



UNESCAP Position Paper

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I. Background Information on UNESCAP

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) was founded on the 28th of March, 1947 and it is working under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) which was founded in 1946, United Kingdom. UNESCAP's headquarters is located in Bangkok, Thailand. This organization is qualified as the largest intergovernmental platform with 53 member states and 9 associate members.

Our organization is directly related to the Question of Southern Asia since the main goal of the establishment of this organization is for the conflicts taking place or that might take place in the future in Asia and the Pacific. There have been 5 sessions at the 4th forum on the implementation of the sustainable development goals for the 2030 agenda. Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the results caused by this crisis on Asia and the Pacific has been discussed at the forum as well and the "new normal" has been brought up, new measurements after the pandemic were discussed too. Also, our organizations' website includes up-to-date information which is regularly renewed and updated.

II. Past Achievements and Attempts of UNESCAP on the Issues

A. The question of the Durand Line:

- The question of the Durand Line has been an ongoing issue since the agreement between the British Indian government, Abdur Rahman Khan, and Sir Mortimer Durand in 1893. The border has been accepted internationally except in Afghanistan. Both Afghanistan and Pakistan have lost soldiers and civilians. Also, this uncertainty causes a huge impact on the economic side of the issue as well.

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

- An achievement by our organization took place in June 1997, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was established as an interregional grouping. This cooperation has two main goals: one being the Bay of Bengal and the second one being a larger gateway. UNESCAP being an interregional organization led to more specific and detailed research, achievements and solutions to be made upon this topic which is an advantage. This cooperation provides faster solutions and unique approaches because it is focused on this topic in Asia specifically. As Md. Shafiur Rahman has mentioned in his presentation "Its (BIMSTEC)



uniqueness lies in its structural process. BIMSTEC cooperation is focused on micro-issues (Sectoral cooperation) and gradually converging to macro-issues.” *. Also under the BIMSTEC, there is another sub-unit working for detailed solutions, which is called The BIMSTEC Transport Infrastructure and Logistics Study (BTILS). This sub-unit has offered 9 projects for various aviation project topics. Another improvement offered is access to deeper water to enable large vessels to call and the container handling performance at some of the key ports in the Bay of Bengal. BTILS recommendations include international frameworks, an “expert working group”, suggesting BIMSTEC should be effective for inviting member states to prioritize their development projects, BIMSTEC Secretariat is responsible for the coordination of all projects. 5 connectivity areas are being worked on including digital connectivity once digitality has become an important part of our lives.

C. Curbing state-sponsored terrorism in Southern Asia:

- Pakistan, India, United States of America are considered the countries that have the most effect on this particular issue. The former president of Pakistan has actually stated that Pakistan has supported and created terrorist attacks. After this statement of Asif Ali Zardari, both governmental and non-governmental organizations have found connections with terrorist groups and Pakistan. Unlike Pakistan, India generally has a role in border disputes. And these accusations are usually made by the Pakistani people because of the Indian-Pakistani border. The United States of America has a role, even though it is located in North America. The USA is told to be more active in Afghanistan, Arabic Peninsula, Iraq, Pakistan, both militarily and politically. It is believed that the USA has a part in the south-east Asia area because wants to have an impact not only in North America but around the world.

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

A. The question of the Durand Line:

- Our organization has been working on every single aspect of the issue including every conflict around Asia and the Pacific, yet we are still debating on this topic for sustainable and resistant solutions. We aim for two major countries to find the middle way and work on further improvements, prevent losses and recover from the past.

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

- This issue has been improved a lot ever since the establishment of our sub-unit named UTILS and many developments have been made and are still being made. We have further elaborated our point in section B. of section II.

C. Curbing state-sponsored terrorism in Southern Asia:



- UNESCAP has been working on this topic ever since it was first brought up. The Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) Declaration, also known as the Bangkok Declaration, many meetings and conferences took place, and many discussions were made, and still in the process of being made.



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