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I. Abstract:

Nowadays, Afghanistan is a situation of conflict which has created devastating consequences that have affected the security and peace of the middle east. The UN, numerous countries and organisations have been constantly involved in order to try to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

The Islamic republic of Afghanistan is a country in central Asia. Afghanistan has a population of 32.5 Million people as of 2015¹. Afghanistan is ethnically, religiously and culturally diverse.

Ever Since the intervention of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan in 1979, Afghanistan has been politically, economically and socially unstable. Conflict and armed clashes have been more and more common, most recently since January of 2015. The conflict is mainly between the forces of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Taliban and terrorist and extremist groups such as Al-Qaïda, Hezb -e- Islami Gulbuddin, The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria² (Daesh) and others.

The Taliban are an Islamic fundamentalist militant terrorist organization that rose to power in Afghanistan in 1996. The Taliban's regime was characterized by severe violations of human rights notably towards women and children. The taliban's regime ended with the intervention of the United States of America in 2001, but since then Taliban forces have been organizing many terrorist attacks toward the afghan government and people.

Numerous country have helped to try to find a solution to the conflict, most notably:

- Iran
- France
- Pakistan
- The United States of America (USA)

Numerous organisation have also try to put in place peace in Afghanistan notably:

- The United Nations and UN Sub organisations and missions
- NATO

II. Introduction

Instability is always an issue when speaking of the situation in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. It is an Islamic country, located in central Asia and surrounded by:

- The Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

¹ *The world factbook: Afghanistan, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)*, July 2015, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html>

² Also know as the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL), the islamic state (IS) and Daesh

- The People’s Republic of China.
- The Republic of Tajikistan.
- Turkmenistan.
- The Republic of Uzbekistan.
- The Islamic Republic of Iran.

Afghanistan has a population of 32 564 342 people in 2015. It also composed of several ethnic groups, which are:

- 38% Pashtuns.
- 25% Tajiks.
- 19% Hazaras.
- 6% Uzbeks.
- 12% Animaqs, Turkmen, Baloch and others.

Due to its ethnic diversity, Afghanistan has been a source of social and religious conflicts for the last decades. Since 1979 and the intervention of the USSR, Afghanistan has had a very unstable political, economic and social situation. Since then the country has been subject to many wars that appear as phases, the latest being in 2015 that opposes the forces of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Islamist groups such as Taliban, Al Qaeda, Hizb-e-Islami Gulbuddin and others.

III. Definition of Key terms

Key term	Definition
Ethnic group	An ethnic group or ethnicity is a category of people who identify with each other based on similarities, such as common language, ancestral, social, cultural, or national experiences. ³

³ <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/ethnicity>

Forces of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	They are the forces of the official Afghan army. Afghanistan's military currently has approximately 200,000 active duty soldiers.
Taliban	It is an Islamic fundamentalist political movement in Afghanistan currently waging war (an insurgency, or jihad) within that country. ⁴
Al Qaeda	It is a radical Sunni Muslim organization dedicated to the elimination of a Western presence in Arab countries and militantly opposed to Western foreign policy: founded by Osama bin Laden in 1988.[3] ⁵
Hizb-e-Islami Gulbuddin	It is an Afghan political party founded in 1977 by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and a participant in the ongoing war in Afghanistan on the side of the radical Islamist groups.

IV. Background Information:

a) Taliban Insurgency:

_____ Ever since the fall from power of the Taliban in 2001, the Taliban forces have been combatting with the afghan government as well as international forces through direct attacks and terrorism. The latter has caused political and military instability and has been a threat to national and international security. A June 2014 UNSC report⁶ explains that the Taliban appears to be expanding its control of territories in the south east and north of the country.

⁴ For the full article: http://cic.nyu.edu/news_commentary/isil-wont-get-very-far-afghanistan-now

⁵ <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/al-qaeda>

⁶ Fourth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2082 (2012) concerning the Taliban and other associated individuals and entities constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan, 9 June 2014, http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2014/402

The Taliban have been able to exploit corruption in Afghanistan in order to become more powerful and influential. Their main source of income has been illegal commerce of oil and drugs notably opium, as well as the illegal exploitation of industrial mines. All interventions are made under religious pretexts in order to facilitate the spread of their ideology “The Taliban movement commands the loyalty of thousands of Afghans and applies resources and men to the pursuit of political objectives, guided by doctrine and inspired by rhetoric”⁷

