



## United Kingdom of Great Britain Position Paper

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### I. Background Information on Country

The United Kingdom is an island nation located in northwest Europe. It's made up of England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, which is a part of the island of Ireland. As one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, United Kingdom has always been an influential country. It should also be noted that the UK is the founder of the British Commonwealth of Nations and had been an active member of the European Union up until its departure.

The UK has strong historical ties with the region of South Asia and continues to be of great influence there. Even though there was a period in which relations with former colonies of the British Empire worsened, that is not the case today. The UK believes that the region of South Asia is of great geopolitical significance, and will continue to become more and more economically critical as time passes. That is the exact reason why the issues concerning South Asia should be resolved as soon and swiftly as possible as the region transitions into a great economic hub.

### II. Past Achievements and Attempts of Country/Organization on the Issues

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

- While the modern United Kingdom isn't of major significance in the issue, it is important to note that The Durand Line Agreement was signed between the British government and Afghanistan at a time in which Pakistan was a part of India and India was a British colony.
- The UK recognizes the Durand Line as the official border between Afghanistan and Pakistan as Pakistan was recognized as a legal successor of the Government of India by the House of Commons and the Queen of England.

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

- As an island nation, the UK finds maritime security of great importance and has achieved great feats in ensuring security on the sea.
- While the United Kingdom has no official ties to the Bay of Bengal, the historical significance, as well as the increasing economic and strategic importance of the area not only limited to the littoral states, shows that the issue needs discussion.



- The UK was a part of the European Union's initiative to reduce piracy in the Indian Ocean (also known as the European Union Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) Somalia). While this naval operation was not focused on the Bay of Bengal, it is a great example of what can be done to prevent piracy.
- Considering that the UK has an overseas territory in the Indian Ocean, maritime safety for all vessels passing through the Bay of Bengal becomes much more important.

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

- In the past, the UK has claimed that Pakistan supports acts of terrorism.
- As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the UK has taken part in many important discussions regarding state-sponsored terrorism and has voted in favor of adopting resolutions such as S/RES/1373.
- The UK defines the Jammu and Kashmir conflict as a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan. Hence, the panel shouldn't try to impose any solutions or take sides, instead choosing to advise the two states towards reconciliation and eventually finding a bilateral solution.

### III. Objectives, Aims and Possible Solutions Proposed by Country/Organization on the Issues

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

- The UK hopes that involved parties can agree in accepting the Durand Line as the official border between Afghanistan and Pakistan per the uti possidetis juris principle that dictates that newly sovereign states should retain their borders as they were before their independence.
- The United Kingdom will not tolerate any solutions that will cause an increase in security concerns on the border.
- International mediation seems to be the most plausible solution and the UK believes that the interests of both parties should be considered to a certain extent without overlooking legal precedents such as *Burkina Faso v Mali*.
- The issue could be brought to the UN Security Council and then to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for an advisory opinion as stated in Article 96 of the UN Charter. This might help alleviate Afghanistan's concerns about the legality of the border.

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

- The UK believes that a Code of Conduct resembling the Djibouti Code of Conduct can be created for the Bay of Bengal with the support of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- The trade in the area mustn't be hindered as a result of any agreement reached to protect the interests of all states involved.
- Ensuring port security is an important step in improving maritime safety, and working with littoral states towards the advancement of security in ports may reduce any smuggling activity.



- Trying to cut financial supporters of pirates is another option states have, yet this is a taxing solution that requires states' intelligence agencies to function exceptionally well, and might not be realistic.
- India's Sagar Mala initiative may be a good example for littoral states to follow as the project attempts to improve maritime infrastructure which would in turn aid maritime security.
- It might be in the nations' best interest to create a national strategy for maritime security as the UK has. This would give each state the necessary amount of autonomy to determine its own action plan.

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

- The UK is a firm believer in the fact that the reasons why states may subvert to causing disturbances in the area shouldn't be overlooked and working on alleviating the reasons first.
- Considering the claims made by all parties in the most unbiased way possible might be a way to solve the issue, however, it should be noted that pointing fingers might only aggravate states further and drive discussion away from fruitfulness.
- To solve the issue of state-sponsored terrorism in the area, panelists should first consider the conflicts in the area and advise states to work towards solving said conflicts.
- While the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNSC-CTC) hasn't been overly effective when trying to solve state-sponsored terrorism, it should be noted that S/RES/1373 requires that member states report to the committee regarding their counterterrorism capacities, and this can be a great resource for assessing the current situation in South Asia and developing a strategy.



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