



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Statement by

Ambassador Marc Pecsteen, Permanent Representative
of Belgium to the United Nations

Explanation of the vote on the situation in Afghanistan Security Council

New York, 17/9/2019

Mr President,

Today, Belgium voted in favour of the compromise resolution on the extension of the mandate of the Mission in Afghanistan.

This text gives UNAMA an important mandate and the necessary political guidance to deliver on its mission. Nonetheless, we regret the fact that a more substantive text was not possible owing to an issue which is unrelated to the mandate.

We wish to thank the two pen holders for their efforts to ensure a transparent process, and for the fact that the views of each delegation were taken into account.

Over the course of the negotiations, our delegation was fully and proactively engaged in strengthening the guidance provided by this Council to the mission. We focused in particular on the situation of children, the theme of "women, peace and security", mine clearance, international humanitarian law and the issue of "climate and security".

I wish to conclude by reiterating Belgium's support for UNAMA and the Afghan people, and I would like to express our full solidarity with the latter in the wake of this latest attack that has struck them.

Thank you, Mr President.