The biggest example of the Taliban insurgency has been during an armed clash between their forces and Afghan national forces between April and October 2015 during the Battle of Kunduz. On the 28th of September 2015, the Taliban forces captured the city forcing Afghan military forces to retreat marking the first time since 2001 that the Taliban had taken control of a major city in Afghanistan. Following numerous counter attacks, the Afghan forces regained Kunduz, however it is a sign of the strength of the Taliban forces and the threat they pose to the national security of Afghanistan and International security.

b) The humanitarian situation:

After the withdrawal of NATO forces in 2014, the total number of deaths in Afghanistan has reached a new high in 2015. A United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) report⁸, stated that there has been a total of 11002 civilian victims with a total of 3545 killed and 7457 injured. However the reality goes beyond these statistics as there are thousands of Afghans that suffer violations of human rights in Afghanistan such as abuse of women and children as well as torture which is extremely common.

The intensive use of Improvised explosive devices (IED)’s as well as suicide bombings and attacks on urban regions (such as recent attacks in the province of Paktika in the South-east of the country) is a major cause of the deterioration of the humanitarian situation.

With the instability, insecurity and constant violence in Afghanistan, millions of Afghans are fleeing their country causing one of the biggest refugee crises in recent history. Iran and

⁷Semple, Michel, *thoric, ideology and organization structure of the taliban movement*, United States Institution for Peace (UNIP), December 2014, <https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/PW102-Rhetoric-Ideology-and-Organizational-Structure-of-the-Taliban-Movement.pdf>

⁸*Midyear Report 2016: Protection of civilians in armed conflicts*, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), July 2016, <http://unama.unmissions.org/afghanistan-record-level-civilian-casualties-sustained-first-half-2016-un-report>

Pakistan, the two neighboring countries of Afghanistan have currently the biggest number of Afghan Refugees. Between January and December 2015, a total of 1 443 170 afghans have fled the country representing around 12 % of the Afghan population, the second most refugee total in the World after Syria. However, both countries have started to accept less and less afghan refugees. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has estimated that 90,000 Pakistan-based Afghans have been forced to return to Afghanistan in 2015. Therefore, some afghan refugees are now fleeing towards Europe. Thus it is vital for the SC to act as soon as possible to improve humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

c) Financial Situation

Afghanistan was promised a financial aid in 2001. This aid was supposed to help in the reconstruction and the development of the infrastructure of the country. It represents 90% of the public expenditure of the country, but it is insufficient and won't have remarkable effects on the country.

The country, which is in a catastrophic situation, hasn't received all the promised aid. It was supposed to receive 25 billion dollars, however only 15 billion dollars were sent. For the Afghan infrastructure, the aid is poorly used because of the inequitable distribution between the financing of civil projects and military projects. Billions of dollars that were allocated by the international community for the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan were wasted, misused or diverted to personal bank accounts. The development of military and defense sector like the formation of a well-trained army is hard due to the lack of logistics. (The army has approximately 80 000 soldiers).

Despite the progress made in the work on civil projects like the building of hospitals, roads, schools, the production of opium increases every year. I Afghanistan, has the world's largest opium poppy cultivation, and saw an increase in the area under cultivation to a record 520,000 acres in 2014.⁹ Over 89% of the world's opium supply in 2015 originated from Afghanistan¹⁰. The production of drugs represents almost 53% of the GDP of Afghanistan.¹¹

⁹ United Nations office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Drug report, 2014

¹⁰ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime , (UNODC)National Drug Use Survey 2015

¹¹ For the full article on drugs in Afghanistan:

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/afghan-opium-report.html>

V. Major parties involved:

NATO:

It is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization also called the North Atlantic Alliance, which is an intergovernmental politico-military alliance between several western countries throughout Europe and North America. Its goal is to ensure a common defense between the countries against external threats. In 2011, 140 000 soldiers were deployed in Afghanistan under the NATO's authority. In December 2014; most of these soldiers were withdrawn as it was the end of its mission of ensuring the safety of the country. However, the Taliban attacks on the country doubles during that time. In 2015, there were 12 500 soldiers left on Afghan soil to assist in the operation "Resolute support" by helping in the formation and the training of the Afghan army. The NATO is also obliged to give financial aid to the Afghan forces until 2017.

United States of America:

It is one of the most important parties in the conflict as it the main source of financing of the Afghan army. The USA has spent over 800 billion euros on its operations in Afghanistan. In the "Resolute support" operation, the USA helps with the formation of the Afghan army with 9500 of its soldiers. Since 2001, more than 2200 American soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan and almost 20 000 were injured according to the Ministry of Defense.¹²

The French Republic:

It is an important belligerent in the conflict as it is a member of the NATO and a permanent member of the UNSC .The French Republic has deployed almost 70 000 soldiers on Afghan soil since 2011, it has suffered from the death of 89 soldiers and the injury of 700. It withdrew all of its soldiers in 2012.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

Both of these neighboring countries to Afghanistan have been supporting them in their war on terrorism. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has welcomed over 3 million refugees.

