



# IYC 2023

## Global Security Organisation

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**STUDY GUIDE**

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## **POINTS OF CONTACT**

IYC Core Team: [presidentsiyc@jnis.ac.in](mailto:presidentsiyc@jnis.ac.in)

### **Committee-specific contacts for Global Security Organisation:**

**Aria Patel**, Chair- [aria.patel@jnis.ac.in](mailto:aria.patel@jnis.ac.in)

**Khushi Khandelwal**, Vice Chair- [khushi.khandelwal@jnis.ac.in](mailto:khushi.khandelwal@jnis.ac.in)

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to IYC 2023!

As Chair, I am pleased to invite you to join our committee for some fast-paced thrilling action. GSO is a committee that looks at an imminent global crisis and this year we're working towards increasing cooperation between countries to implement solutions collectively.

Model UN is not about who has the most experience: while it helps, in my experience, I have seen delegates work out solutions by simply being passionate and dedicated during the Committee. I would advise you to go over the study guide and familiarise yourself with the agenda, know its every detail and definitely take the next step and research further into the committee's agenda.

I would urge each of you to participate in the committee, you won't know whether you're suited for something unless you try it and IYC is the perfect place to start your MUN experiences. This Model UN is something entirely different with new unorthodox committees, exciting agendas and diverse country matrices, it is an experience you won't forget.

I look forward to meeting each and every one of you in the committee, don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything.

Your Chairs,

Aria Patel and Khushi Khandelwal

## ***1. INTRODUCTION:***

In GSO the committee closely resembles the structure and working methods of the real UNSC. It typically consists of fifteen member states, with five permanent members—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—and ten non-permanent members elected for a temporary term. This composition mirrors the actual UNSC, which is responsible for making decisions on international security matters.

During the GSO committee sessions, you will discuss various conflicts and crises that are happening in different parts of South Asia. These could range from on-going conflicts to emerging security threats. Through research and preparation, you'll learn about the specific issues your country faces and the positions it holds regarding these challenges.

As a GSO delegate, you will all work closely with other representatives to draft resolutions—official proposals—aimed at addressing the conflicts or threats under consideration. These resolutions outline strategies, actions, and recommendations to mitigate the issues at hand. Negotiation and diplomacy are vital skills as you collaborate with other delegates to reach a consensus and gain support for your proposed solutions.

MUN conferences are not just about debating and negotiating. They also provide an opportunity to meet students from different schools and backgrounds. You will get to interact with people who have different opinions and cultural perspectives, which will broaden your understanding of the world and help you become a more global citizen.

## ***2. BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION:***

A fifth of the world's population lives in South Asia's seven separate states, which also account for about 43% of the world's poor people. The region's per capita GNP is roughly \$440, among the lowest in the world, and its share of global revenue is still less than 2%. Even though South Asia is a resource-rich region with untapped potential, human development is still given little attention. According to a poll, almost 46% of the world's illiterate people reside in South Asia. The area continues to be among the most explosive in the globe with such a high human development index.

And hence, it is no surprise that cross-border terrorism in South Asia is as old as history. In South Asia, states have consciously and persistently used force as an instrument of strategic and foreign policies towards other states.

Due to a number of factors, including oppressive cultural norms, social injustice, ideological inconsistencies, fundamentalist religious beliefs, and tyrannical and aggressive governments and rebel groups, foreign interference, acts of terrorism and extremism have increased in South Asia.

The issue has gotten worse as a result of socio-economic reasons such as poverty, unequal employment prospects, hunger, backwardness, and unemployment. However, political manipulation and socio-economic disparities are the main causes that contribute to terrorism.

Every state in the area, even the tranquil Bhutan, houses one or more training facilities or safe havens for terrorist and insurgent organisations from outside their borders, sometimes on purpose and more frequently unintentionally. Long-standing bilateral political tensions have hampered the governments of the region from developing effective collaboration on combating terrorism and political violence, which is one of the reasons terrorists are able to transport people, money, and weapons over national boundaries. And all of this unfolds under the umbrella of the Indo-Pakistan nuclear stand-off.

Since the early 1990s, ideology-based violence has increased all over the region. Right from the Maoist Moasit movement in Nepal, with its cross-border linkages to the Naxalite movement in India, to the roots for Islamic Fundamentalism being planted in Pakistan and parts of Bangladesh under President Zia-ul Haq's rule, cross-border terrorism has been on the rise. This was catalysed by the Afghan war and American support for Jihad.

Since becoming independent, the governments of South Asian states have not been able to guarantee the bare necessities of human security to their citizens. Instead of concentrating on addressing the problems of human survival and development, governments and the ruling classes set out to maintain their authority and control. As a result, no South Asian nation has been able to rid

itself of exploitative and discriminatory practices, which exacerbated instability and gave rise to racial and terrorist organisations..

The state actors in South Asia have been unable to deal with pending issues in a just, fair and professional manner, which has translated into frustration and anger among certain sections of societies, leading to various acts of terrorism.

Terrorist groups can exploit cross-border ethnic ties, globalised financial and commercial networks, widely accessible communication technologies, the twenty-four-hour media cycle, and trans-national organised crime syndicates to project their influence beyond the local to the national, regional, and even international levels. Furthermore, the use of sophisticated technology and weapons has exponentially increased the potential scale of damage. Events such as the attack on Benazir Bhutto in December 2007 and the bombing of the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad in September 2008, or the May 2008 blasts in Jaipur, use the high profiles and dramatic qualities of their targets to capture media attention and project fear disproportionate to the size of the attacking group.

To counter the terrorism in the region, collaboration seems to be the way forward.

Regional cooperation initiatives began with the formation of SAARC in 1985, which led to the establishment of SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) in 1995 for enhancing regional cooperation through trade. In order to deepen regional integration through increased trade flows, the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) came into force in 2006. For terrorism specifically, the definition of "terrorist acts" may be found in the 1987 Regional Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism.

