



Committee: *United Nations Security Council*
Country: *Russian Federation*
Issue of *Afghanistan conflict*

“Among the privileges of being a superpower, the right and the ability to make a local quarrel into a global one ranks very high.”— Christopher Hitchens.

Following the U.S.-led invasion in 2001 and subsequent insurgency, Afghanistan faced ongoing conflict and instability, leading to the signing of the Doha Agreement in 2020, aiming to withdraw U.S. troops and negotiate peace with the Taliban. However, the withdrawal in 2021 led to the rapid collapse of the Afghan government and the resurgence of Taliban control. This resulted in a deteriorating humanitarian situation, with widespread human rights abuses, including restrictions on women's rights and escalating violence. An estimated 70% of the population, nearly 30 million people, required humanitarian assistance in 2023. The country now faces a dire humanitarian crisis, worsened by economic collapse, international isolation, and the impacts of climate change, with millions suffering from food insecurity, malnutrition, and famine. Despite efforts by the international community to provide aid, challenges persist due to concerns about legitimizing the Taliban regime. Additionally, the recent killing of Ayman al-Zawahiri, a senior al-Qaeda leader, in Afghanistan underscores ongoing security threats and the complex dynamics in the region.

The situation in Afghanistan holds significance for Russia due to several factors. Firstly, the Taliban's anti-Western stance aligns with Russia's narratives, offering potential strategic benefits and a counterbalance to Western influence. Secondly, historical ties between the two nations, including Soviet-era infrastructure projects, underscore Russia's interest in maintaining some level of influence in Afghanistan. Thirdly, despite economic and cultural limitations, Russia sees potential economic gains, such as access to new trade routes and partnerships in energy and infrastructure projects. Additionally, Russia faces security concerns related to terrorism emanating from Afghanistan, as demonstrated by recent attacks on its diplomats, necessitating engagement with Afghan authorities and stakeholders to address shared security interests.

Russia's policy toward Afghanistan is characterized by pragmatism, evolving from historical confrontations to recent engagements with the Taliban. Initially viewing the Taliban as a terrorist organization, Russia gradually recognized its significance in Afghan peace negotiations, driven by its desire to bolster influence in the region amid geopolitical competition with the US. Moscow capitalized on the Taliban's opposition to ISIS-K and engaged in parallel diplomatic initiatives alongside Western-led efforts.

Despite officially opposing the Taliban, Russia actively participated in peace dialogues and called for the withdrawal of foreign troops, aligning its interests with the Taliban's agenda for conflict resolution while exploiting US failures in Afghanistan for propaganda purposes. This policy reflects Moscow's pursuit of security interests in Central Asia, concerns over terrorism, and strategic positioning in the region, emphasizing pragmatic engagement over ideological alignment.

Russia urges the Security Council to prioritize efforts to prevent the spread of extremism and terrorism emanating from Afghan territory. This includes robust measures to support the Afghan government and relevant stakeholders in combating terrorist groups, particularly ISIS-K, and ensuring effective border security to prevent illicit activities. Recognizing the potential for economic development and reconstruction in Afghanistan, Russia encourages the international community to support sustainable growth initiatives that benefit the Afghan people. This includes investment in infrastructure, trade facilitation, and capacity-building projects aimed at promoting economic stability and reducing poverty in Afghanistan. Russia would also like to utilize the situation in Afghanistan to showcase the consequences of Western intervention in developing countries.

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Issue of the Conflict in Sudan

“War does not determine who is right - only who is left.”- Bertrand Russell

In December 2018, Sudan witnessed massive protests against President Omar Bashir, triggered by the soaring cost of living and the deterioration of the Sudanese economy, resulting in the Sudanese 2019 coup d'état by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) led by Abdul Fatah Al Burhan and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) led by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (AKA Hemedti). Although initially hopeful for a democratically elected government, disagreements over power-sharing, particularly concerning the integration of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) into the SAF, escalated into the ongoing conflict, resulting in a dire humanitarian crisis with over 10,000 fatalities and 5.7 million internal refugees. Despite international efforts, including the African Union's proposed roadmap, progress towards resolution has been minimal. The Russian Federation's support for RSF leader Hemedti is multifaceted, driven by economic interests in Sudanese gold reserves to fuel Wagner operations and the Russian economy amidst Western sanctions due to the Russian special operation in former soviet territories, as well as strategic objectives, notably access to the Red Sea region through the proposed naval base in Port Sudan. However, plans for the base were paused in April 2021, due to U.S. pressure on the Sudanese government.

Before the war broke out amidst nationwide anti-Bashir turmoils, The Kremlin supported the government of President Al Bashir. It sent the Wagner group to aid Sudanese security forces in suppressing riots. Later, after the RSF and SAF toppled President Bashir, Hemedti's RSF operated against protestors who recklessly demanded a return to civilian rule, claiming 100 lives. 2 days after the incident, Moscow exported 13 tons of security equipment, including riot shields, helmets and batons to the RSF. Additionally, Russia and China blocked a UN Security Council draft resolution condemning the “massacre”. “you need for order to be imposed, and you need to fight against extremists and provocateurs who don't want the stabilization of the situation” said Russian foreign minister, Mikhail Bogdanov. Bogdanov summarized Russia's policy on the war in Sudan with this statement, Russia wishes for stability in the region, and for that cause, Russia is opposing a civilian government and aids the RSF for both opposing civilian rule, and turning out the most beneficial to Russia.

Russia would like to see the Security Council act by providing diplomatic and material support to the rapid support forces as well as provision of training and resources to enhance the RSF's capability to counter extremism and maintain public order. Furthermore, Russia would like to see Sudan return to military rule as it ensures stability in the country. The Kremlin would also advocate the return of all international mining concessions and infrastructure agreements that existed prior to the war.

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