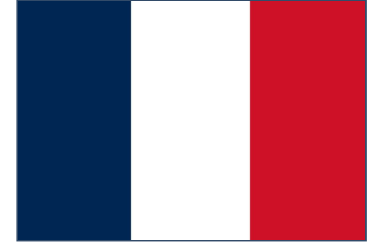




France Position Paper

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I. Background Information on France

France is located in Western Europe and has land borders with Germany, Belgium, Andorra, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Monaco, Italy, and Spain. It is 643.801 km² widespread including the lands overseas and has a coastline that is 4853 km long. France has a population of 68.084.217 people mostly residing in metropolitan France. The major religion in France is Catholic Christianity. France is one of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

There are several reasons for France to be involved in the issues in South Asia, the first is that France still has strong connections with its former colonies. Even though it is not well-known, France had colonies in South Asia as well: French Indochina. There are three countries in the old borders of French Indochina now (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia). Although France had distant relations with these countries because of their ideological differences, the status quo shows an improvement. Another reason is that France trades internationally all over the world and it has to protect and improve its trade with the states in South Asia. That's why maritime security in the Bay of Bengal is crucial for France.

France's involvement on the issue of the Durand line began in the last two centuries after France reestablished its relations with Afghanistan in 2002. There have been many state visits from 2002 to 2012 between the two nations, resulting in a Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. France also has improving relations with Pakistan when it comes to economics. There is a constant growth between the two nations' trade volume. On the other hand, although France stands for a bilateral solution on the Kashmir issue, it has always had closer relations with India than it had with Pakistan.

Due to its close relations with the states that are victims of state-sponsored terrorism (such as India) and its stance against violence, France has always condemned terrorist actions, especially the ones that are the products of governments.

II. Past Achievements and Attempts of France on the Issues

A. The question of the Durand Line:

- Due to its geographical distance and the issue being a regional one, France doesn't have many interests in the issue of the Durand Line and also hasn't done much except recognizing the current border.

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



- The Ministry of Armed Forces of France has suggested militaristic solutions, in order to increase the military capabilities of the littoral states, which will be necessary to take immediate action in case of an event threatening the maritime security. France has in many ways achieved these proposed aims/solutions to increase stability and also encouraged its fellow partners for the same. These solutions are:
 - the qualitative and quantitative strengthening of submarine forces;
 - the development of anti-ship and land-attack cruise missiles, with a focus on traditional area denial capabilities like mines;
 - the implementation of better C4ISR surveillance systems (satellites, radars, UAVs) intended to increase naval forces' vulnerability;
 - the deployment of air forces able to operate against more remote targets.
- France has always been committed to multilateralism and will maintain its support to operations and joint military exercises, in which it will also participate.

C. Curbing state-sponsored terrorism in Southern Asia:

- In 2018, France encouraged countries determined to identify and drain all the sources of terrorist financing. An international No Money for Terror Conference was organized, mainly to combat the financing of Al-Qaeda and Daesh. After the second No Money for Terror Conference in Australia, the hard work of the countries led by France paid off with the summary document called the Paris Agenda and with the first resolution ever to be adopted in the United Nations Security Council to combat financing the terrorist organizations.
- During its G7 presidency, fighting terrorist financing became one of the three counter-terrorism priorities.
- France constantly states its commitment to implement the Paris Agenda to its partners and encourages them to do so as well.
- France has always supported the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) since its establishment in Paris and increased its support in the last 5 years.

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

A. The question of the Durand Line:

- France aims to continue improving its relations with both countries and refrains from supporting only one side since the issue is a bilateral one and doesn't necessarily need the guidance of France to be solved.
- France wishes that a peaceful solution is found and both sides avoid using proxy militias/terrorists to enforce their demands.

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



- The Ministry of Armed Forces of France stated 4 strategic priorities when it comes to maritime security threats and its objective is to fulfill them. These 4 priorities are:
 - to defend and ensure the integrity of its sovereignty, the protection of its nationals, territories, and EEZ;
 - to contribute to the security of regional environments through military and security cooperation;
 - to maintain free and open access to the commons, in cooperation with its partners, in a context of global strategic competition and challenging military environments;
 - to assist in maintaining strategic stability and balances through a comprehensive and multilateral action.

C. Curbing state-sponsored terrorism in Southern Asia:

- France aims to increase its support to FATF as it has been doing these past years and believes that FATF will be able to serve as a global watchdog against money laundering and terrorist financing.
- France wishes to find a solution to the terrorist attacks and believes that the long-time rivals of India are worsening the status by financing the terrorist organizations.
- France hopes Member States remember their duty and act accordingly against state-sponsored terrorism, as stated in the UNSC resolution passed on 28 March 2019 regarding the issue.
- France believes that it is very urgent that the liberated and the damaged territories are stabilized and reconstructed. While the Member States, the UN and are working collaboratively to end the state-sponsored terrorism politically, it is crucial that the liberated areas are reintegrated into public use in daily life.



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