It urges further regional collaboration on legal matters, including as evidence sharing, extradition, and knowledge and skill sharing. This was revised in a 2002 Additional Protocol, which added the duties of governments under UN Security Council Resolution 1373, which was passed in the wake of 9/11, to the original treaty. SAARC created the Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk (STOMD) in Colombo, Sri Lanka, which is made up of experts from throughout the region working to "collate, analyse and disseminate information about the terrorist [incidents], tactics, strategies and methods."

Heralded as the alternate SAARC, BIMSTEC, is another organisation that promotes regional cooperation. Counterterrorism was not initially on the BIMSTEC agenda. However, its 2004 Summit Declaration expressed concern about the threat of terrorism to regional trade and urged all member states to coordinate their efforts by exchanging information and cooperating in the ongoing efforts of the international community to combat terrorism in all its forms, "irrespective of its cause or stated rationale."<sup>53</sup> Following the 2004 summit, BIMSTEC established a Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime Sector (CTTCS) responsible for coordinating the sub-region-wide response.

As part of global efforts, since 2011, UNODC has been engaging with Governments in South Asia with the aim to strengthen counter-terrorism efforts at the national and regional level. In March 2015, UNODC together with the Executive Directorate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTED) and the Government of Nepal held a workshop for South Asian countries on 'Strengthening International Cooperation in Criminal Matters with a Focus on Terrorism Cases' in Kathmandu, Nepal. The workshop brought together high-level experts and officials from all eight SAARC countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Globally, the UNSC has also played a major role. The Security Council's CTC is tasked with overseeing global efforts to implement Resolution 1373 (the provisions of which have largely been incorporated into this pillar of the Strategy), with the assistance of its group of New York-based experts, the CTED, and with facilitating the delivery of counterterrorism assistance to states that it has identified as needing assistance implementing the resolution's provisions. In order to fulfill its mission, the CTED has created a variety of tools. These include country visits, where it arranges meetings with a variety of government political leaders and technical experts to discuss national implementation initiatives that have largely been incorporated into this pillar of the Strategy), as well as for expediting the delivery of counterterrorism aid to governments that it has recognized as in need of assistance in carrying out the resolution's terms. In order to fulfil its mission, the CTED has created a variety of tools. These include country visits when it arranges meetings with a variety of government political leaders and technical specialists to discuss national implementation efforts with a group of UN system agencies, occasionally joined by pertinent regional bodies.

It has so far travelled to Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan in South Asia, and each time, it is said to have had outstanding cooperation from local authorities.<sup>81</sup> According to the portion of its mandate derived from Security Council Resolution 1624 (September 14, 2006), which calls on states to take measures to prevent radicalization and incitement to terrorism and promote intercultural dialogue, during these visits it has not only discussed law enforcement, border, and other security-related issues, but also issues related to the prevention of radicalization and extremism, such as school curricula and other education reforms.

As we can see, terrorism is clearly plaguing South Asia. But with the advent of regional cooperation, we can certainly make the region more secure against the perils of terrorism.

## Important Historical Events:

### Partition of British India (1947)

- Description: The partition of British India into India and Pakistan led to the birth of two separate nations based on religious lines, resulting in communal violence and mass migration.
- Impact on Regional Cooperation: The partition created complex and strained relations between India and Pakistan, which have had implications for regional cooperation efforts. Historical grievances and border disputes have periodically hindered collaboration.
- Source: Indian Independence Act 1947, Government of India & Pakistan

### Simla Agreement (1972)

- Description: The Simla Agreement between India and Pakistan aimed to resolve bilateral disputes, including the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, through peaceful means and bilateral dialogue.
- Impact on Regional Cooperation: The agreement provided a framework for diplomatic engagement between India and Pakistan, emphasizing the need to resolve disputes through peaceful negotiations. It laid the foundation for future bilateral engagements, which have influenced regional cooperation dynamics.
- Date: July 2, 1972
- Source: Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

### Kashmir Conflict

- Description: The Kashmir conflict originated after the partition of British India, resulting in a territorial dispute between India and Pakistan over the region of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The conflict has led to multiple wars, insurgency movements, and ongoing tensions.
- Impact on Regional Cooperation: The Kashmir conflict has been a significant obstacle to regional cooperation, straining relations between India and Pakistan. Efforts to resolve the conflict through peaceful means and dialogue have been ongoing, with intermittent progress and setbacks.
- Source: United Nations, "India-Pakistan: Chronology of Kashmir Dispute"
- Date: Ongoing since 1947

### Bangladesh Liberation War (1971)

- Description: The Bangladesh Liberation War resulted in the secession of East Pakistan, leading to the formation of Bangladesh as an independent nation.
- The conflict involved political and military struggles and resulted in significant casualties and displacement of people.



- **Impact on Regional Cooperation:** The war had implications for regional dynamics, with India providing support to Bangladesh during the conflict. It influenced regional power dynamics and relationships among South Asian countries.
- **Source:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh
- **Date:** March 26, 1971 - December 16, 1971

Treaties and Agreements:

### **Indus Waters Treaty (1960)**

- **Description:** The Indus Waters Treaty is a water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan, facilitated by the World Bank, to manage the distribution of the Indus River's waters.
- **Impact on Regional Cooperation:** The treaty has played a crucial role in preventing conflicts and fostering cooperation in water management between India and Pakistan. It established the Indus Waters Commission, enabling dialogue and dispute resolution mechanisms.
- **Date:** September 19, 1960
- **Source:** World Bank - Indus Waters Treaty

### **SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism**

- **Description:** The SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism provides a legal framework for regional cooperation in countering terrorism, including extradition and mutual legal assistance.
- **Impact on Regional Cooperation:** The convention strengthens legal cooperation, facilitates the extradition of terrorists, and promotes intelligence sharing among SAARC member countries. It enhances trust, coordination, and joint efforts in combating cross-border terrorism.
- **Date:** November 4, 1987
- **Source:** South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

### **SAARC Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters**

- **Description:** The SAARC Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters aims to enhance cooperation among member countries in areas such as extradition, exchange of information, and legal assistance in criminal investigations.
- **Impact on Regional Cooperation:** The convention strengthens the legal framework for cooperation in combating transnational crimes, including terrorism. It provides a basis for sharing intelligence, evidence, and expertise among member countries.
- **Source:** South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
- **Date:** November 4, 1987

