

Committee: Security Council

Issue: Reducing the Security Impact of Renewed Tensions in Nagorno-Karabakh

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Position: Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Refanidis Apostolos, and it is my utmost honor to serve as the Deputy President of the Security Council of the 6th DSTMUN. I am a student in Arsakeio School of Thessaloniki and by the time of the conference I will be in 12th Grade. I must admit I am very excited to be chairing this committee and I am looking forward to meeting you all.

First of all, I would like to congratulate you all for being in the Security Council, which is the most advanced committee but also my personal favorite. During this conference you will be called to research and tackle a plethora of issues that currently concern the international community. In my opinion MUN is a very good opportunity to get in touch with the real world and its problems, something that regular school does not allow. Additionally, MUN is a fantastic opportunity to improve your communication skills by working together with others, expressing your ideas effectively, and enhancing your English-speaking abilities. Lastly let's not forget the amazing experiences that you will obtain and awesome people that you will get to meet!

Since you are delegates to the Security Council your job would be to find ways to maintain global security and prevent conflicts that would have severe humanitarian consequences. All three topics in this year's agenda revolve around this premise, with the third one "Reducing the Security Impact of Renewed Tensions in Nagorno-Karabakh" being the most important in my opinion, as it is taking place right between the borders of NATO and Russia, and if the situation spirals out of control, the possibility of foreign intervention, which would prolong the conflict and cause a humanitarian crisis, is immense.

This study guide will aim to give you a spherical understanding of the issue, by examining the history behind it, the interests of the parties directly involved and of foreign actors from the opposing geopolitical blocks while also providing you with some material to guide you in your own personal research.

As I previously stated, the Security Council is the most advanced committee and I am well aware that the challenge you are overtaking is a difficult one, especially for new and more inexperienced delegates, so do not hesitate to contact me at ap.refanidis@gmail.com for further clarification. I will be more than happy to help you in your research.

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is a long-standing territorial dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, which hosts an Armenian majority but is located inside the internationally recognised borders of Azerbaijan. However, after the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) full scale conflict broke out for control of the region.

A ceasefire was eventually brokered in 1994, leaving Nagorno-Karabakh and several surrounding territories under the control of Armenian forces. Despite the ceasefire, unresolved territorial issues, sporadic violence, and old resentments all contributed to the continued sporadic border confrontations. The absence of a comprehensive peace accord allowed for the stoking of mistrust and grievances. Over the years, diplomatic efforts, spearheaded by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, pushed for negotiation and compromise to find a peaceful solution. Today, occasional border incidents and military exchanges continue despite international demands for de-escalation and peaceful settlement.

In September 2020, a significant escalation of hostilities erupted between Armenia and Azerbaijan, triggered by Azerbaijan's military offensive in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The conflict marked a culmination of long-standing tensions and territorial disputes. Over the course of six weeks, intense clashes and heavy fire exchanges followed, resulting in significant casualties and displacement on both sides. The conflict saw the use of modern weaponry, drones, and urban warfare tactics, further escalating the violence. Amid international calls for an immediate ceasefire, the conflict concluded in November 2020, with a Russia-led agreement that effectively ended the fighting.

The agreement, signed on November 10, 2020, between Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Russia, marked a crucial turning point in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Following the aftermath of the six-week war, the trilateral agreement established a ceasefire and outlined significant territorial changes. Azerbaijan regained control over territories previously held by Armenian forces, including parts of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas. Russian peacekeeping forces were

deployed to monitor the implementation of the agreement, aiming to stabilize the region and facilitate the return of displaced people.

The situation remains tense, with occasional incidents on the border and ongoing discussions about the final status of Nagorno-Karabakh. International efforts to find a lasting political solution to the conflict continue, emphasizing the need for dialogue, compromise, and respect for the principles of territorial integrity and self-determination.

The conflict's humanitarian toll was profound, with thousands losing their lives and widespread displacement. Entire communities were uprooted, and vital infrastructure was ravaged. Cities like Stepanakert in Nagorno-Karabakh suffered extensive damage, while bordering regions endured the devastation of homes and livelihoods, exacerbating an already horrible situation.

