

UNSC Background Guide

AMSIMUN'26

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Dear Delegates,

We are honored to welcome you to the 9th edition of AMSIMUN, where you will be participating in the United Nations Security Council. As delegates in one of the most powerful and influential bodies in international diplomacy, you are entrusted with addressing some of the world's most urgent and complex issues.

This year's agenda focuses on the pressing question of justice versus stability in Afghanistan under Taliban rule. This topic challenges the international community to confront difficult and often uncomfortable questions. To what extent should stability be prioritized if it comes at the expense of justice? Can security ever justify compromises on fundamental human rights?

As members of the Security Council, you will deliberate on matters such as international recognition, sanctions, intervention, and humanitarian assistance. Your role will be to navigate these complexities while representing your country's foreign policy and strategic interests.

This guide serves only as a starting point. We strongly encourage you to conduct thorough research and come prepared with clear, concise arguments to ensure a productive and engaging debate.

We look forward to witnessing high-level diplomacy, rigorous discussion, and meaningful collaboration throughout the conference.

Warm regards,

Mohamad Chahbaz & Meriem Khadhaouria

Topic: Justice vs Stability in Afghanistan Under Taliban Rule.

The situation in Afghanistan following the Taliban's return to power in August 2021 remains one of the most pressing and complex challenges facing the international community. At its core lies a fundamental tension between the pursuit of justice, defined through accountability, human rights, and the rule of law, and the pursuit of stability, understood as security, governance, and the prevention of renewed conflict and regional destabilization.

Since the Taliban's consolidation of power, Afghanistan has experienced a reduction in large scale armed conflict. However, this relative stability has not translated into sustainable peace. Instead, it has been accompanied by a severe deterioration in human rights and socio economic conditions. According to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, human rights conditions continued to worsen throughout 2025, particularly for women and girls, who remain subject to systematic restrictions on education, employment, and participation in public life (UNAMA).

Afghanistan is currently the only country in the world where girls are banned from education beyond primary school, and women face extensive limitations on movement and work. Reports from Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International describe these policies as institutionalized discrimination that may amount to gender persecution under international law (Human Rights Watch; Amnesty International). In addition, ethnic and religious minorities, particularly the Hazara community, continue to face targeted violence and marginalization, while journalists and civil society actors have been subjected to arbitrary detention and intimidation (Human Rights Watch).

At the same time, Afghanistan is experiencing one of the most severe humanitarian crises in the world. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, approximately 23 million people in Afghanistan required humanitarian assistance in 2025, representing more than half of the population (OCHA). Food insecurity remains widespread, with millions facing acute hunger, and children disproportionately affected by malnutrition. The World Food Programme estimates that over 15 million people continue to face crisis levels of food insecurity, particularly during winter periods (World Food Programme).

Economic conditions further complicate the situation. The United Nations Development Programme reports that Afghanistan's economy remains fragile, with high unemployment, limited

access to financial systems, and a continued reliance on humanitarian assistance following the withdrawal of international aid after 2021 (UNDP). This economic instability has reinforced cycles of poverty and limited the ability of institutions to provide essential services.

In addition to humanitarian and economic challenges, security threats persist. Armed groups such as Islamic State – Khorasan Province continue to operate within Afghanistan, carrying out attacks that undermine internal stability and pose risks to regional security. Meanwhile, large scale refugee returns from neighboring countries have placed additional strain on already limited resources, intensifying social and economic pressures (OCHA).

The United Nations Security Council faces a deeply complex dilemma in responding to this situation. On one hand, engagement with the Taliban authorities may be necessary to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid, prevent further instability, and address transnational security threats. On the other hand, such engagement risks legitimizing a regime that continues to violate fundamental human rights and undermine international legal norms.

This raises critical questions for policymakers. Should stability be prioritized if it comes at the cost of justice. Can sanctions and international isolation effectively pressure the Taliban without exacerbating humanitarian suffering. Is it possible to design a framework of conditional engagement that promotes both accountability and stability.

Ultimately, the case of Afghanistan challenges the international system to reconcile two competing imperatives. Stability without justice risks entrenching repression and creating long term instability. Justice without stability may prolong suffering and hinder immediate humanitarian relief. The responsibility of the Security Council is therefore not to choose between these objectives, but to construct a balanced and sustainable approach that ensures both the protection of human rights and the preservation of international peace and security.

Delegates are encouraged to consider a wide range of perspectives, including those of regional actors, humanitarian organizations, and affected populations, in order to develop comprehensive and realistic solutions that address both the immediate crisis and the long term future of Afghanistan.

History

The present crises in Afghanistan cannot be interpreted without taking a look at the decades of wars that conditioned the development of the Taliban. Since 1979, when it became a subject of Soviet invasion, a decade-long war, and a devastating civil war between mujahideen groups since the withdrawal of Soviet troops in 1989, Afghanistan has been a country of instability. At the beginning of the 1990s, the country was disintegrated into parts controlled by various military leaders, which resulted in insecurity, corruption, and violence. (U.S. Department of State, 2023).

