Dr. Peggy Wittke
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The United Nations Security Council and the Situation in Afghanistan

Model United Nations and Seminar for All Faculties

Winter Semester 2026/2027 *(Course No. 095931)*

On 15 August 2021, the Taliban reached the Afghan capital of Kabul and thereby completed a rapid takeover of the country, which they had ruled before from the late 1990s to 2001. The Afghan Government as well as the Afghan Army and Security Forces collapsed; President Ashraf Ghani left the country. The takeover came amidst the withdrawal of NATO allies and other countries related to the *2020 United States-Taliban Accord*, which US-President Trump had negotiated with the Taliban. The international evacuation operation ended as the last US military and diplomatic personnel left Afghanistan on 30 August 2021.

20 years of international support to assist Afghan nation-building ended abruptly when the Taliban reinstalled their repressive policies, including massive human rights abuses especially against women and girls, extrajudicial executions and torture. As the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights put it: *"Afghanistan is a graveyard for human rights."* The security situation is worsening daily, in December 2025 clashes between the Pakistani military and Taliban security forces erupted and UN Sanctions Monitoring Teams warn about the rising terrorism threat emanating from Afghan territory.

In 2026, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that about 21.9 million Afghans – or 45% of the population – require humanitarian assistance. The World Food Programme reported in March 2026 that 17.4 million even face severe food insecurity. The economy is on the brink of collapse and essential services like the health sector are under considerable stress. Worsening the already dire situation, two major earthquakes struck Afghanistan in August and November 2025, followed by a deadly flash flood in July 2026. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), established in 2002, remains present in Afghanistan, yet the Security Council is facing a divide regarding the future mandate of the mission and asked the Secretary-General to conduct a strategic review of UNAMA until March 2027.

We like to invite you to a **simulated Meeting of the Security Council** to discuss the Situation in Afghanistan – which mainly disappeared in the News, but is the daily struggle for Afghans in Afghanistan and the diaspora – in the main organ responsible for international peace and security according to the Charter of the United Nations. Class sessions **(Wednesday, 16.00 – 18.00 h, c.t.)** prior will give you an ample overview of the topic. With this class we hope to deepen your knowledge about the functioning of an international body, various aspects of international diplomacy, negotiation techniques, and also hopefully the roots and causes of the diverging opinions on the subject among UN-Member States.

You will be asked to represent one of the members of the Security Council and take an active part in the class and negotiations. Participants are expected to research their respective countries position independently and to provide a Briefing (team work!) on a selected topic relating to the Situation in Afghanistan. Delegations are also asked to prepare a one-page Position Paper. Each Delegation will consist of 1-2 persons.

Please note that the seminar/conference language will be **English**. It is possible to receive **5 ECTS-credits** (Schlüsselqualifikation or Fremdsprachenfachkompetenz, "ABV", Faculty of Law).

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Applications are to be sent via email until 6 October 2026 to Peggy Wittke, peggy.wittke@fu-berlin.de.

Your application should include:

- Personal Details (Name, Phone, **FU-Email**, Field of Study + Semester, Student ID Number)
- Short letter of motivation (3-4 sentences only)
- 3 Country preferences or Rapporteur*. Please indicate if you prefer a Delegation with two persons.
- 2 Briefing preferences (Topic No. 1-8)

Members of the Security Council 2026: Bahrain, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, France, Greece, Latvia, Liberia, Pakistan, Panama, Russian Federation, Somalia, United Kingdom, United States as well as the Rapporteur*.

* The Rapporteur will be responsible for monitoring the Meeting of the Security Council and providing a Report at the end as well as serving as Assistant to the Presidency/Chair during the Meeting.

Briefings

11 November 2026	**The Situation in Afghanistan – Part One** 1. History of Afghanistan 2. 9/11, the Bonn Agreement and NATO's Involvement in Afghanistan *Presentations by participants*
25 November 2026	**The Situation in Afghanistan – Part Two** 3. The Taliban Takeover in August 2021 and the Response of the International Community *Presentations by participants*
2 December 2026	**The Situation in Afghanistan – Part Three** 4. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and Its Mandate 5. The Security Situation in Afghanistan 2026 *Presentations by participants*
9 December 2026	**The Situation in Afghanistan – Part Four** 6. The Human Rights Situation, in particular the Rights of Women and Girls 2026 Special Focus – The Fight Against Gender-Apartheid: The International Criminal Court and the Arrest Warrants Against Haibatullah Akhundzada, Supreme Leader of the Taliban, and Abdul Hakim Haqqani, Chief Justice of the Taliban; and the CEDAW/ICJ-Initiative *Presentations by participants*
16 December 2026	**The Situation in Afghanistan – Part Five** 7. The Humanitarian Situation in Afghanistan 2026 *Presentations by participants*
6 January 2027	**The Situation in Afghanistan – Part Six** 8. Afghan Refugees Worldwide and the Situation of Persons Involuntarily Returned to Afghanistan *Presentations by participants*

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Preliminary Schedule

Class takes place Wednesday, 16-18h in Room 4404, Boltzmannstr. 3, (if not announced differently).