Αρχή φόρμας

The status of Nagorno-Karabakh remains in dispute. Negotiations for a lasting political solution are supported by international mediators.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Enclave

a part of a country that is surrounded by another country, or a group of people who are different from the people living in the surrounding area.¹

Ceasefire

an agreement, usually between two armies, to stop fighting in order to allow discussions about peace.²

Oblast

an administrative division or region in Russia and the former Soviet Union, and in some constituent republics of the former Soviet Union³

¹ "Enclave." Cambridge Dictionary, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/enclave.

² "Ceasefire." Cambridge Dictionary, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ceasefire.

³ "Oblast Definition & Meaning." Dictionary.Com, www.dictionary.com/browse/oblast.

Nagorno-Karabakh

Nagorno-Karabakh is a region of southwestern Azerbaijan. The name is also used to refer to an autonomous oblast (province) of the former Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic (S.S.R.) and to the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, a self-declared country whose independence is not internationally recognized.⁴

Lachin corridor

The Lachin corridor is a mountain road that links Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh⁵

Humanitarian Crisis

A humanitarian emergency is an event or series of events that represents a critical threat to the health, safety, security or wellbeing of a community or other large group of people, usually over a wide area.⁶

Genocide

Genocide is an internationally recognized crime where acts are committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group.⁷

Mediation

the process of talking to two separate people or groups involved in a disagreement to try to help them to agree or find a solution to their problems.⁸

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Introduction to the conflict

One of Europe's oldest and ongoing conflicts, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is complicated with complex historical subtleties. The conflict, which is centered on

⁴ "Nagorno-Karabakh." Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 9 Aug. 2023, www.britannica.com/place/Nagorno-Karabakh.

⁵ "Lachin Corridor." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 10 Aug. 2023, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lachin_corridor.

⁶ "What Is a Humanitarian Emergency?" Humanitarian Coalition, www.humanitariancoalition.ca/what-is-a-humanitarian-emergency.

⁷ United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/learn-about-genocide-and-other-mass-atrocities/what-is-genocide.

⁸ "Mediation." Cambridge Dictionary, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/mediation.

the Nagorno-Karabakh territory, which is entirely within Azerbaijan's borders but is primarily populated by Armenians, combines racial, territorial, and historical elements. The conflict has resulted in prolonged hostilities because it is directly related to ideas of identity and self-determination. The conflict's embattled nature is shown by both states' assertions of their legitimate territorial claims. The extensive conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh has lasted for decades, punctuated by irregular acts of violence, diplomatic efforts, and negotiations. This complex battle highlights the wider complication of international conflicts in a changing geopolitical setting and replicates the difficulties involved in settling long-standing disagreements.

Historical Background

For the centuries leading up to the 20th century, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno Karabakh were all part of the Russian Empire, but this changed after the Communist Revolution and the Civil War that followed. When the Empire collapsed, Azerbaijan and Armenia gained independence, and the status of Nagorno Karabakh became unsure, since both countries claimed control over it. Nevertheless, since Nagorno Karabakh was populated by an Armenian majority, the Armenians formed the Karabakh Council in 1918, which was never recognised by the international community. On the contrary, due to pressure by the British, the Karabakh council was forced to accept Azeri authority on the region. Armenia tried to respond to this by organising a rebellion, but their attempts failed, and it led to the Shusha Massacre, the first of many massacres of the dispute. Although the conflict didn't manage to escalate further since the newly formed Soviet Union conquered the South Caucasus region and gave the region of Nagorno Karabakh to the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic (SSR).



Nagorno Karabakh⁹

⁹ "Nagorno-Karabakh Dispute: Armenia, Azerbaijan Standoff Explained." News | Al Jazeera, Al Jazeera, 28 July 2021, www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/9/27/armenia-and-azerbaijan-a-decades-long-bloody-rivalry.

Unfortunately, the fact that the two countries were part of the USSR didn't mean that the dispute was forgotten. When the Soviet Union began to weaken in the late 1980s, the people in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, who were mostly ethnic Armenians, started demanding reunification with Armenia. When Azerbaijan declared independence from the Soviet Union, the parliament of Nagorno Karabakh voted for independence from Azerbaijan, and declared the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, or Republic of Artsakh. This led to increasing tensions and violent clashes between Armenians and Azerbaijanis in the region. As the situation escalated, both Armenia and Azerbaijan sought to assert their control over Nagorno-Karabakh, and the conflict ultimately escalated into a full-scale war in 1991 after the dissolution of the USSR. There were many attempts by international organizations, mostly by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, to solve the conflict, but they all kept failing, until 1994 when Russia managed to start a ceasefire between the two. The First Nagorno Karabakh War as it is now referred to, ended on May 12, 1994, with the "Bishkek Protocol". The Bishkek Protocol is a provisional ceasefire deal signed by the representatives of Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, Azerbaijan and Russia on the 5th of May 1994 in Kyrgyzstan after negotiations on the tension in Nagorno-Karabakh there.¹⁰ After the ceasefire, Armenia had taken full control of Nagorno Karabakh region and the Azeri territory surrounding it.



