

Academy for Talented Youth Model United Nations



United Nations Security Council The Situation in Kashmir

Introduction to the position papers

It is a pleasure to welcome you all to the 4th annual Academy for Talented Youth Model United Nations. The conflict in Kashmir is highly relevant for many reasons, some of which are described in the Study Guide. This document contains the position paper of every country present at the committee and as a minimum, you should read the study guide and your country's position paper before the committee session. We recommend that you do further research. Please refer to the addendum to the rules of procedure to know your voting rights.

Should you have any questions regarding the study guide, the position papers or the rules of procedure, please reach out to your committee directors for clarification by emailing your questions to the following email addresses: rudeng20@student.aau.dk or Camilla.o.kristensen@kcl.ac.uk

Current members in the Security Council

1. The Kingdom of Belgium
2. The People's Republic of China
3. The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
4. The Dominican Republic
5. The Republic of Equatorial Guinea
6. The French Republic
7. The Federal Republic of Germany
8. The Republic of Indonesia
9. The State of Kuwait
10. The Republic of Peru
11. The Republic of Poland
12. The Russian Federation
13. The Republic of South Africa
14. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
15. The United States of America

Observer states invited for the current session

1. The Republic of India
2. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan
3. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
4. The People's Republic of Bangladesh
5. Islamic Republic of Iran

1. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan borders Pakistan, and the two countries have got unsolved border disputes of their own (Afghanistan's entire eastern border and the “Durand Line”, which parted the Russian and British empires in late 1800) - resulting in regular shootouts and diplomatic crisis. The rhetoric of Afghan leaders and people varies from accusing Pakistan of interfering with the Afghan Civil War - both ongoing and past - to naming them brothers, good friends and allies. Both statements can be seen as true, as terrorist and rebellion groups receive support from Pakistani Intelligence, train for suicide-bombing in Pakistan, and are used actively as a political tool to alter and influence politics in Afghanistan. On the other hand, economic links with Pakistan are extremely important for the nearly non-existent Afghan economy, and Pakistan has also housed a large proportion of Afghan refugees and immigrants ever since the Soviet War in Afghanistan in the 1980s.

India, on the other hand, is viewed favourably upon by most Afghans - including the government, as India has, as part of its strategy to deny Pakistan foreign policy achievements, adopted a strategy of aid and strategic partnership with the Afghan government.

The main goal for the Afghan delegation will be to try and limit the effects of a Kashmir rebellion spilling over the border and providing new recruits, training and capital for the ongoing jihad by groups such as Taliban and Islamic State in Khorasan. If more than one border issue is to be settled at this conference, Afghanistan will also seek to reach an agreement, possibly formalising the Durand Line and obtaining guarantees of Pakistan not interfering in Afghan internal matters.

In all aspects, the Afghan state is weak and its foreign policy is mainly about staying neutral. In most matters, the Afghan delegation will seek the assistance of the Americans, who de facto guarantee the existence of the Afghan government. In return, the Afghans might provide the US with a unique mediating capability, as they have close relations with both India and Pakistan. Furthermore, Afghanistan has not made a direct statement about their views on the human rights perpetrations in Kashmir.

2. The People's Republic of Bangladesh

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has a long-standing history with the countries involved in the conflict, as Bangladesh separated from Pakistan in 1971. Thus, the country argues that maintaining stability and regional peace as well as development should be a priority for all countries.

Bangladesh is highly involved with the International Community and has official diplomatic relations with many of the members of the UN. The country is part of many trade organisations, both regional and international, and puts deep emphasis on relations with the United States and China. Further, the relationship with Russia has also become more influential due to Russian technical assistance on military modernisation. Bangladesh's bilateral relationships are mainly based on trade activities, however, the relations expand to other areas such as military cooperation, cultural exchange etc.. Thus, the relations with the international community are of great concern to Bangladesh and should be taken into account by the delegation at the committee session.

The Kashmir conflict is by no means contributing to stability and development, and the Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said that the Bangladesh government is closely observing the situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir. However, the government has continuously described the conflict in Kashmir as an internal issue of India and believes that they have no right to say anything about the domestic matters of the other countries.

