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Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

My name is Jad, your co-chair, and I am a freshman, planning on majoring in Chemical Engineering. I began my journey with Model United Nations in 8th grade, where I participated in my very first conference, after a series of training sessions. After that, I joined the MUN club in 10th grade at my high school and then participated in MUN competitions again in 11th and 12th grade, such as the local Lebanese American University Global Classroom MUN and the international BEYMUN. I am very passionate about exploring how environmental issues could have various impacts on distinct levels, one of which we would be exploring in this conference: peace and security. I currently serve as the co-social chair of the Arab Student Organization and the Secretary of The Lebanese Club at MIT.

My name is Andre Hamelberg, and I'm tremendously excited to be one of your chairs at our conference this year! I am a third-year here at MIT studying Chemical Engineering and Mathematics. I have not participated in Model UN since my freshman year of high school, but in retrospect, Model United Nations was very important to me - it helped me make lots of great friends, improve my public speaking, and made me more aware of foreign policy. Outside of Model UN, I am on our version of student government, the Undergraduate Association serving as the Financial Board Co-Chair; the President of my fraternity, Theta Chi; the wrestling team; and I do research in the Doyle Lab and the Willard Group.

We are so happy to welcome you to this year's MITMUNC conference that is finally happening in person! We have been working hard over the past semester to make this conference possible. Although the security council is an advanced committee, we strongly believe in your abilities to propose interesting solutions that would help us solve the topics at hand. The two topics that we are going to discuss in this conference are: The Azerbaijan-Armenia Conflict and Threats to Food and Water Security and Peace in Africa as a Result of Climate Change. One of the goals of this committee is to ensure that our actions are peaceful, and we think that you are the future change makers who would be able to lead this conference and realize how to make the world a more secure place for everyone. We hope that this year's committee provides a different perspective on how we perceive the security risks of climate change that we might have never previously thought of. We also aim, with your help, to ensure a lasting peace between countries with an ongoing conflict. This study guide will be your flashlight through your research process. However, the key to the door is your own creativity, hard work, and preparedness. Consider this conference as a challenge to face the world's problems with an open lens.

Please email your position papers to unsc-mitmunc-2023@mit.edu five days before the start of the conference.

We truly hope you can enjoy and learn from this experience as much as we have. As much as hard work and research will pay off, cooperation will go a long way. A true leader is one that can help him/herself and others whilst having fun and giving the best they can. Best of luck delegates!

Sincerely,

Your chairs: Andre Hamelberg and Jad Abou Ali

For further inquiries, do not hesitate to contact us: afh@mit.edu and jabouali@mit.edu.

MITMUNC 2023



Topic A: Threats to Security and Peace in Africa as a Result of Climate Change

Introduction

Climate change has been known to have serious effects on human beings and the environment. However, studies have recently revealed that climate change also poses security threats in countries where climate change led to the scarcity of resources. Since climate change is a global issue, all countries are at risk of food and water insecurity, and eventually, civil unrest.

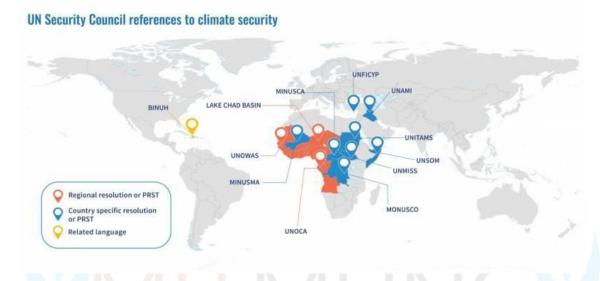
Despite the universality of the issue, Africa remains one of the greatest concerns. According to the African Development Bank, Africa is the most vulnerable continent to climate change, despite its low greenhouse gas emissions¹. Moreover, Africa is prone to a lot of natural disasters that get harsher as temperature increases across the years, which in turn would affect people's migration patterns, access to food and clean water, and would result in conflict in gaining access to basic resources and needs for survival.

The problem of Climate Change remains a debate whether it should be discussed in Security Council or not. Because of possible connections between Climate Change and security, the Security Council has discussed the topic before, but insufficiently to finally release reforms related to solving the issue. The first possible link between Climate Change and Security was explored in April 2007. After that, the UNSC took further steps to discuss the issue because of its importance. UNSC held an open debate in July 2011 that, along with the meeting in March 2017, led to resolution 2349 to tackle the security risks associated with climate change in Lake Chad basin. The significance of climate-related risks increased, resulting in more than 70 member states participating in a July 2018 debate held on "understanding and addressing climate-related security risks.²" Most recently, on December 13, 2021, the Security Council discussed a draft resolution concerning climate change and security. It emphasizes the importance of discussing climate change under various contexts and within all United Nations' committees. It also entails

¹ African Development Bank - Building Today, a Better Africa Tomorrow, https://www.afdb.org/en/cop25/climate-change-africa.

