

Chapter 3, Problem III

The defeat of the internationally recognized government of Afghanistan by the Taliban in August 2021 prompted immediate discussions about (a) how individual states should treat the Taliban-led government; and (b) who would hold Afghanistan's seat at the United Nations. On the latter question, the Security Council, repeating its long-held position, had unanimously decided in March 2020 that the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" – the formal name for the Taliban regime – is not recognized by the UN. As the Taliban took control on August 16, the Council called for a "united, inclusive, and representative" new government. The Taliban itself is subject to Security Council sanctions that date back to its time in power before its ouster by U.S. forces in 2001. For a comprehensive examination of the issue, including the relevance of the South Africa precedent discussed in the casebook, see [this analysis](#) by a former senior UN lawyer. As of the 78th session of the General Assembly in 2023, the Afghan seat was still occupied by representatives the former regime.