



Update on women, peace and security in Afghanistan August 19th 2021

The Informal Expert Group of the Security Council on Women, Peace and Security discussed the situation in Afghanistan in July 2019, December 2017 ([S/2018/11](#)), November 2016 ([S/2016/1059](#)), and July 2016 ([S/2016/673](#)). This update summarizes relevant developments since the last meeting of July 2019.

Developments in recent days in Afghanistan

Since the Taliban took control of most of the territory, there have been reports that Afghan women and girls are already seeing restrictions to their access to health, education, and their former workplaces, including hospitals and courts, their freedom of movement without a male guardian, and their clothing. In a statement issued on 16 August 2021, UN human rights experts warned that reports from 16 provinces continue to show that the majority of women are experiencing the same rights violations as 20 years ago at the control of the Taliban and expressed outrage over the violence being directed at women and girls including the imposition of strictures on their capacity to function in any independent way in society. In the last few weeks, there were indications that women are being kidnapped and forced into marriage and sex slavery by the Taliban, and there were reports of women learning to use guns to defend themselves and fight back. In the last few days, there are reports that women professionals have been ordered to stay home and that female university students and professors have been turned away from their classrooms. Many women human rights defenders and public officials who have been targeted or threatened by the Taliban now fear for their lives, and many are trying to get emergency visas and flights out of the country, often unable to due to the danger and chaos at the airport. Safe houses and women protection centers seem to be inaccessible, as the Taliban have occupied or set up base in some of them. There are also reports that Taliban checkpoints include women tasked with searching or interrogating women. In addition, the humanitarian situation is catastrophic, compounded by COVID-19, the drought, the increasing internal displacement due to the violence and insecurity, and the interruption or shutdown of basic services. In their first press conference in Kabul on 17 August, the Taliban spokesperson said that there will be no discrimination against women within the framework of Sharia law, but there are widespread doubts about the meaning and sincerity of these statements.

Developments in the Security Council

On 6 August 2021, the head of United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) briefed the Security Council on the deteriorating security situation and increasing attacks on urban areas and civilians, and urged the Council to reinvigorate the peace talks and prevent the crisis from escalating and spilling across national borders. Only ten days later, on 16 August 2021, the Security Council held an emergency session on Afghanistan, after the Taliban captured Kabul and took over the country. Following the meeting, the members of the Security Council issued a press statement calling for an immediate cessation of all hostilities and the establishment, through inclusive negotiations, of a new government that is united, inclusive and representative, including with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women. They underscored that a sustainable end to the conflict in Afghanistan can only be achieved through an inclusive, just, durable and realistic political settlement that upholds human rights, including for women, children and minorities. During the meeting, the Secretary-General expressed particular concern about accounts of mounting human rights violations against the women and girls of Afghanistan and urged that the hard-won

rights of Afghan women and girls are protected. In their statements. Several Council members condemned the targeted attacks against women and girls and called for the respect of women's rights.

Previously, on 15 September 2020, the Security Council adopted **resolution 2543 (2020)** extending the mandate of UNAMA until 17 September 2021. The resolution called for an inclusive and meaningful peace process with the participation of women and underlined that the economic, social, political and development gains made in the last 19 years as well as respect for human rights, especially for women, children and minorities, must be protected and built upon. Relevant excerpts are included in the annex below. Earlier that year, Security Council **resolution 2513 (2020)** on the peace negotiations affirmed that any political settlement must protect the rights of all Afghans, including women and urged for the inclusion of women in negotiating teams.

In the past months, the Security Council issued **several press statements** on Afghanistan that touched upon the situation of women and girls, reiterating calls for women's inclusion in peace and security processes and expressing alarm about the escalating violence, including against women in prominent positions, as well as specific acts, like the attack near a school in Dasht-e-Barchi in Kabul, which resulted in the death of 85 people, most of them schoolgirls.

Five **Afghan women from civil society briefed the Security Council** in country-specific meetings since the last meeting of the IEG in July 2019. Their common themes were alarm at the escalating wave of violence against professional women, journalists, peacebuilders, the marginalization or under-representation of Afghan women in the main discussions about the future of their country, and fear of losing two decades of gains in women's rights and gender equality. Afghan women were also heard at the Council during the annual meeting on women, peace and security, commemorating the 20th anniversary of resolution 1325, and in Arria Formula meetings focused on the peace process, including women's role.

