



## USA Position Paper

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### I. Background Information on the USA

The United States of America is located in North America bordering Canada in the north, Mexico in the south, the Atlantic Ocean in the east, and the Pacific Ocean in the west. The country spreads across a land surface of 9,147,593 square kilometers. The origin of the nation dates back to 1776 when 13 American colonies of the British Empire broke off the motherland, to be officially recognized as a sovereign nation with the Treaty of Paris in 1778. It could be said that after significant historical matters of fact such as the victories in both World Wars, and the results of the Cold War; the US remains a global power with a growing stable economy. (The World Factbook: United States) This position of power is the main reason for US involvement when it comes to global and local affairs all over the globe.

South Asia is an extremely strategic region considering natural sources such as oil in central Asia and the region hosting many important points for global commerce. It is also remarkable that Southern Asia is a really big market that is with an investment of all kinds. The presence of the economic super-powers of India and China, India only increases the importance of the region strategically. The other biggest reason for the US presence in the area would surely be the 9/11 attack. It was after 11 September 2001 that the US invaded Afghanistan and started extensive combat against terrorism in the region. It could easily be seen the uninterest for the region by the superpowers China and the United States after the Soviet withdrawal in 1989; resulted in the region becoming a terrorist haven, and threaten global security. Thus, it is in the United States' best interest to keep the region stable in order to support steady commerce and economic relations.

Also in the example of the Bay of Bengal, the situation is not much different. During the cold war, the Indian Sea hasn't hosted a competition between the economic superpowers. However, with the immense economic and industrial growth in China and India, new sources of energy, resources, and markets were needed, thus the Bay of Bengal was brought to attention. The United States intends to once again fight against maritime security threats to achieve sustainable relations in the region. This policy surely is in favor of the littoral states as their economies are highly dependant on the security of the region, and stable commercial and economic relations.



## II. Past Achievements and Attempts of the USA on the Issues

### A. The question of the Durand Line:

- Many military operations that the US took part in whether as a part of NATO, with Afghan forces, or as US Military on the Durand line, surely solidified the border between two states.
- United States stated on many occasions that in Durand Line Agreement, there was no expiration date mentioned therefore the US recognizes Durand Line as the official border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- In 2010, the US special envoy for Pakistan and Afghanistan stated that India and Afghanistan didn't have a shared border.
- In 2011, NATO forces and Pakistani soldiers got into combat, as a result, 24 Pakistani soldiers were killed.

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

- The start of bilateral drill called "Malabar" between Indian and US navies in 1992.
- 2016, US Secretary of State John Kerry expressed their close ties with the Indian Navy when it comes to the issue of the Bay of Bengal.
- In 2016, Japan was added to the Malabar series of exercises.
- Trump administration announced 64 million USD in order to support Bay of Bengal Security Funding.
- The recent passage exercise (PASSEX) conducted between the US and Indian navies.

### C. Curbing state-sponsored terrorism in Southern Asia:

- May 2012, Strategic Partnership Agreement was signed between Afghanistan and the United States of America
- NATO with the leadership of the US conducted International Security Assistance Force Mission (ISAF)
- The US conducted many bilateral counter-terrorism missions with Afghanistan.
- The US State Department's 2019 Country Report on terrorism alleged that Pakistan is continuing to be a safe haven for terrorists that are targeted against Afghanistan.

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

### A. The question of the Durand Line:

- Finding solutions that ease the process of dialogue and compromise between the states of Pakistan and Afghanistan is the top priority for the US. Mediation is seen as a must as it can be seen, in the



past, any form of dialogue without mediation failed to result in a solution. A summit with countries that are related to the issue such as NATO members, Nations of the European Union, India, Afghanistan, Pakistan could create a summit in order to discuss economic and humanitarian crises.

- After a decision it was made, safe migration between countries must be ensured in order to prevent humanitarian crises.
- As the region is a safe haven for global terrorism, a better solution regarding tackling terrorism as a globe must be found. The border could be secured by a neutral force.

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

- In order for the regulations for merchant ships to be more secure in a less violent way, the mentioned regulations must be updated via some sort of global dialogue. A conference would be the best option.
- Naval exercises and drills must be more extensive and more inclusive.
- The patrols of external forces that are not previously involved in the issue are not supported as this would surely create a strained economic environment and this instability would affect many states negatively.
- An intelligence service, that would include a call center could be formed in order to track down illegal activity and create reports in order to determine the most critical points in the region of the Bay of Bengal.

#### **C. Curbing state-sponsored terrorism in Southern Asia:**

- An investigation regarding the source of terrorism in the region is a must for the solution as both sides are claiming to be the victim. An objective group of experts connected to the UN, secured by some sort of military unit could be sent to the region.
- Counter-terrorism must be intensified in order to prevent all sorts of terrorism which would actually be an easier solution from one perspective as the aim is not specified in a way that makes the resolution harder yet still involves the targeted problem. Solutions similar to the problem of the Durand Line would work.



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