



# The Role of the United Nations in Consolidating Peace in Afghanistan since 2001

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**Abstract:** Peace is the main precondition for the establishment of international relations and is one of the main concerns of countries involved in war and conflict and the international community. In order to ensure the establishment and consolidation of peace and security, several theories have been proposed and many institutions have been established. The United Nations, and for the most part the Security Council, is one of the most important institutions for achieving peace, and peacekeeping has been cited as the organization's primary goal. Many steps have been taken in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban government to bring peace, and many institutions, including the United Nations, have been cooperating with Afghanistan in bringing peace. The role of the United Nations in consolidating peace in Afghanistan includes three key areas: UN programs in Afghanistan, the elimination of terrorism in Afghanistan, and the role of the United Nations in establishing new structures such as the rule of law, elections and good governance in Afghanistan.

**Index Terms - Peace, Afghanistan, United Nations, Security Council, Elections; Rule of Law and Good Governance.**

## I. INTRODUCTION

One of the main factors in the transformation of relations between governments is the fear of war, which has become an incentive for international cooperation to achieve world peace. One of the main reasons for the emergence of international organizations after World War II was the establishment of peace and security. In this regard, the actions of international organizations to resolve disputes are of vital importance, because most of these organizations, as transnational institutions, have the ability and legitimacy to play an influential and accepted role in the global community. Therefore, peace can be considered the main nature of the emergence of these organizations, including the United Nations. Following the events of September 11, 2001, and the US invasion of Afghanistan, which led to the fall of the Taliban. Efforts to strengthen peace in Afghanistan have been made by the United Nations. Among them is the holding of the Bonn Conference in Germany, which marked a turning point in the history of Afghanistan. At the meeting, Afghanistan's warring factions signed an agreement. According to this agreement, several tasks (political-security) have been considered for the United Nations - Peacekeeping Forces. To this end, the United Nations has sent a UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and ISAF security forces to Afghanistan.

The agreement also established Afghanistan's interim administration and set a two-and-a-half-year timetable for restructuring permanent institutions for the Afghan government based on inclusiveness, gender inclusion, ethnic participation and universal representation. Following that, in June 2002, the Loya Jirga (grand assembly) created an emergency transition government instead of an interim administration, electing Hamid Karzai as its head.

According to the timetable set out in the Bonn Agreement, the new constitution of Afghanistan was drafted and approved in the Loya Jirga of the Constitution, which lasted from 14 December 2003 to 4 January 2004. The question is, what role has the United Nations played in restoring peace in Afghanistan? Since 2001, the United Nations appears to have been relatively successful in consolidating peace efforts in Afghanistan through 2001's development programs, counter-narcotics, and assistance to state-building and good governance.

## II. THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH

The main purpose of this study is to explain the role of the United Nations in strengthening peace in Afghanistan from 2001 to the present in Afghanistan.

### SUB-OBJECTIVES

- 1) Recognition of the United Nations as an institution influencing the peace process in the world;
- 2) Explain the position of peace in the UN Charter.

## 1- THE UNITED NATIONS

### 1. 1. THE PROCESS OF THE FORMATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

One of the main goals of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security. Since its inception, the United Nations has repeatedly called on it to prevent escalating disputes and turn them into war, to encourage hostile parties and negotiate instead of force, or to help restore peace when conflict begins. In the early 21st century, new global threats emerged. The September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States clearly demonstrated the challenge of international terrorism, and subsequent events heightened concerns about the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the dangers of other unconventional weapons. UN agencies immediately mobilized in their respective areas to intensify the fight against terrorism. The Security Council adopted a resolution on September 28 approving the provisions of the Charter in order to prevent the financing of terrorism, to legalize the collection of money for such purposes, and to quickly block the assets and financial resources of terrorists. The implementation of this resolution was formed.