## **Transnational relations:**

### **Trade and Economic Cooperation**

- Between India and Pakistan: In 2021, the total bilateral trade between India and Pakistan amounted to approximately \$1.5 billion USD, with potential for further growth.
- Source: Ministry of Commerce, Government of India & Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
- Between Afghanistan and neighbouring countries: In 2020, Afghanistan's trade with neighbouring countries, including Pakistan and Iran, reached \$6.7 billion USD, contributing to regional economic integration.
- Source: Central Statistics Organization, Afghanistan & State Bank of Pakistan
- Cross-Border Movement and Migration:
- Between India and Bangladesh: Approximately 1.4 million people cross the India-Bangladesh border annually for trade, tourism, and family visits.
- Source: Border Security Force, India & Border Guard Bangladesh
- Between Nepal and India: The open border between Nepal and India allows for unrestricted movement of people, with an estimated 8 million Nepali citizens employed in India's informal sector.

Source: Department of Immigration, Nepal & Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

### 3. KEY DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTS

#### **CONCEPT: Terrorism**

What is terrorism?

Terrorism is the calculated use of violence to create a general climate of fear in a population and thereby bring about a particular political objective. Terrorism has been practised by political organisations with both rightist and leftist objectives, by nationalistic and religious groups, by revolutionaries, and even by state institutions such as armies, intelligence services, and the police.

#### **CONCEPT: Cross-border Terrorism**

What is cross-border terrorism?

Cross-border terrorism refers to acts of terrorism that are carried out by individuals or groups from one country against targets in another country. It involves the use of violence, such as bombings, armed attacks, or other destructive means, with the intention to spread fear, create instability, and undermine the security of the targeted country.

In cross-border terrorism, the perpetrators operate from one country while launching attacks or providing support to terrorist activities in another country. They may exploit porous borders, weak security measures, or political and social unrest to carry out their acts. These terrorists often have different motivations, such as political, religious, or ideological, and may seek to advance their own agendas or challenge the authority of the targeted country.

Addressing cross-border terrorism requires international cooperation and collective efforts. Countries affected by such terrorism must work together to strengthen border security, share intelligence, and collaborate in investigations.

#### **CONCEPT: Prevention**

What can governments do to prevent cross-border terrorism?

Increase Border Security: Governments can improve border control measures to prevent terrorist infiltration and the smuggling of weapons and illicit materials. This involves increased personnel deployment, the use of advanced surveillance technologies, and enhanced intelligence sharing among border security agencies.

International cooperation: Governments can work together to share intelligence and information about potential terrorist threats. Cooperation among law enforcement agencies, intelligence services, and diplomatic channels is critical for effectively combating cross-border terrorism.

Legislation: Governments can enact and enforce comprehensive counterterrorism laws that criminalise terrorist activities, provide legal tools for investigation and prosecution, and facilitate international cooperation in extraditing and prosecuting terrorists.

Intelligence and Information Sharing: Governments should establish strong intelligence networks and mechanisms to gather and share information on terrorist activities, networks, and financing. Information sharing with other countries and relevant international organisations improves the ability to detect and prevent cross-border terrorist activities.

***CONCEPT: Intervention***

How can governments intervene in cross-border terrorist activities?

Diplomatic Pressure: Governments can use diplomacy to condemn and isolate states or non-state actors who support or harbour terrorists. This could include imposing economic or diplomatic sanctions, as well as lobbying for international resolutions condemning terrorism.

Financial Measures: Governments can impose stringent financial regulations to track and disrupt the flow of funds to terrorist organisations. This entails freezing assets, monitoring financial transactions, and establishing measures to prevent money laundering and terrorism financing.

Counterterrorism Operations: Governments may conduct targeted counterterrorism operations, such as raids, arrests, and surveillance, to dismantle terrorist networks involved in cross-border activities. These operations seek to disrupt networks of planning, financing, and logistical support.

#### ***4. WHO ARE THE MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS IN THIS AGENDA?***

##### **Major Stakeholders:**

##### **SAARC Countries**

###### **1. India**

As the largest democracy in the world and a prominent victim of cross-border terrorism, India plays a pivotal role in the agenda. Situated at the heart of South Asia, India faces significant security challenges, making it acutely aware of the importance of regional cooperation. With a population of over 1.4 billion people, India's demographic size and economic influence make it a crucial stakeholder in the fight against terrorism. India actively seeks regional cooperation, intelligence sharing, and collaboration to combat terrorism effectively. It has made substantial investments in defence and security, with a defence budget of approximately \$72 billion in 2023. With a robust security apparatus and advanced intelligence capabilities, India is actively engaged in combating terrorism within its borders. As a major stakeholder, India seeks regional cooperation to address the common threat of terrorism effectively. Its participation in intelligence-sharing mechanisms, counterterrorism operations, and efforts to address the root causes of extremism is crucial for promoting stability and fostering collaboration among participating countries.

###### **2. Pakistan**

Pakistan's geographical location, bordering several countries in the region, places it in a critical position to address cross-border terrorism. The country has had a complex relationship with terrorism, grappling with both domestic extremist groups and cross-border infiltration. While Pakistan has taken steps to combat terrorism, concerns have been raised regarding its support for certain extremist groups. Increased cooperation, trust-building measures, and intelligence sharing with Pakistan are essential for effectively tackling the issue of terrorism in South Asia. Pakistan's active engagement and commitment to the agenda are vital for regional stability and security. International efforts, such as the United States' support in promoting peace talks between India and Pakistan, have aimed to foster dialogue and reduce tensions, thereby creating an environment conducive to regional cooperation. Pakistan's role as a stakeholder in addressing cross-border terrorism is of utmost importance. While acknowledging the steps taken to combat terrorism, Pakistan's cooperation is vital for intelligence sharing, border security measures, and dismantling terrorist networks operating within its territory. Strengthening regional collaboration is essential for Pakistan to foster trust, enhance stability, and effectively counter the menace of cross-border terrorism.

