

Position Paper for the Security Council

The topics before the Security Council are ‘Stopping Boko Haram from further terrorist attacks’ and ‘Border Security’. The Security Council is a 15-member body of the United Nations that is responsible for taking decisions related to peace and security, with an aim to avoid war and aggression. The United Kingdom is a permanent member of the Council and has taken significant steps to counter terrorism and ensure border security.

I. Stopping Boko Haram from further terrorist attacks

Boko Haram is an Islamic militant group that has been operating in Africa’s most populated city, Nigeria, since 2003. The group propagates the teachings of the Salafist sect of Islam, and condemns any teachings and activities that it considers un-Islamic. According to BBC, Boko Haram is against Westernization and practices such as secular education, wearing Western clothing and taking part in elections. Boko Haram translates to “Western education is forbidden” in the local language of Nigeria, and can also be interpreted to mean “Western fraud.” The group has been targeted for kidnapping and attacking school children as well as for taking part in illegal activities such as bank robberies and high-scale kidnappings to obtain funds. According to African Check, Boko Haram has ties to several foreign militant groups that include Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb in Mali and al-Shabaab in Somalia. Even though the Nigerian government has taken steps towards reducing the role of this organization, it’s prominence has only been increasing, with a problem that is fast reaching the global scale.

The United Kingdom stands strongly against terrorism, and has taken multiple steps towards preventing and reducing it. Therefore, the UK has a strategy to counter terrorism, both within and outside the country, titled CONTEST. Further, the country passed the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 which reduces the “stop and search” powers of the police, and introduces fairer methods to protect the population along with the Terrorism Prevention and Investigations Measures Act 2011, that created a new system to prevent terrorism and conduct investigations. At a global scale, the country passed the Terrorism Act 2000, which provides the basis for prosecuting terrorists and makes it illegal for terrorist groups to operate in the UK, including international groups. Further, the Terrorism Act 2006 makes it a criminal offence to encourage, support or disseminate information about criminal organizations.

The United Kingdom has been supporting Nigeria in the fight against terrorism, as quoted by the UK Minister for International Development, Nick Hurd, in April 2016, that the UK stands “should to shoulder with Nigeria in the battle against Boko Haram.” Further, according to The Guardian, the UK has sent over 300 troops into Nigeria to play an advisory role and to train the army in the country. In addition to that, the government has also provided extensive humanitarian aid of food, water and medicine supplies along with monetary funds of over 860 million pounds to help the Nigerian government in it’s fight against terrorism.

Boko Haram which is considered the world’s deadliest terrorist group has killed more people than ISIS according to The Telegraph and is a dangerous threat to the world that needs to be addressed immediately.

II. Border Security

Border security refers to measures adopted by a country to police its borders and to regulate the movement of individuals and goods. Therefore, these measures are intended to prevent the illegal movement or smuggling of immigrants, drugs, weapons, and diseases. Border Security is meant to regulate movements across a country's border, which is essential for a nation's security and economic well-being. Some of the key measures to ensure regulation at the border include taxes, monitoring, check posts and strict visa policies. Border security is of greater significance in light of globalization and integration between nation-states, that challenges the traditional idea of sovereignty.

The United Kingdom takes the issue of border security extremely seriously, especially in light of Brexit and the surge of terrorist attacks in Europe. According to the Government of UK website, Border Force is a law enforcement group formed in the UK in 2012, with the responsibility of securing the UK border by carrying out immigration and customs control for individuals and goods that enter the UK. The Border Force plays a significant role in ensuring the security of the nation by performing a multitude of tasks such as checking immigration of individuals arriving and departing the UK, gathering intelligence, checking the UK coastline along with searching vehicles and cargo for illegal immigrants or commodities.

In addition, the UK has taken stringent measures to secure Calais, the border it shares with France. According to BBC, the UK spent over 12 million pounds in 2014, to build a 15-foot high fence along the border. Currently, the border has a CCTV camera, a security force with watchdogs, a strict custom check point and a heavy fine of 2,000 pounds for defaulters, in addition to the fence. Moreover, the government passed the Immigration Act in 2014, to reduce illegal immigration by gathering data on all travelers that exit the UK via air, sea and rail.

The United Kingdom has also taken steps to respond to present cases of terrorism and border breaches. The government increased security and checks at all its borders after the Nice attack that occurred in France in July 2016. This was done to prevent entry of illegal immigrants in the country, and to prevent a similar attack within its territory. In addition, as reported by ABC News, the government has taken steps to prevent asylum seekers from illegally entering the country through the port of Calais. Hence, Border Force has been granted extra boats for patrolling and surveillance along with additional powers to stop and detain vessels and to make arrests if deemed necessary.

Border Security is a pressing issue in the world today in light of terrorist groups such as ISIS, as well as reduced border control because of globalization. In such a situation, it becomes essential for nations to protect their borders, and therefore to ensure the security of their population by taking all possible measures for the same.