



SOFIMUN
Sofia International Model United Nations

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"Search Of Future Ideas, Models Us Now"

COMMITTEE:
SECURITY COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON:
DAVID MEIJER & ADELINA ANDREEVA

TOPIC: (B)
AFGHANISTAN - PAKISTAN

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (SC)



The Security Council has primary responsibility, under the Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is so organized as to be able to function continuously, and a representative of each of its members must be present at all times at United Nations Headquarters.

When a threat against international peace is brought to the attention of the Security Council, the council first attempts to negotiate a settlement between the disputing parties. The council may use its own member delegations, refer the issue to discussion in the General Assembly, or appoint the Secretary-General, the head of the United Nations, to act as mediator. It may set forth principles for a peaceful settlement as well.

If no peaceful agreement can be reached, and the disputing factions use violence, intimidation, or force, the Security Council can then enact policy resolutions to solve the conflict or restore peace. Sometimes this policy includes economic sanctions such as trade embargoes or prohibitions on governments borrowing from international funds. Under the Security Council regulations, however, humanitarian aid can never be withheld from any nation or group of people. The Security Council also reserves the right to recommend expulsion of any UN member state in gross violation of the UN charter and international law, though the dismissal must be voted on and passed in the General Assembly.

The Security Council is the only United Nations organization that can authorize military action and maintain a military-trained peacekeeping force. In violent international dispute, the Security Council can send intervening peacekeeping troops to secure areas in turmoil.

The Security Council is further responsible for overseeing compliance with international agreements involving weapons, the rules of engagement (conduct during war), the illegal spread of nuclear technology, and other threats to international peace. To enforce these treaties, such as international agreements on nuclear non-proliferation, the Security Council can authorize UN-led inspections of a nation's military arsenal. In addition, the Security Council can order sanctions or authorize military action.

More at: www.un.org/Docs/sc



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Topic B: Afghanistan - Pakistan - summary

In the recent years, the tribal areas along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border present a number of challenges for both countries and for the international community. This no-man's land has become home base for a new generation potential terrorists. In fact, Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) consist of seven districts, namely Bajaur, Momand, Khyber, Orakzai, Kurrum, and North and South Waziristan, and have been used by Al-Qaeda and pro-Taliban militants as "safe haven" to launch attacks against Afghanistan.

Topic B: Afghanistan - Pakistan - background guide

RISE OF THE TALIBAN

Back in the 1980s, it was the US, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia that supported the anti-communist mujahedeen and provided them with billions of dollars' worth of arms and ammunition to fight against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. During this time, the mujahedeen together with Pushtuns- religious students who visited madrassas – Pakistani religious schools, formed a Muslim fundamentalist group, later known as the Taliban. After the Soviet withdrawal in 1989, the Afghans were left with a devastated country. One million have died during the ten-year occupation. However, only three years later the civil war was present, fueled by the neighboring countries trying to carve out areas of influence. At this time the Taliban emerged in Afghan politics and in 1996 they captured Kabul.



The Taliban's goal was to set up the world's most pure Islamic State, banning frivolities like TV, music, cinema. Public executions and amputations were introduced. Regulations forbidding girls from attending school and women from working were settled. Women's access to health care was restricted. This rigid interpretation of Islam covered Afghanistan and came into a conflict with the international community. In this respect, several resolutions, including UNSCR 1193 from August 28, 1998 and UNSCR 1214 from December 8, 1998 UNSC, urged the Taliban to end the abusive treatment of women.

However, not only has the Taliban's ruling been associated with the violation of human rights, but also with the protection it has provided to Osama bin Laden as a guest in their country. By providing save- harbor to Al-Qaeda in 1996, the trans-border issue with Pakistan was established. The FATA were ill-controlled and were used by terrorists as training camps to indoctrinate, recruit, and prepare for operations. The pressure placed by the international community on the Taliban has increased progressively after the 1998 bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, for which bin Laden has been the principal suspect in the



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attacks. In October 1999, the UN Security Council imposed sanctions against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, freezing funds and restricting travel of the groups' members. The sanctions have been updated seven times since, most recently with Resolution 1822 adopted in June 2008. Unfortunately these measures proved to be ineffective over the years since the Taliban's refusal to yield Osama bin Laden has persisted. Although the Taliban was officially recognized as Afghan government only by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, it gained power and by 2001 it controlled some 90% of Afghanistan territory.

