



Recommendations Regarding the Implementation of the Independent Assessment Mandated by Security Council Resolution 2679 (2023)

The Women's Forum on Afghanistan welcomes the independent assessment report on Afghanistan, as mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 2679. We thank Special Coordinator Feridun Sinirlioğlu and his team, whose hard work over the last several months has culminated in this highly anticipated report. As we acknowledge the significance of this report, we also feel compelled to express our apprehensions and offer constructive recommendations to further strengthen the impact and effectiveness of its findings.

Our expectation for a comprehensive examination highlighting the humanitarian and human rights crisis in Afghanistan, with a call for international collaboration towards a women- and victims-centric political pathway, has unfortunately been met with disappointment by international actors and the Taliban.

The report's language downplays human rights considerations while placing emphasis on security and economic considerations. While economic engagement is advocated as a strategy to fortify Afghanistan's economy, with a focus on long-term assistance and capacity building of Afghan institutions, we argue that Afghanistan already possesses substantial capacity at both the national level and within civil society organizations. The critical issue lies in the lack of political will to harness these capabilities nationally. While acknowledging the necessity for further capacity building, it is imperative to recognize existing expertise and deploy it strategically.

We believe our recommendations encapsulate our primary concerns and observations regarding the independent assessment report. We urge all stakeholders to focus on the recommendations below to ensure a more accurate representation of the situation in Afghanistan and a more effective international response.

- We strongly recommend that the appointed UN Special Envoy be an individual with a strong background in human rights and women's rights. The Special Envoy should be an individual who has deep knowledge and experience working on the current issues faced by Afghans, particularly women and girls. The Special Envoy should have buy-in and support from the region and more broadly in order to have due influence.
- The proposed international contact group should also be composed of individuals with strong backgrounds in human rights and women's rights, and women should be proportionately represented in the contact group. Moreover, it is crucial that as it undertakes active and political engagement with Afghan stakeholders, the contact group must ensure equal participation and representation of the diversity of all Afghan actors, including civil society and particularly Afghan women.
- It is critical that Afghan women are meaningfully involved in the planning, execution, and monitoring of the implementation of this special assessment report.
- No discussion about the constitution should proceed before the intra-Afghan dialogue, which as the report recommends, must reflect the views and participation of all Afghans



and should specifically ensure the meaningful participation and leadership of Afghan women throughout.

- The Taliban must agree to honor all the international commitments of the State of Afghanistan, especially those related to the rights of women and girls.
- At each stage of implementation of the report's recommendations, it is crucial for all involved parties to prioritize the facilitation of a cohesive and cooperative environment that ensures the protection, security, and active participation of all Afghans.
- To create trust and an enabling environment for the intra-Afghan dialogue, Taliban should release all those illegally and arbitrarily detained including activists, academics and journalists, and they should put an end to arbitrary detention and policies of intimidation and threats.