

BIGMUN 2023
GA 4: Special Political and Decolonisation (SPECPOL)

Research Report

Topic 2: Recognising the Taliban's Islamic Emirate as an independent
state



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Introduction:

Since the end of the 20-year-long war in Afghanistan, the Taliban have since rushed to establish a government under the name of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, replacing the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The Taliban has since taken near total, if not absolute, control over all aspects of the nation. However, many of the aspects of this government still appear incomplete, lacking a finished constitution among other things. Since then, a variety of questions regarding this government have arisen, pondering whether it can be officially recognised as an official ruling government. Furthermore, questions about whether to include this new state in the UN are brewing. While the Taliban presents its desire for international diplomacy and cooperation, others see their government as underdeveloped. While this is a tense situation in international politics, it must be considered whether the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan qualifies as a ruling government and official state, and decide which consensus is most beneficial.

Definition of Key Terms:

Military coup/government overthrow: This is when either the military or a large militant/insurgency/terrorist group overthrows the government of their local nation using overpowering military force, replacing the government entirely.

Pashtun ethnic group: The Pashtun are the main ethnic group of Afghanistan. They make up 42 percent of the current population, but for the Taliban and especially during the peak of Taliban action, they accounted for more than 90 percent of Taliban members and supporters.

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Islam: The predominant religious group of the Middle East, the Islamic religion had a very strong influence during the Afghanistan war and to this day. It is also the core religion of the Taliban, also determining their core values as a group according to the Quran. Any action taken by this group when it comes to government and ruling society can be linked directly to Islamic ideology.

Terrorism: Terrorism is the use of violence, or the threat of violence, to achieve political, religious, or ideological goals. Terrorism often targets civilians or other non-combatants in order to create fear and chaos, and it can be carried out by individuals, groups, or states. Terrorism can be motivated by a wide range of ideological or political beliefs, and it is often intended to influence or pressure governments or societies to make political or social changes. Terrorism is considered a serious threat to global security and is condemned by the United Nations.

¹ [Pashtuns - Minority Rights Group](#)

Background Information:

Before the emergence of the Taliban in the period 1994-1996, Afghanistan was in a state of civil war between the communist government of Afghanistan and anti-communist Islamic military groups. This started when the previous leader of The Republic of Afghanistan, Mohammed Daoud Khan, was killed in a communist coup in 1978, marking the beginning of the Afghan war. In 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan to provide support to this communist government against the mujahadeen: a collection of Islamist guerilla groups opposing the Soviet armies and communist government.² In the following years, several million Afghans were displaced from the country while fighting continued. More notably, in 1984, Osama bin Laden made his first documented trip to Afghanistan to support the anti-Soviet movement, later forming al-Qaeda, an Islamic group with the goal of ending their holy war against the Soviets and creating an entirely Islam-governed nation. At this point, the mujahadeen also received support from the United States, the United Kingdom and China in the form of military weaponry through Pakistan. The end of the Afghan war was in sight when in 1989 the Soviet Union withdrew its troops from the nation following signed peace accords with the U.S., Pakistan and Afghanistan, promising Afghan independence. After this, the mujahadeen and other Islamic groups resisted the communist rule, eventually storming Kabul, the capital, in 1992, ousting the communist government and forming the Islamic State of Afghanistan. At this point, the mujahadeen were already starting to fracture due to the warlord nature of the group, as infighting occurred over the plan for the future of Afghanistan was debated.³

The Taliban itself formed in roughly 1995, starting as a small military group of former fighters in 1994. Having successfully subdued a local warlord of the Kandahar province, it began gaining national traction and support, growing quickly to control two-thirds of the nation by late 1996 effectively, promising security and peace with religious charm. The Taliban then began a streak of harsh repression of the population, asserting its own system of law and order and radical religious ideology, which included the near total exclusion of women in public society, such as from education and government, as well as pursuing cultural puritanism, notable from its efforts to destroy non-Islamic artefacts and other objects of foreign culture. The Taliban saw heavy resistance from non-Pashtun ethnic groups, seeing the mainly Pashtun Taliban as an oppressive hegemony. As for foreign relations, the United States, in particular, saw Afghanistan as harbouring terrorist organisations, particularly al-Qaeda with a focus on Osama bin Laden, following the group's bombings of U.S. embassies in Africa and its efforts to gain a large following in terrorist camps. By 2001, Taliban forces controlled all but a small northern section of the country. By this point, 3 other nations of the middle east recognised the Taliban, The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, as an official regime, noting that the UN had not reached a conclusion on whether to recognise the Taliban as an official government and also considering the Taliban to be committing numerous breaches of human rights.⁴