When it comes to human rights in Bangladesh, they have themselves had much trouble with human rights perpetrations, such as unlawful killings, arbitrary arrests and detention and torture. Furthermore, the rights to freedom of speech and freedom of assembly are under heavy violations as the government applies repressive laws and presses arbitrary criminal charges against journalists who publish criticism of the government. Other media and civil society activists also report threats and intimidation.

This means that in the committee, the delegation from Bangladesh might support bilateral agreements between the two nations and any measures to secure stability, development and interdependence between the two nations. Further, securing stability in the region is of great importance and should be taken into account.

3. The Kingdom of Belgium

The Kingdom of Belgium has a history of long-standing diplomatic relations with both India and Pakistan. It has many trade deals with India, and thus the relationship between the two nations is of great economic importance to Belgium. However, the diplomatic relations between Belgium and Pakistan have led to the possibility of a trade deal between Pakistan and the EU. The Pakistani ambassador has also had access to pleading and lobbying with the European Union through its relationship with Belgium, therefore making the diplomatic relationship between Belgium and Pakistan important for the entirety of the European Union. Additionally, the EU's headquarters are in Brussels, and Belgian foreign policy is often closely related to that of the EU.

The EU has no official stand on the Kashmir conflict, other than the fact that they support bilateral agreements and cooperation between India and Pakistan. The EU Foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini argued on behalf of the EU that a bilateral political solution is the only way to solve the long-lasting dispute and the instability and insecurity it creates in the region. Furthermore, the basic human rights of Kashmiris should be seen as of the utmost importance when solving the conflict between the two countries, the safety of the people living in the region being top priority.

However, both human rights activists and a British MEP have urged the EU and its member states to put pressure on India to end the curfew in Kashmir and improve a resolution between the two countries. As a member state of the EU, the Kingdom of Belgium is likely to support its decisions and opinions when present at the committee. Therefore, it is likely to argue for bilateral agreements between the two nations. However, it is also likely to listen to the Human rights activists within its borders and thus argue for a shutdown of the curfew in Kashmir. Further, the delegates should remember the diplomatic relationship to Pakistan and India respectively and therefore argue for a resolution that benefits both nations.

4. The People's Republic of China

For China, the main issue is safety. The entire narrative of the ruling communist party is that of being able to bring security and stable growth to its people. China will not see the Kashmir conflict getting in the way of this.

China is a long-standing ally with Pakistan, but, like with most other alliances in the region, mostly out of pragmatism. During the Cold War, China and India, who were supported by Russia, were bitter enemies, and the Beijing government saw Pakistan as a handy foreign policy tool. To this day, China is involved in the Kashmir conflict and has multiple border disputes with India, which makes the country even more likely to side with Pakistan.

China has, all though still far greater than any European or North American country, seen a slough of economic growth in recent years, especially after the US under President Trump began waging a trade war. This threatens the entire Chinese narrative of steady growth rates and endangers its *Belt and Road Initiative*, which is set to go through the Kashmir region and neighbouring countries. Although China has struck deals with, amongst others, the Taliban in order to secure vital BRI-infrastructure, China would prefer things remaining relatively stable in the Kashmir region, so that Beijing may know whom to co-opt next.

Furthermore, according to Indian Media Reports in ET, a senior Chinese diplomat has questioned the issue of human rights violations in Kashmir, this however coming at a time when Beijing itself is facing global heat for serious charges of human rights violations in Xinjiang, Tibet and most recently in Hong Kong. This means that while it will be in China's interest to protect Kashmiris from human rights violations from the Indian government, they are also treading mighty thin ice on their stature as a global power, which is something they first and foremost will be interested in protecting.

Since the US is also, even more so out of pragmatism, still somewhat of an ally of Pakistan, China will seek to provoke the USA in much the same way as it has been seen in The South China Sea, taking calculated risks and testing the temper and resoluteness of the US delegation. If China can bother the USA for its trade war, Beijing will certainly not let such an opportunity pass.