The decision to establish an international organization for the protection of peace and security after the Great War, as it covers all countries of the world, dates back to the Atlantic Charter - the Atlantic Charter - dated August 14, 1941, which was a repetition of Wilson's plan. In a statement issued by US President Franklin Doland Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill on the deck of a warship in the Atlantic Ocean, they formulated principles such as respect for human rights and respect for fundamental freedoms for all nations without discrimination. Gender, race, religion and language, freedom of international trade, non-use of force (war) and territorial development The signatures of international relations, the establishment of good faith in intergovernmental relations, the reduction of armaments, the right to self-determination for nations, the obligation to respect equal rights for all nations and the comprehensive access of all countries - dominant and defeated - were signed. (8: 81-82)

Finally, the UN Charter, based on the principles laid down by the victorious powers of the war, was approved by the internal authorities of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and most of the signatory states on June 26, 1945, and on October 24 of that year. The draft was completed and before that the statute of the new court was approved in the preliminary sessions of the conference. Thus, a new global institution emerged that was a response to the failure of the predecessor of the League of Nations, the dissolution of which was announced on July 31, 1947, and the United States was the first of five great powers to become a member of the United Nations. Many countries immediately joined the international organization.

Since its inception, the United Nations philosophy of existence has been based on resolving border, regional and global conflicts, and optimizing international relations on the basis of respect for human rights and the elimination of discrimination and oppression. Prevent global and destructive world wars like the First and Second World Wars, and on the other hand replace the bloody consequences of wars in human society, peace and security and public welfare. Therefore, the United Nations is a global multi-purpose organization because it operates in a variety of areas, including peacekeeping, economic and social development, and the provision of technical services (8: 84).

### 2. THE POSITION OF PEACE IN THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

One of the documents in which the importance of peace and security is emphasized and the preservation of peace and security is emphasized is the Charter of the United Nations. In accordance with Article 24 of the Charter, the member states of the United Nations have delegated "the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security" to the Security Council in order to ensure rapid and effective action by the United Nations. Article 24 of the Charter explicitly states: "It is up to them to act on their behalf." (17: Article 24, first paragraph).

The main reason for handing over the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council was that the organization was able to take immediate and effective action. The permanent membership of the five great powers of the world in the UN Security Council and the granting of Veto's rights to them is also based on the assumption that only powerful states are able to use force and force to ensure the establishment of peace by using military force. A government that seeks to jeopardize global or international peace or pose a threat to it, and to refrain from such decisions.

Pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 24 of the Charter, the United Nations Security Council shall act in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations in fulfilling its duty to maintain international peace and security. "The special powers delegated to the Security Council for the performance of these duties are set out in Chapters 6, 7, 8 and 12." In the framework of Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council shall act as a mediator and in the framework of Chapter VII shall act as the executor of discipline. (1:93)

### 3. THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN CONSOLIDATING PEACE IN AFGHANISTAN

#### 1. 3. UN PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN SINCE 2001

The events of September 11, 2001, are a turning point in the Security Council's decision on Afghanistan. With the events of September 11, 2001 in the United States, the Security Council pursued the fight against terrorism more seriously than in the past, and less than 24 hours after these events, in an emergency meeting, adopted the resolution proposed by the United States. In its Sept. 12 resolution, the Security Council recognized terrorist attacks as a threat to international peace and security, and recognized the "inherent right of individual or collective defense" that later became the pretext for the US-led war in Afghanistan. Thus, some believed that the Security Council, by recognizing the "inherent right of individual or collective defense," had implicitly authorized military action against the target country. The Council concludes its readiness to take the necessary steps in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, and to combat terrorism in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations Charter.

Following this resolution, the Security Council adopted another resolution 16 days later, on 28 September 2001. In this resolution, the Security Council decided to establish a strong legal basis for a comprehensive fight against terrorism in order to eradicate and eradicate it. On the other hand, the Security Council reaffirmed its "inherent right to self-defense or collective self-defense" under the UN Charter. In such circumstances, the United States, following global stances and the use of Security Council resolutions, especially recognizing the "inherent individual or collective right to self-defense," addressed the events of September 11 to September as "terrorist attacks." The use of the term by the United States and its connection to "armed attacks" against the United States began on October 7, 2001, with attacks on the Taliban.

