

BACKGROUND GUIDE

United Nations General Assembly (SPECPOL)

Agenda - Addressing Cross-Border Terrorism and Ceasefire
Violations in the India-Pakistan Region

Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings from the Executive Board,

We welcome you to the **VIS Model UN** Simulation being hosted by Vedic International School, Sambalpur, Odisha.

This background guide is exactly what it claims to be, simply providing a background to the agenda at hand and hence, a stepping stone for a more exhaustive research. This background guide deals with definitions, various laws concerning the agenda and different dimensions of the debate.

This document gives you an overview of the history and functions of WHO as well as an academic summary of the agenda in discussion as a starting point for you to develop your countries' positions. For your own advancement and profit, but also to ensure a successful and constructive working atmosphere in the committee, let us **kindly** suggest for you to:

1. **Be well researched:** Read through this background guide and take it as a point of departure for your own research into the position your countries take on the issues on the agenda. Do not limit your research to the background guide.
2. **Stay in character:** Learn about your country and capture the mentality of its representatives. Set up some basic goals that are appropriate for your country and act according to them. Find allies that your country would side with in reality as well.
3. **Learn and practice diplomacy:** Be respectful towards your fellow delegates and follow the Rules of Procedure. Be diplomatic rather than demanding and try to win over opposition instead of forcing your opinion on others.
4. **Have fun:** Simulating diplomacy should never be taken so seriously that cooperative fun turns into sour competition. Enjoy the debate, get to know new people and don't forget: The conference doesn't end when the meeting is suspended.

Please feel free to reach out to us **via E-Mail.**

We wish you **all the best** for your preparations and am looking forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely,

Er. Adarsh Kumar Singh

(President)

KNOW YOUR CHAIRPERSON

Er. Adarsh Kumar Singh

4 Times TEDx Speaker | Youth Advocate at UN, New York for HLPF 2025 | Engineer Harvard Act2Impact Awardee | Soft Skills & Education Consultant to 2,10,000+ Students from 17+ cities | Founder & COO - Aspirant Learning | Managing Director - GD Goenka Healthcare, Ghazipur | Community of 8K+ LinkedIn Followers

LinkedIn- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/adarshsinghkumar>

Instagram- https://www.instagram.com/adarsh_kumar.singh/?hl=en

I am Er. Adarsh Kumar Singh, an engineer, entrepreneur, and educator dedicated to empowering youth through education, leadership, and global advocacy. My journey has taken me from grassroots initiatives in India to prominent stages such as TEDx and the United Nations.

Growing up, due to the nature of my father's work, I lived in eight different cities before completing high school, which gave me early exposure to diverse cultures and perspectives. Since earning my engineering degree, I have mentored over 210,000 students across 17+ cities, conducted more than 1,600 training sessions, and collaborated with over 100 institutions to equip young people with essential soft skills, leadership qualities, and global outlooks.

As a four-time TEDx Speaker and recipient of the Harvard Act2Impact Award, I consistently advocate for resilience, innovation, and the transformative power of education. In my role as Founder and COO of Aspirant Learning, I have developed impactful programs to advance quality education, while as Managing Director of GD Goenka Healthcare Academy; a paramedical college; I have pioneered healthcare education access in rural India, providing financial aid and career opportunities to underprivileged students.

Internationally, my engagement includes attending the United Nations Headquarters for the High-Level Political Forum as a youth advocate, where I made over five interventions at side events and hosted an impactful side event in collaboration with the Women's Major Group.

These experiences have strengthened my commitment to elevating youth voices in policy dialogues on decent work, youth employment, traditional knowledge for sustainability, and intergenerational equity. By amplifying youth perspectives, I promote inclusive development approaches aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Beyond advocacy, I have judged more than 300 events and cultivated a strong youth community of over 8,000 followers on LinkedIn. My multi-sectoral experience enables me to contribute

meaningfully to international dialogues, bridging education, youth empowerment, and sustainable development. I am passionate about fostering collaboration and innovation to nurture changemakers who can build a more equitable and sustainable future.

I AM EXCITED TO WELCOME YOU AT BDPS MODEL UN 2025

United Nations General Assembly (SPECPOL)

SPECPOL, also known as Special Political and Decolonization Committee, is the **Fourth** Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. It focuses on a range of political issues, including decolonization, peacekeeping operations and the peaceful uses of outer space. When it was first created, the Fourth Committee was solely responsible for trusteeship and decolonization-related matters. However, after independence was granted to all the United Nations trust territories on its agenda, the committee's workload decreased.

