



43RD SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Item 10 – Technical assistance and capacity-building

Presentation of the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, and technical assistance achievements in the field of human rights – 19 June 2020

Background documentation: High-Commissioner report on Afghanistan [A/HRC/43/74](#)

Georgette Gagnon, Director of Field Operations Technical Cooperation OHCHR – Report presentation:

The conflict in Afghanistan is one of the deadliest in the world. The OHCHR monitored 100.000 civilian casualties since 11 years. In 2019 alone 10.000 civilian casualties have been monitored. The period from July to September 2019 saw the highest number of civilian casualties recorder in a single quarter. 1293 civilian casualties have been monitored since January 1st, among them 162 children killed.

Taliban, international security forces and Afghan security forces are mostly responsible. The United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) attributed the vast majority of civilian casualties to anti-government forces.

The OHCHR strongly condemns the horrific attacks that took place on 12 May against a hospital, killing dozens of women and new-born babies.

The Covid-19 pandemic constitute an additional challenge for Afghanistan. The OHCHR will issue a report on attacks on healthcare workers in Covid-19 crisis, on 21 June.

The OHCHR works to protect civilians in the conflict and assist human rights defenders and journalists. OHCHR promotes human rights, despite persistent gender-based discriminations. Through the human rights component of UNAMA, OHCHR continues to provide technical assistance and capacity building to Afghanistan.

Country concerned - Afghanistan:

The horrendous attack committed on 12 May 2020 reflects the challenges Afghanistan is still facing.

The government of Afghanistan is taking all possible measures to ensure a lasting peace in the country. Improving and enhancing coordination with international human rights mechanisms is a priority. In this regard, Afghanistan recently submitted reports to the CEDAW, the CRC, the CERD and the ICCPR. The Afghan NHRI is fully functioning according to the Paris principles.

Women as agents of change are important actors in Afghanistan, especially in the peace process. Measures are taken to prevent and combat violence against women and children, led by a women.

The number of children in the military is now of 0, and the application of the death penalty decreased a lot in the country.

Afghanistan is putting its efforts in the prevention of torture. The country ratified the optional protocols and established a commission to reduce torture, especially in detention centres.

Afghanistan takes due consideration of all the recommendations from the report of the OHCHR.