



## The UN75 Dialogue Series

### Voices from Fayzabad City

Asia Culture House organized a dialogue with five community members in Badakhshan province on November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This event brought together young professionals and civil society activists to discuss the future and what it holds, what needs to be done now to make the world a better place to live, and how the United Nations can be more helpful.

While participants briefly focused on violence against women, the dialogue mainly covered the questions that have been provided by the UN Secretariat. We challenged the audience to develop creative ideas to improve our response to and vision of the future.

The audio recording can be accessed [here](#). The following were key takeaways from this dialogue:

#### Women's situation and the level of violence against women:

Violence against women has is institutionalized and widespread. Major victims of domestic violence are women and children. The level of violence differs dramatically. Poverty, lack of social justice, war, and lack of clear policies increase violence against women. Other causes of violence against women are closed patriarchic societies, lack of awareness about women's rights, a second sex view of women, masculine language, false interpretation of religion, impunity, and lack of implementation of the law on preventing violence against women are other causes of this violence. Countering violence requires efforts at the individual, family, and society levels and addressing each of the above issues.

#### Priorities for the international community to recover better from the pandemic:

Global financial support for low-income economies was misused and embezzled. The international community could have responsibly managed economic aid. We were not prepared either for this disaster, despite the state of technology. Ideally, the health system should have been strengthened and empowered. We can now learn from this experience, plan, and fight similar health problems in the future with practical strategies.

Additionally, global awareness can be useful. With proper awareness, people can protect themselves, and governments can protect people. Health and nutrition support to countries with low-income economies and persons in need can also be effective.

#### Hopes and fears of life in 2045:

In 2045, the situation depends on how we continue to act now. While the population density is increasing, the economy is getting worse. The situation could improve in the future, but the reverse is also true. If we positively follow televisions, if the students commit to positivity, high morale, and demand progress with excitement, we will have a better future.

Further, if the level of assistance and the global community's long-term commitment continues, the situation will improve by 2045. Current global trends, perspectives on peace/international peace, environmental



preservation are reasons to be hopeful. Countries that were the breeding grounds of extremists are now following democratic and human rights values, which is proof that the UN efforts have been productive.

### The vision of life in 2045:

By 2045, the participants wanted:

- Peaceful coexistence.
- The society to be progressive and the youth to have a substantial role in it.
- The youth to have scientific expertise, be academically well versed, and lead civil society organizations to pressurize the state and improve social situations.
- Extremist groups to be contained, violence, and war to end.
- Scientific knowledge to enrich.

### Obstacles and challenges affecting the vision:

The group identified the following challenges:

- Lack of socio-economic stability could be caused by insecurity, war, including proxy war, terrorist groups, lack of changes in student's perception, and inability to utilize Afghanistan resources.
- Continued discrimination based on language, ethnic violence, and divide could be caused by a lack of a strong nation-state and notions that connect different ethnicities.
- Lack of awareness, illiteracy, and incorrect perception about religion.
- Fundamentalism. Terrorist groups have breached into academic and scientific communities. Scientific and educational organizations underperform parties and extremist groups in shaping public opinion.

### Roles for global cooperation to address the obstacles:

The global community and the United Nations can help by continuing their support to build a nation-state, strengthen democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms of the people, and the Afghan people's development efforts. The United Nations can help by the financial support of Afghanistan to end the war and insecurity.

### Recommendations for the United Nations Secretary-General:

Participants recommended the UN Secretary-General to:

- Realistically invest in infrastructure, education—especially youth and women education—healthcare, and culture.
- Continue their economic support, effectively monitor, and manage international aid.
- Actively intervene to end the disorders, develop Afghanistan, and achieve a global democratic order.
- Continue its political support to form a nation-state and avoid supporting terrorist organizations
- Support mass-distribution of free vaccines.
- Mobilize support of the post-peace state, women's rights, freedom of speech, diversity, and other democratic values in Afghanistan.



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If you wish to share your messages with the UN Secretary-General, please visit <https://un75.online/> and fill the one-minute survey.



