



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

As Afghanistan approaches the fifth year of the Taliban's military takeover, the country stands at the edge of what can only be described as a "suspended collapse." Despite initially unprecedented levels of humanitarian assistance, sustained regional goodwill, and repeated calls for dialogue, the Taliban authorities have failed to take meaningful steps toward political reform, inclusive governance, respect for human rights, or adherence to Afghanistan's international obligations.

Human development indicators continue to fall sharply. Poverty, hunger, and institutional decay have deepened. The threat of terrorism and violent extremism, including material, spatial, and moral support for such groups, is rising. The Taliban's systematic dismantling of women's rights, civic space, and constitutional governance has left Afghanistan isolated and unstable.

The UN Independent Assessment of 2023, which created a window for a national dialogue process capable of restoring both domestic and international legitimacy, was undermined and left unattended, closing one of the few viable pathways toward a peaceful political transition. However, on the situation of Human Rights in Afghanistan, the international community has taken an important step forward. Following the mandate of Afghanistan's Special Rapporteur in 2022, the UN Human Rights Council established the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Afghanistan (IIMA) in 2025, which can systematically document serious human rights violations and preserve evidence for future judicial or truth-seeking processes. This mechanism, together with the roadmap proposed by the UN Special Coordinator, offers a foundation for a principled, evidence-based political process. These international steps also correspond with a broader consensus that has emerged among all major political and civil society forces, namely:

1. Restoration of popular sovereignty and constitutional governance
2. Upholding human rights and accountability
3. Protection of Afghanistan's unity, independence, and territorial integrity

Yet without coordinated international action, Afghanistan's crisis will deepen, with consequences far beyond its borders.

Our Call:

We, the members of the Afghanistan Civil and Democratic Forces Network (ACDFN), representing civil society, democratic actors, women's rights defenders, constitutional experts, and victims' groups, call on the United Nations Security Council, the European Union, the OSCE, the SCO, the OIC and the SAARC to take coordinated and principled action in response to Afghanistan's deepening political, social, and security crisis, guided by the UN Independent assessment and the three common principles.



1. Establish a Coherent International Political Strategy:

The absence of a unified political approach has enabled continued impasse and fragmentation. We call for a UN-mandated, coordinated international framework to align policy, messaging, and engagement, including the appointment of a High-Level International Envoy and the operationalisation of the UN Special Coordinator's roadmap. This framework should advance an inclusive, structured national dialogue grounded in constitutional governance, human rights, accountability, and the preservation of Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In this vein, we call on the international community to support and facilitate the establishment of a dialogue on constitutionalism in Afghanistan.

2. Support the IIMA and a pathway toward reconciliation, truth, and acknowledgment

Sustainable peace cannot be achieved without accountability. The international community should fully resource and politically support the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Afghanistan (IIMA). Meanwhile, we have to make sure this mechanism is built on the experience of transitional justice in Afghanistan and similar international experiences leading to reconciliation, truth, and sustainable peace.

3. Address Regional Security Risks:

Afghanistan's instability poses serious regional and international threats. We call for a structured regional mechanism, supported by the United Nations and relevant regional actors, to coordinate responses to terrorism and violent extremism, address cross-border militancy, and strengthen regional dialogue and confidence-building efforts. A coordinated approach is essential to prevent further destabilisation.

4. Sustain Afghanistan's Society and Prevent Institutional Collapse:

Humanitarian assistance alone is insufficient without protecting social and institutional resilience. We call for expanded support mechanisms that bypass Taliban control and deliver aid directly to communities, alongside long-term, flexible funding for women's organisations, civil society, human rights defenders, independent media, and democratic and youth-led initiatives, including diaspora networks. Sustaining Afghanistan's society is essential to preserving the foundations of a future, inclusive, and democratic state.

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