5. The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire considers the increasing tensions in Kashmir worrying and urges the two parties to find a solution in a bilateral matter. Increasing tensions in the region have the potential to destabilise the region and escalate into a broader conflict, something that Côte d'Ivoire, who themselves have been through a long civil war, sees as very detrimental to the wellbeing of the civilians in the region, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It is the opinion of Côte d'Ivoire that the dispute is to be settled bilaterally by the parties. The UN charter calls for conflicts to be attempted to be settled bilaterally, and regionally, before being brought to the attention of the international system and the Security Council, and Côte d'Ivoire fully supports this stance. It does, however, seek for the parties to abide by the principles of democracy, peace, and security through dialogue, and notes that with no peace, there's no development.

Côte d'Ivoire, while it does have increasingly strong ties to India, also has a large Muslim demographic, and thus recognises the Pakistani case. For this reason, it also shares the notions of resolution of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation(OIC) that noted concern over the deterioration of the situation, and therefore could take a mediating stance in the committee.

Côte d'Ivoire has received criticism from the foreign minister of Pakistan, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who urges them to take a more active role in resolving the decades-old Kashmir dispute, especially when it comes to the human rights violations in the area. However, when it comes to human rights perpetrations in Côte d'Ivoire, the delegates might be hesitant with addressing the human rights issues in Kashmir, as they themselves has had reports of both unlawful killings, arbitrary arrests, harsh and unhealthy prison conditions and denial of fair public trial.

6. The Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic sees itself as having an important role in maintaining international peace and security by having an elected seat on the Security Council. In its work on the council, it has often aligned with the United States and other Latin American countries and will seek to collaborate with these countries in the committee. Outside the Western hemisphere, the Dominican Republic has good relations with India, especially in terms of economic relations and foreign aid, where India is a major player in the Dominican Republic's economy. As such, the Dominican Republic will seek to align with India relating to the issue of Kashmir.

For this reason, the Dominican Republic does not consider the situation in Kashmir as a situation that should be emphasised on the Security Council's agenda, as it is fundamentally a domestic Indian issue. It does, however, note the importance for all countries to respect international law, especially as relates to the alleged Human Rights violations and the potential effect certain actions might have on civilians. Further, the Dominican Republic emphasises the importance of both parties returning to peaceful dispute settlement, which it would consider facilitating in an inclusive manner.

When it comes to human rights within the Dominican Republic, a report on Human rights Practices from the United States Department of State from 2019 concluded findings of reports of unlawful or arbitrary killings, arbitrary arrests, torture by police and other government agents, arbitrary detention, serious problem with the independence of the judiciary and forced child labour to only name a few. This may cause the Dominican Republic to be a little hesitant when it comes to giving critique on the human rights perpetrations done in the Kashmir region.

7. The Republic of Equatorial Guinea

In the Republic of Equatorial Guinea's short history of independence, the country has established diplomatic ties with multiple countries worldwide, including India. The country's ties with India include trade, aid, bilateral talks and diplomatic missions. Thus, India is important for Equatorial Guinea as it provides financial aid and trade to the country. Further, India assisted Equatorial Guinea in becoming a member state of the UN.

According to the current representative of the government of Equatorial Guinea, the nation and the government is currently trying to build up the country in a peaceful manner and is therefore likely to be more concerned with its own development as a nation and as a former colony, even at the committee sessions.

According to a statement made on the 14th of August 2019 by the delegation of Equatorial Guinea regarding the situation in Kashmir, Equatorial Guinea is concerned about the situation and hopes the two parties find a resolution. The country believes that the issue is of great importance and is a great threat. Yet it is to be solved between the two countries without foreign intervention. Thus, Pakistan and India must find a resolution possibly through bilateral agreement.

Despite the serious human rights violations by the Indian government concerning Kashmiris, Equatorial Guinea is most likely to support India and its views, because of the multiple diplomatic ties to India.

8. The French Republic

The French Republic has historically avoided intervening in the Kashmir conflict. However, due to the violations of human rights in the region and the threat to the international community, France has called for cooling down tensions and bilateral agreements between the two countries. The French President, Emmanuel Macron, has stated that no third party should interfere or incite violence in the region. Further, the government wants India and Pakistan to further communication, interdependence and stability in the region.

France pays close attention to the region, and according to the statement made by French President, Emmanuel Macron, Paris urges the Indian government and Prime Minister Modi to respect the rights of people on both sides of the line of control. Further, he added that France would remain attentive to ensure the rights and interests of the civilian populations are taken into account properly on both sides of the divided region. The protection of human rights in the region should be of great importance for the delegation of the French Republic in the committee.

