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Security Council

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Topic A: The conflict in Kashmir

Topic B: Uyghur repression in Xinjiang

Committee overview:

The Security Council is one of the main six organs of the United Nations. It is the committee which primary objective is to maintain peace and security where these elements may be at risk. The Security Council is conformed by fifteen members, five of which are permanent members (China, France, Russian Confederation, the United Kingdom and the United States), and the remaining ten are elected with a two-year terms.

“Under the United Nations Charter, the functions and powers of the Security Council are:

- to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- to recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- to formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- to call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- to take military action against an aggressor;
- to recommend the admission of new Members;
- to exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.”

(United Nations, n.d.)



The first session the Security Council held was on January 17 of 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London. (United Nations, n.d.). Since then, the council has taken a permanent locale in New York City, at the United Nations Headquarters, but also held sessions in other countries such as Ethiopia, Panama, and Switzerland. A representative of each country must be always present at the headquarters so the Council can meet anytime, when a problem emerges.

This organ has attended and concealed many problems that put at risk the international peace and security, and is constantly seeking for options where everyone is in accordance.

When a problem is threatening security and peace, it is brought to the Security Council and it usually recommends to make a peaceful agreement, by setting strong principles, make an investigation about it, and dispatching a mission to assign important envoys.



Quorum:

1. Arab Republic of Egypt
2. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
3. Federal Republic of Germany
4. French Republic
5. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
6. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
7. Japan
8. Kingdom of Belgium
9. People's Republic of China
10. Republic of India
11. Republic of Kazakhstan
12. Republic of Turkey
13. Russian Federation
14. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
15. United States of America



Topic A: The conflict in Kashmir

A. Brief Information on the Topic

The Kashmir conflict between India and Pakistan has been active since 1947, it started because both countries claimed this region as theirs and were unable to get to an agreement, until the United Nations intervened and divided the territory. Although the UN has advised both states to take pacific actions and cease the fire, the nations are still unable to find a durable solution. The main communities affected in this conflict are the Kashmiri people, having to deal living in the contested land, being under the threats of terror and having an extensive list of dead people because of the conflict.

This conflict has had many consequences, for one, many Kashmiri people feel strongly about independence or even uniting to Pakistan. Also, there exists concern because the three nations in dispute: China, India and Pakistan, are owners of nuclear weapons. Although the problem revolves more around India and Pakistan, it must be mentioned that China is also an active member of this discussion as it manifests that there has been a large quantity of transgressions “which indicates that each side ... want to dominate as much land as possible.” (Kondapalli, 2020).

As the Kashmiri community continues to be affected by the conflict and lack of choices for the equitable division of the region, it is crucial to try and find a solution that will have a positive outcome for the parts involved.

B. Guiding Questions

1. What posture does the delegation stand for?
2. What actions will the delegation make to help arrange an agreement?
3. How does this conflict affect the delegation?
4. How many alliances do the delegation has with other countries, and which are the funds that support these alliances (in the Council)?



5. How will the delegation help ensure the communities' safety and a sustainable development?

C. Geographical Frame



Map showing the countries involved and the region of Kashmir.

The region of Jammu and Kashmir is located in the northern side of India, eastern of Pakistan, and western of China, also having, Kashmir, a smaller frontier north of the region with Afghanistan.

“This region is divided between Pakistan, China and India. India controls the largest portion of land at 39,127 square miles (101,338 sq km) while Pakistan controls an area of 33,145 square miles (85,846 sq km) and China 14,500 square miles (37,555 sq km).” (Briney, 2019).

D. Historical and Time Framework

Since 1947, India and Pakistan have been in conflict over Kashmir, a mostly Muslim region. Kashmir is a mountainous territory with an extension of 86,000 square miles and was once a princely state (Blakemore, 2019). Now both India and Pakistan claim it as their own.

The roots of the conflict originate in the countries' colonial past. When Britain ended its rule in India, more than 550 princely states within India were not directly governed by Britain and



could decide to join a new nation or remain independent. The princely state of Kashmir, which had a majority Muslim population, ruled by Hari Singh, decided to seek its independence. This decision provoked violence in the territory and the government of Pakistan pressured Kashmir to join its territory and when they refused, they began an invasion, so Kashmir asked for help from India and annexed the country although it remained independent in several aspects.