The Decolonization Committee was established in 1961 and consequently, in 1990, the Fourth Committee was merged with the Special Political Committee, which had been created as a seventh main committee to deal with certain political issues. This also reviews the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping operations and makes recommendations for their improvement according to the UN. The Fourth Committee meets every year from late September to mid-November, but also convenes briefly in the spring to adopt any resolutions and decisions relating to peacekeeping passed by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. All 193 member states of the UN can attend its meetings.

Unlike most other United Nations bodies, there is no general debate at the beginning of the committee's work (however, for the sake of fruitful debate this committee will follow typical GA procedure). The committee also allows for petitioners, i.e. civil society representatives and other stakeholders, to address it on decolonization issues.

Agenda Overview

The persistent tensions in the India–Pakistan region, particularly across the Line of Control (LoC) and the international border, continue to present one of the most pressing challenges to regional peace and global security. The twin issues of cross-border terrorism and ceasefire violations have not only strained bilateral relations between the two nuclear-armed neighbors but have also impeded broader efforts at regional cooperation in South Asia.

Cross-border terrorism remains a critical concern, with various international bodies recognizing the role of non-state actors in exacerbating instability. The United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1566 (2004) underline the global consensus against terrorism,

emphasizing the responsibility of all states to prevent the financing, support, and safe havens for terrorist groups. Within this context, allegations of state complicity or tolerance toward such actors complicate efforts to build sustainable trust between India and Pakistan.

Parallel to this, ceasefire violations along the LoC and working boundary have led to significant civilian and military casualties, as well as displacement of local populations. The 1972 Simla Agreement and subsequent bilateral commitments, including the 2003 Ceasefire Understanding, were intended to stabilize the situation; however, recurring violations have undermined these frameworks. Reports from the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), though contested by the parties, continue to highlight the volatility of the border environment.

The challenges under this agenda must be understood in the broader framework of international law, the principle of state sovereignty under the UN Charter, and the obligations under the Geneva Conventions to protect civilian lives in conflict-prone zones. Addressing these concerns requires a delicate balance between counter-terrorism imperatives and the pursuit of de-escalation measures.

The SPECPOL committee now has the responsibility to deliberate on viable multilateral approaches to ease tensions, promote adherence to international commitments, and strengthen mechanisms for accountability. Delegates are encouraged to consider innovative confidence-building measures, cooperative security mechanisms, and the role of international organizations in mediating disputes while upholding the principle of peaceful settlement of conflicts enshrined in Article 33 of the UN Charter.

This agenda thus provides an opportunity not only to confront the immediate threats posed by terrorism and ceasefire violations but also to lay the groundwork for long-term stability in South Asia, with implications for global peace and security.

Important Definitions/ Abbreviations

- UN – United Nations
- UNGA – United Nations General Assembly
- SPECPOL – Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee of UNGA)
- UNSC – United Nations Security Council

- UNMOGIP – United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (monitors ceasefire along the LoC)
- UNOCT – United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
- CTED – Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (monitors implementation of UNSC Resolution 1373)
- UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (relevant for displacement from border areas)
- ICJ – International Court of Justice (settles legal disputes between states)
- UNCIP – United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (historical body set up in 1948 for Kashmir conflict)
- LoC – Line of Control (military control line dividing Indian- and Pakistani-administered Jammu & Kashmir)
- IB – International Border (officially recognized boundary between India and Pakistan, outside Kashmir)
- AGPL – Actual Ground Position Line (demarcation in the Siachen Glacier area)
- Simla Agreement (1972) – Bilateral agreement post-1971 war, reaffirming peaceful settlement and LoC recognition
- Ceasefire Understanding (2003) – Agreement between India and Pakistan to maintain a ceasefire along LoC/IB
- Kartarpur Corridor – Example of a confidence-building measure (CBM) between India and Pakistan
- TTP – Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (militant group operating in Pakistan and bordering regions)
- LeT – Lashkar-e-Taiba (terrorist group accused of cross-border attacks, e.g., 2008 Mumbai attacks)

