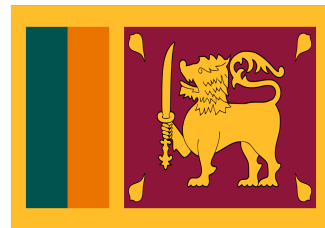




The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Position Paper

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I. Background Information on Sri Lanka

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, formerly known as Ceylon, is an island positioned in the Indian Ocean and is separated from the Indian territory by the Palk Strait. Before it emerged as an independent country in 1948, the nation was ruled by the Portuguese, Dutch and British, respectively. Even today, the influence they had over the region is undoubtedly noticeable.

Although the other Southern Asian countries and countries that managed to colonize the nation in the past have had a role in forming Sri Lanka's culture, the island's extraordinary civilization is a result of their conservancy of Theravada Buddhism and the system of irrigation. In addition to Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism are practiced in the region and play a critical role in determining Sri Lanka's foreign associations.

Taking Sri Lanka's geographical location and relationship with the countries noted as major parties into consideration, all three of the agenda items carry immense importance to ensure stability in Southern Asia. However, the nation is particularly interested in debating the security of the Bay of Bengal since most of its foreign exchange income is from maritime trade, and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is in control of. As mentioned, Sri Lanka's primary aim is to bring peace to the region and strengthen Southern Asian countries' diplomatic ties.

II. Past Achievements and Attempts of Sri Lanka on the Issues

A. The question of the Durand Line:

- Although Sri Lanka has not been involved in the problem of the Durand Line, the island has been working on strengthening its ties with both Afghanistan and Pakistan. Acknowledging the insecurity the border dispute has brought to Southern Asia and the presence of extremist forces such as the Taliban, it is the utmost desire of Sri Lanka for both sides to come to a mutual agreement about the problem.

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

- Sri Lanka has been a member of The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) since 1977. As an organization formed of seven countries dependent on the Bay of Bengal in South and Southeast Asia, BIMSTEC aims to encourage development cooperation in numerous areas amongst the countries in the region. Sri Lanka served as its chairman from 2002 - 2003 and then in between 2018 and 2020.



- Sri Lanka is working in coordination with the United States of America to enhance the safety of its maritime border. The Sri Lankan Coast Guard and Navy are being trained on applying maritime measures and security operations by the U.S. Coast Guard under the Department of State's Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program.
- Sri Lanka has cooperated with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Energy through the Megaports Initiative, an organization aiming to help countries improve their capability to monitor cargo at international seaports.
- The Sri Lankan Navy Special Boat Squadron and Fast Attack Flotilla are working together with the U.S. Department of Defense regarding the enhancement of the island's maritime security by developing their searching and seizing abilities.
- Sri Lanka has been a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) since 2007 and has emphasized the importance of maritime security to maintain peace at various times during the organization's regional conferences.
- Sri Lanka has held the Indian Ocean Rim Association Working Group's chairmanship on Maritime Safety and Security (WGMSS) since its establishment in 2018. During the First Meeting of WGMSS hosted by Sri Lanka in 2019, the provincial "MSS Work Plan" was finalized, and the Member States were given an opportunity to deliberate over their ideas and future strategies.

C. Curbing state-sponsored terrorism in Southern Asia:

- Sri Lanka adopted the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) in 1978 to eradicate terrorism and strive to stop extremist forces' financial aid. However, the nation is yet to focus and take action on the problem of state-sponsored terrorism.
- In 2006, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) managed to take advantage of the country's political turmoil and accused Sri Lanka of providing support to terrorism against the Tamil minority and the Sinhalese. The Government of Sri Lanka has made it crystal clear that these accusations are a way of LTTE trying to justify their actions.

III. Objectives, Aims and Possible Solutions Proposed by Sri Lanka on the Issues

A. The question of the Durand Line:

- Sri Lanka has not played a significant role in the border dispute between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Taking the relationship it has with both Afghanistan and Pakistan into consideration, the nation's only wish is to bring stability to the region without the decision negatively influencing their bilateral ties.
- Sri Lanka's proposal would be for the United Nations (UN) to hold peace talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan to reach a mutual agreement on the Durand Line. In contrast to their current activities in the region, this would allow them to form diplomatic relations.



- The Taliban has managed to take control over the area by taking advantage of the ongoing dispute. Their unlawful exercises must be precluded to prevent the situation from complexifying. Since Afghanistan and Pakistan are members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Sri Lanka encourages the organization to prioritize the Taliban's eradication as an agenda item.

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

- The Bay of Bengal carries immense political, cultural, and economic importance to Sri Lanka. Therefore, Sri Lanka's primary objective is to advance its maritime security measures and eliminate the possibility of the Southern Asian countries' welfare being damaged.
- Sri Lanka is in favor of broadening India and Myanmar's joint maritime surveillance exercises by authorizing further maritime patrols to abolish non-state parties such as pirates, smugglers, and terrorists.
- Taking the hotline established by Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines as an example, Sri Lanka would propose a hotline amongst Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Indonesia to expedite the coordinated guarding exercises and encourage information exchange on suspicious occurrences.

C. Curbing state-sponsored terrorism in Southern Asia:

- Sri Lanka recognizes the lack of communication and information on the question of state-sponsored terrorism. As a country that was accused of sponsoring terrorism because of The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)'s nefarious behavior, Sri Lanka sees gathering adequate and certain evidence and information exchange as a vital part of overcoming this obstacle. Transparency should be encouraged amongst the Member States.
- Financial Action Task Force (FATF)'s global guidelines to prevent money laundering and financial state support to terrorist organizations can be discussed through the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) to clarify the concept of state-sponsored terrorism.



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