The Taliban started in 1994 in Kandahar, and it was mainly composed of Islamic students who vowed to bring sanity and live in accordance with the rule of a pure Islamic state. The people were frustrated, which contributed to their victory. The capital city, Kabul, was seized by the Taliban in 1996, and the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan was established. They were very conservative in their approach to Sharia law, which they applied during the first administration (1996-2001), limiting women's education, employment, and movement, and also subjecting criminals to severe punishments. Al-Qaeda also found refuge with the Taliban (U.S. Department of State, 2023; Council on Foreign Relations, 2024).

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, in the United States, the U.S. and the NATO armies launched attacks in Afghanistan as the Taliban failed to surrender Osama bin Laden, who led al-Qaeda. The Bonn Agreement formed the new Afghan government after the Taliban was removed in late 2001 (North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 2023). The last 20 years have been marked by cooperation between international forces and Afghan security forces, and billions of dollars have been spent on governance, education, women's rights, and reconstruction. This period was marked by an increase in the number of women in society, and millions of girls returned to school (UNAMA, 2022).

Nevertheless, these attempts did not stop the Taliban from organizing them as a revolution. Poor leadership, corruption, poor economic conditions, and insecurity brought down the weak Afghan government. The Doha agreement between the United States and the Taliban, which accelerated the exit of foreign forces, was signed in 2020. After the fall of the Afghan national security forces

in August 2021, the Taliban rapidly took over the capital city of Kabul, gaining control over the country again (Council on Foreign Relations, 2024).

Since coming back to power, the Taliban have been under international scrutiny in the fields of justice, human rights, and governance. The reports of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) state that the accessibility of women to secondary and higher education is limited, as well as their employment opportunities, the political opposition is suppressed, and their media freedom is limited (UNAMA, 2023). Simultaneously, the Taliban say that they have provided security in the country and minimised internal military conflict. This brings about the main controversy of the issue: would stability ensured by strict centralized governance replace justice, the protection of rights, and international responsibility?

The international community, particularly the UN Security Council, regards Afghanistan as a humanitarian catastrophe and even a potential challenge to the stability of the region and the rest of the world. We need to understand this historical trend in the country to determine whether the long-term stability in Afghanistan is possible without institutional justice, inclusive governance, and the protection of basic human rights.

Analysis

In August 2021, the economic and humanitarian pressure in Afghanistan was extremely high, with the Taliban having taken over the government. The aid has been cut down, assets have been taken away, and this, coupled with international sanctions, has worsened food security and unemployment among others, as well as the availability of healthcare.

At the same time, justice and human rights are major concerns to be considered. The world has criticized boundaries in education, employment, and women's lives. Reports also indicate that freedom of expression, due process, and the right to civil society are limited.

Some feel that the Taliban should be engaged to bring about stability, prevent terrorism, and prevent anarchy in the region. Others believe that merely accepting or absolving the Taliban without any reform will promote the normalization of the violation of human rights and weaken the international norms.

The Security Council should thus make a compromise. It must investigate specific sanctions, humanitarian exceptions, surveillance offers, diplomatic contacts, and ensure that the misery of civilians is not increased. The question of how stability and justice can be attained in a weak state is the dilemma.

The global society cannot sit back and watch the continuing crisis in Afghanistan. The Security Council should think hard about the way it will or will not act since its actions will determine the future of millions of Afghans. The delegates will present viable, accountable policies that can help the population meet its immediate humanitarian needs, in addition to advancing justice, accountability, and stability in the region. This is difficult because there should be solutions to ending further suffering and promoting constructive developments in human rights and sustainable governance.

Questions to Be Answered in Your Resolution:

1. What is the Security Council supposed to do to promote human rights in Afghanistan without complicating the situation?
2. Is awareness of the Taliban government conditional, and if so, why?
3. How is the balance to be struck, to give humanitarian assistance to civilians, and build up repressive forces?
4. What interventions can be employed to ensure that the violation of human rights is checked?
5. Which types of sanctions are to be formulated in such a way as not to worsen the situation of the humanitarian crisis?
6. How can regional actors contribute to improving stability and, as well as, justice?
7. What is the way to balance the security issue and the basic rights in a long-term perspective?

Starter Resources

- 1) [ISIS-K and the Taliban's Battle for Jihadist Leadership](#)
- 2) [Analysis of the Taliban Regime's resilience in 2024-2025 - Robert Lansing Institute](#)
- 3) [Afghanistan: The Rise of the Taliban: Throughline: NPR](#)
- 4) [The Taliban in Afghanistan | Council on Foreign Relations](#)
- 5) [The Rise of the Taliban: The Evolution of Conflict in Afghanistan - Moments Log](#)
- 6) [As the Taliban return, Afghanistan's past threatens its future | National Geographic](#)

Country Matrix

China – France – Russian Federation – United Kingdom – United States – Bahrain – Colombia – Democratic Republic of the Congo – Latvia – Liberia – Denmark – Greece – Pakistan – Panama – Somalia

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