- JeM – Jaish-e-Mohammed (terrorist group involved in Pulwama and other incidents)
- Hizbul Mujahideen – Militant group active in Kashmir region
- Non-State Actors – Groups or individuals not officially representing a state but engaged in armed conflict/terrorism
- State-Sponsored Terrorism – Terrorist activities supported, funded, or tolerated by a state
- Hybrid Warfare – Strategy combining conventional warfare, irregular tactics, and cyber/information warfare
- Counter-Terrorism Financing (CTF) – Efforts to stop flow of funds to terrorist organizations (UNSC 1373 focus)
- FATF – Financial Action Task Force (global watchdog on money laundering and terror financing, placed Pakistan on “grey list” multiple times)
- Article 2(4) of UN Charter – Prohibits threat or use of force against territorial integrity or political independence of any state
- Article 33 of UN Charter – Obligation to resolve disputes by peaceful means (negotiation, mediation, arbitration, etc.)
- Geneva Conventions (1949) – International treaties protecting civilians during armed conflict
- CBMs – Confidence-Building Measures (diplomatic or military steps to reduce mistrust, e.g., hotlines, trade exchanges)
- Demilitarization – Withdrawal of military forces from a conflict area
- Humanitarian Law / IHL – International Humanitarian Law governing armed conflicts and protection of civilians
- UNSCR 1373 (2001) – Landmark resolution on counter-terrorism obligations for states
- UNSCR 1267 (1999) – Establishes sanctions regime against individuals/entities linked to Al-Qaeda/Taliban, later expanded to other terror groups

- UNSCR 1540 (2004) – Prevents non-state actors from acquiring nuclear/chemical/biological weapons (important as both India and Pakistan are nuclear powers)

Terminology & Typology of Ceasefires

Armed conflicts, be they inter-state or intra-state, typically involve two or more conflict parties, which may comprise armed (or military) and political components. This BG uses the term "conflict party" to refer exclusively to armed actors who play formal roles on negotiation delegations in the context of a ceasefire process.

The terms "ceasefire" and "cessation of hostilities" are often used interchangeably. Agreements for the latter are generally perceived as less structured than ceasefire agreements, which feature more detailed provisions on objectives, timelines, security arrangements, and monitoring and verification mechanisms. In practice, the level of detail in individual ceasefire or cessation of hostilities agreements varies significantly, regardless of the formal title.

"Truce" and "armistice" similarly refer to situations in which conflict parties enter an informal or formal ceasefire or agree to halt military operations. Numerous other terms have also been used to denote ceasefires or cessation of hostilities, including "normalization", "stabilization", "standstill", "stand-down", and "suspension of military offensive".

The choice of terms is guided by preferences, as well as political, cultural and contextual sensitivities related to the conflict. For ease of reference and consistency, this BG uses "ceasefire" to capture the spectrum of such agreements.

There is no single, universally accepted definition of a ceasefire. As part of negotiations, parties agree on what a ceasefire entails in their context. Overall, however, a ceasefire agreement may be expected to:

- be a formal, written agreement between two or more conflict parties
- lay out its purpose and broad linkages to a political process
- specify the date and time at which it is to come into effect (and potentially stipulate how long it will remain in effect or when it is to be reviewed)
- define the geographical areas in which it is applicable
- outline prohibited and permitted military and non-military activities
- delineate modalities for monitoring and verifying the parties' compliance with the agreement or, in settings where elaborate monitoring and verification is not feasible, stipulate procedures for basic coordination, dispute resolution and de-escalation among the parties.

Document to support understanding of Ceasefire:

<https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/default/files/document/files/2022/11/ceasefire-guidance-2022-0.pdf>

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The dispute between Pakistan and India began in 1947; however, to understand the tensions between the Muslim and Hindu communities, and the tensions between the ethnicities, we must look earlier in history.

The first Muslim invasion to the Indian subcontinent occurred in the 8th Century. The Arabs of the Umayyad Caliphate travelled as far as the Punjab region, which later became a part of Pakistan'. The spread of Islam continued through the 18th Century. East of the Indus River Valley, a majority of the Hindu population resisted conversion; this is the beginning of the tension between the two major religious groups. The native Indians, who practiced Hinduism or Sikhism, began to distrust the Islamic community. Resentment began to grow; thus, sowing the seeds for the eventual Partition.

The British Raj' controlled the Indian subcontinent between 1858 - 1947. This foreign rule angered the Indian public, inciting violence. The British Raj unintentionally inspired Indian nationalism. Indians wanted to rule their homeland again and fought fearlessly against the British Raj. Mahatma Gandhi led the non-violence movement against the British Raj was considered fundamental to the Indian Independence Movement.