The **1988 Afghanistan sanctions regime** does not include listing criteria related to women, peace and security, and resolution 2557 (2020), which extended the mandate of the Monitoring Team until 17 December 2021, makes no reference to gender. The reports of the Monitoring Team include only limited information on gender. In its 2021 report the Team noted a wave of violence and killings by the Taliban targeting government officials as well as women, human rights defenders and journalists, among others, following the inauguration of the Afghanistan peace negotiations in Doha. During 2020, targets for assassinations broadened from government and security personnel to civil society activists, health-care workers, journalists, judges, prosecutors, religious scholars and leaders, intellectuals, and prominent Afghan women.

Women's participation in the peace process and in politics

Between 2005 and 2020, **women were excluded from 52 out of 67 peace and political processes** in Afghanistan. At the **Intra-Afghan peace talks** that started in Doha in September 2020, there were four women among the 21 participants (19 percent) representing the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and there were no women in the Taliban delegation. One of the four women in the Republic's negotiation team, the former parliamentarian and women's rights activist Fawzia Koofi survived an assassination attempt shortly before the start of the negotiations. In recent high-level meetings convened to reinvigorate the peace process, such as the Moscow meeting in March 2021 and the High-level Doha delegation in July 2021, women participated in even fewer numbers.

Women's organizations continuously voiced **deep concern that women's rights would be negotiated out of a potential political settlement in the name of stability**. Even before the latest escalation in the conflict, women observed that the space for civil society overall and women specifically was drastically shrinking. Women leaders continued to call for an inclusive peace process and are engaged in **non-stop advocacy**,

both to the government and the Taliban as well as to the countries facilitating the negotiations, the region, and the UN. There have been several attempts by women to travel to Doha to speak directly to the Taliban but they have not been granted visas. At various summits and convenings during 2020 and 2021, Afghan women demanded that any political settlement for Afghanistan must include the protection of women and girls and a guarantee that the full range of rights of protection and participation of women and girls guaranteed in the Constitution is not negotiated in any peace outcome, and the establishment of concrete mechanisms to facilitate the direct participation of women and their perspectives in the peace talks.

Despite their exclusion from formal processes, Afghan women **have played an active role in peacemaking across the country**. They are involved in national and international advocacy, provide training for mediation and conflict resolution, and have been taking part in national jirgas on peace. Diverse Afghan women leaders continue to **call for a comprehensive ceasefire** that protects the rights of *all* Afghans. For example, in July 2021, the Afghan Women's Network, supported by UN Women, launched the campaign #CeaseFireSeizePeace.

The government formed in 2020 included the **highest number of women to high-level positions in Government** in Afghanistan's modern history: 4 Ministers, 12 Deputy Ministers and 6 Ambassadors. It also appointed 3 female heads of independent commissions (Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, the Independent Election Commission, and the Electoral Complaints Commission). One of the three Deputy Ministers at the State Ministry for Peace Affairs is a woman and the Leadership Council of the High Council for National Reconciliation (HCNR) includes only nine women among the 46 members. One of them was named deputy of the Council. The HCNR structure includes a Commission dedicated to Women's Affairs, though some have criticized this approach for siloing women's issues into one Commission rather than seeing gender as an issue cutting across all peace and security issues. The upper house of parliament (*Meshrano Jirga*) includes 19 women among its current 68 senators.¹ Only one out of nine judges at the Supreme Court is a woman.

In the **presidential election** held on 28 September 2019, women's participation dropped from 38 percent in the 2014 elections to 31.4 percent. In the lead up to the elections, the Taliban attacked Afghan women to deter them from voting, killing at least 23 women. A new rule requiring all voters be photographed at the polling sites discouraged women in some conservative rural areas from voting.

