

56th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council

**Item 2: Interactive dialogue with the
Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Afghanistan
18 June 2024**

Speaker: Mohammad Musa Aziz

We thank the Special Rapporteur for his commitment to engage with Afghan civil society.

We welcome the report's intersectional analysis of the establishment and enforcement of an institutionalized system of discrimination and segregation against women and girls, and the impact on men and boys in resisting this institutionalized system of gender oppression.

We welcome references to marginalized communities including ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and the multiple and intersecting violations they suffer, we particularly welcome references to violations because of one's sexual orientation and gender identity.

We welcome the Report's clear articulation 'that gender apartheid most fully encapsulates the institutionalized and ideological nature of the human rights abuses' against women and girls in the country.

The pursuit of justice demands a multifaceted approach including various accountability mechanisms, including establishing a Human Rights Council-mandated mechanism to engage deeper into investigations and evidence collection to contribute towards accountability. With strategic coordination, this can exert heightened pressure on the Taliban.

The Special Rapporteur's report places squarely into view the responsibilities of international actors. We continue to call on all States to ensure that any engagement with the Taliban should not normalise the regime as it continues to violate international human rights.

There cannot be an inclusive and stable Afghanistan without justice and accountability.

Thank you.