### **3. Afghanistan**

Given its history of internal conflict and being a primary target of international terrorist organisations, Afghanistan's role in this agenda is significant. The country has experienced extensive terrorist activities, including the presence of the Taliban, ISIS affiliates, and foreign fighters. In recent years, the Taliban has reemerged as a major security threat, carrying out attacks against civilians, security forces, and infrastructure. The group's territorial gains and influence pose challenges to regional stability and security. However, in 2021, the Taliban's insurgency gained momentum, culminating in the group's takeover of Kabul and the collapse of the Afghan government. This turn of events has added complexity to the agenda, as Afghanistan undergoes a transitional phase with the Taliban in power. It highlights the urgent need for regional cooperation to address the evolving security landscape in the country and the potential spillover effects of Taliban-controlled areas on neighbouring countries. International engagement and support will be crucial in encouraging the Taliban to renounce violence, adhere to human rights norms, and ensure that Afghanistan does not become a safe haven for transnational terrorist groups. It is imperative for participating countries to address the changing dynamics and engage with the Taliban to ensure the safety and stability of the region.

### **4. Bangladesh**

Bangladesh's strategic location and its history of grappling with extremist activities make it an important stakeholder in this agenda. The country has made substantial efforts to combat terrorism and has achieved significant success in countering domestic militant groups. Bangladesh has a unique experience in dealing with radicalization, having faced violent extremist threats, particularly from local extremist groups. Bangladesh's active participation in intelligence sharing, regional collaboration, and deradicalization initiatives is crucial for preventing cross-border terrorist activities. In recent years, Bangladesh has adopted comprehensive counterterrorism strategies, resulting in successful operations against extremist networks. In 2023, Bangladesh's defence expenditure accounted for approximately 0.91% of its GDP, reflecting its commitment to strengthening its security apparatus. Bangladesh, having experienced its share of terrorist attacks, recognizes the importance of regional cooperation to combat cross-border terrorism. Bangladesh's successful models of countering radicalization and promoting interfaith dialogue can serve as valuable examples for other participating countries in their collective fight against terrorism.

### **5. Sri Lanka**

Having experienced a devastating terrorist attack in 2019, Sri Lanka understands the urgency of regional cooperation in countering terrorism. The country's role in the agenda involves sharing its experiences in post-conflict reconciliation, strengthening intelligence networks, and collaborating on deradicalization programs. Sri Lanka has a history of dealing with domestic and international terrorist threats, including the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, which were planned on its soil. Sri Lanka's

active engagement and contributions toward regional security initiatives are essential. In 2023, Sri Lanka's defence expenditure is approximately \$1.45 billion, highlighting its commitment to bolstering its defence capabilities. Sri Lanka's insights into countering radicalization, addressing ethnic tensions, and promoting interfaith dialogue contribute to the shared goal of preventing cross-border terrorism. The country's active participation in intelligence sharing, strengthening border security, and engaging in deradicalization efforts is vital for regional stability.

## 6. Nepal

Although Nepal has not experienced significant terrorist activities, it shares borders with countries that face the threat of cross-border terrorism. Nepal's role in this agenda lies in enhancing border security measures, intelligence sharing, and fostering regional cooperation to prevent the transit of terrorists through its territory. Nepal's peaceful approach to regional issues and its active participation contribute to a comprehensive regional security framework. The country's experience in peace-building and its commitment to regional stability are valuable contributions to the agenda. Nepal's geographic location and historical ties to India also provide opportunities for enhanced bilateral cooperation in combating terrorism. Nepal's commitment to regional security and collaboration reflects its determination to address shared challenges effectively.

## 7. Bhutan

Bhutan's role as a landlocked country situated between India and China makes it an important stakeholder in the agenda. While Bhutan has traditionally enjoyed relative security, it recognizes the importance of regional cooperation to prevent any potential spillover of terrorism. Bhutan actively engages in intelligence sharing, participating in joint border security initiatives, and contributing to regional stability. As a small nation, Bhutan emphasises the significance of non-violence and peaceful coexistence. Its commitment to promoting peace and security within the region is noteworthy, and its active involvement in the agenda contributes to a comprehensive approach to countering cross-border terrorism.

-SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Corporation: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

## Other major countries involved:

### 1. China

China's growing economic and strategic interests in South Asia make it a relevant stakeholder in this agenda. China can contribute by leveraging its influence to encourage regional cooperation and by providing resources and expertise in areas such as technology, border security, and counterterrorism strategies. China's Belt and Road Initiative, which includes significant infrastructure investments in the region, reflects its engagement in South Asian affairs. As China's regional presence expands, its involvement in promoting stability and security becomes increasingly significant. However, China's

involvement in the agenda may also be influenced by its geopolitical interests and strategic considerations, which can shape its stance on regional issues.

## **2. United States**

As a global power and a key stakeholder in global security, the United States has a vested interest in combating cross-border terrorism in South Asia, particularly in the context of Afghanistan. The U.S. has been actively engaged in the region, including providing military assistance, intelligence cooperation, and support for counterterrorism operations. In 2021, the United States made a significant shift in its approach to Afghanistan by withdrawing its troops and ending its military involvement in the country. This decision has had profound implications for the security situation in Afghanistan and the broader region. While the withdrawal aimed to shift the responsibility for security to Afghan forces and promote a political settlement, it also created uncertainties and risks, allowing for the resurgence of the Taliban. The United States continues to play a critical role in shaping the international discourse on counterterrorism and supporting regional initiatives aimed at preventing terrorism and promoting regional cooperation. The U.S. remains engaged through diplomatic efforts, advocating for a peaceful resolution, and encouraging regional stakeholders to address the evolving security challenges in Afghanistan. Given its history of involvement in the country, the United States has a crucial role to play in ensuring the long-term stability and security of Afghanistan and the wider South Asian region.

The United States, with its extensive experience in counterterrorism efforts worldwide, is an important stakeholder in addressing the challenges of cross-border terrorism in South Asia. The U.S. brings valuable expertise in intelligence sharing, capacity building, and technical assistance to the discussions. Its active engagement, both diplomatically and through partnerships in the region, fosters trust, cooperation, and mutual understanding among participating nations.

