

Country/entity	Afghanistan
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Tashkent Declaration on Fundamental Principles for a Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict in Afghanistan
Date	19 Jul 1999
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

Afghan Wars (1979 -)

The agreements are drawn from two distinct conflict periods. Post Soviet-intervention period. First, after an uprising against the communist government, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in December 1979 and set up a puppet government. Fierce resistance came in on the form of domestic and foreign Mujahidin fighters who, by 1988, forced the Soviet Union to withdraw. The Communist government that remained was defeated in 1992 against a background of violence, which spiralled into a tumultuous multi-party civil war with a strong tribal basis. In 1993 a peace accord was signed, but by 1994 the conflict realigned itself as the Islamic-based Taliban emerged from the refugee camps, eventually occupying the capital city of Kabul in September 1996 spurring groups that had militantly opposed the communist government to unite in opposition to the Taliban.

Post US-intervention period. After the terror attacks on September 11, 2001, the United States invaded Afghanistan and removed the Taliban from power. In December 2001, the UNSC mandated the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to assist Afghanistan's interim authorities. In 2003 ISAF command was placed under NATO's responsibility. Within three years, however, the Taliban managed to re-group and re-structure and launched intense resistance to the internationally-recognized Afghanistan government and NATO support troops. Despite this resurgence of the Taliban, NATO leaders lacked the necessary support for the mission abroad, and NATO troops were withdrawn by the end of 2014.

Close
Afghan Wars (1979 -
)

Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Afghanistan: 2000s Post-intervention process

Parties Not signed, agreement mentions the following parties as having produced it: The Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the «Six plus Two» group, composed of the States bordering on Afghanistan - the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan - as well as the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

These are believed to have been; Ji Peiding, China; Javad Zarif, Iran; Iftihar Murshid, Pakistan; Gulomzhon Mirzoyev, Tajikistan; Rashid Meredov, Turkmenistan; Abdusamat Khaydarov, Uzbekistan; Karl Inderfurth, U.S.A; and Vasily Sredin, Russian Federation.

Third parties The agreement refers to the participation of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi.

Description This short declaration commits the parties to refrain from providing military support to any group in Afghanistan. It outlines a negotiation process, and refers to issues including the trade of narcotics, humanitarian assistance, and the formation of a multi-ethnic government.

Agreement document [AF_990719_TashkentDeclaration.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth Groups→Children/youth→Rhetorical
Page 2
...
We express our profound concern at the violations of the human rights, including those of...women and girls

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

Racial/ethnic/national group Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical
Page 2
...
We express our profound concern at the violations of the human rights, including those of ethnic minorities

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Rhetorical
Page 5, 10
We are prepared to cooperate with the new Afghan Government
...
in order to...bring about the return the Afghan refugees to their homes

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender Page 2
...
We express our profound concern at the violations of the human rights, including those of ethnic minorities and women and girls, as well as the violations of international humanitarian law that are taking place in Afghanistan.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references Page 4, 5
...
(b) The main objective of the second stage is for the Afghans themselves to draw up basic principles for the future State structure of Afghanistan and the establishment of a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative Government within a short period of time.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing

Power sharing→Political power sharing→Executive coalition
State level
Page 3-4,

In view of the foregoing, we have come to the following conclusions:

1. We are convinced that there is no military solution to the Afghan conflict, which must be settled through peaceful political negotiation in order to establish a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative Government.

2. We urge the Afghan parties to resume political negotiations aimed at achieving these goals.

...

5 (b). The main objective of the second stage is for the Afghans themselves to draw up basic principles for the future State structure of Afghanistan and the establishment of abroad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative Government within a short period of time.

Territorial power sharing

No specific mention.

Economic power sharing

No specific mention.

Military power sharing

No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general

Page 2

...

We express our profound concern at the violations of the human rights, including those of ethnic minorities and women and girls, as well as the violations of international humanitarian law that are taking place in Afghanistan.

Page 4, 9

We are fully determined to make every effort to encourage the Afghan parties to respect fully the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Afghans in accordance with the basic norms of international law.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

**Treaty
incorporation** No specific mention.

**Civil and political
rights** No specific mention.

**Socio-economic
rights** No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

**Detention
procedures** No specific mention.

**Media and
communication** Rights related issues→Media and communication→Other
Page 4, 7

We urge the Taliban to inform the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations about the results of their investigations into the killings of the diplomatic and consular staff of the Consulate-General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Masar-e-Sharif and the correspondent of the Islamic Republic News Agency, and appeal to the Taliban to cooperate fully with the international investigation into their killing in order to punish the guilty parties.