Border after the First Nagorno Karabakh War¹¹

¹⁰ "Bishkek Protocol." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 20 June 2023, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bishkek_Protocol#:~:text=The%20Bishkek%20Protocol%20is%20a,Russia's%20representative%20to%20the.

¹¹ Sanamyan, Emil. "Armenian-Azerbaijani Disputes beyond Karabakh." USC Institute of Armenian Studies, 21 June 2020, armenian.usc.edu/armenian-azerbaijani-disputes-beyond-karabakh/.

After the Bishkek Protocol, the situation did not remain entirely peaceful. Border clashes continued. These incidents forced the UN to adopt the 62/243 Resolution in 2008 demanding that Armenia withdraws all its troops from the Azeri territory which they conquered during the first war, something that didn't happen. All those clashes finally escalated into another full-scale war.

The Situation Nowadays

Since Azerbaijan was very disappointed with the outcome of the first war, they had been building up army for all those years. On the 27th of September 2020, Azeri forces initiated a significant attack along the borders established after the initial conflict, marking the onset of the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War. The sudden escalation drew the attention of the international community, which once again struggled to immediately curtail the outbreak of hostilities. Backed by Turkish support, Azerbaijan's military operations aimed to regain control over territories previously lost and alter the current regime.

Amid fierce battles, Azerbaijani forces made substantial territorial gains, managing to push Armenian troops out of areas within Azerbaijan's borders and even securing control over parts of the Nagorno-Karabakh region. This offensive was characterized by the utilization of modern military technology, including drones and precision weaponry, which played a significant role in altering the course of the conflict. The extensive clashes, accompanied by heavy shelling and urban warfare, led to a significant loss of life on both sides and inflicted severe damage on civilian infrastructure. As the conflict escalated, reports emerged of civilian casualties, displacement, and the destruction of cultural heritage sites. The scale and intensity of the fighting underscored the deeply entrenched enmities and territorial disputes that fueled the conflict. The tension deescalated on the 9th of November 2020, when a ceasefire agreement was decided, organized by Russia, with its peacekeeping forces stationed in the region to oversee its implementation.

The aftermath of the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War, despite Azerbaijan's victory, saw a concerning continuation of hostilities. This persistent environment set the stage for the border crisis that erupted in 2021, underscoring unresolved tensions. The border crisis between Armenia and Azerbaijan began on the 12th of May 2021, when Azerbaijani soldiers crossed several kilometers into Armenian territory, occupying a significant area. Despite calls from international bodies like the European Parliament, United States, and France, Azerbaijan has not withdrawn its troops from the occupied Armenian land. This situation has led to ongoing conflicts and violations of the ceasefire agreement, with Azerbaijan frequently provoking skirmishes with Armenia.



Border after the Second Nagorno Karabakh War¹²

To protect against further incursions, Armenia allocated additional defence areas to Russian border guards. The crisis escalated in July and November 2021, with clashes in different border areas. In August 2021, Azerbaijan blockaded southern Armenia, disrupting international transit and forcing Armenia to seek alternative routes. The largest escalation occurred in September 2022, with Azerbaijan launching a major attack on Armenia. In the aftermath, Armenia's borders with Azerbaijan have become militarized, leading to disruptions in the lives of border communities.¹³ Many Armenian villagers have permanently moved away due to safety concerns. Armenia requested intervention from the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) and Russia, but both declined to provide assistance during May 2021 and September 2022 incursions.

But this was not the end of escalations from Azerbaijan. On December 12, 2022, Azerbaijan initiated an illegal blockade of the Republic of Artsakh under the guise of an environmental protest. In reality, the blockade was a strategic move aimed at further isolating and destabilizing the Republic of Artsakh. By deploying individuals disguised as "eco-activists" to block the Lachin corridor – the vital lifeline connecting Artsakh to Armenia and the outside world – Azerbaijan sought to tighten its grip on the region and exert pressure on the local population. This calculated action, involving civil population, military personnel and governmental organizations, intended to solidify control over strategic points and undermine Artsakh's autonomy.

