnutrition. At the High-level Ministerial Meeting on the Humanitarian Situation in Afghanistan today, Norway is pledging an additional NOK 100 million to support the humanitarian effort in Afghanistan. The total amount of humanitarian funding earmarked for Afghanistan is NOK 261 million so far this year,

including support to neighboring countries receiving Afghan refugees,’ said Minister of Foreign Affairs Ine Eriksen Søreide.

OCHA estimates that there is a need for an additional USD 606 million in funding to sustain efforts for the rest of this year. Even before the Taliban took power, there was a high level of humanitarian need as a result of armed conflict, drought and the pandemic. It is a matter of urgency to ensure that humanitarian actors have the resources they need to scale up their efforts.

The Taliban’s return to power means there is a risk that women will no longer be allowed to work or participate in society. Millions of Afghan families depend on the income of women to survive.

The Norwegian Refugee Council, Norwegian Red Cross and Norwegian Church Aid receive funding from Norway for humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan and their agreements provide the flexibility needed to target assistance effectively and increase if necessary.

Norway’s core support to UN organizations and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement comes in addition to this.

We are looking forward to cooperating with similarly responsible nations from around the world to work towards a safer, peaceful and women participated community in Afghanistan.

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