## **3. United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom's historical ties and diplomatic influence in the region position it as a significant stakeholder. The UK can contribute by providing diplomatic support, sharing best practices in counterterrorism, and facilitating intelligence sharing. Its expertise in security sector reform and capacity-building programs can significantly strengthen regional cooperation efforts. The UK's involvement in the agenda underscores its commitment to promoting peace and stability in South Asia. As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, the UK plays a role in shaping the international discourse on counterterrorism and supports regional initiatives aimed at preventing terrorism and promoting regional cooperation. Drawing from its experiences in countering terrorism, the UK offers expertise in intelligence sharing, counterterrorism operations, and deradicalization programs. Its participation in promoting regional efforts to combat cross-border terrorism is instrumental in fostering stability and addressing shared security concerns.



#### 4. **Russia**

As a major player in regional affairs, Russia's involvement in the agenda of preventing cross-border terrorism and promoting regional cooperation in South Asia is significant. Russia maintains historical and political ties with several countries in the region, including Afghanistan. Russia's interests in the region include countering terrorism, ensuring regional stability, and protecting its own security concerns. Russia has engaged in various diplomatic initiatives and provided military support to Afghanistan in its fight against terrorism. Additionally, Russia has played a role in facilitating dialogue between regional stakeholders, including hosting peace talks and engaging with the Taliban. The evolving security situation in Afghanistan, particularly the Taliban's resurgence, poses challenges for Russia and the broader region. Russia's participation in the agenda involves leveraging its diplomatic influence and intelligence capabilities to contribute to regional stability and counterterrorism efforts. Cooperation between Russia and other major stakeholders, such as the United States, is crucial for effectively addressing the complex security dynamics in South Asia and mitigating the threats of cross-border terrorism.

#### **-NATO countries:**

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) is an intergovernmental military alliance formed by 30 member countries. The current NATO member countries are Russia, Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary. Each NATO country holds equal power within the alliance. The decisions within NATO are made by consensus among member countries, with each country having an equal say in the decision-making process. The collective power of the member countries lies in their commitment to mutual defence and cooperation, as outlined in the NATO treaty. NATO countries contribute to the alliance through various means, including military capabilities, financial contributions, and participation in joint operations and exercises. The combined military strength and resources of NATO member countries make it one of the most powerful military alliances in the world. In early 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, claimed NATO members had promised in 1990 not to let any Eastern European countries join, but this is disputed. At the 2008 Bucharest summit, Ukraine and Georgia sought to join NATO.<sup>1</sup> The response from NATO members was divided, with Western European countries worried about antagonising Russia. NATO refused to offer Ukraine and Georgia membership, but Jaap de Hoop Scheffer also issued a statement agreeing that both countries will become members of NATO one day. The war between them is still ongoing and this is a good topic of research to do in order to understand the current terrorism situation in the world today.

## 5. SUBTOPICS

These are topics that can be brought up within the committee (as moderated caucuses) to steer conversation and dialogue in a particular direction.

### - **FUNDING**

The IMF is concerned about the consequences of money laundering, terrorism financing, and proliferation financing (providing funds or financial services for nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons), as well as related crimes that undermine the financial sector and the broader economy. These crimes can make countries less stable, which in turn, can weaken law and order, governance, regulatory effectiveness, foreign investments, and international capital flows.

So, how should the delegates in the committee proceed in relation to cutting off/changing/targeting funding for these terror organisations?

[Source to read](#)

### - **INTELLIGENCE SHARING**

As the terrorist attacks of the last few years make all too clear, strengthening counterterrorism cooperation in South Asia must be a top priority as it is not only a threat to national security, but to regional stability and international peace. In fact, Pakistan's initial promises to assist India in its investigation of the carnage may be seen as a silver lining in the Mumbai attacks.

CTC Westpoint finds that sharing intelligence can help monitor and stifle terror activity.

The SAARC enacted a Regional Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism more than 20 years ago, urging cooperation between its member states in the areas of extradition, evidence sharing, and other information exchanges to combat "terrorist acts." A Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk (STOMD) was also set up by SAARC in 1995 to assist in the implementation of the convention by gathering, analysing, and distributing data on terrorist offences, tactics, strategies, and techniques. In 2002, a new protocol to the agreement added cooperation on countering terrorist funding.

The Horn of Africa-focused ICPAT example may have a special application to South Asia. Despite the regional rivalries in the Horn that have prevented collaboration on security-related problems, ICPAT was able to create a program that focuses on steps to increase regional capability and trust. It focuses on several topics, including (1) strengthening judicial measures, (2) encouraging better national inter-agency coordination against terrorism, (3) strengthening border controls, (4) offering training, and exchanging information and best practices, and (5) encouraging strategic cooperation. ICPAT's cautious approach, which aims to foster a sense of confidence and trust among IGAD members—something that is currently missing but is steadily growing—has been one of the secrets to its success thus far.

However, concerns that links between state intelligence services and terrorist organisations might allow for the abuse of sensitive material have hindered the sharing of intelligence on the subcontinent. Furthermore, if active collaboration between law enforcement and judicial authorities is not improved, advances on intelligence sharing will be of little use in preventing terrorist acts and successfully prosecuting those who carry them out.

Therefore, the question is to be asked - is sharing intelligence a feasible, and an effective idea to stifle cross-border terrorism in South Asia?

#### - ***HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION***

Some countries' counter-terrorism measures include a sizable portion of the use of military action abroad. But can the guiding principles advanced by philosophers to promote humanitarian interventions (which may support the international standard of the duty to protect [R2P]) also support actions taken by foreign governments to combat terrorism of this nature? Counter-terrorist interventions are not prohibited by the restrictions on international action imposed by the need to respect state sovereignty, but does this norm leave it vulnerable to manipulation and abuse, and would it therefore be preferable to discourage using it as justification for military counter-terrorism?