In inspiring Indian nationalism, the tensions between the Muslim community, the Hindu and Sikh communities became more obvious. Following the conflict with the English, they had to decide how to live together. Muhammad Ali Jinnah, leader of the Muslim League, assessed that the parliament and Hindu majority were proposing were pro-Hinduism and anti-Muslim laws that indirectly advocated for religious segregation. In response, Jinnah decided that it was in the Muslim community's best interest to separate from India and form a new nation'.

In 1947, the British decided to end their rule for several reasons. specifically the outdated fashion of colonialism, the English debts of World War II, and the Indian Independence Movement. Mountbatten was appointed Viceroy of India. His primary goal was to exit India promptly with minimal reputational damage to the British Empire. The English Parliament and the King informed him that his objectives were to help the transfer power to India, preserve independence, and avoid partition. They gave him an exit deadline of June 30" 1948. Upon his arrival, riots broke out.

Mountbatten quickly decided that India was too volatile to maintain occupancy, and that it was in the best interests of the English to shorten the exit deadline. The new deadline became August 1947, a whole year earlier. Since the transfer was no longer a gradual process, negotiations were rushed. Mountbatten conceded to the pressures of the Muslim League and declared that Muslims would have their own state. He reasoned civil war could be avoided by allowing the Muslim communities to have a separate state. Now, Mountbatten had a new major objective in his plan to exit India: to organize new border lines.

British lawyer Sir Cyril Radcliffe was appointed to organize the state lines!. Eventually, the land was divided between three regions. India would take majority of the land, while Pakistan would be split between two states: West Pakistan and East Pakistan". Radcliffe drew the lines hastily, reflecting the poor leadership , unattended and the mismanagement of the entire British rule.

In 1947, the official announcement was made in the House of Commons that the British would leave. On August 15th, the British Raj officially left the Indian subcontinent. Two days

later, the borderlines were announced, and chaos ensued. seen. Anywhere between 200,000 - 1 million people died, with the latter being more plausible to historians. Around 15 million people' were displaced. People rushed over the new borders to be on their own.

Whole communities would migrate together with columns of people traveling as wide as 30,000-strong on the road'. Trains were full of refugees as everyone crisscrossed the region, some trains packed with dead bodies. Everyone turned on each other in fear and panic. Multiple riots broke out. There were multiple accounts of violence and sexual assaults. The entire process was disordered.

Ironically, even though the British were tasked with assisting the transfer of power, they offered no assistance in maintaining order during the migration, despite the pleas for help from both Indian and Pakistani leaders.

The separation of the states was meant to appease the two major religious groups, but the events that occurred at the great Partition left a permanent scar on Hindu-Muslim relations and will be remembered by the two states forever. The Kashmir province was given full independent sovereignty. They

had the choice to either accede to India or

Pakistan, or to maintain independence. In Kashmir, the majority population was Muslim; but the state leader, Maharaja" Hari Singh was a Hindu. Originally Singh wanted to accede to India, but he knew that the Muslim community would lash out against that decision. The discussion regarding the sovereignty over Kashmir began before

Pro-Pakistani rebels, mostly Pashtun tribesmen? funded by the Pakistani government, invaded the north-western Kashmir land. It was more than just a revolt; the rebels were said to be trained militants who organized the invaders "in company-level units and armed with lethal weapons". Clearly.

Pakistan had intentions of claiming Kashmir as Pakistani land. Kashmir Muslims responded to the invasions by revolting against Singh, which resulted in "anti-Muslim riots in southern Kashmir in September". In response to the Pakistani invasion, Singh decided to concede Kashmir to India with Indian military support in return. He signed the Instrument of Accession in October 1947, aligning Kashmir with India. The special status Kashmir was given meant that they would have "independence over everything but communications, foreign affairs, and defense". One third of Kashmir, however, was within the Pakistani region and was called **Azad Kashmir**, meaning the Free Kashmir. This was a semi-autonomous state in the Pakistan country.

Kashmir was divided, but the violence continued until 1949, when the UN stepped in and arranged a ceasefire. The UN established a ceasefire line; but both states looked upon the ceasefire line as a temporary fix. The dispute wasn't settled, which meant that neither side was ready to give up. Each state viewed the other side of the ceasefire line as 'occupied by enemy state', and no state was going to allow occupancy in what they believed to be their rightful

The Indian-China War broke out in 1962. The dispute was over the Himalayan borders. Tensions rose due to the Chinese invasion of Tibet, resulting in India giving refuge to the Dalai Lama. The US begins to show favoritism towards India, as they now begin viewing India as an ally to democratic principles and saw the "potential as an appropriate rival to China". They were able to stop China from entering too far into Indian territory, with China nearly reaching as far as Assam, close to the Indian heartland. But India's military performance was poor in comparison to China's large and highly organized forces. Pakistan, observing the war from afar, mistaking India's defeat as a sign of militant weakness. They miscalculated, and later decided to go to war with India again in 1965.

