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BRIEFING AND CONSULTATIONS ON THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN
AFGHANISTAN (UNAMA)

WEDNESDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER 2021 (3:00 PM)

STATEMENT BY AMB. MICHAEL KIBOINO – DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
ON BEHALF OF KENYA, NIGER, SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES AND
TUNISIA (A-3+1)

Mr. President,

1. I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of Niger, Tunisia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Kenya - the A3+1.
2. We thank SRSG Lyons for her briefing on the latest developments in Afghanistan.
3. The A3+1 is extremely concerned with the increasing number of terrorist attacks carried out by Islamic State in Khorosan Province which have mainly targeted religious minorities.

4. We strongly condemn the recent spate of heinous attacks that targeted holy sites in Kandahar and Kunduz whose aim is to instill fear and fuel divisions amongst the Afghan people. The reprehensible targeting of civilians including medical personnel and civilian infrastructure is also a violation of international humanitarian law. All those responsible must be held to account.
5. The worrying turn of events in Afghanistan calls for immediate steps to revitalise the global counter terrorism architecture to ensure a structured and coordinated action to address these attacks that clearly constitute a threat to international peace and Security. The Security Council should endeavour to ensure that any interventions are informed by the peace, safety and security interests of the Afghan people and not motivated by geostrategic interests which will only further complicate the situation.
6. The A3+1 welcomes the third meeting of the participants of the Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan on 20th October, 2021 noting its recommendations which if pursued could contribute significantly to peace and stability in Afghanistan. We, in particular call on the Taliban to immediately take steps to improve governance and to form a truly inclusive government that adequately reflects the interests of all major ethno-political diversity groups as a prerequisite for a national reconciliation process in Afghanistan.
7. The A-3+1 remains disappointed that sufficient efforts have not been undertaken by the Taliban to deliver on its promises to the Afghan people. We reiterate that the Taliban makes sustained tangible efforts to embrace peace, cease links with terrorist groups and affiliates and engage in a meaningful dialogue with all components of society with a view to restoring security, putting in place a sound governance

structure, and upholding human rights for all people without discrimination on account of religion, ethnicity, gender or any other considerations.

8. We also call upon the Taliban to take immediate steps to apprehend Al Qaeda and ISIS leaders and operatives and hold them to account and demonstrate that Afghanistan will not be a haven for terrorist networks. The raft of measures laid out under Resolution 1267 and subsequent resolutions should in this regard be brought to bear as necessary.
9. With over 23 million facing acute hunger and nearly 9 million in near-famine conditions, the A3+1 remains deeply concerned with the dire humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. The situation is compounded by the collapsing economy that has pushed many Afghans into abject poverty. We are particularly concerned by the children's situation with an estimated 3.2 million under age 5 on the edge of acute malnutrition.
10. To address the immediate needs, the humanitarian agencies and the international community should prioritise vital public services including health and education for all. In this regard, the A3+1 commends the support from the international community especially the pledges of over USD 1.1 billion in humanitarian aid and development made during the 13th September pledging conference. We caution the Taliban against capitalising on the goodwill of the international community to hold the Afghan population hostage for the purpose of extracting financial or political concessions.
11. Mr. President, the A3+1 is gravely concerned by the plight of the women and girls of Afghanistan who are being denied their fundamental human rights including the right to work and the right to education.

12. Education is not only a fundamental right but also an important religious obligation which should not be distorted as an excuse to discriminate against women and girls. We therefore stand in solidarity with the Afghan women and their inalienable right to positively contribute to the development of their country. In this regard, we underscore the imperative for their full and meaningful participation in all aspects of Afghan life including at the grassroot and leadership levels. For this to be achieved, there must be an equal commitment to eliminating all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and other gendered harms against Afghan women, girls and children, as well as any actions intended to restrict women's freedom of movement.
13. Finally, Kenya, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Tunisia reaffirm our unwavering solidarity with the people of Afghanistan and stand ready to support all endeavours aimed at securing their safety and well being.

I thank you for your attention