

CHAIR REPORT

Committee: Disarmament and International Security Committee

Topic: The Question of addressing the Humanitarian and Security Consequences of the Post-9/11 Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq

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Introduction

After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the twin towers in New York City, the United States and its allies launched the “War on Terror”. This led to major military interventions in Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003. Although these wars were meant to stop terrorism and improve global safety, they ended up causing long term damage to both countries and their surrounding regions. Over two decades later, both countries are still struggling with the consequences of these wars. In Afghanistan, they are facing many problems that affect daily life, safety, and economy. In 2021, foreign troops left and the Taliban came back in control, this caused a lot of human rights issues. While in Iraq, years of the ongoing war completely destroyed the government. This left a huge mess that allowed dangerous groups like ISIS to grow and spread violence. In both countries millions of people were forced to leave their homes to stay alive. So, basic necessities like food, water, and a safe place to stay were completely gone. Till this day, hidden bombs are left in the dirt and innocent people are getting hurt every single day.

Key Terms

Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)

a term that refers to the unexploded or abandoned remnants of war. This can include such as shells, grenades and bombs that are left behind after a conflict.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Internally displaced people (IDPs) have been forced to flee their homes by conflict, violence, persecution or disasters, however, unlike refugees, they remain within their own country.

Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs)

are parties to armed conflicts, meaning they engage in intense hostilities with state or non-state adversaries, often with devastating consequences for civilian populations. Fighting is increasingly taking place in populated areas, causing great destruction, suffering and displacement.

Security Sector Reform (SSR)

Security sector reform is the work undertaken by a government and its people to make the country's security institutions serve its citizens and provide people-centered security. Accountable institutions that contribute to the rule of law, improve lives and livelihoods for all.

Background Information

Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the twin towers in New York City. The United States of America launched military invasions in Afghanistan and in Iraq. Their goal was to stop the global terrorists and overthrow the hostile regime. While the United States quickly brought down the Taliban and Saddam Hussein's government, the wars that they caused made a deep and long lasting impact for the people living there. Hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians died because of the war and over 38 million people were forced to flee their homes. This led to a major refugee problem that is still ongoing to this day. The collapse of the government also created power vacuums that allowed groups like the ISIS to grow and help the Taliban eventually take back control of Afghanistan in 2021.

Major Countries and/or Organizations Involved

Minimum of four countries or organizations. Write a few sentences about them.

United States of America :

The U.S. launched the "War on Terror" following the 9/11 attacks, This led to the invasions of Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003. As the central military force in both countries, the U.S. spent two decades rebuilding and training local forces, and adjusting the modern political and security landscape of both countries.

Afghanistan (Taliban De Facto Authorities) :

After fighting U.S. and NATO backed forces for about twenty years the Taliban got back into power in August 2021. Since taking over as the de facto government, their rule has brought impactful restrictions on human rights especially for women and young girls alongside deep economic isolation and a massive humanitarian crisis.

Republic of Iraq :

The 2003 invasion affected Iraq's government and military, triggering years of violent instability and creating a power drainer that allowed groups like ISIS to surge. While Iraq has and did make progress toward stability over the recent years, the government still struggles with political divisions, helping millions of displaced citizens return home, and cleaning up massive amounts of unexploded bombs that were left.

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) :

Back in 2002 the UNAMA was the main UN team in Afghanistan. They work to collaborate international aid, track human rights abuses, and keep communication open between the Taliban leadership as well as the rest of the world.

United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS):

UNMAS leads the global efforts to find and take away unexploded bombs and landmines, and booby traps left behind by decades of fighting. In Iraq and Afghanistan, their teams clear land so civilians/ Citizens can safely go back to their daily lives and aid workers can reach people in need.

Timeline of Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>11 September 2001</i>	<i>On September 11th 2001, 19 Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked 4 commercial planes. This caused 2 of the planes to crash into the world trade center in New York City and both of the twin towers collapsing. The attack led to about 3000 people dying and thousands more suffering with long term health problems.</i>
<i>7 October 2001</i>	<i>The United States of America and its allies launched an attack in Afghanistan to overthrow the Taliban and defeat Al-Qaeda, making this the start of the war in Afghanistan.</i>

20 March 2003	<i>A United States coalition launched the 2003 invasion of Iraq, making this the start of the Iraq war. This invasion lasted just over 1 month, and their main mission was to end Saddam Hussein's support for terrorism and also free the Iraqi people.</i>
2 May 2011	<i>The US navy seal killed Al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin that was authorised by president Barack Obama. Osama Bin was the leader of Al-Qaeda and was the master mind behind all of the attacks. His death marked a big turning point in the post-9/11 counterterrorism operation.</i>
10 June 2014	<i>In 2014, Iraq was invaded by ISIS and took over large parts of Iraq. This caused many families to be abandoned and leaders around the world worried about the safety of the country.</i>
15 August 2021	<i>The Taliban captured Kabul, which is the capital of Afghanistan. This led to the president of Afghanistan to flee the country, the government collapsing and the Taliban reigning over the country.</i>

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

minimum of five treaties and/or events, include a few Sentences describing the results or what happened.

