

Sample Position Paper/Policy Statement:

United Kingdom Security Council, Fabian Krusa

The second issue before the SC can be considered the most important topic regarding international peace and security of the past 12 years: The situation in Afghanistan. The country, located in the Middle East, and home of 21.8 million people has been the topic of discussion for the General Assembly and the Security Council for several times, especially since the start of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission after the 9/11 attacks. Though having been a very prosperous hub of an international trade route one day, the past 34 years of war have let Afghanistan become one of the poorest countries in our world. Today a third of the Afghans have less than sixty pence a day and one in 6 children die before they are five years old. Moreover, the life expectancy is only 44 in average, which is really low compared to around 80 in the UK.

Additionally, there is still a large number of an-alphabets and what must not be underestimated, there is still discrimination and violation of women's rights and their equality in Afghanistan although some efforts in the past decade. The origin of all these humanitarian, financial as well as social problems dates back to the year 1978 when the Afghan Civil War began after the former General Daud had been overthrown and killed, leading to a seizure of power by the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA). In the following year the Soviet intervention, intending to aid the PDPA, took place. This however, was directly opposed by the mujahideen, an Afghan resistance force, which was supported by mainly the US but also China and Pakistan as well as Iran. The consequence of this conflict was a civil war of a disastrous extent.

In that time already the General Assembly first dealt with the Afghan issue and adopted resolutions 462 as well as 35/37. In A/RES/35/37 the GA stresses the importance of the sovereignty of the Afghan people and further calls up the international forces to withdraw while still calling for international humanitarian assistance. After ten years the Red Army had to quit but civil war continued though. The following decade was dominated by several civil uprisings and fights between different groups of which one is the Taliban. After having failed in Kabul in 1995 they finally took over control in the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" in 1996. Other states such as the US and Russia supported a resistance group against them, since the Taliban gave safe heaven to the Al-Qaeda to plan and carry out their terrorist attacks all over the world, culminating in the 9/11 attacks. After that the Taliban refused to bring the

leaders of Al-Qaeda to account and therefore the international community, meaning the NATO as well as the USA, UK and France in cooperation with the Northern Alliance, had to intervene militarily in order to “protect the international security by helping the Afghans to take control of their own” as the British First Secretary of State, William Hague, stressed in a report last December. The decision of the UNSC to establish the ISAF(International Security Assistance Force) has to be considered a very important step and was warmly welcomed by the UK. The United Kingdom has from the beginning on supported the ISAF mission with thousands of soldiers, having 9,500 of them stationed in Afghanistan, mainly in the Southern province of Helmand, today. The second relevant step was the establishment of the UNAMA (United Nations Mission in Afghanistan) by the SC in 2002 with S/RES/1401 which the UK also voted in favor for. The UNAMA shall assist the process of transition in Afghanistan and lay the foundations for peace and security. The UK considers the work of this mission as effective and therefore also voted in favor of S/RES/2041 which last year extended the mandate of the UNAMA for another year.

More than a decade of foreign intervention in the country has passed and the mission is coming to an end. The troops of the ISAF mission shall leave the land by the end of 2014. Though we have achieved some successes we have also seen that it is not easy or nearly impossible to totally eliminate the Taliban and Al-Qaeda. The fights between the international forces and the terrorists as well as their attacks have caused a lot of casualties ending up with a horrifying number of 3 million people killed in the country since 1978 and still a lot of humanitarian problems as aforementioned.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland considers Afghanistan the “top foreign policy priority” and our defence main effort. We are in Afghanistan because we see our national security threatened by terrorist groups such as AlQaeda. The aim of the UK's intervention was to protect the national and international security by assisting the Afghans to protect their country from a return of the terrorists. To achieve that, the United Kingdom runs several projects in the middle-east state. On the one hand the UK actively participates in the military support for Afghanistan with the soldiers sent to the ISAF mission. We are convinced that the training and extension of the Afghan soldiers as well as the national police to a level at which they can take over the control in their country has to be our goal until the end of 2014. This training of the so-called ANSF(Afghan National Security Forces), made up by the Afghan National Army (ANA), the Afghan Air Force as well as the Afghan National Police (ANP), is crucial to establish long-term security in the country. The UK, for example, has sent several British police officers to Afghanistan to mentor and train the local officers. British

Defence Secretary, Phillip Hammond, as well as the Chief of Defence Staff, General Sir Richards, are convinced that the ANSF has greatly improved in the recent years and welcome the growth of their capacity to today 352,000.

Consequently the UK wants to withdraw its troops step by step until the end of 2014 in the stipulated transition process. By the end of 2013 the British soldiers will have a number of 5,200 as agreed at the Lisbon Summit in 2006. Till that date British soldiers will, albeit with a lower capacity, continue their work aside the Afghan forces. Moreover, the UK emphasizes that it will fulfill its commitment to continue the cooperation beyond 2014 in the way of building up the government as well as training the ANSF forces. Welcoming the statement to the SC of H.E Ambassador Stephan Evans, the NATO Assistant Secretary General at the SC, in which he notices a success of the mission and concludes that the transition process can be achieved in time, the UK is convinced of that as well and wants to work with greatest effort to reach this goal.