In 2019, the BBC reported the following major events:

- In 1948, India raised Kashmir in the UN Security Council, which in Resolution 47 called for a referendum on the state of the territory. The resolution also requires Pakistan to withdraw its troops and India to minimize its military presence. Pakistan refuses to retire its troops.
- In 1953, the pro-Indian authorities dismissed and arrested the leader of the National Conference for having a pro referendum stance and delaying formal accession to India.
- In the 1950s China began to occupy eastern Kashmir (Aksai Chin).
- China defeats India in a short war for control of Aksai Chin in 1962.
- Pakistan cedes the Trans-Karakoram Tract of Kashmir to China in 1963.
- July 2016: Authorities impose indefinite curfew on most of India-administered Kashmir after assassination of popular militants that triggered violent revolutions.
- August 2016: curfew is lifted in most of India-administered Kashmir, but schools, shops and most banks remain closed and mobile and internet services remain suspended indefinitely.
- August 2019: Indian government cancels the Jammu and Kashmir treaty of special status that gave it significant autonomy.

E. Power Relations and Strategic Alliance

The main parties involved in this conflict are: India, Pakistan, the Kashmiris and the People's Republic of China. Two thirds of the population consists on islamic followers, in this case Pakistan.



In this conflict there are three very influential military groups which are:

Jaish-e-Mohammed which is an organization that operates in Kashmir but is based in Pakistan. Its aim is to bring the Islamic regime to the Indian controlled Kashmir regions. Another is Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, which has been operating in Kashmir since 1989 and is the most supported and active group in the conflict. Finally there is the Lashkar-e-Taiba, it was founded in 1994 and they have been responsible for very violent attacks, most of their activists are not Kashmiri.

Some of the most influential people are Farooq Abdullah who has dominated local politics for years and is the son of the founder of the National Conference Party. Fighting for Kashmir's autonomy, Shabir Shah el is an activist fighting for Kashmir's independence and has spent much of his life in Indian jails, and Abdul Gani Bhat is another key player in politics and supports Kashmir's union to Pakistan.

F. Economic Aspects

Due to the unsolved conflict, Pakistan decided to suspend trade with India and this has been reflected in both economies. India has suspended supplies of medicines and cotton to Pakistan, therefore this nation has had to get these supplies from other countries such as the United States and Brazil but these alternative providers charge higher prices than India, whose economic losses are estimated to have exceeded \$1.4 billion to date, this is because of the antiterrorist measures that include the curfew, restrictions on retailers' operations and the tourism reduction. (Baba, 2019)

Jammu and Kashmir's economy depends mostly of five activities, which are: agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, transport and communications. Because of the issue, most people whose jobs had any relation with these activities have faced an economic depression. The series of existing conflicts in this region has led to massive immigrations, not only of politicians and industry workers, but also of artisans and traders, this has had a severely negative impact on economic growth as the mentioned activities' productiveness has decreased over the years. Overall, the monetary situation of Jammu and Kashmir does not show a positive outlook.



G. Legal Aspects

The following are the most important documents since 1949 regarding the issue:

- **Karachi Agreement:** This document was released on July 29th, 1949, it establishes a ceasefire line and asks for a suspension of the nations' hostilities. The nations are given 30 days to eliminate the militarized areas.
- **Resolution 307:** This document was presented on December 21st, 1971, it demands a lasting cessation of hostilities and for the Secretary-General to keep the Security Council informed on the execution of the recommended measurements.
- **SIMLA Agreement:** The "Agreement on Bilateral Relations Between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan" was released on July the 2nd, 1972. This document sought to achieve peace between the nations. It discusses several points to fix the relationship between the countries and provides a list of actions that must be taken for the benefit of the Kashmir territory. It was signed by Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- **S/2019/654 Letter:** This consists on a letter dated August 13th, 2019. This document was signed by Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, it requests an urgent Security Council meeting to "consider the situation arising from the recent aggressive actions by India which pose a threat to international peace and security." (Shah, 2019) The letter also requests for the participation of a representative of the Government of Pakistan on said meeting.
- **S/2019/944 Letter:** This letter, dated December 12th, 2019, urges to draw immediate attention to the Kashmir issue, the main reason being "India's continuing violations of the human rights of the Kashmiri people and its



belligerent posture and hostile actions vis-à-vis Pakistan.” (Shah, 2019) It is also signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, and enclosed by Munir Akram, the Permanent Representative.

H. Sociocultural Aspects

Many of the conducts and actions made by the governments of the states in dispute continue to raise a high amount of concern in the whole world. First of all, the region has been divided in two hostile camps. India, which leads the areas of Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh, prohibits any signs of insurgence from the Kashmiris and uses violence and torture as repression, not only to the people fighting for independence, but also to those seen as “rebels” who aid the affected by the Indian government. There are tens of thousands of deaths registered because of the armed revolts and there have been at least 55,538 acts of violence reported regarding this issue. Also, the population of this region is constantly under a nuclear threat, as both Pakistan and India have declared to being owners of this kind of weapons.

