



United States Mission to the OSCE

Secretary General's Report on the Response to the Implications of Afghanistan for the OSCE Region (RIAOR)

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 25, 2024

Secretary General Schmid, dear Helga, thank you for your comprehensive report. The ongoing economic and humanitarian crises in Afghanistan are inflicting hardship on the Afghan people, especially women and girls, and undermine both Afghanistan's security and that of its neighbors.

The United States is committed to promoting stability in Afghanistan through diplomacy and humanitarian assistance. We are the single largest provider of humanitarian aid to the Afghan people, giving over \$2.1 billion since August 2021. In our discussions with the Taliban, we are clear about our interests and the commitments we expect them to uphold. Human rights, especially those of women and girls, remain at the forefront of our engagement. The United States continues to urge the Taliban to follow through with its commitments to rebuild a viable economy, respect the human rights of all its people without discrimination, and prevent the use of Afghan territory by terror groups.

We are proud to support the OSCE in addressing regional security issues, funding projects and discussions linked to the three pillars of *Response to the Implications of Afghanistan for the OSCE Region*. The United States contributes nearly 11 million dollars to fourteen projects under the RIAOR framework, including the Border Management Staff College and Women's Resource Centers in Tajikistan, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, and other projects that strengthen border security and combat trafficking in persons in Central Asia. And here I'd also like to salute our Central Asian colleagues who are working hard to educate Afghan girls.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Secretariat and Central Asian participating States to support these projects and effectively respond to regional security challenges.

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