Fear and Hope of women on peace process

Zarqa yaftali, 17, February 2019

For more than four decades of violence in Afghanistan, women’s social and political presence and activities are affected at most.

Therefore, with critical political changes in the country, what concerns majority of women is less hope for future and more fear from worsening of the situation furthermore?

Now that peace agreement is getting close between United States and Taliban group, the Afghan women are stacked between happiness for the end of war and concern for losing limitation of their activities, and losing the current freedom they have achieved so far.

From one hand, they think about end of war which would come after the peace agreement with Taliban, so that they could out to the streets without having the concern of explosions and suicide attacks, going to school and universities without having the fear of losing their dearests but from the other hand, the horrific historical experience, that the women did not have the right of working and education, the worst experience that the women did during Taliban regime.

Although details of agreement between united states and Taliban is not clear, the discussion on the second section of Afghanistan constitution, which includes unchangeable issues on freedom of civic rights, notably women’s rights.

The Taliban did not have any views on the decreasing of these civic rights and women’s activities however, they have emphasized that the women can be active in the framework of Islam and Sharia. But what Taliban has introduced the Islamic rights of women is rooted to their own perception and understanding from Islam based on which women are not allowed to get out of their houses without having legal mahram.

The United States of America, as supporter of post-Taliban government and peace party with Taliban does not have clear vision on the second chapter of Afghanistan constitution which has unnegotiable contents as though these contents are counted as the red line in these negotiations.

Afghanistan government leaders, Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, has frequently emphasized that civic rights of women would not be the point of discussion with Taliban.

But behavior of ARG as the first responsible source in negotiation with Taliban in the peace process is rooted in the interest of a small group and the base of these behavior is mostly personal interests till we counted and political agreement and country wide perception.

Beside the emphasis of ARG on preservation of republic and red lines based on achievements of the past two decades, including civic rights and freedom in the peace process with Taliban, Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani exposed violation of his speeches by his action and indicated that these rights were only as slogan until they could stand on the point to defend form it in the peace process.
As an example, while releasing Anas Haqani, one of the most famous terrorists of Haqani Network from jail, the speaker of ARG noted that it is a red line and it is in authority of Afghanistan people but exactly two days after their statements, Anas Haqani was release as the consequence of peace negotiation between United States and Taliban. This shoed that preservation from these rights are only a slogan until to reality.

And now about the consequence of Post-Taliban peace there is not trust on how much commitment of ARG would be sustainable on preservation of these vital civic rights of women.

At the main time, the view of ARG on women’s meaningful participation in peace process is mostly as an instrument for validation of the system rather than actuality.

Along the work of high peace council and peace meeting sessions, despite recruitment of numerous women in the government, but more often the women activists were objecting their passive and in effective role in the government structures.

Post-Taliban Afghanistan, the country was in central attention of international society, all the countries in the world, including those who competing powers on Afghanistan were agreed on supporting this country.

But due to weak management, political corruption, nepotism and favoritism, destructing ethnics sprit rolling on the country in the past 19 years, the best possible opportunities for formation of a democratic political system wasted.

Despite expenditures of billions of dollars and thousands of sacrifices of Afghanistan Citizen and international allies for bringing stability to this country, still the live in Kabul the capital is with fears and terror. After four months from corrupt election, the result is not yet clear.

Now, in a level that people of this territory is tired of, the international supporting community by lead of united states of America is also tired of this unknown war as though it appears to leave the country.

Knowing that today’s Afghanistan varies to the Afghanistan of 1996 while Taliban was rolling on Kabul, and the current Afghanistan is having an organized military, founded legal structures, but the above mentioned points causes Afghanistan women to be more despair rather than having hope for a better future. Whenever the peace process is being discussed with women activists, their perception is full of fear and hope.

Most of women believe that if peace agreement impulses withdraw of US forces and Taliban return, the country would again face with conflicts from which women will be affected more than anyone else.

But some other, think that peace negotiations, would be a new opportunity of Afghanistan. From their point of view, Afghanistan would never return to the dark days. By coming of Taliban in the structure of government of Afghanistan, they would be obliged to accept the different kind of Afghanistan, and there would not be space for imposing one sided understanding and narrations.
Since Post-Taliban Afghanistan is having constitution, thousands of educated young’s, and tens of public and private universities, free mass media and is the owner of hundreds of educational and civic institutions in different areas.

In today’s Afghanistan, the women are having significant role in the different areas, presence and improvement of women in the different sectors under the support of Afghanistan’s constitution and international society is the result of their struggle and sacrifices that they have afforded and would never gift it to anyone or any group easily. Reversely the current generation, men and women, young and old would stand for preservation of these values against any groups who may opposing it.

Afghan women has proved their talent and capacity after provision of work and educational opportunities in the different areas of politics, culture, economics, management, sport and arts. Currently tens of government administrations and hundreds of non-governmental organizations are managed by them which is the success modules from corruption of current Afghanistan.

Between hope and fear of Afghanistan citizen from peace process, as an overall understanding, beside the concerns exits, every agrees that peace process would open a new gate of opportunity for Afghanistan. But now, what is needed for success of this process is the post peace which needs to be managed properly. Preservation of civic freedoms and preservation of quantity and structure of Afghanistan military for stability of the country should not be negotiated in these process. At the same time, supporting countries of Afghanistan and regional players, should guarantee implementation of peace agreements.

I believe that to ensure implementation of peace agreements, it is needed to establish monitoring committees with cooperation of dignified countries of the world and region and women should also be included in these oversight committees to protect and watch on implementation of peace agreements.