- **UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001):**
Passed right after 9/11, UN Resolution 1973 which is a law that forced every single country in the world to fight terrorism all together. And it also made all the government freeze the terrorist money, this stops funding, locks down their borders and also this refuses to give the terrorist a place to hide. And to ensure no country cheated, it created a team that checks up on everyone and also requires the nations to share secrets and information relevant to each other.
- **UN Security Council Resolution 1483 (2003) :** *On May 22, 2003, following the U.S. led invasion of Iraq, this resolution lifted civilian economic sanctions and recently imposed on Iraq while also recognizing the official authority and also responsibilities of the United States and United Kingdom as they are occupying powers (the Coalition Provisional Authority). It established the development Fund for Iraq to manage oil revenues for reconstruction and appointed a UN Special Representative*

to coordinate humanitarian aid, government assistance as well as security transition.

- ***Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines (Ottawa Treaty, 1997)*** : *The Ottawa Treaty stops the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel mines. And It also requires states to destroy stockpiles that are left and clear the mined areas. This treaty is relevant to Afghanistan and Iraq, where landmines and other explosive remnants of war continue to affect the civilians and hinder reconstruction and development.*
- ***Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008)*** : *The Convention on Cluster Munitions stops the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of cluster munitions. It also requires affected states to clear affected areas and as well as help victims. The convention is important to the humanitarian consequences of armed conflicts because unexploded cluster munitions can remain dangerous for civilians/citizens long after war has ended.*
- ***UN Security Council Resolution 2615 (2021)*** : *Back in December 2021 when the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan, The Resolution 2615 created a humanitarian exception to UN sanctions on the Taliban. It clearly stated that humanitarian help and other basic human needs could continue to be provided without violating the sanctions regime. The resolution aimed to prevent Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis from drowning while maintaining international pressure on sanctioned individuals and entities.*

Previous Attempts to solve the issue

One major attempt in solving this issue is the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and UN agencies (UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF) working together to help the millions of displaced people in Afghanistan and Iraq. They were able to use trucks and planes to deliver urgent aid directly into the war zones. Furthermore, the world food programme delivered food such as wheat supplies to Afghanistan. While UNICEF was able to provide clean water, medicine, vaccines and other types of medical assistance. Additionally, to protect families from the cold and harsh weather, the UNHCR and USAID gave out tents, blankets, shelter kits, and heating fuel. These will allow the families to stay warm and safe even though they are going through very tough times. Overall, even with all the fighting, these aid initiatives were able to keep millions of people alive during this crisis.

Economic recovery relied heavily on international financial aid and by reducing some of the money that was owed. Donor conferences in cities like Tokyo (2002), Madrid (2003) and London (2006) secured a lot of money from around the world to fix damaged roads, electrical

grids, schools and hospitals. In addition, the Paris club group of creditor nationals canceled around 80% of Iraq's external debt in 2004. Erasing this debt allowed the government to keep its own money and spend it directly on public services like health care, education and clean water.

Another attempt to solve this crisis is after the post 9/11 invasion, international coalitions and the United Nations tried to bring security and create new governments in Afghanistan and in Iraq. To restore order the UN passed official resolutions that sent international troops to both nations. Creating the international security assistance force in Afghanistan and the multinational force in Iraq. These troops worked to stop violence and trained local police officers as well as soldiers to protect their own countries. At the same time, world leaders helped create new political systems such as the 2001 Bonn agreement. This gave Afghanistan a temporary government, a new constitution, and eventually held elections. In addition, the UN also set up special advisor teams on the ground in both nations to protect human rights, support elections and help build democratic governments.

Possible Solutions

Fixing the humanitarian crisis requires a safe way for the refugees and displaced families to return home or settle down safely. Countries can help contribute by step up funding to clear leftover landmines and unexploded bombs in rural areas. Another essential way to help the victims is to rebuild clinics and hospitals so that victims can get proper medical care and treatment. On top of that, international groups should guarantee a safe route to deliver food, clean water, and other necessities to people in need without armed groups blocking or stealing the supplies.

Building long term trust in conflict regions requires full operational and financial transparency from the host governments and international organizations. This can be achieved by creating open access tracking systems for aid, reconstruction budgets and civil service funding stops corruption and makes sure the resources get to the public. Making judicial systems and security forces transparent helps build trust and maintain stability. Governments should regularly publish clear reports on civilian harm and also allow independent groups to investigate military actions. When people see how public money is spent, how laws are enforced and how the government operates, the trust in public institutions grows. Which will also lead to reduced citizen frustration and prevent future conflicts.

To expand access to education and employment in conflict affected areas, governments and international organizations should prioritize rebuilding schools and creating job opportunities. Rebuilding schools gives children the chance to learn and grow. When young people have access, to education they are less likely to turn to violence. At the same time, creating job opportunities also helps because it allows people to earn a living. By reducing poverty and giving people real ways to make a living, these programs make armed groups far less interesting to young people. Overall, this helps bring lasting peace and stability to the communities.

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