



Committee:SPECPOL

Topic:Addressing Statelessness in Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

Country:Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

Delegate Name: İrem ERDEM

Afghanistan has long struggled with statelessness due to ongoing wars, regime changes, and political instability. Many people face statelessness because of displacement, lack of identity documents and discriminatory citizenship laws. Here's an overview of Afghanistan's efforts regarding statelessness:

1-1961 and 1997 Statelessness Conventions

Afghanistan is not a party to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness or the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. However, it has worked with organizations like the UNCHR to address statelessness

2-Afghanistan's Citizenship Law

Afghanistan's citizenship is defined by the 2000 Afghan Citizenship Law which states:

Not everyone born in Afghanistan is automatically granted citizenship. At least one parent must be an Afghan citizen for the child to acquire citizenship.

Women can gain Afghan citizenship through marriage but in some cases, they risk losing their citizenship if they marry a foreigner.

This has contributed to statelessness among Afghan refugee children in Pakistan and Iran, as many parents lack proper documentation to prove their nationality.

3-Afghan Refugees in Pakistan and Iran

Afghanistan has one of the world's largest refugee solutions particularly in Pakistan and Iran where many Afghan children are at risk of statelessness:

Pakistan: Does not automatically grant citizenship to Afghan refugees born on its soil, leaving many children stateless.

Iran: In 2019, Iran introduced conditional citizenship for Afghan children, but this has not fully resolved the issue.

Afghanistan has engaged in discussions with these countries, but no significant progress has been made.

4-Cooperation with UNHCR

Afghanistan has collaborated with the UNHCR on projects aimed at reducing statelessness, including:

TAZKIRA(NATIONAL ID) DISTRIBUTION:Efforts to provide national ID cards to undocumented individuals to help them gain citizenship.

5-Post Taliban Takeover Challenges

Since the Taliban takeover in 2021, the issue of statelessness has worsened:

Many people fled the country without obtaining proper citizenship documents

Women's rights have been restricted, making it harder for them to obtain identity documents and legal citizenship.

The Taliban's reluctance to engage with international organizations has made cooperation with UNHCR and other agencies more difficult.

CONCLUSION

Afghanistan statelessness problem despite some attempts to resolve this issue, it has not made significant progress in this area due to the war, refugee crisis and changes in government. To reduce statelessness, citizenship laws need to be reformed, birth certificates expanded and refugee status clarified. However, such reforms appear unlikely in the short term due to the current political situation.