Measures have been taken to increase women's representation in senior positions at the **provincial level**. On 5 July 2020 the Cabinet agreed that all the 34 positions of deputy provincial governor for social affairs be filled with women, and so far, 25 women have been appointed. By contrast, there is one woman provincial governor, none of deputy governors for financial and administrative affairs are women, and only two of 391 district governors are women. There is a 25 percent quota for provincial council seats, although leadership of the 34 councils is overwhelmingly held by men, who chair 33 of them. Through the 2020 annual mass-recruitment process for entry into the Afghan civil service a total of 12,591 (24.1 percent women) successful candidates were appointed, most of whom were teachers

On 12 November 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the support of UN Women and UNAMA, launched the second **National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP)**. In its concluding observations of 10 March 2020, the CEDAW Committee expressed concern about the lack of gender-responsive budgeting, funding and cooperation for the implementation of the NAP.

¹ The 2004 Constitution sets out a reserved quota system to guarantee minimum levels of women's participation in parliament. The lower house of parliament (Wolesi Jirga) includes 250 parliamentary seats, of which 68 are reserved for women. The upper house of parliament (Meshrano Jirga) comprises 102 senators, including 34 appointed by the President (50 per cent of whom must be women); 34 elected from Provincial Councils; and 34 elected from District Councils.

Assassinations, attacks, and threats targeted at women

2020 witnessed the highest number of women killed in Afghanistan since the UN began tracking this in 2009. The UNAMA mid-year update on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict documented record levels of civilian casualties with a 47 percent increase of killed and injured civilians compared to the first half of 2021 and with May and June 2021 as the deadliest months on record. Women comprised 14 percent of all civilian casualties during this period, with a total of 727 women casualties recorded (219 killed and 508 injured), an increase of 82 percent compared with the first six months of 2020.

Numerous women human rights defenders, journalists and other professional women have been assassinated in recent months and many more have been attacked or threatened. For example, in its June 2021 report, UNAMA reported the assassination of three female media workers and one female doctor in Jalalabad for which ISIL claimed responsibility as well as the killing of three female polio vaccinators in the same city. On 2 March 2021, three young Afghan women journalists were shot dead in Jalalabad on their way home from their jobs at a local news outlet and only a few months before, in December 2020, the Afghan television and radio presenter Malalai Maiwand, who had been an advocate for women's rights and spoken public about the challenges women journalists face in Afghanistan, was killed in attack in the same city. On 17 January 2021, two female judges working for the Afghan Supreme Court were shot dead on their way to the office in Kabul. On 24 December 2020, gunmen shot and killed the civil society activist Freshta Kohistani who had previously posted on her social media account about threats against her. On 27 June 2020, Fatima Khalil, Donor Liaison Officer the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission was killed alongside her driver when an improvised explosive device placed under the car exploded.

Several attacks have been targeted against institutions that are specifically frequented by women and girls. On 8 May 2021, 85 people were **killed by three explosions outside a high school in Kabul, most of them schoolgirls and women (43 girls and 28 women)**. 216 civilians were injured, among them were 106 girls and 66 women. The school hosts classes for boys in the morning and for girls in the afternoon and the attack occurred around 4 p.m. when the girls were leaving their classes. This happened almost exactly a year after an **attack on a maternity ward** in Kabul run by Doctors without Borders on 12 May 2020, in which 24 people were killed, among them 16 mothers, two children and a midwife.

In June 2021, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission called for the Human Rights Council to initiate an **international Fact-Finding Mission** to investigate attacks targeting Hazaras and other religious minorities, women, girls, and human rights defenders. A coalition of Afghan and international human rights organizations backed this call in a joint open letter issued in July 2021.

Other human rights issues, including conflict-related sexual violence

Afghanistan ranks at the **second last place of the WPS index** which captures women's autonomy and empowerment at home, in the community, and in society. On 1 March 2021, President Ghani chaired the first meeting of the **High Council for Women**, created by a presidential decree in August 2020 to support the implementation of the Government's commitments regarding women's rights. In its 2020 concluding observations, the CEDAW Committee expressed concern about the limited human, technical and financial resources allocated to the national machinery for the advancement of women. A July 2021 study of the Afghanistan Analyst Network shows that the longing for greater agency is a sentiment shared by urban and rural women, countering claims that women in rural areas do not hold the same aspirations in terms of their rights as urban women.

