



Thailand Position Paper

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I. Background Information on Thailand

The Kingdom of Thailand -formerly known as Siam- is a country located on the Indo-China Peninsula; bordering Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, and Malaysia. Thailand has a population of 69.4 million citizens with a Buddhist majority and its capital is the city of Bangkok, which is also the most industrialized city. Thailand is the only country in South Asia to have not been invaded by Western powers.

Thailand has adopted a constitutional monarchy. While the king did not suffer any deprivation of power, the constitutional aspect of the government has struggled throughout history to achieve stability. It only transitioned to multiparty democracy in 1992 after military rule. This only lasted until 2006 when the acting prime minister was overthrown by the military after allegations of corruption. After mass protests, elections were held in 2011. The 2011 government was once again dissolved by a coup d'état in 2014. After several reforms and the acceptance of a new constitution in a referendum in 2016, general elections were held in 2019 for the first time since 2014.

Thailand established diplomatic relations with Pakistan in 1951, and cooperation has kept increasing throughout the years. The two governments have signed several bilateral treaties on investment and trade. Thailand has exported 1.14 billion dollars worth of products to Pakistan. Thailand also engages in trade with Afghanistan but the amount of exports has decreased significantly from 2011. The border conflict harms both countries' economies and hence concerns Thailand as they are trade partners.

Thailand is located on the Bay of Bengal and has exported 1.85 billion US dollars worth of fish; 6.69 billion US dollars worth of meat, fish, and seafood preparations; 14.75 billion dollars worth of pearls and precious stones. Thailand also has suffered from maritime border disputes with Vietnam and Cambodia. The dispute with Vietnam has been resolved. However, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) case of "The Temple of Preah Vihear" is ongoing with Cambodia. Therefore, the issue of the maritime security threats in the Bay of Bengal is of the utmost importance.

Terrorism has been a threat to nations' welfare and livelihood for years. Thailand has suffered significantly from the jihadist movement of the southern Muslim insurgency in its Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat, and Songkhla provinces. There have also been bombings on the capital city of Bangkok, most recently in 2015, 2017, and 2019. Therefore, we think that strengthening militias will only harm stability and



economic growth in the region. Thailand is close allies in trade with both India and Pakistan. Thus, we also hope to facilitate easing tensions between the two aforementioned states.

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

A. The question of the Durand Line:

- Thailand has not been very active concerning this issue except for engaging in trade with both parties. We hope to change that during this meeting of the APQ.

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

- Thailand is a member of The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).
- Thailand has participated in the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise with the United States of America.
- Thailand has ratified The Law of The Sea on 15 May 2011.
- Thailand has cooperated with the UNHCR in order to train its navy in combatting piracy.
- The Royal Thai Navy conducts regular exercises and patrols Thailand's EEZ.

C. Curbing state-sponsored terrorism in Southern Asia:

- The Kingdom of Thailand has ratified "The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism" on 29 September 2004.
- Thailand has abided by the rules determined in the aforementioned treaty and has refrained from supporting terrorist groups.

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

A. The question of the Durand Line:

- The expert of Thailand recommends the government of Afghanistan and the international community to take action against the Taliban which is present on the border and causes conflict with the Pakistani army.
- The action from the international community could be in the form of assigning UN Peacekeepers to the region.
- Regarding the ethnopolitical aspect of the dispute, Thailand believes that a measure similar to the exchange that took place between Greece and Turkey after Turkey's War for Independence could be undertaken with the Pashtun people.
- An organization could be formed to educate and integrate Pashtuni people into Afghan society.



- Otherwise, the region of the Pashtuns could be determined as a neutral zone like The Golan Heights.
- Additionally, local referendums could be held with the inspection of Afghan, Pakistani, Indian, and UN officials to determine the fate of the Pashtuns.
- The organization mentioned in our proposed solutions for the third issue could conduct an extensive investigation into Pakistan's involvement with the Taliban and India's alleged allegiance with the Balochistan Liberation Army.
- We encourage Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, and the US to take part in an international conference on peace, decreasing their military expansion on the border with the mediation of the UN. We believe that Thailand could adopt an important role in the negotiations as an unbiased state who has advanced diplomatic ties with all relevant states.
- We believe that the economic reconciliation due to the war could be executed through funding or educational projects.

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

- Since maintaining maritime security on land is both expensive and challenging, the expert of Thailand recommends that littoral countries should increase inspections and protection on their land borders and ports in order to curb the trafficking of illegal substances.
- We believe that the economic welfare of the relevant states such as Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Indonesia, and Thailand would ease the tensions in the region. The UN Food Program and UNICEF could organize a campaign to provide basic needs to the citizens of the aforementioned states in order to prevent the enslavement of citizens by maritime pirates. Furthermore, the UN could establish a specific organization focused on the economic growth of the region, such as their establishment of UNKRA after the Korean War. In addition to our previous proposal, we believe that the cooperation of the UN and the littoral states to conduct training for different sectors than maritime activities will decrease competition in the region by redirecting and resurrecting the economies.
- The Thai government does not believe that corruption is relevant to maritime security. It is up to each individual government to secure their ports through their military, looking into corruption in the governments in the region is both unnecessary and interferes with the sovereignties of the states.
- The expert of Thailand requests the UN to commence an educational program informing the law enforcement agencies of contiguous zones and methods in fighting piracy, similar to Thailand's joint program with the UNHCR.
- We also believe that states like Somalia who benefit economically benefit from pirates' raids and aid abet their crimes by hosting them in their ports are critical in solving this issue since it is a known fact that maritime pirates have a network and have cooperated in the past. An international task



force could be placed on their ports, or an international organization could keep the records of the ships entering Somalia. We believe that such sponsors states should be sanctioned if they do not cooperate.

- The expert of Thailand also recommends other states to resolve maritime border disputes through diplomatic relations or the ICJ since clearer borders will contribute to sustainability.

C. Curbing state-sponsored terrorism in Southern Asia:

- The expert of Thailand believes that “The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism” is an elaborate document that also refers to other international documents such as “The Montreal Convention on Civil Aviation” as reference. We urge all states to ratify the convention.
- We affirm that there is an obvious need for an independent organization investigating state-sponsored terrorism. The establishment of a multinational organization which takes the “The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism” as its legal basis.
- We urge India and Pakistan to resolve their conflict regarding this issue in the ICJ. Additionally, we encourage the US to do the same with the People’s Republic of China.
- The expert thinks that the US should engage in diplomatic negotiation with Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, India to ease tensions and to prevent a similar outcome as Syria.
- Thailand requests that it is investigated if the Muslim insurgency in the southern provinces is financed by certain states.



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