How to Achieve Sustainable Peace in Afghanistan

The challenges that Afghanistan as a country in crisis faces are complex, multifaceted and vary due to the variety of different historical root causes of conflict and the different political, social and geographical contexts. Therefore, the strategies to address these challenges effectively support Afghanistan on a path of recovery, development and durable peace are therefore diverse. What works in one country does not necessarily work in another. Nevertheless, there are some universally shared values, principles and key elements that have been found to be applicable for sustainable peace-building lessons that Afghanistan may build on.

Managing the peace terms

Reaching to a consensus on peace terms – a key obstacle. Afghanistan has passed through two decades of women’s rights achievements and the process as they fear that the return of the Islamic Emirate will undo the almost 20 years of achievements in the post-Taliban administration.

During their regime (1996–2001), the Taliban approached women with misogynistic mindsets and curtailed their rights and freedoms to a great extent. Afghan women were not allowed to play a role in social, political or economic processes. Treating women with disdain and patriarchy, the Taliban leadership was of the view that women had to live within the four walls. In case of coming out, they had to be accompanied by male chaperones.

Afghan women bore the brunt of violence under the Taliban’s strict Sharia Law amalgamated with the tribal code of conduct. That is to say, women were the casualty of the sexual discrimination and their human rights and dignity were violated flagrantly. To put it succinctly, Afghan women suffered severely under the Taliban’s unjust sentiments and their untold sorrow is evident to the world.

Now as peace talks emerge, Afghan women fear that they will blackball if the Taliban seek to impose their warped mind on them. They believe that the Taliban will not uphold democratic principles and the equal rights and freedoms of men and women stipulated in the constitution, which was approved on 3 January 2004 in the aftermath of the Bonn Conference.

It comes as the Taliban have said they will amend the current constitution but also reiterated that they will no more document women’s rights in social, economic and political arenas. With this in mind, it is not clear which articles of the constitution the Taliban will consider for amendments. Whether the public consensus is important in this case. It is believed, however, that the Taliban will, certainly, resist the recodification of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Charter of the United Nations, included in the constitution. It is self-explanatory that the Taliban are not interested to reconcile their ideology with democratic principles and human rights discussions. The Taliban have claimed that they will not appear with their past frame of mind. Notwithstanding the Taliban’s claim, Afghans are highly skeptical of the Taliban morphing into a moderate group.

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All Afghan women are one of the main stakeholders in the peace talks. The rights and freedoms of women are a key serious issue in the peace process as they fear that the return of the Islamic Emirate will undo the almost 20 years of decades of women’s achievements in the post-Taliban administration. For example, reports said that the Taliban have withdrawn women from desert courts, conducted in the tribal belts. Therefore, there is little room for optimism about the protection of women’s rights and freedoms with the return of the Islamic Emirate. Similarly, not a single woman has emerged as the Taliban’s representative in their negotiating team. It indicates that partriarchy is a highly deep-seated mindset among the Taliban.

Afghan women have been great strides after the downfall of the Taliban’s regime and the current constitution entitles men and women equally to participate in social, economic and political activities. Thus, there is no legal barrier to prevent women from running for provincial or presidential elections. “Discrimination” and “Distinctive roles” of Afghan men and women are forbidden based on Article 22 of the constitution. Hence, one must not be discriminated on the grounds of one’s racial, religious or sexual differences. With the support of the current constitution, Afghan women’s rights and liberty were gained at the cost of thousands of sand’s of Afghans’ life. Therefore, the peace stakeholders have advocated the rights and freedom of women at the peace table. This is a non-negotiable and non-compressible article.

What will spoil the process?

The three parties can’t surmount these problems, the Afghan context is ripe for another major obstacle to peace. A dispute that might try to divide the Afghan government, along with the Taliban. The Taliban’s demand comprises a United States and the Afghan government in the Kabul-based government. The United States seeks guarantees that the Taliban will not support transnational Islamist extremists. The Afghan government wants the Taliban to respect the rule of law. The Taliban’s demand for a U.S. withdrawal before a peace deal and ceasefire is likely to cause a deadlock. On the other hand, key Taliban leaders worry that if they back down, their credibility with their base of support will suffer. If the President Trump’s hardline foreign policy team agrees to a withdrawal, it will be considered as a concession to the Taliban. And the Afghan government has reason to worry about its own survival in the case of a rush U.S. departure.