## 6. KEY INFORMATION

### *What have the SAARC countries done to curb the threat of terrorism in South Asia?*

#### **India:**

**Legislative Measures:** India has enacted several laws to combat terrorism, including the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, which provides the legal framework to deal with terrorist activities and organisations. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008, empowers a specialised agency to investigate and prosecute terrorist activities.

**Intelligence and Security Agencies:** India has strengthened its intelligence and security apparatus to prevent terrorist activities. Agencies like the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), Intelligence Bureau (IB), and the NIA work together to gather intelligence, analyse threats, and take appropriate action.

**Border Security:** India has been focusing on enhancing border security to prevent infiltration and smuggling of arms and explosives. The Border Security Force (BSF) and other paramilitary forces are deployed along the borders to monitor and intercept any suspicious activities.

**Capacity Building:** India has been investing in the training and capacity building of its security forces to effectively respond to terrorist threats. This includes specialised training programs, the use of advanced technology for surveillance and intelligence gathering, and development expertise in cyber warfare and counter-terrorism operations.

**International Conventions:** India is a party to various international conventions and protocols aimed at countering terrorism. It actively participates in forums like the United Nations and supports global efforts to combat terrorism through coordinated action.

#### **Pakistan:**

**Military Operations:** Pakistan's armed forces have conducted numerous military operations against terrorist groups within its territory. Notable operations include Operation Zarb-e-Azb launched in

2014 and Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad initiated in 2017. These operations aimed to eliminate terrorist safe havens, dismantle their infrastructure, and disrupt their networks.

**Counter-Terrorism Legislation:** Pakistan has enacted legislation to provide a legal framework for countering terrorism. The Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, was amended multiple times to enhance its effectiveness. These amendments introduced provisions to facilitate the investigation, prosecution, and punishment of terrorists.

**Counter-Terrorism Financing Measures:** Pakistan has taken steps to curb the financing of terrorism. It has established financial monitoring units and implemented regulations to prevent money laundering and terror financing. The country has also been working to comply with international standards set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to strengthen its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing regime.

**Rehabilitation and Deradicalization Programs:** Pakistan has initiated programs to rehabilitate and reintegrate individuals who have been involved in extremist activities. These programs aim to address the root causes of terrorism and provide education, vocational training, and counselling to help individuals reintegrate into society.

## **Bangladesh:**

**Crackdown on Extremist Groups:** The Bangladesh government has conducted numerous operations to crack down on extremist groups operating within the country. Security forces have been engaged in counter-terrorism operations to dismantle terrorist networks, apprehend suspects, and disrupt their activities.

**Capacity Building:** Bangladesh has focused on strengthening the capacity of its security forces to effectively combat terrorism. This includes providing specialised training to law enforcement agencies, equipping them with advanced technology, and enhancing their investigative capabilities.

**Counter-Terrorism Financing Measures:** Bangladesh has implemented measures to combat the financing of terrorism. It has established financial intelligence units, enacted legislation to prevent money laundering and terror financing, and taken steps to comply with international standards set by organisations like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

**Public Awareness and Community Engagement:** Bangladesh has undertaken initiatives to raise public awareness about the dangers of extremism and radicalization. Community engagement programs have been launched to promote social cohesion, religious tolerance, and to counter extremist narratives. The Government has approved the Anti Terrorism Unit (ATU) of Bangladesh Police in September 2017 as a proactive, Intel-led modern technology based specialised unit. In addition, to strengthen terrorism countering capacity of ATU, the Government approved “The Anti Terrorism Unit Rules” in November 2019. According to its legal mandate, ATU is the lead

coordinating, operating and investigating body for countering terrorism (CT), countering violent extremism (CVE) as well as preventing violent extremism (PVE) countrywide. To that end we are working to create mass awareness and reshaping people's mindset to stand united against terrorism, extremism and extreme ideologies.

**International Cooperation:** Bangladesh actively participates in international forums and regional initiatives focused on countering terrorism. It has signed bilateral and multilateral agreements with other countries to strengthen cooperation in intelligence sharing, capacity building, and countering transnational terrorist threats.

### **Afghanistan:**

**Counter-Terrorism Operations:** The Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) have been engaged in counter-terrorism operations against various extremist groups, including the Taliban, Al-Qaeda, and ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K). These operations aim to dismantle terrorist networks, disrupt their activities, and retake control of areas under their influence.

**International Cooperation:** Afghanistan has actively sought international cooperation in countering terrorism. It has collaborated with the United States and other international partners to combat terrorist organisations through intelligence sharing, training, and joint military operations.

**Legislative Measures:** Afghanistan has enacted laws and established legal frameworks to combat terrorism. The Afghan Penal Code and the Law on Combating Terrorist Financing are examples of legislation aimed at addressing the legal aspects of counter-terrorism efforts. **Intelligence and Security Agencies:** Afghanistan has worked on strengthening its intelligence and security agencies, such as the National Directorate of Security (NDS), to gather intelligence, analyze threats, and take appropriate action against terrorist groups.

**Capacity Building:** Afghanistan has focused on building the capacity of its security forces through training and equipping. International partners have provided support to enhance the capabilities of the ANDSF in areas such as intelligence gathering, counter-insurgency operations, and specialised training.

### **Bhutan:**

Bhutan is known for its unique approach to national security and has taken measures to address the potential threat of terrorism.

**Non-Aligned Foreign Policy:** Bhutan follows a policy of non-alignment, which means it refrains from aligning itself with any major power blocs or engaging in conflicts. This policy helps to reduce

the risk of being directly involved in international terrorist activities.

**Close Border Monitoring:** Bhutan maintains strict border controls and closely monitors its borders to prevent the infiltration of potential threats. This includes implementing border security measures, such as checkpoints and patrols, to monitor and control the movement of individuals and goods.

**Counter-Terrorism Legislation:** Bhutan has enacted legislation to combat terrorism and related activities. The Anti-Terrorism Act of Bhutan, 2009, provides a legal framework to investigate, prosecute, and punish individuals involved in acts of terrorism. This legislation helps to deter and prevent terrorist activities within the country.

**International Cooperation:** Bhutan engages in regional and international forums to discuss and address security issues, including terrorism. It participates in various initiatives and organisations focused on counter-terrorism efforts, such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the United Nations.

