



Tajikistan Position Paper

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I/ Background Information on Tajikistan

Tajikistan is a relatively new country, formed in 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union; however throughout history the landscape has seen many different ethnicities and is therefore a very culturally rich nation. The area known today as Tajikistan was a part of the Persian Empire for a long period of time, it later became a part of the British Empire. But then the Arabs came bringing with themselves the religion called Islam. From 875 AD to 1000 AD the area proceeded to be ruled by the Samanid Empire, which set the foundations of the Tajik culture. In the 19th century, the area went under the control of the USSR and with its eventual breakup, Tajikistan was born. From 1992 to 1997 Tajikistan went through a civil war. Even though presidential elections are held every 7 years the president has stayed the same since 1994 and major economic problems are present making Tajikistan the poorest nation in the Soviet sphere. Today Tajikistan maintains geographical significance however it is highly dependent on Russia both economically and defensively. Keeping that in mind, Tajikistan is expanding its ties with China most likely in order to gain economic independence from Russia.

II/ Past Achievements and Attempts of Tajikistan on the Issues

- A. **The Question of the Caucasus:** Tajikistan has not made any direct attempts to solve the territorial dispute.
- B. **The Question of the Caspian Sea and Surrounding Territories:** Tajikistan is a part of an Intergovernmental Commission called TRACECA. According to the strategy of the IGC TRACECA, a round table is to be set up in order to debate on the implementations of the single window and economic operator concepts. Tajikistan has established the single window concept within national borders, in customs.
- C. **The Question of the Shift of Trade Routes in Eurasia:** Tajikistan has had nothing to do with the new trade route yet, nor is it a part of it. The route almost seems to avoid crossing the Tajik border probably due to the economic situation in Tajikistan, however, the hopes of having a Eurasian tradeline pass through Tajikistan are still strong thanks to the to-be-formed trade route project that TRACECA is working on.



III/ Objectives, Aims and Possible Solutions Proposed by Tajikistan on the Issues

- A. The Question of the Caucasus:** Most nations in the Caucasus have territorial claims on the region and so do many de facto regimes. The area in question attracts attention internationally as well because of the valuable resources in said region. For these reasons, the region can not be rightfully given to any state through war. Therefore Tajikistan believes that a Panel should be formed in order to solve the dispute and distribute the region rightfully between nations. The panel would include the P5 nations only as observers (except nations that are in the region, so essentially Russia) just for the reason that they have political pressure on the region without any rightful claims, other politically non-sided nations like Switzerland would also be a part of the observers. The nations however that would be included are the ones that have claims on the territory. De facto regions would also have one representative each. Once the territory would be divided between the claims the panel would reassemble every 2 years in order to maintain peace and also do slight touches on the decisions they had made before if necessary.
- B. The Question of the Caspian Sea and Surrounding Territories:** According to the Cambridge Dictionary the definition of a lake is a large area of water surrounded by land and the Caspian Sea is just that. That means the Caspian Sea should actually be called the Caspian lake and distributed among Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran and Azerbaijan. However, this may be a very good time for an exception as the Caspian Sea has a very big impact on the trade routes in Eurasia and therefore should be announced international waters. As Tajikistan, we would be in favor of Russia's former proposal if necessary. Although this could lead to a sufficient solution we believe the method stated in The Strategy of the IGC TRACECA is the best approach to the situation as it entails that a round table strategy is implemented in order to resolve further disputes.
- C. The Question of the Shift of Trade Routes in Eurasia:** As Tajikistan, the new trade route being worked on is a big opportunity, however, our cooperation is necessary for it to be beneficial. Reducing US dependency in Asia is key for development but it is important to keep in mind that China is also a very dominant superpower in the World. Therefore as long as Tajikistan benefits from the trade route by setting up a "hotspot" so to say within its own borders, improves relations with China and stays wary of a potential risk this could be an opportunity for Tajikistan to gain huge amounts of economic growth. If said "hotspot" is not set up in Tajikistan, the TRACECA approach would be the correct one to pursue. Chinese dependency was already formerly stated however the situation gets more serious if Tajikistan gains no benefit from the newly forming Chinese trade route potentially leading to a higher percentage of poverty than ever, in this non-beneficial situation TRACECA is the solution Tajikistan should be looking for.



IV/ Bibliography

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