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Security Council - 2021-2022

BRIEFING AND CONSULTATIONS ON THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN
AFGHANISTAN (UNAMA)

WEDNESDAY, 2ND MARCH 2022 (10:00 AM)

STATEMENT BY MS. JAYNE TOROITICH –POLITICAL COORDINATOR

Madam President,

1. I thank SRSG Lyons for her briefing on the latest developments in Afghanistan and UNAMA for work they are undertaking. I also thank Madam Safi for her intervention.
2. Kenya takes note of the report by the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its recommendations.

Madam President,

3. We welcome reports that the overall security situation in the country has improved. We however note with concern that crime has increased at the same time. Any actions in seeking solutions for crime related issues should respect basic human rights and uphold the dignity of the Afghan people.
4. The increased regional cooperation by various stakeholders and in particular neighboring countries is encouraging. In this regard, we urge the Taliban to also engage with other regional countries to address and resolve any tensions and security incidents along border areas with a view of enhancing a collective security approach.
5. Such approaches should align to ensure the Taliban are committed to fighting terrorism and ensuring that Afghanistan is not a haven from which terrorist groups such as the Islamic State and Al Qaeda perpetrate their acts of terror not only in Afghanistan, but also within the region and beyond.

Madam President,

6. Kenya remains concerned over the dire Humanitarian situation that has been further compounded by severe drought, leaving over 24 million Afghans dependent on humanitarian assistance.

7. We call on all stakeholders, international donors and friends of Afghanistan to unite and generously contribute to the 2022 humanitarian response plan in order to reduce the \$3.9 billion funding gap.
8. We however stress that humanitarian assistance is not sustainable in the long term. We have to incorporate elements of economic development into humanitarian operations with the aim of establishing effective and sustainable ways of recovery. We hope that every effort will be made to implement the One-UN Transitional Engagement Framework to assist Afghans in 2022.

Madam President,

9. The state of the economy remains a serious issue affecting every Afghan. Restrictions that disproportionately impact women's access to education and work, create a further hurdle to inclusive nation building efforts. The Afghanistan Socio Economic Outlook of 2021-2022 indicates that at least five percent of GDP is lost when women face restrictions to work. We therefore urge the Taliban to carefully consider this reality when framing policy.
10. Additionally, restrictions inhibiting Afghans from leaving the country do not add value if the people remain and are not enabled to contribute to the development of their country.

11. We reiterate the imperative for women's full, equal and meaningful participation in all aspects of Afghan life including at the grassroots and leadership levels.
12. We call on the authorities to prioritize on eliminating all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and other gendered harms against Afghan women, girls and children, as well as reverse any actions intended to restrict women's freedom of movement.
13. Finally, **Madam President**, Kenya supports a strong mandate to enable UNAMA to do its work effectively. We reaffirm our unwavering solidarity with the people of Afghanistan and stand ready to support all endeavours aimed at securing their safety and well-being.

I thank You for your attention