Following the Sino-Indian War, foreign ministers of India and Pakistan, Swaran Singh and Zalfigar Ali Bhutto, met to discuss the Kashmir border dispute. They appealed to the UK and America to assist in resolving the dispute with little success. Since appealing to the UK and US proved to be unsuccessful, Pakistan referred the Kashmir case to the United Nations Security Council.

In April 1965, a clash between border patrols in the Rann of Kutch, located in the Indian state of Gujarat, marked the start of the second war. This clash escalates on August 5th when 26 to 33 thousand Pakistani soldiers cross the ceasefire line.

Pakistani soldiers were disguised as Kashmiri locals and crossed into the India-administrated district of Kashmir. On September 6 Indian troops crossed the international border at Lahore.

In the end, the war was inconclusive. The UN once again stepped in to end the war. September 22, both sides agreed to a ceasefire, but only when they had reached a stalemate. Both sides held some of the other nation's territory.

The UN intervention and call for another ceasefires reflects both countries unwillingness to take the ceasefire seriously. A ceasefire is only a temporary fix, it allows enough time for either side to reorganize themselves and their armies so that they can attack the problem from another angle on another day.

In 1971 the third war began, only this time it wasn't over the sovereignty of Kashmir, it was in East Pakistan. East Pakistan wanted to split off from West Pakistan and become an independent state. The tensions between the two states of Pakistan had been growing for years now, but the final straw for East Pakistan was when the Awami League leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was not allowed to assume premiership in East Pakistan by the central Pakistani government. Rahman had fairly won a majority of seats in the 1970 parliamentary elections, yet he was still denied. This angered the East Pakistani people and government. By March, the Pakistani military began a crackdown on Dhaka.

India responds angrily after the Pakistani air force launches a pre-emptive attack on airfields in India's northwest. By December, they became involved in the East Pakistani conflict. India launches a coordinated land, air, and sea assault on East Pakistan against the Pakistani army. Later, the Pakistani army surrenders in Dhaka. It was one of the shortest wars in modern history, with hostilities lasting for thirteen days overall. On December 6, 1971, **East Pakistan was renamed as Bangladesh**.

The following year showed signs of communication improving between the two nations. Bhutto, who is now Prime Minister of Pakistan, and the Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, sign an agreement in the Indian town of Simla, which later will be named the 1972 Simla Agreement.

This agreement designates the ceasefire line to be reclassified as the Line-of-Control (LoC); often nicknamed "Asia's Berlin Wall"²⁸. This agreement was effective August 4.. The opening of the statement says that the two states will "put an end to the conflict...and work for the promotion of a friendly and harmonious relationship and the establishment of a durable peace in the sub-continent» Details of the agreement included that both sides would respect the LoC and seek to resolve all disputes diplomatically. In writing, the relations between the two nations were improving; but in reality, both sides were preparing themselves for future hostilities.

After 9/11 in 2001, the US presence in Pakistan increased. Colin Powell, the Secretary of State, threatened Pakistan to assist in the 'War on Terror' to hunt down the terrorist organization, Al Qaeda, and to fight against the Taliban. This divided Pakistan. Political factions were outraged at Pakistan's willingness - even if it was arm-twisting - at helping the Americans. The Taliban were friends to the Pakistani military, government and ISI. They were mostly of Pashtun ethnicity, the largest ethnic group in Pakistan. They were like family to Pakistan. But pressures from Washington were too heavy to deny.

Pakistan will now set on course of double dealing. In his book *Prisoners of Geography*, Tim Marshall says: "By 2004 [the government] was involved militarily against groups in the North West Frontier and privately accepted the American policy of drone strikes on its territory whilst publicly decrying them"³⁹. The Taliban reacted angrily against Pakistan and proceeded to take control over several provinces in Pakistan. Pakistan was an already broken nation, but these events set an even worse precedence for political factionalism.

Pakistan attempts to combat their negative reputation - solidly attached to terrorism - by publicly announcing that Musharraf pledges to combat extremism on his own soil. As he pledges to combat terrorism, Musharraf continues to affirm that Pakistan has sovereign right to the Kashmir province. The president continues to send mixed messages to India and the world as he then claims there should be a ceasefire on the LoC during the 2003 UN General Assembly. After the Assembly on September 2nd, 2003, India and Pakistan met to cool tensions and cease hostilities at the de facto Kashmir border. Friendly relations seemingly appear to develop as Vajpayee and Musharraf held direct talks at the 12th SAARC summit in Islamabad in January.

