



China Position Paper İpek Ersöz



I. Background Information on China

China is the most populous country in the world, located in East Asia. China cowers approximately 9.6 million square kilometers and has a population of 1.4 billion people as of 2020. China is led by the Chinese Communist Party. With five autonomous regions, four direct-controlled municipalities, and two special administrative regions the country is divided into 23 provinces. The capital is Beijing and the most populous city is Shanghai, with most of the population not identifying with any religion.

China is highly involved in issues within Southern Asia due to its stance as the biggest economic powerhouse in the East. China has always been a country that supported peaceful negotiations between Afghanistan and Pakistan on the issue of the Durand Line. China values its cooperation with Pakistan with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and is willing to cooperate for a solution in the region. China acknowledges the significance of the Bay of Bengal on the economic and political relations in Southern Asia and is willing to cooperate to find solutions to the ongoing illegal activities in the region. A crucial issue in the region is state-sponsored terrorism which China condemns.

II. Past Achievements and Attempts of China on the Issues

A. The question of the Durand Line:

- China does not have direct involvement in the solution to the issue.
 - B. Tackling maritime security threats in the Bay of Bengal:
- China has cooperated with Bangladesh under Belt and Road Initiative in order to mitigate seaborn security threats in the Bay of Bengal.
- China is a signatory nation for Safety Of Life At Sea (SOLAS) as of 1980.
 - C. Curbing state-sponsored terrorism in Southern Asia:
- China is an observer state for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and has requested to become a member of the cooperation.

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

A. The question of the Durand Line:





- China would like to suggest diplomatic solutions to the issue rather than military action as it has proven to be ineffective. Peaceful negotiations between Pakistan and Afghanistan will be supported by China.
- No documents or resolutions have been proposed by PRC on the issue.

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

- China has been involved with Myanmar and Pakistan in order to strengthen the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and China Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) by developing Gwadar port and Kyaukpyu port respectively, both of which included in the Belt and Road initiative in the Indian Ocean.
- No documents or resolutions have been proposed by PRC on the issue.

C. Curbing state-sponsored terrorism in Southern Asia:

- China hopes to continue its involvement with SAARC and its wishes to join the cooperation.
- No documents or resolutions have been proposed by PRC on the issue.





III. Bibliography

Akbari, Hayat. "Durand Line Border Dispute Remains Point of Contention for Afghanistan-Pakistan Relations." *Global Security Review*, 8 June 2019,

https://globalsecurityreview.com/durand-line-border-dispute-contention-afghanistan-pakistan-relations/

Aneja, Atul. "Chinese President Xi Jinping Likely to Focus on Bay of Bengal during Myanmar Visit." *The Hindu*, The Hindu, 17 Jan. 2020,

www.thehindu.com/news/international/chinese-president-xi-jinping-likely-to-focus-on-bay-of-bengal-during-myanmar-visit/article30579025.ece.

China in the Bay of Bengal.https://thediplomat.com/tag/china-in-the-bay-of-bengal/

Diplomat, Arwin Rahi for The. "Why the Durand Line Matters." – *The Diplomat*, For The Diplomat, 21 Feb. 2014, https://thediplomat.com/2014/02/why-the-durand-line-matters/

Hakimi, Abdul Waheed. "Implications Of The Durand Line Dispute On Disagreements Between Afghanistan And Pakistan." *Afghanistan Justice Organization*,

www.afghanjustice.org/article/articledetail/implications-of-the-durand-line-dispute-on-disagreements-between-afghanistan-and-pakistan/blog.

Patranobis, Sutirtho. "Chinas New Focus on Bay of Bengal and to Cooperate, Compete with India." *Hindustan Times*, 27 Mar. 2014,

https://www.hindustantimes.com/world/china-s-new-focus-on-bay-of-bengal-and-to-cooperate-compete-with-india/story-shzw9ldJP28MPoRVHhNWsL.html

Rosand, Eric, et al. "Countering Terrorism in South Asia: Strengthening Multilateral Engagement." *Ipinst*, May 2009, www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/ct_in_south_asia_epub.pdf.

USIP China-South Asia Senior Study Group. "China's Influence on Conflict Dynamics in South Asia." *United States Institute of Peace*, 16 Dec. 2020,

www.usip.org/publications/2020/12/chinas-influence-conflict-dynamics-south-asia.