The French Republic has a partnership with India and thus, France would not be interested in being aggressive towards India. However, the French government would expect the Indian Prime Minister to explain how the Indian government views the situation.

Thus, the French Republic is in agreement with the statement made by the European Union. At the committee session, the delegation from the French Republic might argue for any measures securing stability between the two nations and for further bilateral agreements and discussions between India and Pakistan. Further, they might argue for the importance of stabilising the region and securing human rights on both sides of the Line of Control.

9. The Federal Republic of Germany

The official foreign policy of Germany is not to interfere in Kashmir. In the past, the German government has refused to support India as well as Pakistan on this issue. The reason is that if any country - in this case, Germany - chooses to support either of the two countries, the other launches a diplomatic row with them and turns the relations bad in all spheres. Therefore, Germany holds a neutral position on this issue.

However, a great focus for Germany is the protection of human rights and the fight against terrorism. They do support both the Indian and Pakistani government on their efforts against terrorism. In accordance with this policy, Germany's foreign minister Heiko Mass expressed a conditional concern over human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir and urged Pakistan and India to resolve the dispute through dialogue. German media also criticized actions by the Indian government concerning human rights violations in Kashmir. In Europe, a general opinion is that the matter should be resolved by both countries through bilateral talks. As it is also stated in the Study guide *members of the European Union may support bilateral agreements between India and Pakistan, as that is what the European Union formally supports*. However, Germany and the EU support peace, freedom and human rights in all parts of the world. Therefore, the German interior minister Otto Schily stated that Germany is against all sorts of terrorist attacks wherever they may take place.

In committee Germany is therefore most likely to hold a neutral position on the general conflict of Kashmir. Yet they will actively promote the importance of human rights and urge to fight terrorism.

10. The Republic of India

The Republic of India maintains that the region of Kashmir and Jammu is part of India. Thus, the revocation of Article 370 is an internal matter, and not by any means a matter of international security.

Firstly, India claims that as the *Maharaja* Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession in October 1947, he handed the control of the region to India. Therefore, the region belongs to India, which was validated by the Indian Independence Act and the departure of the British Empire. As the world's largest democracy, India emphasizes the importance of human rights, and according to the country, most regions of Pakistan occupied Kashmir continue to suffer from lack of political recognition, economic development and basic fundamental rights. As Indian Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said at a UNICEF event on September 2019, Pakistan should be concerned about the status of Human rights in Pakistan than it is about internal affairs in India. Thus, the country will argue that the population in Indian-administered Kashmir is better off than the people in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Further, India believes that Pakistan is spreading anti-India sentiment among the people of Kashmir, and thus would most likely not entertain a plebiscite in the region, as India believes it would be influenced by Pakistan.

Though India has allowed the region to become one of the most militarized regions in the world, the country views this as a necessity, as Pakistan also has not removed its military forces in the region and allegedly funds military groups in the region in order to create instability.

According to the BBC, India has been prepared to accept the Line of Control as the international border perhaps with certain adjustments, though they claim the entire state is part of India.

In the committee, the delegation of India will argue for the partition of Kashmir by the Line of Control or that the entire region will become part of India. Further, they will argue for the protection of human rights in the region and very against a referendum on the region, due to the reasons mentioned above.

11. The Republic of Indonesia

The Republic of Indonesia has historically involved itself in the Kashmir conflict by supporting Pakistan in the 1965 Indo-Pakistani war. Indonesia sided with Pakistan at that time because of their religiously and to a part also cultural similarities, with both countries being majorly Sunni Muslim. Indonesia aided with military equipment.

However, recently Indonesia has warmed towards India rather than Pakistan. The country has opposed strong wordings against India in papers written by the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation) on the subject of the Kashmir Conflict and government officials have decided not to visit Pakistan although invited there.

Some of the key pillars in the Indian-Indonesian relationship is the maritime domain and counter-terrorism. The latter being very relevant since Al-Qaeda in 2006 claimed to have established a terrorist wing in Kashmir. Today, India is one of Indonesia's biggest trade partners and Indonesia views India as a country with immense market opportunities.

