



ابتکار برین برای توسعه

Bareen Initiative for Development (BID)

Concept Note

“The Expanding Shadow: Taliban Ambitions and Regional Instability”

Introduction:

Since the Taliban’s 2021 takeover, Afghanistan has become a terrorism hub, hosting Al-Qaeda, TTP, and others despite regime denials. This seminar examines the Taliban’s role in transnational threats, cross-border ambitions, and ideological ties to Hamas in Gaza and HTS in Syria. Convened by Bareen Initiative for Development (BID), it fosters evidence-based dialogue among experts and policymakers to counter extremism.

Rationale:

Taliban rule has deepened Afghanistan’s crisis while destabilizing neighbors, especially Pakistan. North Waziristan sees renewed TTP attacks (up 79% in 2023, trend continuing), enabled by Afghan sanctuaries under “Project Taliban.” Taliban praise for Hamas’s “Al-Aqsa Storm” and HTS’s 2024 Damascus victory signals a networked jihadist surge. UN reports confirm Al-Qaeda’s reorganization; fragmented global responses demand urgent, coordinated scrutiny.

Objectives:

- Assess Taliban counterterrorism pledges vs. evidence of safe havens.
- Map “Project Taliban” in North Waziristan and anti-Pakistan designs.
- Analyse ideological links with Hamas/HTS and risks of emulation.
- Propose border cooperation, intelligence-sharing, and deradicalization policies.

Discussion Themes

- Afghanistan as Terrorism Haven: Taliban claims vs. 2025 UN evidence of Al-Qaeda/ISKP activity; multilateral enforcement of Doha commitments.
- Transnational Reach: Durand Line volatility, 28% rise in TTP attacks since 2022; joint patrols and Central Asia risks.
- Ideological Echoes: Taliban “victory” mirroring Gaza/Syria; countering recruitment via diplomatic isolation.

Key Message:

Taliban control fuels border insurgencies and global jihadist morale. Regional actors must prioritize verifiable deradicalization, economic incentives, and unified leverage to prevent proxy chaos—addressing poverty, exclusion, and militancy at root.

Format: 90 minutes to 2-hours Zoom event: keynote, panel, Q&A; live-streamed on BID platforms.

Expected Outcomes

- Report brief with 5 recommendations.
- Elaborate on HTS Syria takeover
- Discuss ISIS-K in Afghanistan
- New networks for research/advocacy.
- Follow-up working group on “Jihadist Interconnectivity.”

Call to Action:

Join BID to translate analysis into peace. Reassess policies, forge coalitions, and secure the region through justice and innovation.