



Afghanistan Position Paper

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I. Background Information on Country

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, also known as Afghanistan, is a landlocked country located in South Asia. Afghanistan shares borders with Pakistan on the east and south; Iran on the west; Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan on the north; and lastly China on the northeast. Kabul is the capital and largest city. The population of Afghanistan is approximately 38 million according to the statistics of the World Bank. The significant ethnic groups present in the country include Pashtuns, Tajiks, Hazaras, and Uzbeks. The country has two official languages which are Afghan Persian and Dari language. Islam is the state religion according to the Afghan constitution. Even though the country is largely comprised of Muslims, they were divided between the Sunnis and Shi'ites with nearly 89% of the population being Sunni and 10% Shia ("The World Factbook: Afghanistan").

There are many reasons why Afghanistan is involved in the issue with regard to Southern Asia, the first being Afghanistan's geographic location. Since Afghanistan is a country at the crossroads of Central and South Asia, the issues directly affect the country. Moreover, Afghanistan is also a member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) alongside Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan ("SAARC").

Another aspect of Afghanistan's involvement in this issue is concerning the country's actions towards the Durand Land. Afghanistan along with Pakistan has a long history regarding the Durand Land. Therefore, the Durand Land possesses huge concerns of security. Afghanistan has taken military action in order to ensure its security in the region. However, the diplomatic actions taken regarding this issue is inadequate and thus it still threatens Afghanistan's national security as well as the peace in Southern Asia as a whole.

II. Past Achievements and Attempts of Afghanistan on the Issues

A. The question of the Durand Line:

- In the year 1893, Afghanistan and British India reached a consensus on the issue and signed the Durand Line Agreement.
- In August 1976, Afghan President Daoud Khan officially recognized the Durand Land as the legitimate border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.



- In 2011, the Afghan government took military action in the Durand Land in order to ensure their own safety but clashes with the Pakistani army occurred.
- In 2017, United Nations Security Council's 8147th Meeting took place and the representative of Afghanistan brought up the issue regarding the Durand Land. However, after the meeting, no further action was taken by the United Nations.

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

- Since Afghanistan is a landlocked country and thus has no coasts, the country is not directly involved with the issue. Therefore no major action was taken by the country in regards to maritime security.

C. Curbing state-sponsored terrorism in Southern Asia:

- The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), with the assistance of the Global Center on Cooperative Security and other partners, has been assisting South Asia in these efforts in a unique and concrete fashion for over a decade by organizing regional workshops, seminars, etc. in order to bring together, judges, prosecutors, and police officers. Notably, Afghanistan has been actively participating in such workshops and seminars ("South Asia Regional Toolkit for Judges"). However, these attempts failed to tackle the issue effectively.
- On 10 March 2016, the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee organized an open briefing on the special role that Supreme Court Justices play in strengthening States' capacity in the effective adjudication of complex terrorism cases. Supreme Court Justices from many countries including Afghanistan participated in this briefing with regards to showing effort to solve the issue at hand ("South Asia Regional Toolkit for Judges").

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

A. The question of the Durand Line:

- Afghanistan hopes for a resolution that recognizes the power Afghanistan possesses on the Durand Land under international law.
- Afghanistan encourages the United Nations to mediate peace talks by organizing bilateral conferences and meetings with Pakistan and Afghanistan with the aim of reaching a consensus.
- Afghanistan invites the Indian government to collaborate with Afghanistan and Pakistan on the issue.
- Afghanistan calls for a referendum in the regions where the Pashtun people are a majority on the question of if they want their own sovereign state and urge the Pakistani government to do so as well.



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

- Afghanistan highly encourages the Member States of The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and the five littoral states of the Bay of Bengal to increase their forces in the region to reduce the illicit activities and threat in order to bring peace to the Bay of Bengal.
- Afghanistan highlights the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) in order to restore the rule of law in the region.

C. Curbing state-sponsored terrorism in Southern Asia:

- Afghanistan urges the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) to conduct investigations on intelligence services that publicize their findings of the relevant Member States.
- Afghanistan further encourages the establishment of an organization under the supervision of the United Nations with the aim of investigating the claims of the nations on an objective basis.
- Afghanistan invites the Member States in Southern Asia to cooperate with each other in order to ease the tensions in the region.



IV. Bibliography

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