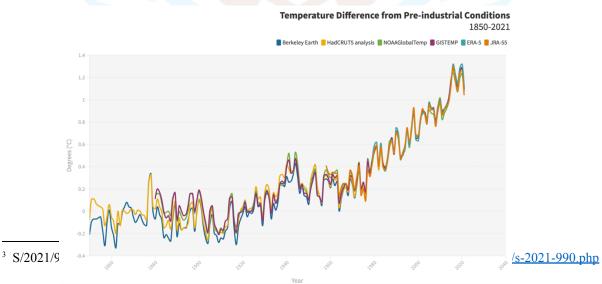
² Climate change recognized as 'threat multiplier', UN Security Council debates its impact on peace, https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/news/climate-change-recognized-'threat-multiplier'-un-security-council-debates-its-impact-peace

that some member states are aware of the security threats that climate change is posing (or will pose) on their countries, and thus the emerging need to resolve the issue. Targeting Africa in specific, the document calls for collaboration between the African Union and the United Nations to address all the climate-related security risks³.



Climate Change in Africa

According to a report published by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 2021, "2021 ranked between the third and fourth warmest year on record in Africa," indicating that climate change situation is alerting and requires officials to act. The rate of temperature rise per decade (around 0.3°C increase) is higher than the global average.

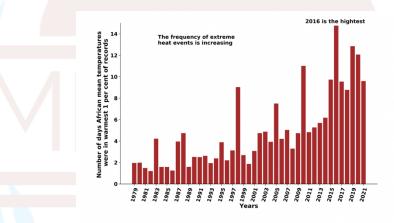


The above graph illustrates the results of different studies done on the amount of global temperature rise from 1850 to 2021 published by WMO.

On the African continent, global warming is not distributed equally, resulting in more areas being affected than others, in which it could create different migration patterns that could pose security threats within Africa. North Africa is one of the most affected parts of temperature rise in Africa, with a 1.22°C above 1981-2010 average temperature⁴.

Average yearly temperatures are not the only indications to how serious the problem is, but the frequency of extremely hot days also provides a good piece of evidence to the issue of climate change in Africa.

The following graph shows the trend in frequency of extremely hot days in Africa between 1979 and 2021⁴.



Security Threats Resulting from Climate Change

Global warming and other factors resulting in climate change over African territories has not only led to adverse environmental consequences, but also to security issues. Flooding, extremely hot days, and droughts cause people to suffer from food and water insecurity, as well as pave the way for migration and displacement, which could result in conflicts to find

https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/climate/wmo-statement-state-of-global-climate/Africa

⁴ State of the Climate in Africa,

resources.⁵ Security threats, therefore, run on two different levels: civilians and military. In this section, the effects of climate change on the two levels of security are explained.

- The Security Threats of Accessing Resources in Light of Climate Change
 - During a debate on the importance of discussing climate change in terms of security risks, the Assistant Secretary General for Africa, Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, emphasized that no direct links exist between climate and security, but extreme droughts in Africa drive competition for resources and result in lack of food security, migration, and violence. The following section explores the direct effects of climate change and how these in turn threaten Africa's security.
 - Lower Food Production:
 - According to a recent 2022 study, more than 140 million people in Africa face acute food insecurity. This could be associated with the droughts that hit Africa this year and decreased agricultural productivity. Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya were severely hit by the drought and other weather extremes, which led to more than 31.8 million people requiring urgent assistance due to their lack of access to food resources.
 - Furthermore, the 2022 report highlights that East Africa, West Africa, and the Sahel are the most affected areas by food insecurity. Given Africa's huge reliability on agriculture for food production, decreased rainfall leads to lower food production, and thus famine.
 - One of the main reasons for the decrease in rainfall is global warming. With this decrease, food accessibility became limited, and food prices increased, preventing a lot of people from feeding their families. According to a study, for every 1°C increase in temperature, agricultural productivity decreases by 2.7% in poor countries. This inequality in access to resources increases cases of violence and leads to conflicts between individuals waiting to feed their families. Based on IMF's study in 2020, countries like Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, and Tanzania face an increase of 5-20% increase in food insecurity in cases of floods or droughts.

