



STATEMENT OF THE WOMEN'S FORUM ON AFGHANISTAN

24 JANUARY 2023

The Women's Forum on Afghanistan welcomes the efforts of the United Nations to seek reversal of the measures that have been put in place by the Taliban to restrict the fundamental human rights of Afghan women to education, employment, and political participation in governance. Media reports of the recent visit of a UN delegation led by the Deputy Secretary-General conveyed the demands that were made by the Taliban, notably for removal of UN sanctions relating to the travel ban, as well as political recognition.

Since coming into power, the Taliban has steadily increased restrictions on women's rights, in violation of Afghanistan's obligations under international law, the Afghan Constitution, and the promises repeatedly made by the Taliban itself. Under these circumstances, there should be no discussion of demands by the Taliban until concrete and irreversible steps are taken to reinstate fundamental human rights such as access to education and employment for all Afghan girls and women. Engagement with the Taliban must come with clear benchmarks of progress in this regard.

We recall the core principle of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." We urge the United Nations Security Council and Member States to support and facilitate a meaningful peace and political process with the inclusion of Afghan women.

The Women's Forum on Afghanistan is an initiative created by Afghan and global women leaders to work for the well-being and human rights of the Afghan people, and inclusive solutions to the social, economic, and political challenges the country is currently facing.