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**Statement by Ambassador Abdou ABARRY,  
Permanent Representative of Niger to the United Nations**

**On behalf of A3 and St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
on the situation in Afghanistan**

**New York, August 06, 2021**

**Mr. President,**

1. I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the A3+1, namely Kenya, Tunisia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Niger.
2. At the outset of my remarks, I would like to thank Ms. Deborah Lyons for her comprehensive presentation on the latest developments in Afghanistan. The A3+1 reiterates its support for the stabilization efforts and good offices deployed in the search for a solution to the Afghan crisis, which has been developing in a particularly worrying way recently.
3. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, H.E. Mohammad Haneef Atmar and thank him for his statement.

**Mr. President,**

4. After decades of war, destruction and desolation, the Afghan people today yearn for peace. This yearning is deep, and Afghans have demonstrated it by welcoming with great hope the start of the intra-Afghan peace talks in September 2020 in Doha.
5. Regrettably, however, these talks are currently stalled, and hostilities are raging throughout the country. The A3+1 emphasize that the military option will not lead to a lasting solution acceptable to all Afghan parties. We therefore call on the Taliban and the Afghan Government to immediately cease fire, in order to give the Doha talks a better chance of success. Moreover, we must redouble our diplomatic efforts at the regional and international level, to help facilitate the restart of the intra-Afghan peace negotiations.

6. The A3+1 deplore the loss of life and suffering endured by the civilian population as a result of the latest outbreak of violence, following the decision of the International Forces to leave the country by the end of September this year. The already precarious humanitarian situation could further worsen with the displacement of populations fleeing the ongoing fighting between the Taliban and Government forces in several provinces of the country, including Kandahar, Helmand and Herat.

We reiterate our condemnation of the attack against the United Nations compound in Herat on 30 July 2021 .We also condemn the suicide attacks committed on August 4 in Kabul and call on the belligerents to ensure the protection of civilians, but above all to put an end to hostilities and favour dialogue.

**Mr. President,**

7. Afghanistan now, more than ever, needs the support of neighbours and the entire international community to help it through this critical period in its history. Afghanistan must not fall back into a full-blown civil war, at the risk of losing all the democratic, social and development gains of recent years.

8. While making peace requires settlement between combatants, we believe that the International Community does not wish for peace processes to reward and legitimize the use of military interventions and association with terrorist organizations through political recognition.

9. As we approach the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, we recall how the Taliban came to be thrown out of power because of their support of Al Qaeda. Council must now prioritize the creation of incentives and red lines that compel the Taliban to cease the use of terrorism for political ends.

10. We recall this Council's decision to split the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanction lists in response to efforts by the Afghan government to negotiate a peace process with the Taliban and establish national reconciliation in Afghanistan. The purpose of this was to provide a future lifeline for members of the Taliban that renounce violence and disassociate themselves from Al-Qaida. The Council must therefore demand that Taliban embraces peace, ceases its links with Al Qaeda and ISIS and engages in the peace process that will transform Afghanistan to a net exporter of peace.

11. The A3+1 welcome and fully support the good offices of the United Nations, the Troika (United States, Russia, China and Pakistan) and all other diplomatic efforts by neighboring countries to reduce tension in order to reach a negotiated solution to the crisis. Furthermore, it is important to emphasize that the search for peace must not be at the expense of Afghan human rights, particularly those of women, children, and Afghanistan's ethnic and religious minorities

**Mr. President,**

12. At a time when attention is focused on the deteriorating security situation, the A3+1 would also like to highlight the importance of finding an urgent and sustainable solution to the severe humanitarian crisis that already exists in the country. The effects of decades of conflict, combined with those of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, have created a situation where more than a third of the population is now food insecure, with a large proportion of children. It is therefore urgent to mobilize the additional resources necessary to address this situation and call on donors to honor the pledges made to the Afghan humanitarian plan.

13. Similarly, the A3+1 is concerned that the growing insecurity in Afghanistan may hinder the Government's efforts and divert its attention

from the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic at a time when more contagious variants of the virus are circulating around the world. We would like to emphasize here that the timely delivery and deployment of vaccines is urgently needed to protect the Afghan population during these challenging times.

14. In conclusion, **Mr. President**, the A3+1 suggests we ask ourselves the following question: What message are we sending if we abandon Afghanistan at this time when the country is on the brink? Simply put, letting Afghanistan fall back into chaos could send a signal to terrorists and insurgent groups there and in other parts of the world that they can gain legitimacy and power through the use of force.

15. On the other hand, if the Security Council is to truly fulfill our mission of maintaining international peace and security, we believe that all available efforts should be made now to have the main responsible of the violence put an immediate end to their offensive and engage resolutely in the search for a negotiated, inclusive, and lasting political solution.

**Thank you.**