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⁵ The Greatest Threat To Global Security: Climate Change Is Not Merely An Environmental Problem, https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/greatest-threat-global-security-climate-change-not-merely-environmental-problem

In 2022, South Africa was severely affected by floods that were twice as impactful as previous years due to climate change. The catastrophic rainfall that eventually led to floods resulted in \$1.57Bn losses to infrastructure. These floods resulted in crop damage, livestock mortality, seed loss, and deaths. All these affect south Africans that specifically rely on Agriculture to sustain their living. Consequently, these floods resulted in higher poverty rates, which along with decreased food production, resulted in higher food insecurity levels in Africa.



Displacement

- Security issues are not only related to food access and safety, but also to displacement and migration within African countries, which could affect the general civil situation in the continent.
- Because climate change affects crop growth and production, civilians would transition to a place where there would be more access to fertile lands, food, and clean water. In that way, certain parts in Africa would become overcrowded and competition for resources increases, making these parts of Africa the least safe in the area around.
- In an older report published to evaluate the effect of climate change on humans in Africa, the author mentions that the rate of urbanization in Africa is 3.5% per year. This record affects the poor people living in these urban areas. For instance, Eritrea experiences droughts and food supply shortages, as well as heat stress and floods due to sea level rise. All these stressing factors forced poor urbans to leave their initial location and move

- towards places with more access to all their needs. Climate change also resulted in increased demand in some Western African cities, which increased competition and increased prices, leaving more room for monopolies, resulting in more families left poor.
- Oue to decreased rain fall, and higher frequency of hot days, residents of West Africa, and specifically the Sahel, migrated to other areas in Africa, which increases stress and adversely affect security. A recent UN report predicts that by 2050, almost 38.5 million people would be displaced from Lake Victoria Basin due to climate change, in addition to up to 38 million people migrating from West Africa to other locations within the continent.
- The following map shows how internal migration takes place within West Africa if the climate situation remains posing the same amount of risk for the next 30 years.

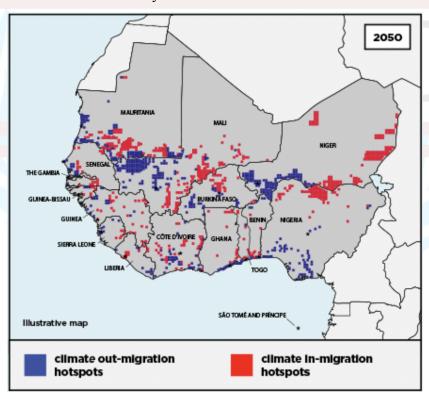


Figure 5. Map showing projected migration patterns in 2050 in West Africa.

Conflict

 According to the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative's records (ND-GAIN), 18 African countries constitute the most 20 vulnerable

- countries in the world. In this context, and as defined by ND-GAIN, "Vulnerability measures a country's exposure, sensitivity and ability to adapt to the negative impact of climate change." This suggests that a lot of African countries are not ready to adapt to or mitigate any effects of climate change, which could result in insecurity across the continent. For example, grazing patterns have changed in the Sahel, and almost 50 million people depend on the livestock sector; therefore, conflicts have aroused between farmers and pastoralists.13
- Climate vulnerability also correlates to income inequalities between individuals. To clarify, individuals whose income is dependent on a specific agricultural activity, or who have an unstable shelter, or who do not have direct access to food and water resources are the mostly affected individuals by climate susceptible risks. Therefore, the gap between lower class and higher-class individuals increases, causing more tensions and weaker social cohesion. The inequality arising from climate change, therefore, leads to civil unrest and, eventually, conflicts.
- According to the World Bank's Africa's Pulse, increases in temperature and reduced precipitation increases the probability of conflict risk. Burke, Hsiang, and Miguel, through a 2015 study, revealed that a one standard deviation increase in temperature corresponds to an increase of person-person conflict by 2.4% and group-group conflicts by 11.3%. This supports the idea that inequalities resulting from climate change impact individuals' behaviors with one another and leads to a less peaceful environment.

THE AROUSAL OF PEACE VIOLATION AND VIOLENCE

The previous section explored how climate change leads to conflicts. This section emphasizes how climate change could indirectly lead to violence and peace violations on the African continent.

1. Government-citizen relationships

Post COVID-19, most of the African governments are still recovering from the severe economic impacts the pandemic had enforced. This creates more challenges for governments trying to help relieve their citizens from the additional impacts of climate change on their lives. As a result, tensions between citizens and the governments arise, leading to political instability and civil unrest.