**Socio Economic Development:** Bhutan recognizes that addressing the root causes of terrorism is crucial. The government focuses on socio-economic development and promotes inclusive growth, education, and healthcare to minimise the conditions that can potentially lead to radicalization or support for extremist ideologies.

**Public Awareness and Education:** Bhutan emphasises public awareness and education to prevent radicalization and extremism. It promotes inclusive and tolerant values through educational programs and awareness campaigns to foster a peaceful and harmonious society.

### **Sri Lanka:**

**Counter-Terrorism Legislation:** Sri Lanka has enacted legislation to combat terrorism and related activities. The Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act are examples of laws that provide a legal framework to investigate, prosecute, and prevent acts of terrorism. The PTA act is now abolished because of widespread of torture and arbitrary decisions since its introduction in 1979. It is now part of the Anti Terrorism Act.

**Border Security:** Sri Lanka has strengthened its border security measures to prevent the infiltration of potential threats. The Sri Lanka Navy, Sri Lanka Coast Guard, and other law enforcement agencies are responsible for patrolling the maritime borders and preventing illegal activities, including smuggling of weapons and explosives.

**Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programs:** Sri Lanka has implemented rehabilitation and reintegration programs for former combatants and individuals with extremist affiliations. These programs aim to provide vocational training, counselling, and educational opportunities to reintegrate them into society and prevent the recurrence of radicalization.

**Counter-Terrorism Financing Measures:** Sri Lanka has taken steps to combat the financing of terrorism. It has established financial intelligence units and implemented regulations to prevent money laundering and terror financing. Sri Lanka also cooperates with international bodies such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to strengthen its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing regime.

**Public Awareness and Education:** Sri Lanka emphasises public awareness and education to prevent radicalization and extremism. It promotes interfaith dialogue, tolerance, and social cohesion through educational programs and awareness campaigns to foster a peaceful and harmonious society.

### **Nepal:**

**Weak security:** While they are building on having de-radicalization programs in Nepal, there is weak security in the country. Nepal shares an open border with India. There are some checkpoints along the 1,000-mile border, but these lack sufficient security controls and are sometimes staffed by only one immigration official. The primary constraints preventing more effective border-control capability are a lack of resources, information stove-piping among security sector and civilian agencies, and a lack of political will to deploy a more robust approach. The security services lack the personnel, technology, databases, basic equipment, and often electrical power, to provide effective border control. Additional constraints include lack of training and widespread corruption.

**International Cooperation and Extradition:** Nepal actively cooperates with international partners in combating terrorism. It has entered into extradition treaties with various countries to facilitate the extradition of suspected terrorists for prosecution. Nepal also participates in regional and international initiatives aimed at enhancing counter-terrorism efforts.

**Cyber Security and Digital Surveillance:** Nepal has recognized the growing threat of terrorism in the digital realm. The government has tried to take steps to enhance cyber security measures, including establishing cybercrime units and monitoring online activities to prevent the use of the internet for terrorist activities and radicalization.

**Community Engagement and Partnership:** Nepal promotes community engagement and partnership in countering terrorism. It encourages citizens to play an active role in reporting suspicious activities and cooperating with law enforcement agencies. Community-based initiatives, such as community policing, aim to build trust, strengthen relationships, and enhance cooperation

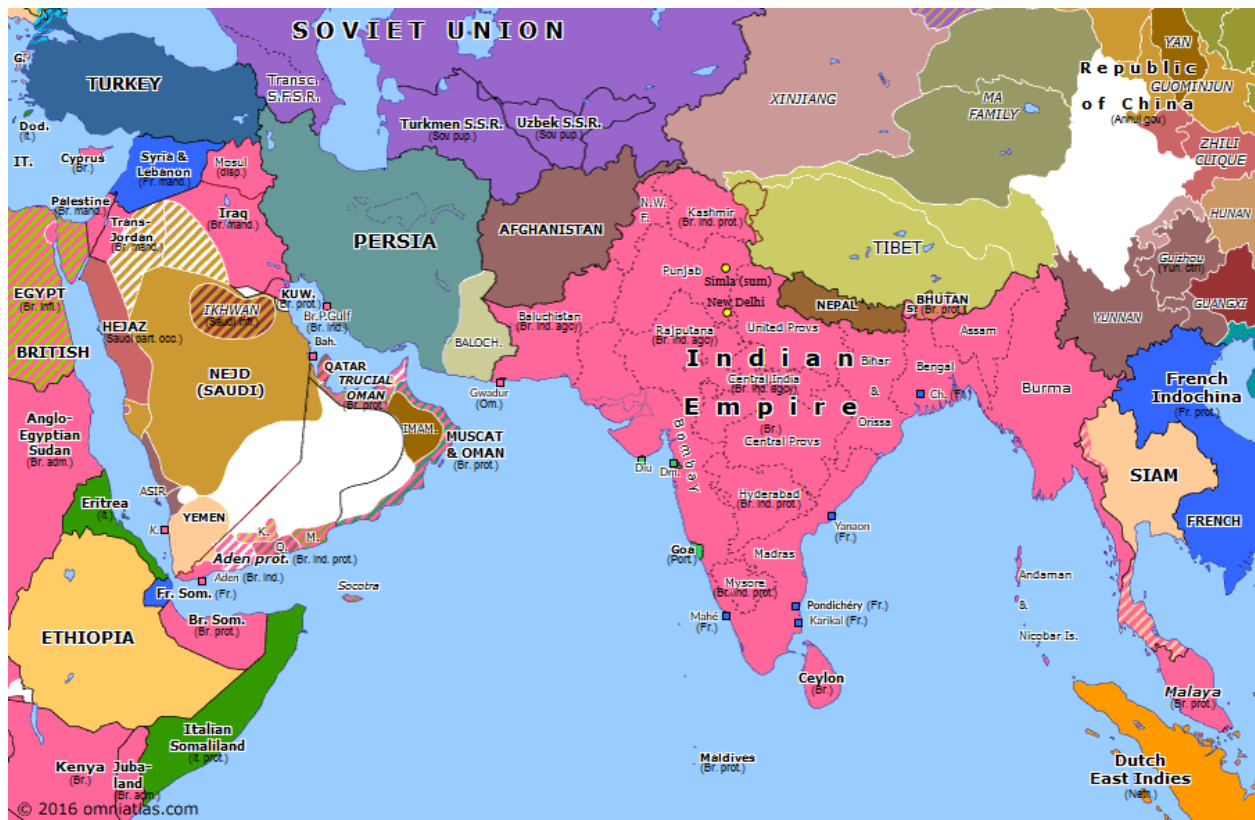


in countering terrorism.