The two countries foreign secretaries meet later in the year. 2004 marks the beginning of the Composite Dialogue Process. These bilateral meetings are held between officials at various levels of government, including: foreign ministers, foreign secretaries, military officers, border security officials, anti-narcotics officials, and nuclear experts. As their relations begin to show improvement, the new Indian PM, Manmohan Singh, announces that India will reduce its troop deployment in the Indian-administered Kashmir. In 2006, they redeploy another 5, 000 troops from Kashmir, as the situation appears to be improving and there was less of a need for military forces there.

On February 18th 2007, the Samjhauta Express, which is the train service between India and Pakistan was bombed near Panipat, north of New Delhi. 68 people were killed, with dozens injured.

2008 shows signs of relations developing as India and Pakistan agree on a \$7.6 billion pipeline project, alongside with Turkmenistan, and hari on His a go are on.

In May 2010, Ajmal Kasab was found guilty of murder, conspiracy and waging war. He was later executed in November 2012, days before the 4' anniversary of the Mumbai attack. In the next year, Indian Home Security shared information with Pakistan regarding the 2001 Samjhauta Express bombing. This improved relations and later the foreign secretaries met in Thimpu, Bhutan, in February and agreed to resume peace talks on all issues.

In 2013, both countries accused each other of violating the ceasefire in Kashmir. Pakistan claims that Indian troops crossed the de facto border and killed one of their soldiers, and India charges Pakistani with destroying a home on the Indian side. The UN General Assembly proves to be a useful platform and location for the countries to talk civilly, as the two prime ministers talk on the sidelines in New York. They agree to end military tensions in Kashmir, and both reign in their armies.

These civil relations continued into 2014. May 15, Pakistan's Army Chief, General Raheel Sharif, said the Kashmir dispute should be resolved in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of Kashmiri's and in line with the UNSC resolutions for lasting peace in the region.

Relations continue to improve. As a goodwill gesture to the swearing-in ceremony of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister in India, Pakistan releases 151 Indian fishermen from its jail. A couple days later, Modi talked with Pakistan's Prime Minister Sharif in New Delhi where both sides expressed willingness to begin a new era of bilateral relations. Modi continues to show amity by attending Sharif's birthday in Lahore.

These good relations quickly turned around as the Indian army base was attacked, leaving 19 dead. India responded by launching a series of 'surgical strikes against terrorist units. The Pakistani government denied India's surgical attacks had never occurred. The prime minister said: "The notion of a surgical strike linked to alleged terrorists' bases is an illusion being deliberately generated by India to create false effects". Pakistan denied the surgical strikes occurred so that they are not linked to terrorist organizations. They claimed that it was only the usual exchange of fires between the borders, nothing too out of the ordinary. Part of their denial was to paint India as unstable. Pakistan said that India would go as far as "stag[ing] the attack itself to distract [others] from the protests in Kashmir. Due to these hostilities, the 19th **SAARC summit was cancelled.**

India begins to show more signs of aggression. In the summer of 2016, India enforced a brutal militant lockdown on the Kashmir province. Soldiers displayed indiscriminate and brutal violence. In the span of four months. 17,000 adults and children have been injured, nearly five thousand have been arrested. These violent accounts placed India on the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights watchlist. They also raise some eyebrows in Washington as India violates the democratic spirit. He reportedly encouraged Modi into playing India's trump card for the first time in 70 years on Kashmir. Later, on August 5th, Modi played the card. He

revoked the special status of Kashmir. Article 370 was revoked from the Indian constitution, which specified the autonomous status of Kashmir. India annexes the disputed territory and continues to keep Kashmir under lockdown.

Pakistan is angered. They claim that this contravenes the UN resolutions on the conflict and was contradictory to India's own principles of a democratic government. India further bares their teeth by hinting that they may abolish India's "no first use" doctrine.

In 2020, Trump offered to mediate an agreement between India and Pakistan to Modi. This is only after a year of claiming that India and Pakistan could resolve the problem on their own. This triggered Modi. India does not want the US to interfere as don't want to be treated as a 'client state' like Pakistan; they want to be seen as equals with the US.