¹² USA Ministry of Defense: <http://www.defense.gov/casualty.pdf>

However, both of these countries have stopped welcoming refugees and are now forcing them to leave their countries.

However, there has also been tension between the two parties since early 1970's. There have been numerous cross-border bombings beginning from 2003 with the most recent attack coming in late August 2015.

VI. UN involvement:

- The UN's huge role in humanitarian and reconstruction efforts in multiple domains such as education, health and security through donations, food and military aids have been crucial for Afghanistan.
- In December of 2001, UNSC resolution 1386 authorized the International Security Assistance Force (USAF) in coordination with NATO to monitor and ensure security in Afghanistan. It's role ended in 2014.
- In March of 2002, UNSC resolution 1401 authorized the creation of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) to put in place humanitarian and military aid for the development of the country. The mission also published annual humanitarian reports since 2009. It's role ended in 2014.
- In March of 2015, UNSC resolution 2210 authorizes the renewal of the UNAMA having in place objectives such as protecting human rights, ensuring the establishment of Democracy, putting in place a sustainable economic plan and eradicating corruption during this period of political transition.
- Other Associations have also been created by the UN notably: the UN taliban monitoring team and the Special Inspector General for UN reconstruction (SIGAR)

VII. Possible solutions:

The United Nations intervention in the conflict should ensure:

- That all humanitarian aid is given to disturbed to all Afghan civilians equality.
- The increase of the United Nations camps to offer the civilians humanitarian aid.
- The establishment of an efficient economic plan to ensure the fair distribution of the financial aid given in order to limit corruption

- The protection of all ethnic minorities and groups in the country.

Other solutions could be:

- The establishment of an embargo on Afghanistan to limit the propagation of opium outside of the country.
- To force economic sanctions on all parties/countries involved in the opium commerce with Afghanistan.
- The identification and control of all Taliban camps to ensure the safe arrival of democracy in the country.
- A global intervention to protect civilians and save the country's left natural resources.

VIII. Guiding questions:

1. What strategies/solutions have been attempted by the UN? What have worked? Why? What have not worked? Why? What changes could be made to make said solutions work?
2. What is your country's policy towards the situation in Afghanistan? What is their current and former involvement? What can your country provide to support the situation in Afghanistan?
3. Are Afghan troops ready for US and NATO military withdrawal? If not, then what decision should be taken?
4. How can the SC put in place economic, political and military measures to ensure the self-dependence of Afghanistan after the possible withdrawals?
5. How can the SC ensure the correct use of economic funding in Afghanistan?
6. What sanctions can be put in place in Afghanistan to reduce the production and propagation of opium and other drugs?
7. How can the SC ensure the respect of human rights, safe housing of and safe transport of afghan refugees?
8. How can the SC combat Taliban insurgency?

IX. Useful links:

- *The next refugee crisis, NY times*, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/22/opinion/the-next-refugee-crisis-afghanistan.htm>
- *NATO and Afghanistan*: http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_8189.htm
- *Afghanistan: conflict on profile, Insight on conflict*, <https://www.insightonconflict.org/conflicts/afghanistan/conflict-profile/>
- *Timeline of Conflict in Afghanistan: Afghanistan Profile: timeline, BBC*, available on: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-south-asia-12024253>
- *Afghanistan and the United Nations*: <http://www.un.org/News/dh/latest/afghan/un-afghan-history.shtml>

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- Najibullah, Gulabzoi, *The Narco-State of Afghanistan*, *The diplomat* available at: <http://thediplomat.com/2015/02/the-narco-state-of-afghanistan/>, consulted the 6th of August 2016
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<http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/07/30/afghanistan-king-of-opium/> , consulted on the 8th of August 2016
- Beth, Mary, *Tackling Corruption in Afghanistan: it's now or never*, *Center for American Progress (CEP)* available on:
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/security/report/2015/03/17/108613/tackling-corruption-in-afghanistan-its-now-or-never/> , consulted on the 6th of August 2016
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http://www.cfr.org/terrorist-organizations-and-networks/taliban/p35985?cid=marketing_use-taliban_infoguide-012115#!/p35985?cid=marketing_use-taliban_infoguide-012115 , consulted on the 7th of August 2016