² <https://www.britannica.com/topic/mujahideen-Afghani-rebels>

³ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/asia-jan-june11-timeline-afghanistan>

⁴ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Taliban>

Leading up to the September 11th terrorist attacks of 2001 in the United States, the Taliban had committed several aggressive actions, continuing to oppress non-Islamic religions, persecuting international aid workers, and assassinating the current president of the Northern Alliance. The Northern Alliance was a collection of militia groups, including forces from large parts of the old government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, opposing the Taliban regime.⁵ The prime suspect of the September 11th attacks was believed by U.S. officials to be Osama bin Laden, at the time in refuge in Afghanistan and protected by the Taliban. Following unanswered demands to turn over Osama bin Laden to the American government the United States government, with the aid of British troops, stepped in to launch the first offensive against the al-Qaeda network and the Taliban, with the Northern Alliance, NATO, and various other nations as allies, notably Russia and the United Kingdom, against the Taliban, al-Qaeda and Pakistan.⁶ Phase 1 of this invasion consisted of the main efforts to overthrow the Taliban regime, and it occurred within a time period of about 2 months following the initial invasion on October 7th. About a month afterwards in November, after weeks of intense military combat with the Taliban, the Northern Alliance, with the aid of U.S. and UK troops, entered Kabul, chasing after the southward retreating Taliban forces. After about another month of combat on December 9th, the Taliban loses the fight in Kandahar, surrendering their last territory in Afghanistan, causing the Islamic press to announce the end of Taliban rule.

In the following years, a relatively stable government was formed, replacing the Taliban regime with the Islamic State of Afghanistan formed in 2002 as a transitional government, later replaced by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in 2004. Prior to this, NATO had been putting in efforts to take over and organise security in Kabul in August 2003, marking its first direct involvement in this conflict, as well as its first organisational duty outside of Europe. Phase 2 of this war began in 2002 after the initial victory over the Taliban, and it consisted of the efforts to completely eliminate the Taliban by military means, as well as rebuild the fundamental and core institutions of Afghanistan. The Taliban did not give up and would continue to fight this war for the coming years, although weakened. After this, Afghanistan saw a period of stability in government and democratic elections, but this did not last long. In 2005, Taliban and al-Qaeda forces saw a resurgence in power, with an increase in the number of soldiers and improved coordination, new military tactics resembling those being used in Iraq, and continued the fight against the Northern Alliance. It was at this point in 2006 where NATO re-established its peacekeeping efforts against the Taliban and al-Qaeda group. Continued fighting in the southern parts of Afghanistan eventually resulted in the confirmation of the termination of Taliban commander Mullah Dadullah by NATO and the Afghan government in a United States-led operation.

In 2008, following president Hamai Karzai's plan to fight corruption in the Afghanistan government and rebuild the nation in his \$50 billion five-year plan, the international

⁵ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Northern-Alliance>

⁶ <https://www.britannica.com/event/Afghanistan-War>

community raised \$15 billion dollars to support this goal, with the main donors being the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Australia, France, Belgium, The Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.⁷ Incidentally, the coming events would mark the beginning of phase three of the Afghanistan war, which can be described as a return to classic counterinsurgency combat. Then U.S. President Barack Obama announces a new strategy to be employed in the Afghanistan war, which would include a surge of troops being dispatched to the Afghanistan and Pakistan areas. On top of the 78 000 U.S. and NATO troops and service members, another 17 000 were now being deployed. This new military strategy consisted of increased efforts to protect the population, rather than outright attempts to eliminate hostile militants, as well as efforts to dissuade the enemy to defect and ultimately encourage a diplomatic and peaceful solution between the Taliban and the Karzai administration. Soon after, however, U.S. commander McChrystal concluded that this troop surge was not significant enough to fulfil this new strategy. President Obama later announced on December first his intention to escalate the war effort through the additional deployment of 30 000 troops. The immediate result of this more hostile approach was an increase in the U.S. troop death rate over the first three months of 2010: twice the rate than that of the same period in 2009. The military situation continued, with numerous victories seen by U.S. troops, and as Karzai wins another 5-year term as president, Obama visits Afghanistan for the first time to assert the pressing need to clean up government corruption, which Karzai vowed to achieve. As Karzai failed to reconcile with Taliban leader Mullah Omar, and under intense international pressure, lashed out at foreign meddling in Afghan affairs, even threatened to join the Taliban.⁸ This statement was most troubling to his international reputation, and he would also go on to accuse the UN of fraud and wish to weaken his parliament. Regardless, Karzai and Obama would later meet up to mend their relationship in spite of the White House threatening to revoke this meeting.