The attacks did not go unnoticed by the world, with some countries and governments, especially the European Union, agreeing. Of course, the United Nations did not directly allow military action and attacks on Afghanistan - long-term operations of freedom - the United States, but in defense of the legitimacy of this war, the United States announced that the war allowed by the UN Security Council, from there This war is not necessary on the basis of a kind of personal defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter, and it will not be an aggressive attack. Finally, on December 20, 2001, the Security Council authorized the United States to establish ISAF in a situation where ISAF was required to take all necessary measures to assist the Provisional Government of Afghanistan. But later, ISAF leadership took over NATO on August 11, 2003. (383 - 3: 384).

Another thing to note about the United Nations is that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) is responsible for the situation in Afghanistan. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) is a political mission backed by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

UNAMA's key role is to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan, guided by the efforts of the international community. Together with the Government of Afghanistan, the delegation supports the reconstruction of the country and the strengthening of the foundations of peace and the rule of law.

UNAMA's activities are limited to Afghanistan and include:

- Strengthening cooperation with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF);
- Supporting efforts for better governance and the rule of law and the fight against corruption;
- Efforts to support Afghan-led reconciliation programs;
- Playing the role of central coordinator to facilitate the provision of humanitarian aid;
- Support the election process in Afghanistan by providing technical assistance and financial resources and coordination among other international aid recipients;
- Monitoring the human rights situation of civilians and coordinating the protection of human rights;
- Supporting regional cooperation in achieving sustainable and progressive Afghanistan;
- Ensuring regular dialogue and negotiations with Afghanistan's neighbors on the ongoing peace process in Afghanistan and regional cooperation;
- Providing consulting and communication services to the diplomatic community and the United Nations Agency for Afghan Programs. (3: 388 - 389)



### 2. 3. THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN ERADICATING TERRORISM IN AFGHANISTAN SINCE 2001

The UN Security Council adopted a resolution in October 1999 declaring that it was necessary to suppress international terrorism and to block all Taliban assets if the Taliban refused to comply with Security Council resolutions. In 2000, the Security Council reiterated its condemnation of the US accusation against Osama bin Laden and members of his group for the August 7, 1998 bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and for attempting to assassinate US citizens outside the United States. Decisions contained in Resolution 1214 were adopted in Resolution 1333 (2000). But after 9/11, the silence and lack of serious protest from governments, especially the permanent members of the Security Council, undermined the customary international law of the fight against terrorism (7:168–169). The last function of the United Nations, especially the United Nations Security Council, is to pass UN Security Council Resolution 2405 in 2018. In this resolution, some points in the field of peace are mentioned, which are mentioned below: Emphasizing the central importance of a political process in society and inclusiveness to the Afghan leader and ownership in support of reconciliation with all those who are ready to compromise, as stated in the Fourth Announcement of the Kabul Conference, And its goal is to create a peaceful and prosperous future for all the people of Afghanistan, and to welcome efforts to advance the peace process, including through the High Peace Council; - Emphasizing the vital role of the Kabul process and welcoming the strategic consensus between the Government of Afghanistan and the international community on the program of self-sufficiency through the framework of mutual accounting; - Welcoming the beginning of the fourth year of the national unity government and emphasizing the importance of joint work of all parties in Afghanistan within the framework of this government with the aim of achieving a peaceful and prosperous future for all the people of Afghanistan; Recalling the announcement of the Afghan Independent Election Commission (IEC) that parliamentary and district council elections will be held in 2018, emphasizing the importance of rapid progress in Afghanistan's electoral reform process and in order to hold credible and inclusive elections. Parliamentary and district councils in 2018, the 2019 presidential election, and the need for continued cooperation from UNAMA colleagues in this regard, given the demand of the authorities; - Emphasizing the importance of a comprehensive approach to addressing the security, economic, governance and developmental challenges in Afghanistan, which are interrelated in nature, and understanding that stability in Afghanistan is not possible through military means alone; - Reiterating the vital role of regional, trans-regional and international cooperation in supporting the creation of a common society for the human race, strengthening lasting peace, security, prosperity, sustainable development and human rights in Afghanistan and welcoming joint efforts in In order to promote dialogue and joint efforts and advance the common goals of economic development in the region; - Recognizing the positive impact and continued importance of international commitments at the NATO Summit in Warsaw in 2016, as well as on those commitments reaffirmed in 2017, and the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan in 2016 and welcoming the announcement The US Strategy for Afghanistan on 21 August 2017 and the EU Strategy for Afghanistan, adopted on 16 October 2017, are important developments in support of the ongoing international support for security, development and stability in Afghanistan. (UN Security Council Resolution 2405 of March 8, 2018).