¹² "File:2020 Nagorno-Karabakh Ceasefire Map.Svg." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:2020_Nagorno-Karabakh_ceasefire_map.svg.

¹³ "Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 11 Aug. 2023, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagorno-Karabakh_conflict.

The blockade's consequences have been dire and wide-ranging. The cutoff of vital imports, including food, fuel, and medicine, led to a dire humanitarian crisis for the trapped population of around 120,000 residents. Critical civilian infrastructure, such as gas, electricity, and internet, has been deliberately damaged, exacerbating the hardships faced by the people. The blockage of essential supplies, alongside massive unemployment and educational disruptions has inflicted significant suffering on the region's inhabitants. Azerbaijani President Aliyev's declaration that Armenians must accept Azerbaijani citizenship or leave as well as the deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure, has fuelled concerns of ethnic cleansing and even genocide risk.

As of March 26, 2023, Azerbaijan intensified the blockade by seizing strategic ground around the Lachin corridor, installing military outposts, and blocking bypass roads. They ignored calls from Russian peacekeepers and international courts to observe the ceasefire conditions and restore freedom of movement across the corridor. The blockade's consequences have been severe for the population, as imports of food, fuel, and medicine have been blocked, creating a humanitarian crisis. Shortages of essential supplies, unemployment, and school closures have become widespread issues.



The Lachin Corridor¹⁴

During the blockade, Azerbaijan deliberately damaged critical civilian infrastructure, including gas, electricity, and the Internet, causing further hardship for the people in Artsakh. The region has experienced gas shortages since March 22, 2023, and electricity is rationed due to disrupted supply lines. Azerbaijani President

¹⁴ 19 January 2023 "Opinion: Armenia Must Not Use the Lachin Corridor for the Transportation of Military Goods." Commonsense.Eu, www.commonspace.eu/opinion/opinion-armenia-must-not-use-lachin-corridor-transportation-military-goods.

Aliyev has made threats towards the Armenians living in Artsakh, pressuring them to accept Azerbaijani citizenship or leave the region. Local Armenian residents fear that the blockade aims to expel them from their homeland, and various human rights organizations and experts in genocide studies have warned of potential genocide risk factors.

The situation remains tense. Azerbaijan seems to be reluctant to step back and respect the ceasefire. Russia is also in no position to stabilize the situation as Armenia wants, since they are currently occupied with fighting the Ukraine War. If things continue with this pace, it is almost certain we will be seeing a Third Nagorno Karabakh War very soon.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Armenia

In the past, Armenia helped ethnic group of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh by directly intervening in the conflict by giving the self-declared Republic of Artsakh political and military backing. Due to this engagement, diplomatic solutions were hindered and tensions with Azerbaijan were raised. In the wake of the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War, Armenia suffered substantial territory losses and the exodus of Armenian residents. Addressing the needs of internally displaced people and repairing the infrastructure were necessary in the aftermath. Armenia aims to maintain friendly ties with Azerbaijan while defending the security and rights of its people. Armenia's internal and foreign policies are impacted by the legacy of the conflict, which influences local dynamics and global ties. Armenia's current priorities include post-war reconstruction, sustainable growth, and the pursuit of enduring peace. The nation's resolve to finding a comprehensive solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and ensuring a stable and secure future for the region is demonstrated by its commitment to diplomacy and constructive engagement.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan has pursued its territorial claims in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, seeking to regain control over the region and surrounding territories. The country engaged in the First Nagorno-Karabakh War and, after a ceasefire, faced ongoing disputes over the status of Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan's connection to the conflict is rooted in its historical claim to the region and the desire to restore its sovereignty. In the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War, Azerbaijan launched a military offensive to retake the territories it had lost, eventually achieving significant gains. The 2020 ceasefire brokered by Russia secured territorial control but left underlying tensions.

In the present, Azerbaijan's actions have given rise to a concerning situation involving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The country's approach since the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War has been marked by ongoing provocations, notably demonstrated by the blockade initiated on December 12, 2022. These recent developments underscore the urgent need for a comprehensive and sustainable resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, highlighting the imperative for international cooperation and diplomacy to prevent further escalation and secure lasting peace in the region.