In the context of the peace negotiations, the Taliban have not shared further details regarding their position on women's rights beyond repeating generic statements that women's rights will be in accordance with

Islam. There is no confirmation or evidence that the **Taliban's position on women's rights** has shifted to the standards of international human rights law and the standards expected by Afghan women. Rather, evidence on the ground shows that **oppressive gender roles are central to their governance vision and its implementation**. There is a direct link between the Taliban assuming control of a district and the imposition of rules that negatively impact the rights of women and girls and severely limit access to protection, health, and education services.

In 2020, UNAMA documented 271 cases of **sexual and gender-based violence**, 18 of which were verified as conflict-related sexual violence, affecting nine boys, five women and four girls and which can be attributed to members of the Taliban, the Afghan National Army, the Afghan National Police, and the Afghan Local Police. A report on the implementation of the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) Law from March 2017 to March 2019 published by the Ministry of Women's Affairs in April 2021 tracked 6,449 cases registered by the Ministry over the reporting period and indicated an **increase in the number of reported cases of violence against women and girls**. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, cases of violence against women and girls have further increased. In an April 2020 Oxfam assessment, 97 percent of respondents reported that gender-based violence (GBV) has increased since the outbreak of COVID-19. Overall, violence against women and girls, including sexual violence, is significantly underreported due to cultural barriers, structural inequality, security threats and widespread impunity.

A December 2020 joint **report of UNAMA and OHCHR examining the justice response to violence against women** found that while conviction rates are slowly increasing, only half of the 303 cases documented between September 2018 and February 2020 progressed to adjudication by a primary court. Over a third of the survivors were girls under the age of 18 and in about half of the cases, the perpetrator was a close male relative of the survivor. 22 of the cases were so-called "honor killings" perpetrated by a male family member which resulted in a much lower conviction rates than other murders. The report found that rather than protecting and supporting women, the formal justice system often re-victimizes them: survivors are forced to improper and forced medical examination and are confronted with the possibility of being charged with *zina* (consensual extramarital sexual relations) which has a chilling effect on women's willingness to report rape. The report also found that many women resort to suicide or self-immolation when they are subjected to violence which raises serious concerns about women's access to safety and justice for violence.

All 34 provinces of Afghanistan have EVAW Prosecution Units, 32 of which are headed by female prosecutors. Afghan National Police family response units are also operational in all provinces, with women comprising approximately 40 percent of the staff. However, the CEDAW Committee noted a dearth of trained female police officers assigned to family response units, and their assignment to clerical tasks. It also noted a concentration of women judges and police officers in Kabul, Herat, Mazar-e Sharif and Jalalabad but welcomed the establishment of new courts dealing with violence against women and the appointment of women judges to them. Overall, the Committee found that women suffer disproportionately from a **lack of justice** as a consequence of conflict and noted that many GBV cases are being adjudicated by informal justice mechanisms such as *jirgas* and *shuras* which may not adequately ensure women's rights. In this context, women's rights activists groups, the AIHRC and the Ministry of Women continue raising concerns related to the **draft Law on Conciliation of Civil Disputes** which seeks to codify the informal system of *jirgas* and *shuras*, through the registration/endorsement of their decisions by national justice institutions, advocating that oversight of the compliance of informal decisions with the constitutional protections and legal standards prescribed in civil laws, should be adequately ensured.

A **draft family law** is currently being considered by the government, and areas of concern include age of marriage, polygamy, and custody of children after marriage dissolution. On 3 September 2020, the Cabinet Legislative Committee proposed an amendment to the Penal Code concerning so-called **virginity tests**

which entered into force on 29 September. The amended law now requires both a court order and a woman's consent for such a test to be conducted. However, it falls far short of prohibiting the practice entirely for which the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, women's rights organizations and the CEDAW Committee have long called for.

The deterioration of the security situation and increase of violence in recent months forced UN Women **to temporarily relocate Women's Protection Centers** in Badakshan, Bamyan, Faryab, Jawzjan, and Takhar. Service delivery is further impacted by increasing restrictions on women's movement due to newly imposed mobility rules and heightened insecurity. Some service providers have pre-emptively asked their female staff to stay home due to the security situation and one provider reported that during their negotiations with armed opposition groups in Saripul, Logar, Balkh, and Jawzjan provinces, they were informed to not send women to project areas. If women stop coming to work to deliver life-saving services, women and girls will not seek them because of cultural norms and practices that prevent women from engaging with men who are not their relatives. If this scenario plays out, there is a risk that humanitarian agencies will lose access to half the population.

