



## The Republic of India Position Paper

Cem Özarda



### I. Background Information on India

India is located in southern Asia and has a total area of approximately 3,287,263 km<sup>2</sup> and borders to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, China, Nepal, and Pakistan adding up to a land boundary of 13,888 km (This statement is made without the consideration of the disputed claims of an Afghan-Indian border, as it is not widely not recognized).

India is currently estimated to be populated by 1,339,330,514 citizens, claiming second place right after China in the world's most populated countries. Ethnic and religious, and cultural variation is very high in India, with %15 of the population being Muslim and there being 22 official languages, none of which have usage rates higher than 50%.

India gained independence from the British Empire on August 15, 1947, when British India split, forming India and Pakistan. The division took place based on religion, the intention being for Pakistan to have a majority of Muslims and India that of Hindus. Even though this continues to be the case, India has disputes with most of its bordering nations, including Pakistan.

Economically thanks to the sheer workforce India represents one of the giants in the world; although India is still technically considered to be a third world country, or rather one that is developing one has to take the political and economical power India holds very seriously.

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

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

- The Durand Line agreement was reached between British India and the Emirate of Afghanistan on November 12, 1983.
- Despite the lack of any legal documents, Indian officials claim to have a 106 km short-border with Afghanistan.

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

- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was formed



- The Manmohan Singh government had almost settled the land boundary issue between India and Bangladesh in 2012, but it wasn't ratified by the government; this later on led to the maritime dispute between said nations having to be resolved by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), whose verdict was mostly accepted by both parties.

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

- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Dec. 19, 1966, 999 U.N.T.S. 171 was ratified by India, April 10, 1979.
- The International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Dec. 9, 1948, 78 U.N.T.S. 277 was ratified by India, August 27, 1959.
- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Mar. 7, 1966, 660 U.N.T.S. 195 was ratified by India, December 3, 1968.
- All four Geneva Convention decisions were ratified on separate dates.

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

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

- Keeping in mind that the Durand Line Agreement signed in 1893 did not entail a clear separation of two sovereign states, either the claims of Pakistan must be reestablished based on different agreements, or several borders should be affirmatively redefined by all states that have claims on the mentioned region.

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

- Within the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), representatives from each littoral state in the Bay of Bengal should be proportionate to the area of their EEZ in order to find solutions to and take initiatives against any illegal acts like trafficking and overfishing - without losing the inherent dominance of some governments when the pure area is put into play. For bigger acts, however, a front of united navy forces in the area should be utilized; like those of India and the USA, littoral states should come together and practice defense scenarios in the aforementioned bay that is getting more valuable by the minute.
- The imperialism endeavors of nations far away from their mainland must be resolved by way of cooperation between states adjacent to the Bay of Bengal; conflict and rising tensions in our local Bay - the source of life for several littoral states and their peoples - between the US and China could be resolved by a more authoritarian approach to waters that are indisputably ours.

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

- Religious radicalization could be curbed by widespread media censorship.



- Border conflicts like the Durand Line should be revised and revisited by governments by virtue of negotiations, not militias and armies.
- Drone striking and other war-based solutions only leave bigger scars in inhabitants' lives and in turn lead to vicious circles of violence caused poverty and poverty caused violence. As such tampon zones and evacuation methods, humanitarian methods to be concise should be considered instead of the typical arms race.



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