France

Being a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group has allowed France to participate diplomatically in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Its involvement demonstrates its dedication to maintaining peace and resolving disputes in the region. France has a relationship to the subject because of its prominence in international politics and its desire to advance stability and security in the South Caucasus. France's present efforts are still concentrated on advocating peaceful settlement and helping to facilitate negotiations. It has backed diplomatic talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan and called for a cease-fire. The November 2020 ceasefire marked a step towards de-escalation, but ongoing tensions underscore the complexity of the conflict. France's involvement remains integral to international diplomatic initiatives aimed at achieving a lasting settlement and ensuring the rights and security of all parties involved. Its commitment to a peaceful resolution highlights the interconnectedness of global efforts in addressing the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Republic of Artsakh

The Republic of Artsakh, a self-declared entity, emerged in the context of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict primarily as an expression of the aspirations of the ethnic Armenian population living in the region. The Artsakh Declaration of Independence, established during the collapse of the Soviet Union, led to a prolonged struggle for recognition and security. The republic, which included Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas, requested self-determination and autonomy from Azerbaijan. In the current situation, the Republic of Artsakh faces the consequences of the second war in Nagorno-Karabakh and the challenges of rebuilding destroyed communities and infrastructures. The conflict resulted in significant territorial loss and displacement, which required efforts to meet the needs of the displaced and restore normality. The existence of the Republic of Artsakh remains at the heart of the wider Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and its status and security are closely linked to diplomatic discussions and negotiations. The stability and prospects of a peaceful future of the region depend on international recognition, cooperation and sustainable solutions that guarantee the rights and well-being of the inhabitants.

Russian Federation

Russian involvement in the Nagorno-Karabakh war has taken many different forms. Due to geopolitical interests in the South Caucasus area, it has historically maintained relations with both Armenia and Azerbaijan. Russia helped to promote talks through the OSCE Minsk Group to reach a peaceful conclusion. Its engagement is strengthened by its military participation as a peacekeeping force, notably during the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War. Russian influence as a significant player in the war and a mediator result from its historical, cultural, and political ties to the area. Currently, Russia's peacekeeping deployment is to preserve security and make it easier for displaced people to return. Large-scale violence has been reduced by the ceasefire, but tensions still exist. To resolve these issues and promote a lasting peace in Nagorno-Karabakh, Russia must maintain its diplomatic engagement.

Turkey

The majority of Turkey's engagement in the Nagorno-Karabakh war has been on Azerbaijan's side. Due to mutual cultural affinity, Turkey and Azerbaijan have always maintained strong connections. Due to the unsolved issue, it has publicly backed Azerbaijan's territorial claims and withheld diplomatic relations with Armenia. Due to its importance in the region, notably as a regional power and a member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Turkey's position is related to the subject. With allegations of both political and military support, Turkey's help to Azerbaijan during the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War was clear in the current scenario. Large-scale hostilities were stopped by the ceasefire in November 2020, but Turkey's position and engagement continue to have an impact on the dynamics of the area. Its continued support for Azerbaijan holds discussions on potential solutions, adding complexity to diplomatic efforts. Turkey's role underscores the regional and international dimensions of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and its significance in the broader geopolitical landscape.

USA

Through its position as the OSCE Minsk Group's co-chair, the United States has actively participated in diplomatic efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Reflecting its broader interests in regional stability and security, its intervention intended to advance dialogue and a peaceful resolution. They have pushed for talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan as well as a ceasefire. Due to its status as a major world power and desire to keep the South Caucasus stable, it is involved in the situation. The U.S. is still keeping an eye on the situation and supports the implementation of the cease-fire agreement from November 2020. Although not directly involved in the war, the U.S. is an important player in diplomatic efforts to

foster regional cooperation and long-term solutions to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem.

Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) maintains a peacekeeping force that has been deployed to areas of conflict, including Tajikistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan. CSTO is an intergovernmental military alliance in Eurasia.¹⁵ Both Armenia and Azerbaijan are members as well as another four post-Soviet states (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan). Later on, Belarus and Georgia joined, too.¹⁶ The military forces of the organization are consisted of troops, combatants and weaponry of its member states. The aim of this organization is to provide stability and maintain security in the regions where it is sent to operate.