Other aspect that has been highly affected by this conflict is education. Kashmiri schools were turned into interrogation centers and consequently, the children had to stop their learning process. Also, the communications blackout carried out by the Indian government, was cause for public and private schools to interrupt their services for a while. Even though some have re-opened, most parent seem reluctant to send their children because they fear for their safety. As reported by BBC on August 2019:

“Tens of thousands of additional Indian troops were deployed, a major Hindu pilgrimage was cancelled, schools and colleges were shut, tourists were ordered to leave, telephone and internet services were suspended and regional political leaders were placed under house arrest.”



I. Quorum General Positions

- A. **Nations believed to be for India:** Egypt, Germany, Afghanistan, Japan, Russia, and the United States of America.
- B. **Nations believed to be for Pakistan:** China and Turkey
- C. **Nations believed to be neutral:** North Korea, France, Belgium, Kazakhstan and the United Kingdom.

J. Sustainable Development Goals

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (2): The conflict in Kashmir has collaterally affected the children and people opportunities to get food to eat everyday. This problem is of great importance to clear out to achieve the completion of this Goal.

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (16): is very important to ensure that all communities get access to justice so it can create effective, explainable and full institutions at every level. This is a highly remarkable problem, since it is the main consequence of the conflict. Thanks to the Line of Control it has reduced drastically violence and insecurity levels but “Still, clashes along this border have persisted; 86 civilians were killed by cross-border firing in 2018 alone.” (Parker, 2019).



Topic B: Uyghur repression in Xinjiang

A. Brief Information on the Topic

The Uyghurs are a muslim community living on Xinjiang, an autonomous Chinese region. Over the years, China has been on the spotlight for their “re-education camps” that bring up concern because of the thousands of people that have gone to these sectors and ended up as missing people. The UN has spoken publicly about this and the chinese government continues to deny the strong claims of the organization and instead argues that they are just trying to target “transformation of thought”.

The “political training centers” were not the first step of this repression, it all started by the chinese government's implementation of shootings, arrests, cameras and checkpoints, among other things, on the areas where Uyghur population is prominent. The United Nations has asked for the release of the people that are currently on the camps, but on the General Assembly held on the 23rd of October, 2019, Beloruse claimed that Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia, along with other 51 nations, support the Xinjiang system. (Westcott, 2019)

The main concerns regarding this topic are:

- The repression and discrimination to the muslim culture, the Uyghurs, on Xinjiang
- The Hans taking the Uyghurs lands for agriculture and using them for urbanization, taking away their most important jobs
- The violent response of the Uyghurs to the rest of the chinese people for their equally violent ways to deal with the conspiracies regarding the minority



B. Guiding Questions

1. What is the stance of the delegation in the topic?
2. How will the delegation help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?
3. Which delegations have common interests with the delegation?
4. How does this conflict affect the delegation?
5. How will the delegation help terminate the problem?

C. Geographical Frame



Map showing the region where the conflict is held in China.

“The largest of China's administrative regions, Xinjiang borders eight countries - Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India - and until recently its population was mostly Uighur.” (BBC, 2014). The region occupied by the Uyghurs has had independences and intermittent autonomy until it became Chinese territory (known nowadays as Xinjiang) in the 18th century. “Some Uighurs living there refer to the region as East Turkestan and argue that it ought to be independent from China.” (Maizland, 2020). Xinjiang has increased its economy remarkably because of being in the main section of the China-Kazakhstan Silk Road border.



D. Historical and Time Framework

Xinjiang is a large region of Central Asia within the People's Republic of China comprising numerous minority groups: 45% of its population are Uyghurs and 40% are Han (Castets, 2003).

There is a conflict over who owns the territory of Xinjiang, the Uyghurs claim that their ancestors lived there long ago, while the government considers Xinjiang Chinese territory since 200 BC. As a consequence of this conflict, the Uyghurs have felt repressed and say that the government minimizes their history and culture, although on the other hand, some citizens consider that the Uyghurs have special treatment such as preferential admission to universities.

The following events are the most important to date:

- From 1950 to 1970, there was a large migration to Xinjiang that raised the number of Han population from 7% to 40% of the population.
- Xinjiang was established as an Autonomous Region in 1955.
- In 1996 the "Strike Hard" campaign against crime began, which seriously violated human rights
- In 2007, the Islamic Party of Turkestan (TIP) appeared, seeking the expulsion from China of "East Turkestan" and has been responsible for several terrorist attacks.
- In 2016 there was a suicide bombing at the Chinese embassy. A Kyrgyz government agency found the Uighur group in Nusra guilty.
- Since 2017 China began with the re-education camps.



E. Power Relations and Strategic Alliance

The main country involved in the Uyghur conflict is China, being the main reason why this is a problem in the United Nations. China's oppression to this ethnic minority has been over the limits in terms of human rights.