The **EU-UN Spotlight Initiative** for Afghanistan was launched in December 2020 and UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP will be the UN implementing agencies. The funds were received in December 2020 and the implementation is yet to begin.

Women continue to be held in **overcrowded conditions in the Pul-e-Charkhi women's prison in Kabul**, and close to 300 children are held with their mothers. Over 150 women with alleged links to ISIL-K are in prolonged pretrial detention.

A presidential decree signed on 17 September 2020, stipulated that **national identification cards** will include an individual's mother's name alongside the father's name. This is a change long sought by civil society groups but for now the inclusion of the name remains optional.

Humanitarian issues and women's socioeconomic situation

The humanitarian situation for women and girls in Afghanistan is dire and likely to get exponentially worse after the recent developments. Women and children make up the majority of the four million internally displaced people and 80 percent of the around 327,000 people displaced in 2020. Displaced families are often living in overcrowded shelters where privacy is not observed which heightens the risk of GBV. Moreover, while men and boys use latrines in open spaces, many women and girls resort to using a single mobile latrine or other latrines which are often insufficient to fulfil the need of the increasing displaced population. Afghanistan Protection Cluster's Protection Monitoring results indicates that dignity kits are one of the prominent needs for women in displacement. Refugee women and girls from Afghanistan continue to suffer from gender-based discrimination and violence in the host countries. Gender-based violence is pervasive but largely under-reported due to social norms, cultural stigma and a lack of effective accountability mechanisms in communities. Gender inequality also contributes to lower education and skills levels among refugee women and girls. Limited personal freedom of movement for refugee women affects their access to economic and education opportunities – a trend which has only been aggravated by COVID-19.

Afghanistan has **one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world**, with some 638 women dying per 100,000 live births. Only approximately 50 percent of women deliver their children in a health facility with a skilled health professional. The CEDAW Committee expressed concern about women's limited access to health care, in particular sexual and reproductive health-care services and information, especially in rural and remote areas.

Women, especially outside of Kabul, have limited access to **COVID-19** related information and health-care services and are disproportionately affected by the country's weak health-care system. Meanwhile, the estimated number of women and girls that need lifesaving GBV services nearly doubled with the outbreak of the pandemic, from 3.6 million in 2020 to 7.4 million in 2021. A study released by UN Women and the International Rescue Committee in October 2020 found that 78 percent of women experienced adverse mental health effects from the ongoing conflict and COVID-19. Furthermore, many women have lost their jobs as domestic labourers and handicraft workers and are at risk of losing their hard-won economic and social independence. Increased reports of early and forced marriage, *baddal* (the exchange of two girls between two families), *baad* (customary punishment where women and girls are given as compensation for crimes) and coerced sexual and physical exploitation indicate that the COVID-19 economic situation has also led to gendered negative coping mechanisms. On the flipside, women have been actively involved in the response to the pandemic. For example, women's shura councils and many other women's groups redirected their work from peacebuilding to COVID-19 prevention efforts and distribution of aid to vulnerable families.

The CEDAW Committee noted a **low level of women's labor force participation** and that women are concentrated in the informal economy, especially in agriculture, domestic work and unpaid care work, and have no access to social protection. Since 2002, around 2,471 formal, licensed **businesses**, and over 54,000 informal businesses, owned and run by women have come into existence in the country but still only 3 percent of registered enterprises are women-owned and run. Key challenges to Afghan women's financial inclusion include gender-based discrimination in financial laws and policies, women's limited financial literacy and their lack of formal identification papers. The Central Bank of Afghanistan is currently developing a Financial Inclusion Policy in consultation with financial institutions, the public and the international community.

Women's **unequal access to land** is seen as a major cause of gender inequality in Afghanistan. Existing land laws discriminate against women regarding access to, owning, or inheriting land and property, with most women gaining access to land and housing through male relatives, making their security of tenure dependent on good marital and family relationships. The Housing Land and Property Taskforce estimates that less than 5 percent of land tenure/ownership documents include the name of a female family member. Access to mobile phone services is also uneven with 62 percent of women-headed households reporting that they do not own a sim card.