OSCE Minsk Group

The OSCE Minsk Group is a crucial international organization tasked with promoting a peaceful conclusion to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. It is co-chaired by France, Russia, and the United States.¹⁷ It was started in 1992 and acts as a venue for talks, diplomatic engagement, and dispute resolution between Armenia and Azerbaijan. As its main objective is to handle the complexity of the conflict and advance stability in the South Caucasus, the Minsk Group's relationship to the subject is crucial. The Minsk Group is still working to mediate disputes while promoting communication and confidence-boosting initiatives. The November 2020 ceasefire, which halted extensive fighting, highlighted its significance. However, continuing tensions and intermittent border events necessitate continued diplomatic involvement.

BLOCS EXPECTED

Bloc 1

Since the Azerbaijani military is stronger than the Armenian by a lot, the pro-Armenia bloc supports more international involvement in the region. Countries that belong to this bloc are usually the ones with a Euro-Atlantic outlook, but not

¹⁵ "Tajik President, Head of Russia-Led Bloc Discuss Cooperation." Anadolu Ajansı, www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/tajik-president-head-of-russia-led-bloc-discuss-cooperation/2844321.

¹⁶ "Collective Security Treaty Organization." Collective Security Treaty Organization - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, [mfa.gov.by/en/multilateral/organization/list/cddd96a3f70190b1.html#:~:text=The%20Collective%20Security%20Treaty%20\(CST,Georgia%20and%20Belarus%20joined%20it](http://mfa.gov.by/en/multilateral/organization/list/cddd96a3f70190b1.html#:~:text=The%20Collective%20Security%20Treaty%20(CST,Georgia%20and%20Belarus%20joined%20it).

¹⁷ "Tajik President, Head of Russia-Led Bloc Discuss Cooperation." Anadolu Ajansı, www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/tajik-president-head-of-russia-led-bloc-discuss-cooperation/2844321.

always, for example Iran holds pro-Armenian positions. The USA and the EU support the OSCE Minsk Group which strives for peaceful and diplomatic resolutions.

Bloc 2

On the contrary, pro-Azerbaijan countries usually countries with economic or cultural ties to Azerbaijan, such as Turkey and Israel. Russia is in a special position. Their best interest is to solve the problem as quickly as possible because every escalation means a destabilization of the Caucasus region, which is effectively their “backyard”. Furthermore, both Azerbaijan and Armenia are members of the CSTO, therefore a war between them would destabilize the whole alliance. China follows a policy of non-interference and seeks to have good relations with both countries.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Event
27 July 1918	The Karabakh Council is formed after the dissolution of the Russian Empire
21 September 1991	Armenia declares independence from the USSR
10 December 1991	Nagorno Karabakh votes to succeed from Azerbaijan and declares the Republic of Artsakh
26 December 1991	Azerbaijan declares independence from the USSR
30 April 1993	The UNSC Resolution 822 was adopted
29 July 1993	The UNSC Resolution 852 was adopted
14 October 1993	The UNSC 874 Resolution was adopted
12 November 1993	The UNSC 884 Resolution was adopted
12 May 1994	The Bishkek Protocols are signed, ending the First Nagorno-Karabakh War with a ceasefire
14 March 2008	The 62/243 Resolution was adopted
27 September 2020	Azerbaijan invades Armenia thus starting the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War

9 November 2020	A ceasefire is signed with the mediation of Russia, thus ending the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War with a Azerbaijani victory
12 May 2021	Border skirmishes instigated by Azerbaijan escalate into a full-on border crisis
12 December 2022	The Lachin corridor is blockaded by so-called Azerbaijani "eco-activists"

RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

UNSC Resolution 822 (1993)¹⁸

UNSC Resolution 822 addressed the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, calling for an immediate ceasefire, withdrawal of occupying forces, and return of displaced persons. The resolution aimed to halt hostilities and create conditions for negotiations. While it laid a foundation for diplomatic efforts, full implementation remained elusive, and the conflict persisted.

UNSC Resolution 853 (1993)¹⁹

UNSC Resolution 853 further supported Resolution 822, emphasizing the withdrawal of occupying forces and cessation of hostilities. It sought compliance with international law and called on parties to engage in negotiations. Despite these efforts, the resolution's impact was limited, and the conflict's resolution remained pending.

