



**The Alliance in Support of the Afghan People urges a stronger and broader new mandate for the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan**

**Washington, D.C** –The Alliance in Support of the Afghan People issued this statement about the proper role of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, whose mandate is due for renewal in March 2022.

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 radically altered the country’s political, security, social, economic and human rights landscape.

The international community has a moral and strategic obligation to monitor that landscape and to protect the Afghan people from gross abuses of human rights and loss of their freedom of self-determination.

The United Nations is the cornerstone of that international response. The mandate of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) is currently too weak for this monumental undertaking and needs to be strengthened when it comes up for renewal on March 17, 2022. Under the new mandate, UNAMA must:

- Maintain a significant role in advocating for human rights of all Afghans, in particular those under direct threat by the interim Taliban authorities.
- Play a meaningful role in all negotiations to restore a constitutional order.
- Amplify and follow up on findings of monitoring conducted by the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights, the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, and third-party international groups assessing the various challenges within Afghanistan.
- Enjoy direct support from and communications with the UN Security Council to ensure UNAMA’s observations and actions are visible at the highest levels of international leadership.
- Perform robust analysis and reporting on the status of human rights, security, narcotics production and trade, political freedoms and stability, civic life, social protection and economic well-being across the country, utilizing an extensive regional presence.
- Protect and preserve the space for civil society to operate.
- Support the work of the UN Human Rights Council’s special rapporteur.
- Protect and monitor the freedom of media.



Separately, but related, furtherance of the UN Security Council Resolution 2593 to advocate for safe and unhindered access by humanitarian relief agencies or to uphold human rights.

*The Alliance in Support of the Afghan People (or ASAP) represents a cross section of American national security, military, civilian and human rights leaders who advocate for continued **and principled** U.S. engagement that strengthens the well-being of the Afghan people and helps stabilize and secure Afghanistan and the broader region in order to protect America's national security interests. For more information: <https://www.allianceforafghans.org/>*