POST 11-SEPTEMBER EFFORTS

In the aftermath of 11th September, 2001, the purpose for the international community was clear - to capture Osama bin Laden and to ouster the Taliban regime. In September, 2001 the Security Council adopted Resolution 1373 specifically placing barriers on the movement between borders, transfer of weapons, as well as the organization and fund-raising activities of terrorist groups. In November, 2001, the UN played a central role in establishing a transnational administration and inviting member states to send peacekeeping forces to promote stability and aid delivery. At the conference in Bonn one month later, UNSCR 1386 authorized the establishment of an international peace keeping force to maintain security. The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was created to operate in conjunction with the Afghan Security Forces. However, this measure set the beginning of the Afghanistan war.



Protected by the geographical complexity of the region, the Taliban has managed to find refuge in FATA and has proven resilient. The group has been relying heavily also on the illegal drug industry in Afghanistan that accounted of around 53% of total export value annual GDP in 2007. The UNODC made some progress in fighting it by offering alternative crops and targeting the big producers, but still the revenues of illicit crops are the financial backbone of the Taliban. It appears that the greatest direct threat to the United States comes from Al Qaeda activities in this destitute region, autonomous and ill-controlled by Pakistan.

Thus, after the attack of 11 September, 2001 a considerable importance of fighting the Taliban was given to Pakistani government. A complete turnaround was necessary to make the policy of the Pakistani consistent with the international community. From 60000 Pakistani Islamic students, $\frac{3}{4}$ were educated in Pakistani madrassahs and have fought in Afghanistan for the Taliban. In order to offset the discomfort of being wedged between hostile neighbors- India and Iran, Pakistan has used the Taliban as their vehicle to dominate over Afghanistan. Having spent the last 7 years providing military, political and financial support to the Taliban, now Pakistan had to turn and help the US bomb the Taliban leadership and deliver Osama bin Laden.

In the last years, Pakistan provided the United States with requested access to Pakistani airspace, ports, airfields. Pakistan has also arrested hundreds of Al Qaeda fighters fleeing



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Afghanistan and turned them over to the United States. However, 2008 was the deadliest year, for Afghan civilians, for international and Afghan troops. In fact, it showed that not only has the Taliban remained a cultural force in the region after the group's ouster in 2001, but that it has also become stronger. In June, 2008 coordinated suicide bombings freed 400 Taliban fighters from a prison in Kandahar. However, it is believed that partly the neighbor was facilitating the situation. Furthermore, in November 2008 it was a Pakistani militant organization that was accused to have planned and directed the terrorist attacks in Mumbai. It became apparent that Pakistani government was losing its stability and that Musharraf's regime was unable to handle the borders and the insurgents properly anymore.

THE ROAD AHEAD



Since President Obama came to power, Afghanistan was put high on the agenda again. In May, 2009 a meeting between President Barak Obama, Afghanistan's Hamid Karzai and Pakistan's Asif Ali Zardar was held in Washington. Considering the interconnections between those two countries, the leaders of both Afghanistan and Pakistan came to combine efforts to combat Taliban resurgence in their countries. Furthermore, the US promised to avoid civilian casualties in Afghanistan after more than 100 Afghan civilians had been killed in a series of US air strikes. However, the solution of the trans-border issue appears to be more complicated since other regional players, such as Iran, Russia, the former Soviet Republics in Central Asia also

widen the problem. The presidential elections approaching in August, 2009 in Afghanistan are the challenge that would be deterministic for the future of the country.

With Afghanistan devastated after more than 20 years of warfare, it is clear that new diplomatic efforts should be made in order to turn the country into a successful story.

The UN offers a solid foundation to build on. A variety of measures, some with success, some with flaws, were tried out. To evaluate them and to find the perfect mix, the Security Council is convened. Your time has come.