Strengthening Legal Framework: Nepal has worked on strengthening its legal framework to effectively combat terrorism. This includes enacting and amending laws to address emerging threats and changing tactics employed by terrorists. The government continuously reviews and updates relevant legislation to ensure its effectiveness in countering terrorism.

## 7. MAPS TO CONSULT

South Asia map before World War 2:



South Asia map after World War 2:



## 8. *SUMMARY AND KEY TAKEAWAYS:*

- South Asia, with a fifth of the world's population, faces significant challenges. High illiteracy rates and socio-economic disparities contribute to the rise of terrorism and extremism. Cross-border terrorism has been a longstanding issue, fueled by factors such as cultural norms, social injustice, and political tensions. Collaborative efforts through regional organisations like SAARC and BIMSTEC aim to enhance cooperation and counterterrorism measures in the region.
- Cross-border terrorism refers to acts of violence carried out by individuals or groups from one country against targets in another country. Governments can prevent cross-border terrorism by increasing border security, implementing comprehensive counterterrorism laws, and enhancing intelligence and information sharing among nations. Intervention measures include diplomatic pressure, law enforcement cooperation, financial regulations to disrupt funding, and targeted counterterrorism operations.
- India, as the largest democracy and a prominent victim of cross-border terrorism, plays a crucial role in the agenda. Pakistan's participation is vital due to its geographical location and historical challenges with terrorism. Afghanistan's role is significant given its history of internal conflict and recent Taliban takeover. Bangladesh's experience in countering domestic extremist threats and promoting interfaith dialogue contributes to regional security efforts. Sri Lanka's engagement focuses on intelligence sharing, deradicalization, and border security. Nepal and Bhutan's involvement centres around border security and regional stability. Major external stakeholders, including China, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Russia, bring resources, diplomatic influence, and expertise to address the challenges of cross-border terrorism.
- In addressing the issue of cross-border terrorism, the delegates should look at measures to combat money laundering, terrorism financing, and proliferation financing that need to be implemented to undermine the operations of these organisations. Strengthening regulations, enhancing international cooperation, and establishing robust mechanisms to monitor and prevent illicit financial activities supporting terrorism should be key focus areas. Additionally, the importance of intelligence sharing among countries should be emphasised as a crucial tool in combating terrorism. The committee should explore the feasibility and effectiveness of humanitarian interventions in countering terrorism, evaluating whether the principles of humanitarian intervention can justify foreign governments' actions. It is important to consider potential vulnerabilities to manipulation and abuse, and to explore alternative approaches that discourage military interventions.

- SAARC countries have taken significant steps to curb terrorism in South Asia including de-radicalisation, strengthened intelligence agencies and enhanced border security. Important historical events and treaties have influenced regional cooperation in South Asia. The partition of British India in 1947 resulted in complex relations between India and Pakistan, affecting collaboration efforts. The Simla Agreement of 1972 provided a framework for diplomatic engagement, emphasising peaceful resolutions to disputes. The Kashmir conflict has been a major obstacle to regional cooperation, straining relations between India and Pakistan. The Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971 impacted regional dynamics and power relations. Treaties such as the Indus Waters Treaty and SAARC conventions on terrorism and mutual assistance have fostered cooperation in water management and countering transnational crimes. Trade and economic cooperation, as well as cross-border movement and migration, have played roles in regional integration.

## 9. *QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER*

1. How can participating countries enhance intelligence sharing and cooperation to effectively exchange timely and actionable information on terrorist activities, funding sources, and the movement of militants across borders?
2. What specific measures and investments should be undertaken to strengthen border security infrastructure, including surveillance systems, advanced technology deployment, and joint patrolling, to prevent unauthorised cross-border movement of terrorists, arms, and illicit financing?
3. In what ways can participating countries develop and implement comprehensive strategies for joint counterterrorism operations, including coordinated military exercises, sharing of operational expertise, and conducting intelligence-driven operations to dismantle transnational terrorist networks?
4. How can participating countries collaboratively address the root causes of extremism, including socio-economic disparities, political grievances, and religious radicalization, through targeted programs and initiatives focusing on deradicalization, education, and community engagement?
5. What diplomatic initiatives, sustained regional dialogue, and confidence-building measures should be pursued to foster an atmosphere of trust, cooperation, and mutual understanding among participating countries in South Asia?

6. How can participating countries strengthen and effectively implement existing regional conventions, treaties, and agreements, such as the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, to enhance legal cooperation, intelligence sharing, and joint efforts in countering cross-border terrorism?
7. What mechanisms can be established to promote greater economic cooperation and trade facilitation among participating countries, including the removal of barriers, harmonisation of customs procedures, and promotion of cross-border investments to uplift the region and reduce socio-economic disparities?
8. How can participating countries collaborate in developing and implementing effective counter-narrative strategies and communication campaigns to counter extremist ideologies, promote tolerance, and prevent the recruitment of vulnerable populations by terrorist groups?
9. What role can regional organisations, such as SAARC, play in facilitating and coordinating efforts among participating countries to combat cross-border terrorism, enhance security cooperation, and facilitate information sharing?
10. How can participating countries establish effective monitoring, evaluation, and reporting mechanisms to assess the progress, implementation, and impact of regional cooperation initiatives and measures in preventing cross-border terrorism?

These questions are purely suggestive, delegates should not feel compelled to stick to them and will be granted creative control. These questions are only meant to guide the delegates and give a conclusive direction to the committee.

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