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- Check Against Delivery -
ORAL STATEMENT

Item [2]: ENHANCED INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON
AFGHANISTAN AND THE OHCHR COUNTRY REPORT

THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL MUST ADDRESS THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

UN Human Rights Council
Sixty-first session

23 FEBRUARY to 31 MARCH 2026

Mr. President,

The human rights and humanitarian situation continue to deteriorate in Afghanistan even as many countries, including Iran and Pakistan, continue to forcibly return millions of Afghan refugees and asylum seekers, violating the principle of non-refoulement. Forced returns must stop immediately and countries that have promised resettlement for at-risk Afghans should urgently process their applications for resettlement.

We welcome the Special Rapporteur's report and its focus on women's health. The Taliban have deprived women and girls of so many of their rights and have increased restrictions on religious minorities seeking to freely practice their religious rituals. The Taliban continue to silence critical voices – including human rights defenders, journalists, and political opponents – through arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, torture, and unlawful detention. Many individuals, including members of the former government, have been subjected to unlawful killings.

The Taliban continue to issue decrees that violate Afghanistan's international obligations. As donor countries reduce or withdraw aid, 21.9 million people – nearly half of the country's population – remain dependent on international assistance¹.

We urge the UN to accelerate the full operationalization of the independent investigative mechanism for Afghanistan, and for states to provide the resources needed for it to begin its task of collecting, preserving, and analysing evidence of past and ongoing crimes under international law and human rights violations in the country.

We ask the Special Rapporteur how the international community can address the deepening human rights and humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, in particular, to support Afghans inside the country and those fleeing.

Thank You

¹ [Afghanistan | OCHA](#)