



## Statement on the Situation in Afghanistan

**Ambassador Jackie Sanders, U.S. Alternative Representative to the UN for Special Political Affairs**

Remarks at the Security Council Open Meeting  
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Thank you, Mr. President

The United States would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary General for his report on the situation in Afghanistan. We share his assessment of the many challenges facing the Afghan government and the international community, as well as the acknowledgement that we continue to make progress in key areas.

The United States reaffirms its long-term commitment to Afghanistan. The United States is the leading donor: we have provided over \$14.2 billion dollars in reconstruction and security assistance since 2001 and are the leading contributor of troops to the country. The President recently requested that Congress provide an additional \$11.8 billion in assistance for the remainder of 2007 for Fiscal Year 2008 for Afghanistan, a significant increase in resources compared to prior years.

Confronted with a ruthless enemy, Afghanistan faces a turning point this year. Although robust and determined military actions must be pursued whenever needed, the insurgency will not be defeated by force of arms alone.

It is essential that as the international community steps up its efforts to assist the Afghan authorities, it carries out a comprehensive security, political and economic strategy. Illustrating this strategy, the new U.S. funding, if approved, is expected to go to security, infrastructure, governance, and counter-narcotics and rural development projects.

The United States welcomes efforts aimed at increasing pressure on the Taliban. We support the existing Afghan led reconciliation framework and share UNAMA's view that the list established pursuant to UNSC resolution 1267 and other relevant resolutions should be updated, specifically with new listings and delistings, and stress the importance of an enhanced Afghan-Pakistani relationship in all fields, including security.

The United States takes this opportunity to express its appreciation for the central and impartial role played by the United Nations in Afghanistan. We commend the work done by SRSG Koenigs and the members of UNAMA and UN Agencies. We thank UNAMA for its efforts to date to expand throughout the country and we encourage further expansion when security circumstances permit.

The United States believes that the United Nations should continue to promote a sustained international engagement in Afghanistan through its co-chairmanship of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board and by reaching out to key members of the international community. We also encourage an adequate follow-up of UNAMA's operations in New York through regular meetings of the Afghanistan Core Group.

This Council and the international community need to continue to work towards a secure, stable, and more prosperous Afghanistan, based on the rule of law and human rights, so that the country will never again fall prey to extremists and terrorists. The United States will support UN efforts to that end. Thank you.

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