70 percent of Afghan women are **illiterate**. On 11 March 2021, the Ministry of Education released a memorandum banning schoolgirls over the age of 12 years from singing at public events. After a backlash, the Ministry repealed the memorandum, stating that it had been misunderstood.

Recommendations

The Security Council should adopt a resolution in response to the developments of the last few days. This should consider the following elements:

Calls for an immediate, nationwide ceasefire that fully incorporates gender considerations, including the protection of women.

Urges all Member States to facilitate and expedite the departure and relocation of Afghans who wish to leave the country, with particular attention to women at risk or targeted, including women in civil society and in public life.

Calls on the Taliban to respect Afghanistan's international obligations and the rights of women and girls, including their freedom of movement and the protection of their civic space.

Calls on the international community to urgently fund the humanitarian appeal for Afghanistan, and demands that full, unimpeded access to humanitarian aid for all Afghans, including women and girls, be guaranteed and respected, as well as the participation of women humanitarian and frontline workers in aid delivery.

With regards to the mandate of UNAMA, which expires in mid-September, the Security Council should consider:

Requests UNAMA to take fully into account gender considerations as part of priority tasks and as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to meaningfully support, engage and consult with a wide range of diverse women's civil society organizations, networks and women-led organizations, community groups, women human rights defenders and women in diaspora in all areas of its work.

Condemns threats, attacks, and killings of women, including women human rights defenders, peacebuilders, journalists, and women in the public sector, and requests UNAMA to monitor these violations.

Calls on all parties to the conflict to fully uphold women's rights, including all political, economic, and social rights, as well as Afghanistan's commitments to international human rights conventions.

When renewing the sanctions regime later this year, the Security Council should consider including a listing criterion related to the restriction and violations of human rights, and particularly women's rights as protected by international human rights law, including conflict-related sexual violence, under the name of or on behalf of the Taliban; requesting the Monitoring Team to integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue across its investigations and reporting; and requesting the Monitoring Team to include the necessary gender expertise.

In addition, the IEG co-chairs and other Council members should:

- Provide immediate practical support to women at risk, including by providing access to diplomatic and political channels, granting emergency visas, and organizing emergency evacuation, and halting any deportations of Afghan refugees already outside of the country.
- Engage in strategic high-level political diplomacy and advocacy in support of women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in any peace and security processes involving Afghanistan.
- Provide direct financial support to women-led local peacebuilding initiatives, grassroots movements, and civil society organizations, including through long-term and flexible funding and the facilitation of alliance building among women's networks as well as support of their advocacy efforts of through capacity building and reinforcement of advocacy messages.
- Publicly condemn violence against women, including human rights defenders and women in professional and public service roles, and express support for their invaluable work.

ANNEX: Relevant language in resolution 2543 (2020) extending UNAMA’s mandate until 17 September 2021

Calling for an inclusive and meaningful peace process with the participation of women, youth and ethnic, religious and other minorities and underlining that the economic, social, political and development gains made in the last 19 years as well as respect for human rights, especially for women, children and minorities, must be protected and built upon,

Decides further that UNAMA (...) will continue to lead and coordinate the international civilian efforts (...) with a particular focus on the priorities laid out below:

(e) continue, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), to cooperate with and strengthen the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), and civil society in the protection and promotion of human rights, to cooperate also with the Government of Afghanistan and relevant international and local non-governmental organizations to (...) assist in the full implementation of the fundamental freedoms and human rights provisions of the Afghan Constitution and international treaties to which Afghanistan is a State party, in particular those regarding the full enjoyment by women of their human rights, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);

(f) support in this regard the importance of gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment, education, human rights, and the full, safe, equal, effective and meaningful participation, engagement and leadership of women in all levels of decision-making, including in peace talks, overall peacebuilding strategies, at the national and subnational level, call on the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to fully implement and finance the 1325 National Action Plan and to ensure the protection of civilians, especially women, children, displaced persons, and minorities, including from sexual- and gender-based violence, and that perpetrators of such violence and abuse are held accountable.