3. 3. The role of the United Nations in the process of establishing new structures in Afghanistan since 2001 With the events of September 11, 2001 and the fall of the Taliban, the structure of political power in Afghanistan took on a different shape. Unlike in the past, people actively participated in creating a new structure. The formation of the Bonn Summit and the signing of the Bonn Agreement have played a key role in this regard. If we want to discuss the role of the United Nations in the process of governance, it has played an active role in several areas of popular governance, including the convening of the 2001 Bin Summit of the Security Council and the approval of the Bin Agreement. The UN Security Council convened a day after the Bonn Summit on the situation in Afghanistan. The Security Council reiterated its commitment to Afghanistan, especially its 2001 resolution, and reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan in the third paragraph of the Afghan people's right to self-determination. . In the fourth paragraph, the Council expresses its determination to help the people of Afghanistan to end the catastrophic conflict and to advance national reconciliation, lasting and lasting peace in this country. In accordance with paragraph 5, the Council welcomes the letter from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which reported to the Council on the signing of the Bonn Agreement on 5 December 2001, and expresses its satisfaction with the agreement until a permanent government is established in Afghanistan. In the second paragraph of paragraph 6, the Security Council calls on all Afghan groups to work for the full implementation of these agreements. Especially through cooperation with the progressive government, which will seize power in accordance with the agreement of 22 December 2001. In accordance with Article 5, the UN Security Council calls on all Afghan groups to support humanitarian organizations that assist the needy and to ensure the safety and health of such personnel.

In the end, for the first time, the Security Council discussed the issue of helping rebuild Afghanistan with vigor, and Article 6 calls on all bilateral and multilateral donors to work with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the United Nations agencies and all Afghan groups. The interim government is working to restore, improve and rebuild Afghanistan. The issuance of the resolution on the approval and support of the Bonn Agreement and its implementation indicates the positive position of the UN Security Council on the holding of the Bonn Summit. (187 - 7: 188)

The 2001 resolution, mentioned earlier, addresses some of the other UN activities that have contributed to the Afghan peace process.

**2.3.1 ELECTION ASSISTANCE:** In the Department of Political Affairs, since 1992, he has served as the coordinator of electoral aid for the United Nations, various forms of electoral assistance, including consulting services, logistics, internships, civics, computer applications and short-term supervision for more than 85 the country has provided. In recent years, the sector has been repeatedly called upon to support and guide the electoral process in Afghanistan as a key element of the UN-mediated peace talks, or in the context of peacekeeping efforts. The United Nations Development Program provides technical support for the election process. It helps countries build electoral structures and often coordinates UN election aid on the ground. The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights assists in educating officials, conducting elections, providing guidelines for writing the text of election laws and regulations, and conducting information activities on human rights and elections (18:88).

**2.3.2 CREATING PEACE THROUGH DEVELOPMENT:** One of the main practical tools of the United Nations to strengthen peace is development assistance. Many organizations, including the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Program, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, which are critical to creating opportunities for displaced people to restore confidence in national and local institutions, have roles. They played well in Afghanistan. The United Nations has been able to help return refugees, clear landmines, repair infrastructure, mobilize resources and encourage economic recovery. War is the worst enemy of healthy development and development, and balance is the best means and method of conflict prevention (18:89).

