Commonwealth of Australia

International Committee of Red Cross

Stabilizing the distribution of medical assistance in Afghanistan's conflict post-pandemic

Valeria Morales Hurtado

Dear Board, delegates, and guests receive a cordial greeting from the delegation of the Commonwealth of Australia. It is an honor to have the opportunity to address such a distinguished audience.

The Australian delegation is shocked by the situation that Afghan citizens are facing since it is not only the lack of food supplies that affects more than 95%; there is also the problem of drought which further affects the issue of supply of food and water. We must not forget the situation that afflicts all the countries around the world: COVID-19, in Afghanistan around 7,417 people have died during the pandemic and only approximately 5 million vaccines have been applied, which is worrying considering a situation as delicate as COVID-19. All of the above is made worse by the Taliban's seizure of Afghan power.

Australia has worked with other countries to evacuate as many people from Afghanistan as possible, specifically from Kabul. Australia promised in principle to take in some 3,000 Afghans in the next ten months, but this is a variable number. The WHO in September 2021 released more than 45 million from an emergency fund to support Afghanistan's crumbling health system. And although these efforts have been of great help, the delegation hopes to be able to improve and extend these aids to more cities in Afghanistan and more citizens.

The Australian delegation offered to the committee a fleet of 5 Airbus A380 belongs to Australian airline Qantas, which have a maximum capacity of 853 passengers, which would be a total of 4,625 people; these to safely evacuate people from Afghanistan. How will they evacuate safely? The delegation provides security support from the Royal Australian Air Force. Likewise, the country would be in charge of directing people to different countries that will receive these people. In addition, the delegation invites and encourage other countries with more income and access to vaccines to donate these biologicals, then this population that was displace abroad, they will have the opportunity to receives their shots. Therefore, they are not going to be infected of COVID-19.

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