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Pakistan should expel militants fighting against Afghanistan: Ghani

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Afghan president Ashraf Ghani on Monday said that Pakistan should expel militants that are fighting against Afghanistan.

While addressing a press conference after a summit in Warsaw, he said that Afghan citizens want sustainable peace in the country according to their constitution. Ghani demanded that the neighbouring countries should not provide sanctuaries to terrorists.

He also welcomed as an “achievement” the renewed funding commitment from NATO for his country’s fledgeling security forces amid increasing Taliban insurgency.

On Saturday NATO countries agreed at the summit in to maintain troop numbers in Afghanistan and reiterated a funding pledge of \$5 billion a year for local security forces until 2020. “Afghanistan returned successfully from the Warsaw summit and I congratulate the nation for that,” Ghani told reporters in Kabul. “We achieved what we wanted to achieve and we are thankful to the world for that,” he said.

About 12,000 NATO troops, of which the bulk are American, are currently stationed in Afghanistan under Operation Resolute Support, to train and assist Afghan security forces. But the Afghans have struggled to contain a resurgent Taliban and have suffered brutal losses — more than 5,000 local police and troops were killed in 2015, and this year is proving as deadly.

Attacks by the Taliban and other organisations like Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group have meant NATO — especially the United States — has been unable to leave Afghanistan after ending its combat operation at the end of 2014.

US President Barack Obama recently announced that he was slowing a planned draw down of US troops from Afghanistan from the current 9,800 to 8,400 by the end of the year. NATO officials did not say in Warsaw when the alliance's longest military engagement might end.

Efforts to engage with the Taliban are in disarray. The US in May killed the group's leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansour, in a drone strike in Pakistan. "Our call for peace is still in place, but only for those who call themselves Afghans, not for those who are used as tools by others," Ghani said.