China has many powerful allies such as: North Korea, Russia, United Arab Emirates, and many other countries that support their regimes. Aside from that, the Uyghurs don't have any direct alliance with a country for being an ethnic group rather than a country, there are many countries concerned about the health and living conditions of this community, such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and the countries within the European Union.

F. Economic Aspects

For the past hundred years, the economy of Xinjiang has depended mostly on agriculture and commerce. The Uyghurs, along with other Chinese ethnicities, have mastered how to grow crops such as wheat, corn and melons in a dry climate. Another pillar of their economy consists on the production of significant amounts of petroleum and natural gas. From 2002 to 2013, GDP growth was over 15% which is seen as an improvement, but on the other hand, the employment rate between these years was "relatively unstable and below the national average". (T-House, 2019)

Although there have been large investments into industry projects, which would mean more jobs for the entire population, the Uyghurs claim that most of them are taken by the Han Chinese. This does not only affect the economy of Xinjiang, but also the sense of peace as violence rates go higher because of the protests against this issue.

G. Legal Aspects

Although this is a very important issue, there aren't many legal documents that present solutions or even suggestions on the topic, nevertheless, in 2019 six secret documents approved by the Chinese security chief were released to the press. The documents were obtained by the



International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and mostly present information on how to operate the camps holding Uyghurs and other minorities.

- **2017 Telegramm:** This document was marked secret and was signed by Zhu Hailun, the region's top security official. This manual instructs guards on how to prevent escapes and diseases, how to maintain the camps' existence a secret and even the times the minorities are allowed to muse the toilet.
- **Bulletin No.2:** This document, referring to the people that had asked for a visa, "directed officials to find and investigate as many of them as possible, without apparent concern for any diplomatic fallout that might result from placing foreign citizens in extrajudicial internment camps." (Allen, 2019)
- **Bulletin No. 9:** This document presents a large quantity of people that are to be investigated by the government for "terrorism suspicion".
- **Bulletin No. 14:** This bulletin discusses how thanks to the IJOP, a system that collects data from the muslim minority and classifies them as suspicious, at least 15,683 Uyghurs were flagged and sent to the camps.
- **Bulletin No. 20:** According to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists on 2019, this document "directs local security officials to screen all Xinjiang-based users of mobile phone app Zapyra — almost 2 million people — for affiliations with the Islamic State and other terrorist organizations."
- **Court Document:** This document comes from a criminal court and shows the sentence of an Uyghur man for crimes as "telling co-workers "not to say dirty words" or watch pornography — lest they would become "non-believers." (Allen, 2019) The man was given a sentence of 10 years for his actions, this case gives an example of the criminalization of expressions that defend the Islamic beliefs.



H. Sociocultural Aspects

“Chinese authorities have long violated Uyghurs’ cultural, linguistic, and religious rights, marginalizing them in their own homeland.” (Kanat, 2014) The repression of this culture has had several negative impacts on the quality of life of these ethnicities, for example, expressions of their religion such as mosques have been violated by the communist government by placing images of Xi Jinping, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China. Many mosques have been closed and eliminated by the Chinese government. Also, representative and important clothing items for the Uyghur culture, such as face veils, have been banned. The use of Islamic names is prohibited by Beijing. The discrimination to the minority has also affected the children and the heritage of the culture, as the Uyghur language was banned in schools in Xinjiang.

Diaspora increases every day and relatives lose contact with each other in order to protect their families. Their privacy is also compromised. The majority of the households are paired with an informant who can drop by at anytime and reports on their actions. Regarding technology, the Integrated Joint Operations Platform (IJOP) is a program that collects data from the minority’s phones, anyone who is suspected of having an unacceptable conduct is sent to the camps. Self-expression is on the process of being banned when it comes to this culture and the issue remains to not be talked about.

I. Quorum General Positions

The Uyghurs have suffered in many aspects because of China’s “re-education camps” and have been a topic of great concern in the UNSC.

- A. **Nations against China’s policies:** Germany, France, Japan, Belgium, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.
- B. **Nations in favor of China’s policies:** Egypt, North Korea, Pakistan, Kazakhstan and Russia.
- C. **Neutral nations:** Afghanistan and India.



J. Sustainable Development Goals

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (3): This is the most further from the truth goal in this conflict because of having Uyghurs physically and mentally abused in the China's called re-education camps. Many lives are at risk and is very important to get everybody to live healthy lives and have well-being life ensuring that China's regimes are lighten up and reformed.

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (11): "Even before the camps became a major part of the Chinese government's anti-extremism campaign, the government was accused of cracking down on religious freedom and basic human rights in Xinjiang." (Maizland, 2020). Having people to deal with insecurities in their cities and limited freedom is a fact that should not be happening nowhere in the world. Goal 11 must be applied in this problem by making an egalitarian and no racist environment so cities and human settlements are made inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



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