



Committee: General Assembly First Committee- Disarmament and International Security Committee

State: Austria

Agenda: The Issue of Afghanistan

We, as the delegation of Austria, think that the problems in Afghanistan continue over 40 years and last events show particularly that the instability caused by the Taliban will go on for a while. The achievement of peace in Afghanistan was initiated by the United Nations, and we, as Austria, had 2 experts (military advisers) in 2002 under the United Nations Assistance Mission In Afghanistan (the UNAMA). We also sent troops to Afghanistan right from the beginning of the operation under North Atlantic Treaty Organization (the NATO). However, Our attitude is more related to providing support in areas such as development, governance and rule of law than contributing militarily. Only days after the US military forces withdrew from Afghanistan, Taliban takeover in Afghanistan and this shows that the military interventions were not enough. In addition, this event showed that we are right. We should implement other solutions to maintain peace in Afghanistan. Afghanistan has never had peace because of the presence of various factions (such as the Taliban, Northern Alliance) and long-term wars such as the Soviet-Afghan War, War in Afghanistan. There are two ways to solve this problem from our side. First way is Launching a Wide-Scale Operation, and the second way is finding another solutions. First way is going to cause death of thousands of people without any doubt. Elimination of all subversive actors is a long and bloody process. In addition, as we mentioned before, it is not an exact solution. Consequently, we believe that our top priority should be finding other solutions, but these solutions can be supported by peacekeepers. We can collaborate with Security Council and we can get the opinions of Security Council for sending peacekeepers

Lots of human rights violations, violence against civilians in Afghanistan brings about Afghan people fleeing their homes to seek safety in different countries like Austria. We have been dealing with the Afghan refugee problem since the takeover of Taliban in Afghanistan. We host more than 44,000 Afghan refugees and does not want to take Afghan refugees any more. However, refugees are trying to enter the country. Therefore, maintenance of peace in Afghanistan and sending refugees back to their homes are an urgent need.

Besides human rights violations and violence against civilians, the landmines in Afghanistan are another reason for why Afghan people are fleeing their homes. According to the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) *Since 1989, about 40,850 Afghan civilians were recorded to have been killed or injured by landmines.*^[1] Also “*More than 72 per cent of the explosive remnants of war (the ERWs) casualties in 2020 were children,*” the UNMAS noted. When the issue is examined in detail, the escape of Afghan people from their country is understandable. The UNMAS has made a lot of progress in this issue, however there are 3,983 identified hazards remaining. As a result, the minefields and ERWs in Afghanistan should be cleared for the Afghan people’s goodness and for the security of all areas including neighbouring countries.

The necessity of keeping peace in Afghanistan can be seen very clearly for all these reasons above. As we mentioned before, the second way for keeping peace in Afghanistan is “finding another solution”. From our perspective, there is a possible solution and this solution offer will be discussed now on.

Firstly, as we point out before, We think that the foreign interventions about military, political matters in Afghanistan have not been effective and eventually Afghanistan nearly goes back to 20 years ago after the takeover of Afghanistan. The right of self-determination (which is referred to in Article 55 of the UN Charter) may be a solution in Afghanistan. Under International Law and particularly Human Rights, the new government can be formed with considering the choice of Afghans. On the other hand, If Taliban insist on its de facto government in Afghanistan, as long as Taliban respects human rights and do not be a source of unlawful activities, recognition of Taliban can be considered. To maintain the security of border, peacekeepers can be sent this area. Austria is ready to send political experts and peacekeepers for these aims.

Lastly, After maintaining peace in Afghanistan, all the voluntary Afghan refugees should be sent back to their homes back in safety. Composed of different countries, experts should stay in the country as observers a while to make sure whether or not the peace is still maintained by the new government.

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[1] <https://www.unmas.org/en/programmes/afghanistan>