Pakistan at this point was showing increased involvement in the conflict, but its exact intentions were a matter of controversy. Some said that Pakistan sided with the U.S. and Afghan governments in its offers to mediate peace talks and arrest of prominent Taliban leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, but others argue that this was actually to harm efforts of reconciliation, seeing as that was an aspect of this specific Taliban leader's intentions.

The turning point of the Afghanistan war at this point arose when Obama replaced McChrystal with General Stanley and began making significant war progress when U.S. troops successfully eliminated Osama bin Laden of al-Qaeda on May 2nd of 2011. Following this, however, relations between the U.S. and NATO with the Afghan government began to turn to outrage, as a series of events heightened tensions, including the murder of 16 civilians by a U.S. trooper. Having had enough, president Karzai called for all foreign troops to leave the nation. Summarising the final events of this peak of the Afghanistan war: In 2013, the Afghan military took over all national operations. In 2014, Obama announced the timetable for the significant reduction of deployed troops by 2016. Ashraf Ghani wins the new

⁷ https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/asia-jan-june08-afghan_06-12

⁸ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/karzai-threatens-to-join-taliban-1.869158>

presidency, with claims of fraud being made by his rival. NATO officially ends its combat missions. Obama leaves 5500 troops by the end of his presidency. Finally, the U.S. signs a peace deal with the Taliban, and throughout the end of President Donald Trump's term and President Joe Biden's term, all U.S. troops leave the country, notably the Bagram airfield on the 5th of July 2021, and the final troops leaving the country from Kabul airport on the 30th of August.⁹

The direct result of the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan cleared the way for a swift takeover by the Taliban in a overthrow of government, reestablishing the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan on August 15th 2021, marking the end of the Afghanistan war. Since then and over the past year, they have established a heavy presence in the government and rule of Afghanistan, applying various policies according to their ideology. Now that the Taliban has been ruling Afghanistan for over a year, the question remains whether to officially recognise the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan internationally, particularly in the UN. While no country in the world has so far decided to officially recognise the state, there is a case to be made of why doing so could be beneficial, but also why it would not be. Pakistan is interesting, because, like other countries, it has not officially recognised the Taliban as a valid representative of Afghanistan but does seem open to the idea. Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Pakistan's foreign minister, has expressed that he is content that the transfer of power to the Taliban happened without bloodshed, and that given consultations and international partners, would be willing to support the official recognition of the Taliban.¹⁰ The reasoning for this is most likely due to the aggressive nature of a military coup and ignoring democracy, meaning that the UN in particular does not wish to condone this type of action, similar to how the UN also largely refuses to recognise Crimea as Russian territory.¹¹ Furthermore, due to the human rights violations allegations being made against the Taliban, particularly in their treatment of women in Afghanistan, where their right to secondary school and roles in certain governmental departments has been suspended.

The main case for the official recognition is made mostly by the Taliban itself, insisting that this is the best approach to more streamlined diplomacy, as the Taliban has been advocating since it re-established the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. They have also stated that efforts are being made specifically to prevent international recognition of the Taliban, allegedly by the U.S.¹² It certainly cannot be denied either that the Taliban does effectively control Afghanistan, so applying this traditional test would most certainly point to a case for this argument, and the previous government no longer has a constitutional claim to the country, and all other pointers indicate that the Taliban does project significant power that cannot be challenged effectively at this time.¹³

⁹ [US left Afghan airfield at night, didn't tell new commander | AP News](#)

¹⁰ [Pakistan's message to world on Taliban: 'Be realistic ... engage'](#)

¹¹ [UN resolution condemns Russia's occupation of Crimea](#)