Mobility/access	Page 4, 5 ... ii) The holding at this stage of direct negotiations between the plenipotentiary delegations of the two main parties to the conflict - the United Front and the Taliban movement - in order to reach agreements, inter alia on: ... Lifting internal blockades and opening roads for reciprocal trade and delivery of humanitarian assistance in the territories controlled by the various Afghan groups;
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	No specific mention.
State of emergency provisions	No specific mention.
Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Humanitarian assistance
Page 4, 5
...
(ii) The holding at this stage of direct negotiations between the plenipotentiary delegations of the two main parties to the conflict - the United Front and the Taliban movement - in order to reach agreements, inter alia on:
...
Lifting internal blockades and opening roads for reciprocal trade and delivery of humanitarian assistance in the territories controlled by the various Afghan groups;

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds Page 5, 10
We are prepared to cooperate with the new Afghan Government
...
in order to....ensure speediest rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan through support from UN agencies and programmes, international financial organizations and donor countries.

Page 5, 11
We call upon the international community to respond to the Inter Agency Consolidated Appeal for Emergency Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Assistance for Afghanistan, launched by the Secretary General for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1999, bearing in mind also the existence of the Afghanistan Emergency Trust Fund. Support for demining is of particular importance.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees Page 3, 3
...
we have further agreed not to provide military support to any Afghan party and to prevent the use of our territories for such purposes.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments
Page 4, 5
We consider that the negotiation process must be conducted under the auspices of the United Nations and may consist of two stages.
(a) The main objective of the first stage is to adopt measures for building mutual confidence. Such measures will include: (i) The signing of an agreement on an immediate and unconditional ceasefire without any pre-conditions;

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces Page 3
...
We are also concerned at the use of Afghan territory, especially areas controlled by the Taliban, to conceal and train terrorists, and the fact that dangerous consequences of such actions can be seen in Afghanistan, its neighbouring countries and far beyond their borders.

Page 4, 5
...
(ii) The holding at this stage of direct negotiations between the plenipotentiary delegations of the two main parties to the conflict - the United Front and the Taliban movement - in order to reach agreements

Withdrawal of foreign forces No specific mention.

Corruption No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime	<p>Page 3, Preamble</p> <p>...</p> <p>We are deeply distressed with the steady increase in the cultivation, production and illicit trafficking of narcotics and the illegal sale of arms, which have far reaching unfavourable consequences not only for the region but beyond it as well.</p> <p>Page 4, 6</p> <p>Those of us, who have a common border with Afghanistan, moved by a common desire to take effective and coordinated measures to combat illicit drug-trafficking, have agreed, on a bilateral and multilateral basis, to strengthen effective and coordinated measures to combat illicit drug-trafficking.</p>
Drugs	<p>Page 3, Preamble</p> <p>...</p> <p>We are deeply distressed with the steady increase in the cultivation, production and illicit trafficking of narcotics and the illegal sale of arms, which have far reaching unfavourable consequences not only for the region but beyond it as well.</p> <p>Page 4, 6</p> <p>Those of us, who have a common border with Afghanistan, moved by a common desire to take effective and coordinated measures to combat illicit drug-trafficking, have agreed, on a bilateral and multilateral basis, to strengthen effective and coordinated measures to combat illicit drug-trafficking.</p>
Terrorism	<p>Page 3</p> <p>...</p> <p>We are also concerned at the use of Afghan territory, especially areas controlled by the Taliban, to conceal and train terrorists, and the fact that dangerous consequences of such actions can be seen in Afghanistan, its neighbouring countries and far beyond their borders.</p> <p>Page 4, 8</p> <p>We urge the Afghan parties, particularly the Taliban, to cease providing refuge and training to international terrorists and their organizations and to cooperate with the efforts to bring terrorists to justice.</p>

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	<p>Page 4, 7</p> <p>We urge the Taliban to inform the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations about the results of their investigations into the killings of the diplomatic and consular staff of the Consulate-General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Masar-e-Sharif and the correspondent of the Islamic Republic News Agency, and appeal to the Taliban to cooperate fully with the international investigation into their killing in order to punish the guilty parties.</p>
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.

Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	Page 4, 5 ... (ii) The holding at this stage of direct negotiations between the plenipotentiary delegations of the two main parties to the conflict - the United Front and the Taliban movement - in order to reach agreements, inter alia on: Exchanging of prisoners of war
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory	The agreement refers to the participation of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi.
Other international signatory	No specific mention.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/ similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.