**2.3.3 DISARMAMENT:** Throughout the transition period, efforts to disarm were pursued with the help of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, despite many difficulties and the suspension of the disarmament process. The three Afghan factions began handing over their weapons on June 18, 2003, near the UN-sponsored Mazar-e-Sharif, the first voluntary action. On October 24, 2003, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) officially launched its Disarmament Program in Kunduz Province (18: 123).

**2.3.4 DRUG CONTROL:** In the late 1990s, Afghanistan was a source of close to 80 percent of the world's illicit opium and a source of heroin production, accounting for nearly 1 percent of its total arable land, or about 640 square kilometers, of poppy cultivation. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported in October 2003 that Afghanistan supplied about three percent of the world's opium. About 1.7 million Afghans, or about 1 percent of the country's population, worked in the industry, and opium cultivation increased by about 8 percent from the previous year (18: 123).

**2.3.5 PROTECTION OF THE RULE OF LAW:** It is a transparent, effective and credible justice system and the implementation of the prerequisites and requirements of a peaceful and democratic society. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is working with Afghan institutions to help draft laws to ensure access to justice and strengthen the rule of law for all citizens. While the Afghan constitution guarantees a fair trial for all Afghans, about 80 percent of disputes are resolved by informal justice. Strengthen and increase the confidence of Afghans. The United Nations Development Program continues to support the National Police to become a modern entity and thus gain the trust of the people. (13: 8-10)

**2.3.6 INCREASE GOOD AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE:** The World Bank defines good governance as a way in which power is exercised over the economic and social management of a country's resources, especially in terms of development. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) emphasizes greater emphasis on the different dimensions of governance, such as participation, transparency and effective and fair accounting, and the promotion of the rule of law. Good governance is a model of governance that develops the individual rights of citizens and the public interest and creates an effective framework to ensure consistent regimes, the rule of law, effective governance, and a strong, independent civil society.

The stability of a society depends on ensuring the participation of citizens in democratic governance. Where public institutions are transparent and accountable, elections should be inclusive and women, the poor, and the isolated should be supported to realize their potential. To achieve citizen participation in democratic governance in 2013, the United Nations Development Program supported the Independent Election Commission (IEC) in preparing for the 2014 presidential election and Afghan-led provincial councils. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has also assisted the people of Afghanistan in strengthening local governance and making government institutions more responsive, educating officials at all levels of public administration, and promoting comprehensive accounting strategies. Accounting at the central level has also been upgraded to better manage public finances, and the United Nations Development Program has supported the Ministry of Finance to strengthen its budget capacity. (9:14)

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The United Nations, which is responsible for maintaining international peace and security, has played a key role in the Afghan crisis, especially since the events of September 2001. If the issuance of several resolutions focusing on the fight against terrorism is one of the official actions of the United Nations and the Security Council in this regard. Meanwhile, Resolution 1373 provided the necessary grounds for the military presence of the Security Council, led by the United States in Afghanistan, which is the beginning of the United Nations' participation in the establishment of peace in Afghanistan. After the deployment of the Armed Forces, the United Nations began its participation in the establishment of peace and security in Afghanistan by holding the second phase of the Bonn Conferences. He cited the fight against drugs, disarmament and Afghanistan's move towards democratization. In conclusion, the United Nations has played a relative role in bringing peace to Afghanistan, but the obstacles and challenges facing the presence and activities of foreign forces in Afghanistan cannot be ignored, the traditional and pessimistic view of the presence Foreign forces among the significant masses of Afghans, especially in certain geographical areas, Interference and conflict between the goals, interests and priorities of these forces towards Afghanistan, as well as the competition between the powers present in the composition of foreign forces, are among the most important challenges facing the United Nations in Afghanistan.

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