UNSC Resolution 874 (1993)²⁰

UNSC Resolution 874 reiterated calls for a ceasefire and withdrawal of troops, expressing concern for the humanitarian situation. It emphasized the need for a political solution and endorsed mediation through the OSCE Minsk Group. However, the resolution's impact fell short of achieving a comprehensive settlement.

UNSC Resolution 884 (1993)²¹

¹⁸Resolution 822 (1993) /. " United Nations Digital Library System, digitallibrary.un.org/record/165604?ln=en.

¹⁹ "Resolution 853 (1993) /. " United Nations Digital Library System, digitallibrary.un.org/record/170257?ln=en.

²⁰ "Resolution 874 (1993) /. " United Nations Digital Library System, digitallibrary.un.org/record/174420?ln=en.

²¹ "Resolution 884 (1993) /. " United Nations Digital Library System, digitallibrary.un.org/record/176731?ln=en.

UNSC Resolution 884 reiterated previous calls for a ceasefire, withdrawal of forces, and peaceful negotiations. It condemned excessive use of force and sought respect for international norms. While the resolution aimed to advance peace, its efficacy was constrained by persistent hostilities.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

OSCE Minsk Group Efforts

Over the years, numerous attempts have been made to find a peaceful resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. One of the most significant and consistent mediation efforts has been led by the OSCE Minsk Group. Co-chaired by the United States, Russia, and France, the Minsk Group has been actively involved in facilitating negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan since the early 1990s. Despite their persistent efforts, a lasting solution has remained unfound, with multiple rounds of talks held but yielding limited results. The Minsk Group has proposed various peace plans, but challenges such as historical grievances, territorial claims, and conflicting aspirations have hindered the achievement of a comprehensive agreement.

The Russian involvement

There have been two Russian-brokered ceasefires throughout the conflict's history. Russia, being a major regional power and having historical ties to both Armenia and Azerbaijan, has played a crucial role in attempts to halt the hostilities and secure temporary truces. However, while the ceasefires have been agreed upon by both parties, they have often been short-lived and failed to lead to a sustainable resolution. Escalations in violence and renewed hostilities have frequently overshadowed the efforts of Russian-mediated truce agreements, further underscoring the complexity and volatility of the situation.

The efforts of the Security Council

Furthermore, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has issued resolutions urging an end to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. These resolutions have emphasized the importance of respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and called for the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied

territories, mainly because they were passed in 1993 when Armenia occupied part of Azerbaijan. Overall, the UN wants both countries to respect each other's sovereignty, put an end to the bloodshed, and resolve the situation peacefully.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Establishment of Peacekeeping Forces

By establishing peacekeeping forces, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict can be resolved in one way. This would entail assembling a multinational peacekeeping force under the UN made up of soldiers from neutral nations, like Russia, for instance. The upkeep of the truce, stopping new conflicts, and aiding the return of displaced people would be the responsibilities of these special squads. This strategy, in contrast to other attempts, would guarantee the participation of nations with no direct stake in the conflict, improving the appearance of neutrality and impartiality. This tactic aims to establish a safe setting that encourages diplomacy and negotiations, ultimately leading to a viable and long-lasting peace deal.

Third-Party Mediation

Another option is to engage in discussions with the aid of an impartial third party or international body. Representatives from local communities and civic society would be negotiating alongside representatives from the government. This strategy aims to examine the conflict's underlying causes and consider potential compromises by offering a forum for thorough discussion. This approach varies from other initiatives in that it ensures broader involvement and ownership of the peace process. Finding common ground and creating a plan for peaceful coexistence between Armenia and Azerbaijan are the main objectives.

International Criminal Court Involvement

Involving the International Criminal Court (ICC) is another way to handle the problem of atrocities and violations of human rights during the conflict. This strategy tries to give victims closure and prevent such abuses by bringing war crime perpetrators to justice. By emphasizing accountability and justice, this plan differs from other initiatives and makes it clear that impunity will not be accepted. The ultimate goal is to address underlying grievances and ensure that everyone concerned feels justice has been served in order to contribute to long-term stability. A combination of diplomatic efforts, accountability systems, and international participation is essential to reach a lasting resolution in the complex environment of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. These suggested strategies take into account various

aspects of the conflict and share the goal of promoting peace, stability, and the avoidance of further bloodshed.

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