



Security Council

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Letter dated 23 December 2021 from the Permanent Representatives of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In view of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the seventeenth extraordinary session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation was convened at the request of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and hosted by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Islamabad on 18 and 19 December 2021.

In this regard, we would like to bring to your kind attention the resolution adopted at the seventeenth extraordinary session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan (see annex).

It is kindly requested that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdallah **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia

(Signed) Munir **Akram**
Permanent Representative of Pakistan



Annex to the letter dated 23 December 2021 from the Permanent Representatives of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic and English]

Resolution adopted at the seventeenth extraordinary session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, on 19 December 2021

Humanitarian situation in Afghanistan

The extraordinary session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 19 December 2021 (15 Jumadhul Awwal 1443 A.H.)

Welcoming the initiative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as the Chair of the Islamic Summit, to convene an Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan,

Commending the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the meeting in Islamabad on 19 December 2021,

Recalling the efforts of the Republic of Indonesia to highlight the grave humanitarian situation in Afghanistan on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly and the shared concern of Muslim countries regarding the need to make progress in addressing the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan,

Guided by the principles and objectives enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the relevant resolutions of the Islamic Summit and the Council of Foreign Ministers, and the Final Communique of the Open-Ended Extraordinary meeting of the OIC Executive Committee at the level of Permanent Representatives held in Jeddah on 22 August 2021 on the situation in Afghanistan,

Recalling the Makkah Declaration adopted by more than 1,200 eminent Islamic scholars at the International Conference of the Muslim World League held in Makkah in 2019,

Recognizing the deep-rooted Islamic values that form the ethos of the Muslim society,

Recognizing also that development, peace, security, stability, and human rights are inter-linked and mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming strong commitment of the OIC Member States to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan,

Recalling that the current humanitarian, social and economic situation is, inter alia, linked to the prolonged conflict in Afghanistan and in this regard, underlining the importance of investing in human development for achieving sustainable peace and development in the country,

Expressing solidarity with the people of Afghanistan and reiterating the commitment of the OIC Member States to help bring peace, security, stability, and development to Afghanistan,

Proceeding from United Nations estimates that 60 per cent of Afghanistan's 38 million people face "crisis levels of hunger" and that the situation is getting worse every day,

Expressing deep alarm at the deteriorating humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, in particular the warning issued by the World Food Programme that 22.8 million people – more than half the population of Afghanistan – face acute food shortage, and that 3.2 million children and 700,000 pregnant and lactating women are at a risk of acute malnutrition,

Noting the necessity of the continuation of economic cooperation to improve the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and in this regard the implementation of large-scale energy, transport and communication projects, including the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) oil pipeline and the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan electricity transmission line, with a view to creating new opportunities for increasing the social well-being of the Afghan people,

Taking note of the importance of the 15th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization, which took place in Ashgabat on 28 November 2021, and the consensus arrived at in Ashgabat to address the humanitarian issues in Afghanistan,

Noting with deep concern the breakdown of Afghanistan's health system, disease outbreaks and severe malnutrition, in particular in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Noting also that, according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, 665,000 people have been newly displaced within Afghanistan between January and September 2021 – in addition to the 2.9 million people already internally displaced by conflict in Afghanistan,

Recognizing disproportionate impact of Afghanistan's humanitarian situation on its neighbouring countries, especially in terms of fresh influx of refugees and irregular migration,

Recalling that millions of Afghan refugees are already residing in neighbouring countries and beyond due to the protracted conflict and economic and social challenges spanning over 40 years,

Commending Pakistan and Iran's hospitality, guided by the Islamic virtues of generosity and compassion, in hosting millions of Afghan refugees for over four decades,

Expressing deep alarm at the worsening economic situation in Afghanistan, which is further compounded by the continued freeze of overseas Afghan assets as well as other international assistance, exacerbating the urgent cash-flow problems, including payment of remuneration to public officials, and hindering the provision of essential public and social services to the people of Afghanistan,

Underscoring that an economic meltdown in Afghanistan would lead to a mass exodus of refugees, promote extremism, terrorism, and instability, with dire consequences for regional and international peace and stability,

Stressing the need to support Afghanistan in addressing poverty, creating employment opportunities, and provision of essential services to its citizens, in particular food, clean water, quality education and health-care services,