¹² [Taliban Say US Is 'Biggest Hurdle' to Diplomatic Recognition](#)

¹³ ["Recognition" and the Taliban's International Legal Status - ICCT](#)

But there are also a variety of reasons that the Taliban is yet to be recognised at all. It can be stated that the Taliban government is young, disorganised, controversial, unstable, and not compatible with the UN at this time. Their government is underdeveloped, lacking a formal constitution and fully developed governmental departments.¹⁴ There are also significant problems with accepting the Taliban into the UN at this time considering their allegations of violating human rights, as stated previously. Finally, the process for accepting the Taliban into the UN is lengthy. It requires a majority decision by a council as a whole to accept the Taliban and allow them Afghanistan's seat in the committee, and this is highly unlikely due their current state of international reputation. The general assembly has already made the decision not to recognise the Taliban as of yet, and it may be a while before we could see this decision being made, or even steps towards it.¹⁵

Timeline of Governments of Afghanistan:

Democratic Republic of Afghanistan/Republic of Afghanistan (1978-1992)

The government established by the communist overthrow and upheld by the Soviet invasion. Name change in 1987

Islamic State of Afghanistan (1992-1996)

A dysfunctional state formed by the mujahadeen groups following the fall of the communist government. It continued to claim the Afghan government between 1996 and 2001 as it fought against the Taliban government.

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (1996-2001)

The unrecognised government formed by the Taliban.

Islamic State of Afghanistan (2001-2002)

Following the fall of the Taliban in 2001, the Islamic State of Afghanistan again took over before transitioning into the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan (2002-2004)

A provisional government formed by the coalition headed by the U.S. following its invasion of Afghanistan. It was established to rebuild Afghanistan and its institutions and prepare for transition into a full and capable democracy.

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (2004-2021)

The democratic government established by the U.S. and its allies.

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (2021-)

¹⁴ [Expert Backgrounder: How Can The Taliban Be Prevented From Representing Afghanistan In The United Nations?](#)

¹⁵ [Afghan Taliban administration, Myanmar junta not allowed into United Nations for now | Reuters](#)

The unrecognised Taliban government formed again after the withdrawal of foreign troops opposing the Taliban forces.

Major Countries and Organisations involved:

The Taliban: Referring to themselves as the “Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan”, the Taliban is widely considered to be an insurgency group in the country of Afghanistan, who recently assumed full control of the government by August 2021, as they had previously done in 1996. They are the main focus of this topic and are often accused of oppressive rule over the nation, as well as frequent human rights violations. The main question surrounding this group ascertains whether they should be recognised internationally as the official head of state.

al-Qaeda: A group widely considered to be a terrorist organisation based in Afghanistan/Pakistan, infamous as the prime suspect for the perpetrators of the September 11th terrorist attacks and harbouring the terrorist known as Osama bin Laden until his death in 2011. They formed in 1988 during the Afghan civil war and have since worked closely with the Taliban, acting as its main ally during the wars in Afghanistan since.

The United States of America: As the leader of NATO and a widely influential member of the UN, the USA declared war on the Taliban in 2001, serving as their main enemy and sending the majority of the troops fighting against the Taliban during the Afghanistan war. The USA is extremely capable in terms of military. They have since signed a peace treaty with the Taliban due to the rising tensions of the conflict.

The United Kingdom: While not directly tied to starting the conflict, the United Kingdom was still heavily involved in the conflict. They are a close ally of the U.S. and provided military support during the invasions and troop deployments of the Afghanistan war, particularly during the initial invasion. It is clear that the UK is aligned with the U.S.

Afghanistan: Afghanistan as a country has been under the rule of many different governments in the past, with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan recently replacing the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in a coup by the Taliban in 2021. The question remains whether to officially recognise this new government as the same as the country of Afghanistan itself.

Pakistan: The country of Pakistan has been closely tied to Afghanistan for many years, especially economically due to the many trade routes between the two nations. It is therefore reasonable to say that the two nations would be aligned in their interests, but it is uncertain whether Pakistan is in support of the Taliban, since a strong case can be made for and against

NATO: A product of a military alliance between mainly the U.S. and most of Europe, as well as Canada, NATO was heavily involved in the Afghanistan war, acting as the main ally to the U.S., deploying numerous troops and assuming a heavy role over the course of the conflict. Any member of NATO is bound to be aligned to the USA’s interest in this topic as a whole.

