



Bangladesh Position Paper

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I. Background Information on Country

Bangladesh, bordering the Bay of Bengal and located between Burma and India, is a country located in Southern Asia and spans 148,460 kilometers square and has a coastline of 580 kilometers. Approximately 70.1% of Bangladesh's land area is covered by agricultural land when 11.1% of its landmass is forest and the rest, 18.8%, is used for other purposes. With a population of 164,098,818, Bangladesh stands as the eighth most populous country in the world. 98% of Bangladesh's population is ethnically Bengali and 1.1% of the population consists of 27 indigenous ethnic groups. Islam bears 89.1%, Hinduism bears 10% and other religions such as Christianity and Buddhism bear 0.9 % of the country's religious diversity.

Bangladesh is relevant to the issue of the Durand Line due to its strong relations with Afghanistan and developing affairs with Pakistan. Even though the United States urged Bangladesh to send their troops to Afghanistan to fight with the Taliban yet Bangladesh didn't due to public and diplomatic disapproval. However, Bangladesh has been dynamically involved in the restoration process of Afghanistan after the war. Bangladesh has even offered to educate Afghan civil servants, police personnel, and diplomats in addition to forging a group of adept workforce. Bangladesh also helped Afghanistan get into various initiatives and programs of the SAARC. On the other hand, relations with Pakistan have been developing since after the Bangladesh Liberation War. After the latest election in Pakistan, with the help of the new president, Imran Khan ties between the two countries started normalizing, and most recently the Government of Pakistan removed all Visa requirements for Bangladeshi citizens.

98% of Bangladesh's import goods transported in containers are carried from the Chittagong port via the Bay of Bengal. Henceforth, the protection of sea lanes and maritime borders is essential for the nation's economic well-being. Bangladesh gives utter importance to marine relations and deals with maritime issues with regard to its national and international security policies due to the fact that such affairs also affect international trade and geopolitical conflicts with the littoral states of the Indian Ocean.

Bangladesh has suffered from state-sponsored terrorism, mainly in the past. It has been alleged that the Pakistani High Commission in Dhaka has supported the terrorist activities of the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) organization financially on more than one occasion. It was also speculated that Pakistani diplomatic official Mazhar Khan was involved with illegal conduct which also resulted in the support of



militant groups. Second secretary Farina Arshad was forced to relinquish their position by the Pakistani government after the continuous accusations which proved that he provided financial support for militants.

II. Past Achievements and Attempts of Country/Organization on the Issues

A. The question of the Durand Line:

- Bangladesh does not have a direct connection to the issue, so there is no achievement on the issue accomplished by Bangladesh.

B. Tackling maritime security threats in the Bay of Bengal:

- The Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training was an annual bilateral exercise conducted by the United States Pacific Fleet. Bangladesh actively took part in these pieces of training, where various shore and ashore activities were conveyed. Community service projects, ship boarding training, riverine warfare education, and dive training were given. Helicopter operations, shipboard communications, and maneuvering drills, surface gunnery exercises. and tactical freeplay operations were held at-sea.
- Bangladesh has established the Department of Shipping which is a government regulatory body responsible for maritime and shipping relations and specializes in maritime safety, security, and pollution and it includes different sub-branches such as the Department of Shipping, Chittagong Port Authority, Mongla Port Authority, Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation, Bangladesh Land Port Authority and Marine Academy.
- Bangladesh also holds DA Committee Meetings every two months where the security situation is appraised, measures are reviewed, novel security levels are set, and the functions of port security committees are reviewed.

C. Curbing state-sponsored terrorism in Southern Asia:

- Very few instances of state-sponsored terrorism were observed in Bangladesh and during such times the government of Bangladesh preferred dealing with these issues by negotiation with the relevant government.

III. Objectives, Aims and Possible Solutions Proposed by Country/Organization on the Issues

A. The question of the Durand Line:

- Since Bangladesh has repaired their relationships with Pakistan and already has a strong relationship with Afghanistan, Bangladesh would suggest the initiation of an international United Nations based and supervised platform where government officials from both parties will negotiate in



a peaceful environment and will be able to get a consultation from the United Nations when necessary.

B. Tackling maritime security threats in the Bay of Bengal:

- In order to avoid customs fraud, willing states in the BoB might convey cross-checks regarding the origins of products during import declarations, and cargo traffic should be systematically controlled and supervised by patrols in order to ensure the safety of products arriving at the region.
- For the sake of transporting information amongst the naval units and control centers efficiently, The Automatic Identification System (AIS) could be used. This way, the identification, tracking, and monitoring of shipping vessels will be eased. Data compiled from the AIS could be used for matters such as vessel tracking, traffic handling, and monitoring with the aid of AIS technology.
- An international definition of “piracy” should be determined as there are various definitions for piracy in different states, which helps people who commit piracy find legal loopholes and get away with the crimes they commit.

C. Curbing state-sponsored terrorism in Southern Asia:

- Bangladesh would suggest the establishment of a non-governmental intelligence agency by the United Nations where willing states will be expected to submit information and further research will be conducted by experts selected by the United Nations.



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