

The international community has limited choices when it comes to the dealings with the Afghan Taliban regime. Unfortunately, none of the available choices are good. The international community has the options of fully embracing the Taliban, isolating Kabul or keeping limited engagement with the regime.

It would be disastrous on the part of the international community to fully recognize the Afghan Taliban regime without prior conditions. There are serious concerns among the international community regarding the inclusivity and women participation in the current Taliban regime. Media reports suggest that Afghan girls are being denied of their right to education.

Hence, it would not be advisable for the world to give full recognition to the Taliban regime under these circumstances.

The option of isolating Afghanistan would not be viable too. If the international

Community opts this option, it will only add to the sufferings of the ordinary people of Afghanistan. Moreover, the historical experience suggests that isolating Afghanistan would move the Taliban closer to Al-Qaeda. A UN report reveals that about 23.7 millions people of Afghanistan are in need. Therefore, continuing with the sanctions and isolating Afghanistan would not be a good choice.

'Limited Engagement' with the Taliban regime is the third option for the international community. The invitation to the Taliban representatives in the recently held UN-backed discussions on the future of Afghanistan shows that the international community has realized practicality. In the discussions, the Taliban's spokesperson tried to court foreign countries and requested lifting of sanctions. Hence, limited engagement gives an upper hand to the international community where it can put pressure on the Taliban regime to meet certain conditions for full recognition.

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In conclusion, neither full recognition of the Taliban regime nor complete isolation is a good choice for the international community to deal with the Taliban. Limited engagement is comparatively a better choice among the limited available choices. The international community should condition engagement with the fulfillment of promises by the Taliban. The international community should ^{gradually} move towards the full recognition of the Taliban regime and lifting of sanctions, if they ensure security, inclusivity and women's participation and freedoms.