Committee: United Nations Security Council

Topic: Poverty and Conflict in Afghanistan

Country: The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Pakistan is extremely dedicated to solving the poverty and conflict in Afghanistan, as it shares not only most of its border with this nation, but many issues as well. Since the start of Soviet rule in 1980, Afghans have fled to Pakistan’s Durand line border by the millions. In the 1990s, Pakistan fought to keep the Taliban in power, a positive change from the political chaos after the fall of the Soviet Union. However, violations by the Taliban on the Durand line border cooled relations, and now abolishing the terrorist Taliban groups remains a top goal in terms of Pakistan’s aid to Afghanistan. Along with the removal of corruption, Pakistan seeks alternatives to opium farming and new economic opportunities, and recent public works projects involving education and job creation have already been implemented. Thus, Pakistan is well aware that the economic and political stability of Afghanistan is essential to Pakistan’s success in the modern world.

Because of its geographical proximity to Afghanistan and the direct effects of this topic on its own domestic affairs, Pakistan remains very involved in many activities relating to this issue. Domestically, Pakistan hosts more than 3 million Afghan refugees, and currently works to repatriate them to their home country; in 2012, about 62,000 refugees were repatriated, and Pakistan operates through the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) as it strives to reach the deadline for the repatriation of all Afghan refugees, set for June 2013. In addition, Pakistan provides educational and infrastructural aid to Afghanistan through development projects, such as the construction of hospitals, roads, and educational institutions. Furthermore, Pakistan recognizes the enormity of the drug, specifically opium, issue surrounding this topic. In November 2012, it organized the Regional Ministerial Conference on Counter-Narcotics, establishing a Regional Contact group to support a major priority of the country: the elimination of opium cultivation and the supply and demand of these illicit drugs. Finally, Pakistan seeks to improve relations with Afghanistan, specifically by joining forces against the Taliban. Pakistan acknowledges the need for drastic action to be taken against those who fester at its borders, and hopes to join forces with Afghanistan to annihilate the threat of terrorism imposed by these groups. On February 20, 2013, Afghanistan authorities captured a Pakistani Taliban commander, which was viewed by Pakistan as a huge step towards a positive partnership between Pakistan and Afghanistan in fighting the Taliban.

While Pakistan serves as a significant participant in addressing the poverty and conflict in Afghanistan, it strongly believes that a fully comprehensive resolution is required in order to resolve this issue. First, to eradicate poverty, Pakistan believes that the main focus of the resolution should be on providing Afghan citizens with education and new means of employment, in order to draw farmers away from the drug trade and encourage refugees whom have fled Afghanistan to return to their country. To do this, vocational training and basic education must be provided, along with an increase of scholarships to motivate Afghan students into then seeking a higher education. Moreover, an increase in reconstruction programs will benefit the country by increasing the development of infrastructure, creating jobs to replace opium farming, and by incentivizing the return of refugees. Additionally, medical care must be supplied, particularly in the form of vaccines and medications to treat and prevent diseases. To address drug trafficking, Pakistan suggests the implementation of a probation system for trafficking criminals, and urges countries to sign extradition treaties, which would increase Afghanistan’s responsibility of sovereign-based criminal justice in the realm of drug trafficking. Second, Pakistan hopes to collaborate with the Afghanistan government along with the UN Security council to resolve the aspect of conflict. The establishment of a headquarters along the Durand line border equipped with an SAF database system and prisons will capture members of the Taliban accused of terrorism. Mobile Interdiction Teams along with UN peacekeeping troops will also monitor the border. Concerning the head government, the UN will provide safe passage for peace seeking members of the Taliban to discuss their ideas. Thereby, Pakistan hopes that in this session of the UN Security Council, the collaboration of all members will achieve the institution of an extensive resolution in order to end poverty and conflict in Afghanistan.

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