Acknowledging the efforts of the international community, neighbouring countries, donor agencies and other international organizations to provide humanitarian assistance without delay to Afghanistan, *and* that institutions and capacity building developed during decades of international assistance and support to Afghanistan are on the verge of being lost, and that rebuilding state institutions and the necessary capacity will take decades if urgent action is not taken to halt the negative trajectory,

Recalling international community's expectations that all Afghans seize this historic opportunity to promote national reconciliation, observe the international conventions and agreements, and adhere to the paramount international norms enshrined in the UN Charter and its resolutions,

Reaffirming the importance of protecting and respecting the right to life, security, and dignity of the people of Afghanistan in compliance with the Islamic principles and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR),

Emphasizing the importance of establishing an inclusive governmental structure that pursues moderate and sound domestic and foreign policies, with a friendly approach towards the neighbours of Afghanistan and the other countries, aimed at realizing the shared goals of durable peace, security, safety and the long-term prosperity of Afghanistan and the region,

Emphasizing also the importance of meaningful participation of women in all spheres, and of upholding human rights, including for women, children and minorities,

Stressing that the menace of terrorism remains a grave threat to the peace, security and stability of Afghanistan, regional countries and the international community,

Recognizing that terrorism has devastating consequences for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of victims and their families, in particular women and girls, deploring the suffering of the people of Afghanistan and reaffirming its profound solidarity with them, while stressing the importance of providing them with appropriate support and assistance,

Stressing also that the Afghan territory must not be used as a base or safe haven for any terrorist group,

Strongly condemning terrorist attacks claimed by the so-called Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP) organization, an entity affiliated with Da'esh, resulting in the loss of numerous precious lives and injuring many others,

Welcoming the assurances for the safety and security of diplomatic personnel and humanitarian workers and international organizations in Afghanistan, as well as the granting of a general amnesty, refraining from reprisals and allowing safe passage to all those who wish to travel to and from Afghanistan,

Commending Pakistan's pivotal role in the evacuation of over 83,000 people comprising 47 nationalities from Afghanistan,

Also commending the important role played by Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Azerbaijan, Turkey, and other countries in facilitating evacuations from Afghanistan,

Underscoring the importance for the international community, in particular OIC Member States, not to abandon the people of Afghanistan,

Welcoming the presence of the representatives of the United Nations Secretary General, China, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, the Russian Federation, Japan, Germany, Italy, the European Union, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council,

Taking note of the statement delivered by the Representative of the Afghan authorities,

1. *Affirms* the solidarity of OIC Member States with the Afghan people in their quest for a peaceful, united, stable, sovereign and prosperous Afghanistan;

2. *Urges* Afghanistan to abide by the principles and purposes enshrined in the UN Charter and the Charter of the OIC and respect its commitments under international agreements and conventions, including its obligations under international human rights covenants, especially with regards to the rights of women, children, youth, the elderly and people with special needs, and to preserve family values, as enshrined in Islamic teachings and principles;

3. *Takes note* of UN system-wide reports indicating that the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan is unfolding at a pace and scale that is without precedent in recent history;

4. *Encourages the* United Nations system, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to continue working with the OIC in order to deliver urgent humanitarian aid;

5. *Welcomes* the initiative of Uzbekistan to create under the auspices of the United Nations a regional logistic hub in Termez to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

6. *Calls upon* the international community to provide urgent and sustained humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan as well as to the major Afghan refugee-hosting countries;

7. *Urges* the international community in general, and the UN Security Council in particular, to ensure that existing targeted sanctions do not impede the provision of humanitarian aid or economic resources aimed at preserving institutions, schools and hospitals in Afghanistan, and to allow multilateral development institutions, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other humanitarian organizations to channel existing assistance and assets towards humanitarian assistance;

8. *Affirms* the importance of the sustained engagement of the international community with Afghanistan, especially in supporting the humanitarian and development needs of the Afghan people;

9. *Decides* that the OIC will play a leading role in the delivery of humanitarian and development aid to the people of Afghanistan;

10. *Requests* the General Secretariat to take immediate steps to reinforce the OIC Mission in Kabul with human, financial and logistical resources, so that it can establish global partnerships and streamline aid operations on the ground;

11. *Acknowledges* that Afghanistan is facing serious liquidity challenges, and *resolves* to continue focusing on measures to ease access to legitimate banking services;