In 2021, India reversed their aggressive stance. The two nations agreed to a ceasefire that was effective at midnight on the 24-25th February. This indicates positive signs for the security of South Asia, and possible signs of future talks of peace. Pakistan Army Chiefs statement said it was time to extend peace in all directions.

The recent ceasefire is a relief to the Kashmiri's, who have been suffering under the lockdown from the Indian army and the isolation from the rest of the world. The ceasefire is a necessary action for the pandemic, as it allows both countries to focus on fostering economic growth and caring for the public health of either side. However, history has shown, multiple times, that a ceasefire is only a temporary fix.

(Delegates kindly note, we do acknowledge the background guide necessarily should not give a detailed background de-brief on history of conflict. However, the aforementioned is done to ensure no un-fair, illogical debate during committee hours)

NATURE OF CONFLICT

Key themes to the India-Pakistan conflict include the **religious, existential** nature of the conflict, **geography** as the object of the dispute, and relations with neighboring countries.

Religious Conflict

The India-Pakistan tensions are steeped in religious overtones. The two major religions, Hinduism and Islam, have been the crux of the conflict since 1947. There are signs that the religious communities can live together, as they have done so for hundreds of years before 1947, but as nationalism grows, the divide between the religious groups widens.

When seeking a solution, it would be wise to keep the religious beliefs, extremities and rituals in mind. It would also be prudent for the diplomat to realize that what seems rational to western secular thinking may seem irrational to others.

Existential Conflict

Existential conflict is one in which the survival of one or both parties are at risk of obliteration. Since both India and Pakistan hold nuclear weaponry, they hold leverage over each other in any dispute. India historically abides by a "**no first use" doctrine**, but more recently, that doctrine may be overturned.

Geographic Conflict

Geopolitics is at the center of this conflict. As neighbors, they have easy access to each other's territory, and at the middle of the dispute is the sovereignty over the Kashmir-Jammu province. Both states have a lot to gain from full sovereignty. They also have a lot to lose if they do not gain sovereignty: **Kashmir-Jammu Province**


ARTICLE II

Each Contracting Party shall inform the other on 1st January of each calendar year of the latitude and longitude of its nuclear installations and facilities and whenever there is any change.

ARTICLE III

This Agreement is subject to ratification. It shall come into force with effect from the date on which the Instruments of ratification are exchanged.

Done at Islamabad on this Thirty-First day of December 1988, in two copies, one in Hindi, Urdu and English, the English text being authentic in case of any difference or dispute of interpretation.


(J.P.S. Menon)
Foreign Secretary

For the Government of the
Republic of India


(Humayun Khan)
Foreign Secretary

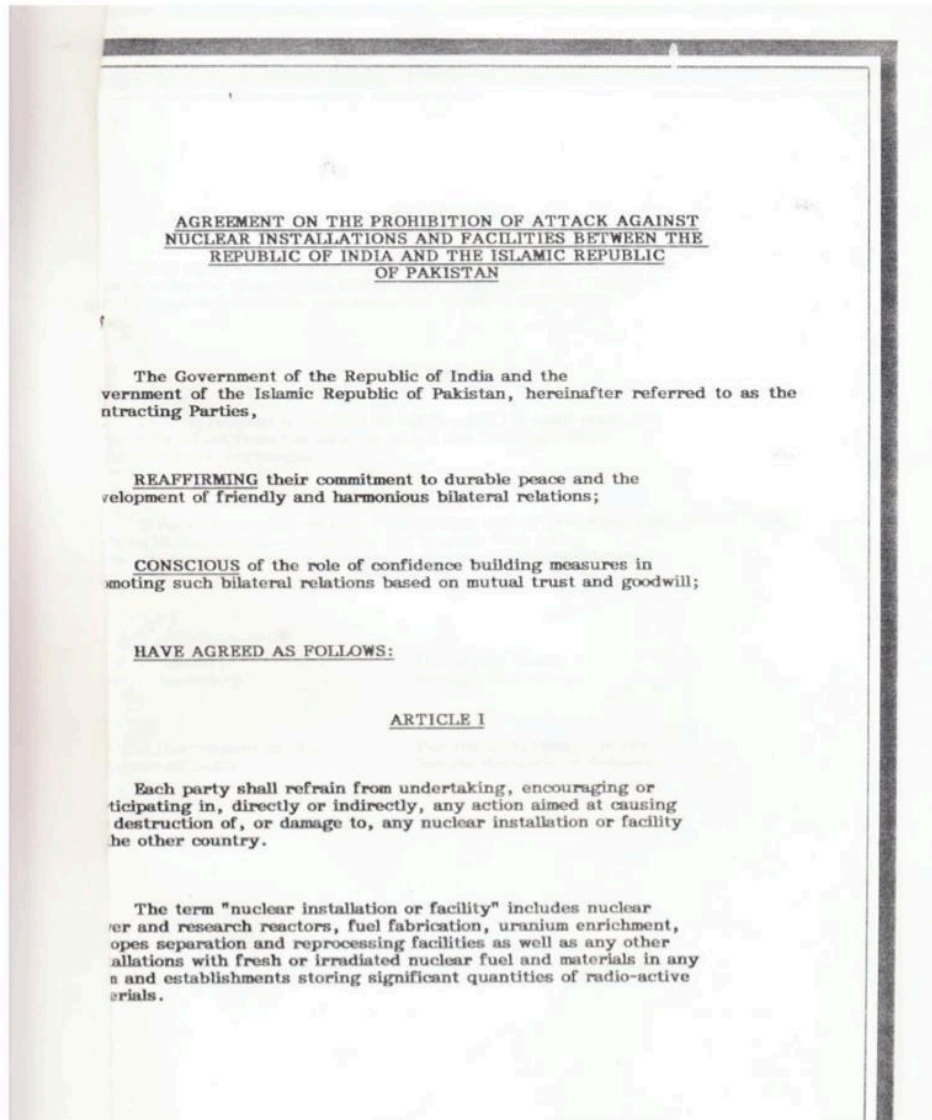
For the Government of the
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The Indus River is the main water source for Pakistan and India. With higher demands for water supply, for water drinking, irrigation and hydropower purposes, there are new added pressures on the distribution of water.



