



Security Council

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Letter dated 15 February 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I am submitting the present letter regarding recent official engagements of the Government of Pakistan with the Taliban that constitute a violation of the national sovereignty of Afghanistan. These engagements, which are taking place under the pretext of support for peace efforts in Afghanistan, are void of any degree of coordination and consultation with the Government of Afghanistan.

In that regard, we have always been clear in stating that the Government of Afghanistan welcomes and appreciates all efforts aimed at achieving the goal of a peaceful settlement of the current imposed conflict in the country, so long as they are rendered in a manner that conforms to the established principle of Afghan ownership and leadership of the process, which has been consistently and persistently emphasized by the international community at various international conferences on Afghanistan, including those held in London, Warsaw, Brussels and, most recently, Geneva, in November 2018.

Most recently, we have learned of the intention of the Government of Pakistan to invite a Taliban delegation for a meeting with its high-level authorities, including Prime Minister Imran Khan. This initiative is a source of deep regret and concern to the people and Government of Afghanistan, as it amounts to the official recognition and legitimization of an armed group that poses a serious threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan, and whose members are sanctioned under the provisions of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#).

This, among other such engagements, with the Taliban, is occurring without consultation and coordination with, and the consent of, the Afghan Government, and also violates the provisions of the Committee, undermining efforts for a peaceful settlement of the current conflict. Based on the Taliban statement issued on 12 February on the group's website, members of the Taliban delegation who have been introduced and are listed in the 1988 Sanctions List include: Sher Mohammad Stanekzai; Ziauddin Madani; Salam Hanafi; Shahubuddin Delawar; Abdul Latif Mansur; Amir Khan Motaqi; Fazl Mohammad Mazloom and Nurullah Nuri (listing entries attached).*

In the broader context, we also expect of and call on the Government of Pakistan to take decisive action against known terrorist and extremist groups on its territory, which pose a common threat to Afghanistan, Pakistan and the region. Any passivity in fulfilling this objective not only undermines broader counter-terrorism efforts, but

* On file with the Secretariat and available for consultation.



also has a profound impact in providing further space and capacity for such groups to continue their attacks in Afghanistan and the wider region.

The present letter is being submitted with the hope and expectation that the Security Council will initiate necessary measures to address the issue at hand, in accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nazifullah **Salarzai**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