12. *Underscores* that Afghanistan's access to its financial resources would be pivotal in preventing a collapse and in reviving economic activity, and, in this regard, recognizes the importance of taking related actions such as unlocking the flow of financial and in-kind of assistance and resources to the people of Afghanistan, and exploring realistic pathways for unfreezing Afghanistan's financial assets;

13. *Decides* to establish a Humanitarian Trust Fund, under the aegis of the Islamic Development Bank, to serve as a vehicle to channel humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, including by partnering with other influential international actors;

14. *Decides* that the OIC General Secretariat, together with the Islamic Development Bank and Humanitarian Trust Fund, shall commence discussions with

the UN system organizations to devise a road map for mobilizing actions in relevant forums, in order to unlock financial and banking channels, re-establish liquidity and the flow of financial and humanitarian assistance, and devise a mechanism for the delivery of urgent and sustained humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan;

15. *Requests* the Islamic Development Bank to expeditiously operationalize the Humanitarian Trust Fund in the first quarter of 2022;

16. *Calls on* OIC Member States, Islamic financial institutions, donors and other international partners to announce pledges to the Humanitarian Trust Fund for Afghanistan as well as to provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan;

17. *Decides* that OIC General Secretariat shall engage with the World Health Organization and other relevant stakeholders in order to secure vaccines and other medical supplies, as well as technical and related assistance for the people of Afghanistan in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and other ongoing and emerging health concerns;

18. *Decides* to launch an Afghanistan Food Security Programme, and requests the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) to do what is required in this regard by establishing, when necessary, an OIC Food Security Programme for Afghanistan;

19. *Encourages* OIC Member States, international donors, the UN funds and programmes and other international actors to generously contribute to the Food Security Programme for Afghanistan;

20. *Reiterates* its call on the OIC Secretary-General to engage with donor financial institutions to provide necessary humanitarian and economic assistance to Afghanistan and to Afghan refugees in neighbouring countries;

21. *Urgently appeals* to OIC member States, the international community, including the UN system, international organizations and international financial institutions to continue providing all possible and necessary recovery, reconstruction, development, financial, educational, technical and material assistance to Afghanistan as policy tools to promote the realization and enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms by all Afghan citizens;

22. *Reaffirms* the importance of combating terrorism in Afghanistan and ensuring that the territory of Afghanistan is not used as a platform or safe haven by any terrorist group or organization;

23. *Calls upon* Afghanistan to take concrete steps against all terrorist organizations, in particular Al-Qaeda, Da'esh and their affiliates, including the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and others;

24. *Reaffirms* that peace, security and stability in Afghanistan would also contribute to the safe and dignified return of all Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons, and enable them to play a constructive role in the development of Afghanistan;

25. *Urges* the international community to remain vigilant regarding the possibility of incitement and the efforts of spoilers, both inside and outside the country, to derail efforts aimed at establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan;

26. *Calls upon* the Afghan authorities to continue to work towards greater inclusiveness, including by developing a roadmap to promote the participation of all Afghans, including women and girls, in all aspects of Afghan society;

27. *Underscores* the need for concerted efforts to rebuild the necessary capacity of the relevant state institutions of Afghanistan to address challenges posed by terrorism, narcotics, smuggling, money-laundering, organized crime and irregular migration;

28. *Decides* to appoint Ambassador Tarig Ali Bakheet, Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian, Cultural and Family Affairs at the OIC General Secretariat, as Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the OIC for Afghanistan, supported by a secretariat and the OIC Office in Afghanistan, to coordinate aid and assistance efforts, and to mandate him to pursue economic and political engagement with Afghanistan, and submit periodic reports;

29. *Requests* the OIC Secretary General to arrange for a delegation of prominent religious scholars and Ulama led by the International Islamic Fiqh Academy and other relevant religious institutions, to engage with Afghanistan on issues of vital concern, including, but not limited to, tolerance and moderation in Islam, equal access to education and women's rights in Islam;

30. *Requests* the OIC Secretary General to present a report in coordination with the Islamic Development Bank and the Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the OIC for Afghanistan to the 48th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers regarding measures taken to implement this resolution, and the steps taken and resources required to strengthen the OIC Mission in Afghanistan;

31. *Also requests* the OIC Secretary General to present a report at the 48th session that identifies measures to address the humanitarian and economic situation in Afghanistan, and highlights any practical difficulties that arise in the course of the provision of humanitarian aid or related funds, financial assets or economic resources to Afghanistan by OIC Member States and OIC financial and humanitarian institutions and organizations.