Date	Session
14 October 2026	Welcome and Introduction to the United Nations System *Peggy Wittke* *Please have the UN Charter available.*
21 October 2026	Peace and Security I *Peggy Wittke*
28 October 2026	Peace and Security II *Peggy Wittke*
4 November 2026	UN Peacekeeping *Peggy Wittke* Overview of the Security Council Meeting in Berlin
11 November 2026	The Situation in Afghanistan – Part One 1. History of Afghanistan 2. 9/11, the Bonn Agreement and NATO's Involvement in Afghanistan *Briefings by participants*
18 November 2026	Researching the United Nations and Information on Position Paper Writing *Peggy Wittke* *Please bring your computer to start research on your country's position*
25 November 2026	The Situation in Afghanistan – Part Two 3. The Taliban Takeover in August 2021 and the Response of the International Community *Briefings by participants*

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Date	Session
2 December 2026	The Situation in Afghanistan – Part Three 4. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and Its Mandate 5. The Security Situation in Afghanistan 2026 *Briefings by participants*
9 December 2026	The Situation in Afghanistan – Part Four 6. The Human Rights Situation, in particular the Rights of Women and Girls 2026 Special Focus – The Fight Against Gender-Apartheid: The International Criminal Court and the Arrest Warrants Against Haibatullah Akhundzada, Supreme Leader of the Taliban, and Abdul Hakim Haqqani, Chief Justice of the Taliban; and the CEDAW/ICJ-Initiative *Briefing by participants*
16 December 2026	The Situation in Afghanistan – Part Five 7. The Humanitarian Situation in Afghanistan 2026 *Briefing by participants* Followed by a Debate of all Participants in the capacity of their represented country on their country's position regarding the Situation in Afghanistan. All Delegations are asked to present a 1-minute Opening Statement. Attention: Please do your research prior!
6 January 2027	The Situation in Afghanistan – Part Six 8. Afghan Refugees Worldwide and the Situation of Persons Involuntarily Returned to Afghanistan *Briefing by participants*
13 January 2027	Guest Speaker Programme Mr. Ahmad Wali Temori Journalist and Intercultural Counselor
20 January 2027	Speech Training and Negotiation Techniques *Peggy Wittke*
27 January 2027	Deadline Position Papers – please send to peggy.wittke@fu.berlin.de

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Date	Session
27 January 2027	The Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Security Council *Peggy Wittke*
4 February 2027 **Thursday** **10.00 h – 17.00 h** **Senatssaal** **HFB**	**Meeting of the United Nations Security Council:** **The Situation in Afghanistan**
5 February 2027 **Friday** **10.00 – 16.00 h** **Senatssaal** **HFB**	**Meeting of the United Nations Security Council:** **The Situation in Afghanistan**
10 February 2027	Report by the Rapporteur on the Meeting of the Security Council Final Discussion and Feedback Session

United Nations and Afghanistan – Relevant Weblinks

The United Nations Security Council: https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/

UN Security Council – Meeting Records and Outcomes
https://research.un.org/en/docs/sc/quick/meetings/2026

Look for Meetings on "The Situation in Afghanistan" and find the Press Releases with summary of statements of Security Council Members (f.e. UN Doc. SC/16386, 15 June 2026) and/or the word protocols (S/PV.10171), as well as the outcomes.

You can watch the SC Meetings on UN Web TV, f.e. the latest meeting on 15 June 2026:

https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1f/k1f3439dj6

Latest Reports of the Secretary-General:
The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 27 February 2026, S/2026/99, https://unama.unmissions.org/en/news/report-secretary-general-situation-afghanistan-and-its-implications-international-0
The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 3 December 2025, S/2025/789, https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4088206?v=pdf

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), https://unama.unmissions.org/en

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UNAMA: No safe haven: Human rights risks faced by persons involuntarily returned to Afghanistan, July 2025, https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/unama_hrs_-_human_rights_risks_and_returns_-_3_august_25_final.pdf

Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team concerning the Taliban and other associated individuals and entities constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan, Sixteenth Report, 8 December 2025, S/2025/796, https://docs.un.org/en/S/2025/796

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: Afghanistan, https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/afghanistan

Human Rights Council, https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/home

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-afghanistan

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan: The situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 8 October 2025, A/80/432, https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/a80432-situation-human-rights-afghanistan-report-special-rapporteur

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan: Study on the so-called "Law on the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice" - Advance unedited version, 25 February 2025, A/HRC/58/74, https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc5874-study-so-called-law-promotion-virtue-and-prevention-vice-advance

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA): Afghanistan, https://www.unocha.org/afghanistan

UN Refugee Agency: Afghanistan https://www.unhcr.org/emergencies/afghanistan-emergency

International Criminal Court (ICC): Afghanistan, https://www.icc-cpi.int/afghanistan

UN Office on Drugs and Crime Country Office (UNODC) in Afghanistan, https://www.unodc.org/coafg/

UNODC: Afghanistan Opium Survey 2025, https://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan/Afghanistan_Opium_Survey_2025.pdf

Security Council Report

Note: Security Council Report is monitoring Security Council actions on country situations and various topics.

Security Council Report: Afghanistan, https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/afghanistan/