If any peace-sharing demand from the Taliban would be contentious. The Taliban worry that if they demobilize, they may not hold on to the power they have reaped. They may not reaped agreed on terms and inclusion of the Taliban will be difficult in a complex multiethnic

How to reach a consensus in the peace talks, the U.N.’s has been added to address the problem of some mandating responsibility for years of horrendous human rights abuses, civil war, and the dangers of the laws of war as prospects for a political settlement in Afghanistan. As a result, Secretary General of the UN should consider options for establishing a specially designated team of U.N.-backed peace negotiators. All these confidence-building measures are well within reach but it would show that long march to peace in Afghanistan.

Peace Stakeholders Have to Advocate Women’s Rights and Freedoms

By: Hujjatullah Zia

Religion of Roles in Election in Political Stability

Democracy is considered as the best system of government to solve many of the states around the world. Particularly, by the states that are developed and that have achieved political and economic stability. Therefore, it is important that this system of governance must be pursued by Afghanistan as well as if we really want to achieve stability and sustainability. In other words, we also ensure that the inherent attributes of a democratic system are also taken care of. One of the most important of this is the rules of process of election. If elections continue democratic process progress. This claim can be strengthened by the evidence that lie in the history of greatest democratic states. Democratic democracy depicts a series of elections, occurred for more than a decade or two or even more than a hundred years. It represents even a longer continuation of series of elections and today both countries have it as a dominant role in International Political scenario. They both enjoy economic and political stability, and there are many countries that have been trying to adapt their systems so as to have justice and order in their systems. They are not wanting to be the leading countries, with great powers and hands as failure of the invisibility guarding their gate.

In true sense, elections let the public govern themselves; therefore, in a democratic state government is not anything more than the General Will. People get the chance of listening to the motives and motives of the leaders and they get time even to analyze them properly. Afterward, they are given chance of casting their votes to one who have not been able to offer to them. They can have the chance of exercising their rights and the election after this one would have better decisions. Every new election is a new step in the evolution of democracy. If elections continue, democracy will not be backdated if the Taliban seek to impose their warped mind on them. They believe that the Taliban will not uphold democratic principles and the equal rights and freedoms of men and women stipulated in the constitution, which was approved on 3 January 2004 in the aftermath of the Bonn Conference.

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The Talibani pay lip service to the rights and freedoms of women since harsh mindsets and patriarchy is a deeply-seated mindset among the Taliban. The Afghan government seeks great strides after the downfall of the Taliban’s regime and the current constitution entitles men and women equally to participate in social, economic and political activities. Thus, there is no legal barrier to prevent women from running for provincial or presidential elections. “Discrimination” and “Distinctive roles” of Afghan men and women are forbidden based on Article 22 of the constitution. Hence, one must not be discriminated on the grounds of one’s racial, religious or sexual differences. Within the support of the current constitution, Afghan women’s rights and liberty were gained at the cost of thousands of sand’s of Afghans’ life. Therefore, the peace stakeholders have advocated the rights and freedom of women at the peace table. This is a non-negotiable and non-compressible article.

Role of Elections in Political Stability

By: Moh. Sakhi Rezaie

If elections continue, democracy continues. If elections continue, democracy prevails. However, it would be self contradictory statement to say that elections continue and miseries prevail because elections can provide opportunities to the people to choose the type of government that they like for themselves. In reality, it would be better to explain it in a simpler manner. In fact, every new election is a new step in the evolution of democracy. If elections continue, democracy will not be backdated if the Taliban seek to impose their warped mind on them. They believe that the Taliban will not uphold democratic principles and the equal rights and freedoms of men and women stipulated in the constitution, which was approved on 3 January 2004 in the aftermath of the Bonn Conference.

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