Relevant UN Resolutions:

The United Nations Credentials Committee, responsible for verifying the credentials of UN representatives, has produced two reports which are of importance for the topic.

- Report A/77/600 of the Credentials Committee, approved 12th of December 2022¹⁶

This report notes in paragraph 9 the two different communications regarding representatives of Afghanistan it has received, one from the government-in-exile and one from the Taliban government. The report is highly relevant to the topic because of paragraph 11, in which the Committee postpones its considerations regarding Afghanistan, repeating the decision it made in 2021 (A/76/550¹⁷). This report thus states, as approved by the General Assembly, that the government-in-exile remains the official UN representative of Afghanistan, and that the consideration of the Taliban government as the representative of Afghanistan at the United Nations shall be moved to a later date.

- Report A/51/548 of the Credentials Committee, approved 23rd of October 1996¹⁸

In this report from 1996, the Committee noted that it received communications from both the government-in-exile of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and by the Taliban government, which had just deposed the former. The Committee decided to postpone any decision on the issue to a later date, not accepting the credentials of the Taliban government. The Committee repeated this decision again in its later reports between 1997-2001 until the deposing of the Taliban government, thus it never made any decision on the inclusion of the Taliban government in the United Nations. This report is included because it illustrates how the Committee has dealt with a similar situation previously, and how the Committee is currently repeating the same decision regarding the Taliban as it did over 20 years ago. It is also of high relevance to the next section of this report.

The two following UN resolutions regarding the current situation in Afghanistan are also relevant to the topic.

- General Assembly resolution 77/10, adopted on 10th of November 2022, “The situation in Afghanistan”¹⁹

This resolution, passed roughly a year after the Taliban retook power in Afghanistan, addresses the situation in Afghanistan. In it, the General Assembly expresses its concern over

¹⁶ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3997323?ln=en>

¹⁷ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3950043?ln=en>

¹⁸ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/222884?ln=en>

¹⁹ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/687/14/PDF/N2268714.pdf?OpenElement>

human rights violations, especially of minorities and women, emphasises the need to prevent terrorism and drug trafficking in the region and addresses the increasing refugee crisis. It also recognises the need to improve the falling living standards and the economy, with adequate access to humanitarian assistance being a necessary part. It is included because it is one of the most comprehensive resolutions addressing Afghanistan since the Taliban came to power.

- Security Council resolution 2593, adopted on 30th August 2021²⁰

This brief resolution emphasises the need to protect human rights and combat terrorism in Afghanistan, as well as to provide increased humanitarian aid. It is notable and included due to it being the only Security Council resolution to comprehensively address the recent developments in Afghanistan.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue:

When analysing previous attempts to solve the issue, it is important to consider two aspects. Firstly, it is important to look at previous attempts to solve the same issue during the previous period of Taliban rule. Secondly, it is also important to consider previous attempts to solve similar issues regarding governments in a similar situation as the Taliban's.

When looking at past questions of recognition, the Credentials Committee plays an important role. The Credentials Committee, consisting of varying member states, is tasked with verifying the credentials of the representatives to the General Assembly. Although meant to be a technicality, it is closely tied to the question of recognition as countries that do not recognise a government as legitimate will also often not recognise the credentials of the representatives of that government.²¹

After the Taliban first came into power in Afghanistan in 1996, the government it formed, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, faced the same issues as today. It only managed to obtain international recognition from Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. The deposed previous government, the Islamic State of Afghanistan, retained its claim on Afghanistan and started a resistance movement, waging war against the Taliban government until the fall of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in 2001. During the first period of Taliban rule, the UN continued to recognise the Islamic State of Afghanistan as the representative of Afghanistan at the UN, postponing any decision about the Taliban until its fall.

To allow this, a key UN legislature was utilised: rule 29²² of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. The rule states that if an objection has been made to a representative of a country, that representative has the right to provisionally remain a representative until a decision has been made regarding the objection. This means that in cases of two rival claims

²⁰ <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s%20res%202593.pdf>

²¹ <https://scholarlycommons.law.cwsl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1834&context=cwili>

²² <https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/ropga/credent.shtml>

to a UN seat following an overthrow of the government, such as in the case of Afghanistan both in 1996 and 2021, the old government retains the UN seat of that country until the General Assembly has decided on the matter. This rule allowed the Islamic State of Afghanistan to remain representative at the UN between 1996-2001 as the UN never made a decision on the Taliban's status and again allows the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to stay at the UN until a decision has been made on the Taliban's status, a decision which has now been postponed twice by the Credentials Committee.

