

Concept Note:

Virtual Civil Society Consultation convened by the Special Coordinator for the Independent Assessment mandated by UN Security Council 2679 (2023)

Background

UN Security Council resolution 2679 (2023), requested the Secretary-General to conduct and provide, no later than 17 November, an integrated, independent assessment, after consultations with all relevant Afghan political actors and stakeholders, including relevant authorities, Afghan women, and civil society, as well as the region and the wider international community.

The Security Council requested that the independent assessment provide forward-looking recommendations for an integrated and coherent approach among relevant political, humanitarian, and development actors, within and outside of the United Nations system, in order to address the current challenges faced by Afghanistan, including, but not limited to, humanitarian, human rights and especially the rights of women and girls, religious and ethnic minorities, security and terrorism, narcotics, development, economic and social challenges, dialogue, governance and the rule of law; and to advance the objective of a secure, stable, prosperous and inclusive Afghanistan in line with the elements set out by the Security Council in previous resolutions.

On 25 April 2023, Secretary-General António Guterres announced the appointment of Feridun Sinirlioğlu of Türkiye as the Special Coordinator, Independent Assessment Mandated by Security Council Resolution 2679 (2023).

Since being appointed, the Special Coordinator has been engaged in a range of consultations with the aforementioned range of stakeholders. To complement these other efforts, the Special Coordinator will convene a virtual consultation on **1 September 2023** with a focus on hearing from Afghan women and girls and civil society stakeholders.

Objective

The objective of the virtual consultation is for the Special Coordinator to hear from Afghan women and girls and representatives of civil society, as mandated by UN Security Council resolution 2679 (2023).

Participants are invited to share their experiences, ideas and suggestions with the Special Coordinator, which will inform his development of the independent assessment on Afghanistan.

Please note that due to the independent nature of the assessment, the Special Coordinator may not be able to respond to all questions or share his personal views on matters pertaining to the Independent Assessment. Recommendations will be formally shared with the United Nations Security Council by 17 November.

Registration

Participation in the virtual consultation is limited to pre-registered participants only. Registration will be open to Afghan women and girls and representatives of civil society from **17-27 August 2023**. Registration will be conducted by the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service. Information submitted in the registration process is strictly confidential and will not be shared with third parties. Those unable to participate online may share their statements and questions via the registration form for the Special Coordinator's consideration.

Format

The consultation will be held on a virtual platform, facilitated by the United Nations Conference Services. Information on accessing the virtual platform will be shared with registrants in due course.

The virtual consultation will adhere to the following format:

- Opening statement by the Special Coordinator (*3 minutes*)
- Contributions (maximum two minutes duration) from participants who pre-registered their interest in speaking (*1 hour 55 minutes*)
- Closing statement by the Special Coordinator (*2 minutes*)

To ensure that as many participants as possible have the opportunity to speak, participants are kindly asked to adhere to the time limit of two minutes per speaker. This time limit will be strictly enforced.