In the committee, the delegation of Indonesia should argue for a bilateral agreement focusing on stability. The country will mainly support peaceful proposals by India but the delegation must not forget the religious similarities with Pakistan - bearing in mind the anti-terrorism agenda of Indonesia. Indonesia will not accept anything that insinuates certain religious groups will be viewed upon favourably or unfavourably. Hence Indonesia's focus on human rights primarily lies within religious rights and the protection of religious minorities.

12. Islamic Republic of Iran

Iran borders Pakistan to the south with the border running through the Baluchistan province, where insurgents on both sides of the border are operating, and the area is also used for smuggling drugs and immigrants and refugees from Afghanistan - thus having some sort of cooperation with Pakistan. The diplomatic ties, however, are very fragile and are affected by the Shia-Sunni conflict and especially worsened under the Taliban regime, which Pakistan supported.

Iran, however, will usually support fellow Muslim countries when in opposition to others, and is suspicious of the US interfering in the politics of the region and thus gaining new influence. Thus, Iran will opt for the issues being resolved either by the international community as a whole or internally, favouring Pakistan's stance.

13. The State of Kuwait

The State of Kuwait recognises the essential responsibility of the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security and the role of early attention to issues which potentially threaten this. However, it does not consider the issue to be of importance on the Security Council's agenda and therefore encourages the parties to the dispute to pursue bilateral-diplomatic efforts to resolve the issue.

Kuwait has continuously expressed the resolve to continue supporting Pakistan on regional and international fora, including their seat on the security council, and has reiterated to support Pakistan's stance on Kashmir. Further, as part of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Kuwait is associated with a statement from the organisation that notes with concern the recent developments, especially the actions of the Indian government, in attempting to change the demographics of the Kashmir region from a majority-Muslim to a majority-Hindu region, and finds that this needs to be reiterated.

When it comes to human rights, a group of Kuwaiti members of Parliament have heavily criticised India over "atrocities and human rights violations in Kashmir" and furthermore vowed that they will oppose any agreement between Kuwait and any other nations that oppresses and maltreats Muslims. Member of Parliament Muhammad Hayef has urged human rights organisations to support the humanitarian issues of Kashmir and has furthermore criticized the Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) for not pressing to resolve the Kashmir issue.

Kuwait is of the opinion that the dispute between Pakistan and India should be settled bilaterally and argues that preventive steps should be taken while a peaceful resolution of the dispute is found, and will seek to promote such actions in the council in close cooperation with Pakistan.

14. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The recent developments in the Kashmir issue have once again led to Pakistan becoming extremely worried about Indian intentions, and the revoking of article 370 in the Indian constitution is seen in Pakistan as nothing short of an aggressive Indian expansion of its domain further into the Pakistani sphere of influence. Pakistan is devoted to putting an end to this Indian expansion, as the country sees it not merely as a revoking of autonomy but also a potential first Indian step towards the annihilation of Pakistan. This will lead to Pakistan dealing with whoever required, but preferably UNSC. Pakistan will also try to put its diplomatic ties to China to good use.

With regards to the USA, current Pakistani former cricket player gone president, Imran Khan, has stated that Pakistan of course still has ties to al-Qaeda and that they never should have helped the US in their battle against terror in Afghanistan - thus, by stating what has been a public secret for many years, cooling down the already cold relationship with the US. Although not officially, Pakistan will likely deem itself fit to intensify its support to insurgencies in the region to counter India, if the matter is not resolved by UNSC.

With regards to other subjects, Pakistan will try to ensure guarantees against Indian interference in water resources and is not likely to easily give up any nuclear capabilities and opportunities.

15. The Republic of Peru

Peru has been an emerging market and has experienced a high level of human development. The Country has interests in increasing its presence in Asia and has lately shown further interest in India as a trade partner. The two countries have made bilateral agreements on cooperation in Education and culture.

The Republic of Peru has a free-trade agreement with China and has through that encouraged Pakistan to reap benefits from this for itself. Despite this Peru has been clear on supporting India fully in the territorial conflict of the Kashmir region. The Peruvian government has stated they have *“traditionally shown understanding of the Indian position on Kashmir and has been sympathetic and appreciative of India's responsible restraint even in the face of grave provocation. Peru supports India's Position that such conflicts should be resolved bilaterally through dialogue and not be internationalized”*.

