



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on the situation in Afghanistan
16 September 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
by Mr. Ioannis Stamatekos,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

Mr. President,

I would like to thank Deputy Special Representative Georgette Gagnon and Ms. Nargis Nehan for their remarks.

Mr. President,

Last month marked five years since the fall of Kabul and the return of the Taliban to power. What has the international community witnessed in the years since?

The human rights of the Afghan people are being systematically violated, most notably through the Law on the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice. Women's and minority rights are completely disregarded, with women and girls excluded from public life and denied access to education and employment. The so-called "penal code" and the "code on judicial separation of spouses" have further exacerbated restrictions on women's rights, effectively legitimizing domestic violence and child marriage.

On the security front, the Taliban have shown a persistent unwillingness to dismantle terrorist organizations operating within their territory.

In view of the above, I would like to make the following three points:

First, we reiterate our call on the Taliban to respect and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Afghan people and to lift all restrictions and oppressive measures against women and girls.

Reprisals against human rights defenders are deplorable. We condemn arrests and arbitrary detentions, including the incidents in Herat against women protesters in June.

We also stress the importance of freedom of expression and pluralistic media and call for the reversal of all relevant restrictions.

Second, the Taliban's relationship with the international community and the United Nations continues to deteriorate significantly. For a year now, Afghan women UN employees have not been allowed to enter their offices with catastrophic repercussions for the delivery of life-saving assistance to those in need. We call for unhindered access for all United Nations personnel to their places of work.

Even more concerning was the arrest and detention by the Taliban of two Afghan staff members of UNAMA last August without formal charges. While these employees have since been released, we call for such incidents not to be repeated and for full respect for the privileges and immunities of the United Nations.

In this regard, we welcome the appointment of the new SRSG for Afghanistan Ms. Rabab Fatima and believe that it sends a powerful message to the Taliban regarding the necessity of sustained engagement with the international community and with senior women officials.

We reiterate our support for UNAMA and its comprehensive approach, as well as for the Doha Process, and we hope that renewed impetus will generate tangible progress.

Third, we reiterate the urgency of combatting terrorism in Afghanistan, including terrorist activities directed against neighboring countries. The reduction in cross-border clashes is both welcome and necessary for the protection of civilians and the unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance. The Taliban must ensure that the territory of Afghanistan does not serve as a safe haven for terrorist groups and must step up the fight against all such groups operating inside the country.

Mr. President,

Taking stock of five years of Taliban rule, the regression is undeniable. The Afghan people cannot afford to lose any more time. The Taliban must engage meaningfully with all relevant stakeholders to facilitate the reintegration of Afghanistan into the international community, in full conformity with their international obligations regarding human rights, inclusive governance and counter-terrorism.

I thank you.