



Joint Statement of the Afghanistan Civil and Democratic Forces Network (ACDFN)

Regarding the Appointment of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

19 July 2026

The Afghanistan Civil and Democratic Forces Network (ACDFN) welcomes the appointment of Ambassador Rabab Fatima by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as his Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

Amb. Fatima assumes this important responsibility at a critical and challenging moment for Afghanistan. As the country approaches the fifth anniversary of the Taliban's military takeover of power, Afghanistan continues to face a multifaceted crisis marked by the erosion of political legitimacy, widespread and systematic human rights violations, the weakening of the rule of law, persistent security threats, deteriorating economic and humanitarian conditions, and deepening international isolation. In this context, role of the United Nations, particularly the UNAMA, in facilitating a legitimate, inclusive, and principles-based political process consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter is more vital than ever.

The appointment of Amb. Rabab Fatima was made pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2822 (2026) and with the consensus of all members of the Security Council. The same resolution extends the mandate of UNAMA until 17 June 2027. This renewed international consensus provides an important opportunity for UNAMA, under new leadership, to reaffirm and strengthen the implementation of its core mandate.

The Afghanistan Civil and Democratic Forces Network, while reaffirming the principles and positions articulated in its previous joint statements, calls upon the new SRSG and Afghanistan's international partners to prioritize the following measures:

First: The June 2026 UNAMA renewal calls for the mission to carry out its mandate "in close consultation with all relevant Afghan political actors and stakeholders, in particular the relevant authorities, and in support of the people of Afghanistan, in a manner consistent with Afghan sovereignty, leadership and ownership."

It also requires the mission to provide outreach and good offices to Afghanistan's political actors and stakeholders, regional countries, and the wider international community, as well as civil society.



In order to implement this part of the mandate, UNAMA should move some of the mission's political functions out of the country in order to formally include the views of those unable to participate through mechanisms inside Afghanistan. This external political office, possibly in the region or at the UN headquarters could eventually support a legitimate political process.

An external political office could also be a crucial player in principled security efforts to strengthen political stability in the South Asia and Central Asia regions, whether via a new version of the "Doha" process, or through a Special Envoy, or by the UN coordinating with the SCO or other regional organizations.

Second: Support the establishment and strengthening of independent mechanisms for fact-finding, investigation, documentation, and accountability regarding human rights violations in Afghanistan. These mechanisms should draw upon the lessons of transitional justice processes and successful international experiences in order to help create the conditions necessary for national reconciliation, justice, and lasting peace.

Third: Continue to monitor the security and terrorism threats in Afghanistan which pose serious risks not only to Afghanistan's stability but also to regional and international peace and security.

Fourth: Continue and strengthen humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan while ensuring the establishment of transparent, independent, and accountable delivery mechanisms that prevent humanitarian aid from being diverted or controlled by the Taliban and guarantee that assistance reaches vulnerable individuals and families directly.

Fifth: Maintain and strengthen international support for human rights, particularly the rights of women and girls, ethnic and religious minorities, fundamental freedoms, justice, accountability, and efforts to end impunity, as essential foundations for any sustainable and comprehensive solution for Afghanistan.

The Afghanistan Civil and Democratic Forces Network expresses its support for the continuation of an active, effective, independent, and impartial UNAMA mission under the leadership of Amb. Rabab Fatima. We hope that, under her stewardship, UNAMA will be able to fulfill its central role in facilitating an inclusive political process, strengthening international coordination and consensus, and supporting the legitimate aspirations of the people of Afghanistan for peace, freedom, justice, democracy, and the rule of law.

We reiterate that a stable and sustainable future for Afghanistan can only be achieved through the meaningful participation of all citizens of Afghanistan, respect for human rights and human dignity, adherence to the rule of law, and the establishment of a legitimate, accountable, and representative system of governance based on the free and genuine will of the people of Afghanistan.