When comparing the situation of the Taliban government in 1996 and 2021, it is important to note that in 1996, there existed a legitimate claimant to the government of Afghanistan, as the Islamic State of Afghanistan continued a resistance movement. Following the fall of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in 2021 however, former president Ashraf Ghani fled the country and has not established a government-in-exile. Instead, former vice-president Amrullah Saleh has established a government-in-exile, but Saleh reportedly also fled the country in 2021.²³ Thus, while the old government continues to hold the UN seat of Afghanistan, there is no legitimate contender for the Taliban's Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

In short, as long as no decision is made on the Taliban's status, the old government will retain its seat in the United Nations. This was the previous "solution" to the issue between 1996 and 2001: no decision was ever made. However, considering the lack of legitimate contenders to the Taliban, at some point, the UN may have to decide on how it will view the Taliban government. To understand what the resolution may be in that case, it is also important to look at similar past cases involving different countries.

One of the biggest reasons for hesitance in accepting the Taliban is its numerous human rights violations, especially against women. In the 20th century, South Africa was in a similar situation with its racist apartheid policy grossly violating human rights. In the case of South Africa, the General Assembly and the Credentials Committee chose in 1970²⁴ to not accept the credentials of the South African delegation. This was repeated until 1974²⁵ when the president of the General Assembly, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, stated that the repeated rejection of South Africa's representatives' credentials was a clear sign that the General Assembly would not allow South Africa to participate in its proceedings. Supported by a vote, this decision meant that South Africa was barred from participating in the United Nations and it was only reversed in 1994²⁶ when the apartheid policy was abolished. Although this decision was based on murky and controversial definitions of UN rules, it serves as an example of a possible solution in a case where a country is a recognised member state of the UN but barred

²³ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/09/06/afghanistan-kabul-taliban-updates/>

²⁴ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/349/01/IMG/NR034901.pdf?OpenElement>. see Resolution 2636 A

²⁵ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/189828>. see resolution 3207

²⁶ [The United Nations: Partner in the Struggle Against Apartheid](#)

from participation due to its controversial policies, a possible fate for the Taliban government.²⁷

There have also been past examples with different outcomes. In 1997, the Credentials Committee, having received two different sets of credentials for Cambodia, decided to not award the seat to either, thus leaving the position vacant.^{28 29 30}

Possible Solutions:

This section is for direct use by delegates, summarising the different approaches that can be taken to solving this issue regarding the recognition of Taliban within multiple perspectives. These are merely suggestions and are meant to serve as general guiding solutions that delegates are free to expand on for the upcoming committee sessions.

The simplest and most procedural solution to be made in support of recognising the Taliban would be to accept the credentials of the Taliban government and then vote on its recognition in a general assembly resolution as a full member of the United Nations.

A middle ground between the two sides would be to repeat the case of South Africa in 1974 by recognising the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and accepting the Taliban into the United Nations, but revoking its participation rights until the human rights situation in Afghanistan is satisfactory. Here one should consider that the legal framework for such action is unclear and the controversy regarding the South Africa case. The UN could also accept the Taliban as a member but impose sanctions and other similar penalties.

A solution against Taliban recognition would be for the UN to repeat the same decision it did in 1996 and repeatedly postpone any decision regarding the Taliban, instead recognising the old Afghan government as legitimate. Another similar approach is to not rule in favour of either government, but instead leave the seat of Afghanistan vacant, like in the case of Cambodia in 1997.

The most extreme solution against the Taliban would be for the UN to openly declare it would not support the Taliban government in any case and refuse to recognise the government.

²⁷ [The Credentials Approach to Representation Questions in the U.N. General Assembly](#)

²⁸ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N97/361/77/pdf/N9736177.pdf?OpenElement>

²⁹ [Expert Backgrounder: How Can The Taliban Be Prevented From Representing Afghanistan In The United Nations?](#)

³⁰ [Will the Taliban Represent Afghanistan at the UN General Assembly? – EJIL: Talk!](#)

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