Evacuation and Well-being of Staff of the United Nations System from Afghanistan

The 47th Staff Council,

Recalling article 1.2 of the Statute of the United Nations Staff Union, which declares that one of the aims and objectives of the United Nations Staff Union consists in promoting and safeguarding the rights, interests, and welfare of all members of staff of the United Nations assigned to the Secretariat,

Recalling also article 3.2 of the Statute of the United Nations Staff Union, which determines that local staff of secretariat field missions are associate members of the United Nations Staff Union,

Expresses grave concern about the safety, rights, interests, and well-being of members and associate members of the United Nations Staff Union working in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), as well as other United Nations system staff working in that country, in particular women, in the context of the major recent political and security developments in the country;

Notes that, after de facto disappearance of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the current Status of Mission Agreement between UNAMA and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan may have become moot and calls on the international community and non-State armed groups, to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of United Nations staff and their dependents in accordance with applicable international norms and standards;

Reminds that the United Nations Security Policy Manual, issued in the framework of the United Nations Security Management System, states that “locally recruited personnel and/or their eligible family members may be evacuated from a duty station … in the most exceptional cases in which their security is endangered as a direct consequence of their employment by organizations of the United Nations common system” and that “a decision in that regard can be made by the Secretary-General” ¹;

Instructs the Leadership of the United Nations Staff Union to urge the Secretary-General to take such a decision, and actively seek the support and authorization of Member States so that all members and associate members of the Union, as well as all staff members of United Nations system organizations, who wish to receive support with avoiding risks by

temporarily removing from a situation of unacceptable residual risks by using evacuation from Afghanistan as soon as possible, and their lives, as well as lives of their families, will be saved;

Express its full solidarity with, and support to, staff of the United Nations system who have decided to remain in Afghanistan and those working remotely to continue to conduct mandated activities of the Organization, particularly given the ongoing critical humanitarian crisis and important role of the United Nations in the country;

United Nations personnel remaining in country should be at the authorized level of programme criticality paradigm found within the security management system.

Recommend continued accountability of the United Nations entities for the safety and security of the United Nations personnel in accordance with Organization’s “duty of care” obligations as employing organizations.

Instructs also the Leadership of the United Nations Staff Union to disseminate the current resolution to the staff federations of the United Nations system, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly and of the Security Council, as well as the press.

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