India and Peru are in discussion on a free-trade agreement with a focus on medicaments and technology. In general, the Peruvian government sees the opportunity for more trade with any country to be of utmost importance since the country itself will prosper more by having more trade partners in Asia. Of course, to have stable trade the regions must also be stable, therefore Peru will support any agreement that will stabilise the region, remove terrorism and which focuses on a bilateral agreement on the territorial issue.

Peru has not made any official statements regarding human rights perpetrations in Kashmir, however it would be in their best interest to ensure that bilateral agreements regarding the protection of basic human rights in the region will be made, so that their trade agreements with the parties will not be put at risk. What should be characteristic for their negotiations is that they would put weight on the will of India and Pakistan, favouring India's standpoint.

16. The Republic of Poland

Historically, Poland has good ties with both India and Pakistan. Pakistan hosted more than 30,000 refugees during World War II, and India was outspoken against the invasion of Poland by Germany and hosting refugees despite the country itself suffering from famine. There has also been tension between Pakistan and Poland when a Pakistani Taliban member kidnapped and murdered a Polish engineer.

In August 2019 Poland held the presidency of the United Nations Security Council where the country stated that an agreement on the Kashmir conflict must be found bilaterally between India and Pakistan. This statement came after China had proposed to remove the special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir. The consequence is that Poland refuses Pakistan's wish to bring the subject into the UNSC.

Poland is a member of the EU and like the union, Poland believes that peace talks between the involved parties should solve the issue. Poland has stated that the country is ready to act in order to prevent actions that may impact the security situation, for example in regards to terrorist attacks. The international focus on Kashmir should therefore reflect an effort to prevent and condemn human rights violations.

For Poland, the matter of the Kashmir conflict is a strictly internal issue and the delegation of Poland must work towards making every decision made bilaterally, and not in the UNSC or any other international body. All in all, Poland believes that intervention is only needed if there is a great security risk.

17. The Russian Federation

The Soviet Union was considered a regional superpower in the eastern part of the world during the days of the old-world order. Therefore, Russia has had an interest in securing long-lasting “peace” in the region in order to secure its international status, so that Russia would be able to handle other pressing issues. As the expression goes - you can’t change the world if your house is on fire - Russia, as well as any regional superpower, would have to control its own region before being able to control parts of others. But recognizing today that the Russian Federation does not have the same influence as the Soviet Union had, Russia needs the support of strong allies such as India. Over the last couple of years under the rule of Vladimir Putin, Russia has entered a new policy which detains a more pragmatic approach in handling various issues, whether it is controlling terrorism in Chechnya, drawing parallels between the situations in Kashmir and the situation in Chechnya, or rebuilding Russia's image in the international arena.

As the study guide states in the section regarding bloc position, “the Soviet Union and later the Russian Federation has always been in support of India’s claims.” Barring some disruptions and aberrations in the early 1990s, the partnership between Russia and India has remained stable and enduring. The Soviet Union saved India from a potential third-party intervention and international humiliation. Thus, making the Indians feel obligated and indebted to the Russian support at the UNSC. As a result of this and the fact that there has been no substantial change in Russia’s policy towards Kashmir, India supported Russia in its incorporation of Crimea, saying “Russia has legitimate interests in Crimea.” This showcases the mutual political standpoint and historical alliance between the two countries. Therefore, Russia supports India’s claims to the region. This is to be considered when discussing how the new borders in the region should be determined.

In terms of how much autonomy Kashmir - or parts of Kashmir - should have, Russia feels that the matter is to be solved on a bilateral level. After New Delhi changed the legal status of the state of Jammu and Kashmir (the dismissal of article 370), the situation in South Asia was discussed amid the worsening relations between Pakistan and India. Therefore, the minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation stated that the Russian side “emphasized the need for de-escalation of tensions and that there is no alternative to resolve differences between Pakistan and India except bilaterally through political and diplomatic means.” By making this statement, the Russian government made it clear that Russia feels the matter is bilateral in nature and that the UN has no role in solving the dispute.