¹⁰⁶ *Indus River Map*, Down to Earth, accessed March 8th 2021, <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/water/how-india-and-pakistan-are-competing-over-the-mighty-indus-river-63321>.

The agreement details that both India and Pakistan must exchange information regarding nuclear weaponry, storage, coordinates of facilities etc. on January 1st every year.



¹⁰⁴ Minister of External Affairs. *The Agreement on The Prohibition of Attack Against Nuclear Installations and Facilities Between India and Pakistan*. By Government of India. January, 1989 accessed March 7th, 2021 <https://mea.gov.in/TreatyDetail.htm?815>.

Partition of India in August 1947



International and Regional Responses

United Nations:

1. UNMOGIP (United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan) monitors ceasefire violations but is contested (India questions its mandate after the Simla Agreement).
2. UN Security Council Resolutions (1267, 1373, 1540, etc.) target terrorism globally.
3. General Assembly resolutions reiterate the need for peaceful settlement of disputes.

Bilateral Mechanisms:

1. Regular talks on security and counter-terrorism, though often suspended following terror incidents.
2. Confidence-building measures (hotlines, Kartarpur Corridor).

International Pressure:

1. FATF (Financial Action Task Force) placed Pakistan on the “grey list” for inadequate action on terror financing (2018–2022).
2. Wider calls by international actors (U.S., EU, Russia, China) for restraint and dialogue.

Relevant Documents and Legal Framework

- UN Charter – Articles 2(4) & 33 (non-use of force; peaceful dispute resolution).
- UNSC Resolution 47 (1948) – First resolution on Kashmir dispute.
- UNSC Resolution 1373 (2001) – Counter-terrorism obligations for states.
- Simla Agreement (1972) – Bilateral framework for India–Pakistan conflict resolution.
- 2003 Ceasefire Understanding – Informal but significant CBM.
- Geneva Conventions (1949) – Protection of civilians in conflict zones.
- FATF Recommendations – Counter-terrorism financing compliance.

Questions to Consider

1. How can the UN, particularly SPECPOL, facilitate dialogue when the dispute is historically considered bilateral?
2. What mechanisms can be introduced to strengthen ceasefire compliance and accountability?
3. How can the international community address terrorism without compromising state sovereignty?
4. Should non-state actors be treated as independent threats or as extensions of state policies?
5. What role can regional organizations (SAARC, SCO) play in complementing UN efforts?

Conclusion

The agenda of addressing cross-border terrorism and ceasefire violations in the India–Pakistan region represents one of the most complex intersections of security, sovereignty, and humanitarian concerns. For the international community, particularly SPECPOL, the challenge lies in balancing counter-terrorism imperatives with the promotion of peace, dialogue, and human rights. Delegates are encouraged to approach the issue with innovative, multilateral solutions that respect international law while addressing the underlying grievances fueling instability.