

12 September 2022

**UN Human Rights Council, 51<sup>st</sup> regular session (12 September – 7 October 2022), Item 2**  
***Enhanced interactive dialogue on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan***

## **Statement on Afghanistan**

Since this Council's urgent debate last July, the situation is devastatingly grim. It is clear that the *de facto* authorities are determined to systematically dismantle the rights of Afghan women and girls. No right to education, no right to work, no access to basic needs, no right to live a peaceful life. Women and girls are systematically being erased from public life and are prisoners in their own homes. More than a year after the Taliban takeover, the response from the international community, including from countries members of the OIC, has been deeply inadequate, uncoordinated and lacking in urgency.

The increase in domestic violence, forced marriage and child marriage in addition to the erasure of all their rights is affecting women and girls' mental health. Honour killings and polygamy are on the rise. Poverty and unemployment have increased in all provinces, and the economic downfall is aggravated by sanctions. Suicide among youth is increasing and many are trying to escape the country. Most families spend day and night without access to basic needs and food.

Additional restrictions on media and civil society have been imposed. NGOs working on women's rights struggle to get funding and face continued threats from the *de facto* authorities. The Taliban are becoming more powerful every day economically and politically, strengthening their militarised regime while destroying the rule of law bit by bit. In his report, the Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan has noted with concern that "reportedly a lower proportion of the budget is allocated to basic services compared to the proportion allocated for military and security purposes."<sup>1</sup>

**To all States: we remind you that Afghan women and girls are watching your decisions. We urge you to:**

- Defend in the strongest possible terms and through decisive actions Afghan women and girls' rights, including by demonstrating a much stronger commitment to protecting Afghan women and girls' rights and by helping to ensure accountability for violations of their rights;
- Design and allocate funding beyond humanitarian assistance, in particular for women and girls' rights to help preserve civil society organisations, which developed during the last 20 years and are running out of funding;
- Ensure transparency and accountability regarding international funding sent to Afghanistan and impose funding dedicated to women's and girls' rights and needs.

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<sup>1</sup> Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, A/HRC/51/6, 6 September 2022, paragraph 47.