18. The Republic of South Africa

Traditionally, South Africa and India have been in a long-standing diplomatic relationship, but recently political parties and organisations in South Africa have been advocating for a more open approach towards Pakistan.

On one hand, Pakistan has compared the struggles for independence in the Jammu and Kashmir regions to South Africa's own struggles for independence in the 1960s and 1990s. Pakistan sees South Africa in a possible mediation role for the discussions to end the conflict. Hence Pakistan would expect South Africa to take a stand on the conflict and advocate for bilateral agreements and discussions. On the contrary, India, while not diminishing South Africa's history, believes that their own experiences of democracy is enough to go forward with the negotiations.

South Africa does believe in a bilateral agreement between the two countries. Yet South Africa is concerned by the escalation of tension surrounding developments in Jammu and Kashmir. The issue of Jammu and Kashmir should be solved bilaterally and South Africa urges both India and Pakistan to resolve their differences through peaceful means. Given South Africa's history with a peaceful and democratic transition, South Africa does believe that it is possible to reach common ground through inclusive dialogue. In this regard, South Africa stresses that the freedom and rights of all citizens must be respected in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights laws.

In council South Africa will primarily advocate for a joint dialogue between India and Pakistan. Additionally, the focus will be on ensuring human rights and establishing peaceful negotiations.

19. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland sees the conflict in Kashmir as not only an internal problem in the Asian region, but also as a part of the global phenomenon of terror. The UK strongly condemns the terrorist attack in Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir on 10 July, in which pilgrims were killed and injured and the UK stands resolutely with India in the fight against terror. Therefore, the UK is in support of solving the conflict either bilaterally or internationally.

Overall, The United Kingdom does not wish to side in the Kashmir conflict because of their currently large British-Pakistani and British-Indian communities. Hence, the UK has not shown support of either country, but has shown interest in solving the conflict due to its historic ties. The UK is not necessarily in support of either country and will not take a stand on the determination of the borders in the region. The study guide states that the members of the European Union may support bilateral agreements between India and Pakistan, as that is what the European Union formally supports. But as an ex-member of the European Union it is clear that the UK is not always in agreement with the official EU policy. Therefore, The UK will not necessarily agree with the EU, but will be able to work together on a resolution, as long as it is regarded as an efficient way of solving the conflict.

In order to ensure long-term stability in the Kashmiri area, the UK feels that there is one primary concern; handling the human rights issue. The UK feels that handling the human rights issue is the only way to make sure the peace is long-lasting. The human rights issue occurs when the people of Kashmir are denied basic human rights such as the right to vote, the right to life and liberty, freedom from torture and freedom of opinion and expression. The issue of human rights is not just a bilateral issue for India or Pakistan or a domestic issue, it is an international issue. Human rights must be respected.

20. The United States of America

The USA has under the Trump presidency taken up a rather unpredictable foreign policy. Under the Biden presidency, the US has further continued a reluctance to lead internationally. Yet in this matter, it has been relatively clear that the US will assume a mediating role in the conflict if both parties or UNSC so wish, but the US will probably be keener on securing its own narrow interests in the region, mainly confronting China.

The US stresses that they continue to follow developments in Jammu and Kashmir closely and that they support steps that return Jammu and Kashmir to full economical and political normalcy. If possible, the USA will try to regain the influence it has had over Pakistan. Pakistan is viewed as playing a game of two-track policies, and the USA is keen on not letting the matter be dictated på China. Hence the conflict of Kashmir reflects a greater power battle in an not only regional but also global perspective.

The US suspicion towards Pakistan might incentivise a policy shift towards a pragmatic alliance with India, but the US seems rather keen on ending the conflict in any way possible and would preferably see a resolution which has got the acceptance of both parties accepted. With this said the US will still prioritise solving the conflict either bilaterally or internationally, because they have important relationships with India, as well as Pakistan.

The election of Joe Biden has brought hope to the people living in the Indian-administered territory. Biden's campaign states that in Kashmir, the Indian government should take all necessary steps to restore rights for all people of Kashmir. Hence the Biden presidency has a great focus on human rights and the respect of international conventions. Therefore, some Kashmiris hope Biden will promote international scrutiny of Delhi's policies in the region.