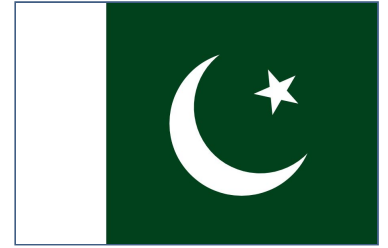




## Pakistan Position Paper

Buse Koldaş



### I. Background Information on Pakistan

Pakistan, a country located in South Asia which neighbors Iran, Afghanistan, China, and India and occupies an area of 796,095 square kilometers, is known to be the world's fifth-most populous country ("The World Factbook: PAKISTAN"). Known to be a multicultural and ethnically diverse country, 96.4% of Pakistan's population consists of Muslims and ranks it as the second-most Muslim populated country with 194,723,701 people ("Population of Pakistan (2021)").

Pakistan's position in the Advisory Panel is highly critical as all topics that will be discussed and resolved in this panel are close concerns of the country. Specifically, the issue of the Durand Line directly interferes with the nation's authority on the area in question where the ethnic group Pashtuns are located. Additionally, violent and intermittent skirmishes impact the populations living close to the border. The tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan is the primary reason for this conflict and an issue that has been going on since Pakistan gained its independence in 1947.

The country hasn't been recognized by Afghanistan and was approached in a way that hampered many solution opportunities, as can be understood from the fact that Afghanistan was the only member nation to vote against Pakistan's membership in the United Nations (Kaura). It is also worth noting that Pakistan's partnership with the United States of America while Afghanistan had chosen to develop diplomatic relationships with the Soviet Union during the Cold War era slowed down to resolve the issue between the two countries ("Pakistan and Afghanistan").

Another topic that highly interests Pakistan is terrorism activities. The situation is in fact extremely serious that the South Asia Terrorism Portal states that the country had gone through 319 incidents related to terrorism and 169 civilians lost their lives, even though the number had declined dramatically since 2013 as, during that time, nearly 4,000 incidents occurred with more than 2,700 civilian deaths (Afzal). From the military strength aspect, the nation is ranked as the tenth most powerful country in the world ("Pakistan Military Strength (2021)").



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

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

- When Pakistan was still a part of India, the border was drawn by the British Empire. An agreement was signed between the former Indian Foreign Secretary, Sir Mortimer Durand, and, former Emir of Afghanistan, Amir Abdur Rahman Khan (Rahi).
- Afghanistan's demand regarding giving the Pashtuns at the Pakistani side the right of self-determination was refused by Pakistan along with Britain (Kaura).
- By means of the positive relationships between the United States of America and Pakistan, the Pakistani military adapted a growing military power (Rahi).
- Pakistan had sent troops to shell the Pakistani territory and was accused of interfering in the eastern regions of Afghanistan.

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

- Since Pakistan does not have a direct connection to the issue, there are no achievements of Pakistan about this issue.

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

- Pakistan released "irrefutable proofs" of India's sponsorship of terrorism and "rogue behavior by a state that refuses to adhere to international laws and UN Conventions" on November 14, 2020 (Hughes).
- The Anti-Terrorism Act (1997), which is "an act to provide for the prevention of terrorism, sectarian violence and for speedy trial of heinous offenses".

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

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

- Pakistan calls the Afghan government to recognize the Durand Line.
- Pakistan proposes to declare peace in the area with the involved parties until a successful negotiation or a failed compromise takes place.
- Pakistan asks for international mediation and takes a trusted and neutral organization or nation to assume this responsibility.
- Pakistan wishes for the United States of America's support for the resolution of this issue.

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

- Pakistan wishes the security forces to be strengthened and hopes to see more strict regulations to be put in place.



- Pakistan encourages the Member Nations to pay special attention to not create an unequal distribution of authority over the bay.

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

- Pakistan hopes to see answers from India about the allegation that the country may be “working with some Balochi groups in Pakistan to cause unrest and to strike at targets such as the CPEC” (Hughes).
- Pakistan primarily wishes to construct productive and long-term solutions to the problem.
- Pakistan promotes the creation of a committee under the United Nations to investigate the claims and, therefore, arrive at a conclusion.



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