Countries such as Chad and The Central African Republic are undergoing political changes, placing an additional burden on government officials.⁶ Thus, individuals will receive lower access to basic needs and governmental services, resulting in more political division within the country.

Africa has seen a history of unstable government-citizen relationships, in which some instances of violence against the government grew from environmental damage. In early 2000s, a group of militants attacked oil pipeline workers and damaged the pipelines to clarify that the economic turnover of these pipelines is not being spent on improving the lives of people whose shelters got destroyed by natural disasters.⁷ In 2015, militants killed nine people and blew up a major pipeline in Nigeria, Delta area, providing the same reasons as before for their actions.⁸

2. Recruitment in Armed Groups

Another facet of peace violation that occurred in Africa is an increase in the amount of people recruited in armed groups, threatening Africa's safety. In 2021, the Secretary General mentioned that 40% of people in Afghanistan rely on farming as a major work source. Because of climate change, most of these farmers resorted to recruitment from criminal gangs and armed groups.⁹

As discussed in previous sections, climate change led to a high percentage of unemployment in some African countries. This resulted in a huge pool of recruitment by extremist groups in Nigeria, reaching almost 60% of the unemployed population. Terrorist

https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/09/how-climate-change-fuels-instability-central-africa

https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/articles/climate-change-african-security/

⁶ How Climate Change Fuels Instability in Central Africa,

⁷ Nigeria Violence: 'A Potential Crisis' In Niger Delta As Militants Kill 9 People, Blow Up Oil Line,

https://www.ibtimes.com/nigeria-violence-potential-crisis-niger-delta-militants-kill-9-people-blow-oil-line-1869864

⁸ How Climate Change Affects African Security,

⁹ Secretary-General's remarks to the Security Council - on addressing climate-related security risks to international peace and security through mitigation and resilience building, <a href="https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2021-02-23/secretary-generals-remarks-the-security-council-addressing-climate-related-security-risks-international-peace-and-security-through-mitigation-and-resilience-building

groups like Boko Haram and ISWAP were given more chance to spread their terrorist activities across Lake Chad after the severe consequences the Basin experienced because of climate change. In a place already suffering from food insecurity, political instability, high unemployment rate, poverty, and environmental degradation, these peace-violating actions led to a humanitarian crisis in Africa and specifically Lake Chad, in which more than 9.8 million required urgent humanitarian assistance in that area.¹⁰

LOCAL RESPONSES TO SECURITY THREATS

Realizing the level of seriousness of the issue, some African countries and organizations in Africa responded in distinct ways to help in solving the problem. These actions took place in the form of a collaborative effort between the African Union, the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, the Economic Community of Maintenance of West African States, and the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region. The Climate Commission has specifically implemented a \$440 Billion plan between 2018 and 2030 for resilience capacity building in Sahelian areas and decreasing Greenhouse gas emissions.¹¹

INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS

This section explores the efforts done internationally to help solve the security problem in Africa that stems from climate change.

A. Ireland and The Republic of Niger

On September 23rd, 2021, Ireland organized an open debate to discuss the alarming situation of climate change and its effects on peace and security. The representative of

¹⁰ Climate Change and Violent Extremism in the Lake Chad Basin: Key Issues and Way Forward, https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/media/uploads/documents/Climate%20Change%20and%20Violent%20Extremism%20in%20the%20Lake%20Chad%20Basin%20Key%20Issues%20and%20Way%20Forward_0.pdf

¹¹ Maintenance of international peace and security Climate and security Letter dated 9 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2021/782), https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_pv.8864.p df

The Republic of Niger cochaired with that of Ireland in the Informal Expert Group on Climate and Security, both sharing the urge to address this issue in the UNSC.¹²

B. UN Secretary General – António Guterres

The Secretary General strongly agrees with the dependence of peacebuilding on climate security. He highlights that the work the Peacebuilding Fund did in the Lake Chad region regenerated reforestation in the area and increased its livelihood. He also marks the importance of the role women play in peacebuilding under the influence of the adverse consequences of climate change.¹³

C. The Climate Security Mechanism (CSM)

A joint initiative launched in 2018 by various UN committees: Department for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It serves to address all the peace and security threats caused by climate change. The scope of work of this mechanism is risk analysis and capacity building. CSM also works on strengthening collaborations and managing and creating knowledge and advocacy.¹⁴

COUNTRY POSITIONS

As previously mentioned, some countries in the UNSC reacted differently to the topic. Russia, a permanent member, vetoed the reform paper and the discussion of the security threats of climate change got postponed in the security council. India also joined Russia in taking that

Climate Change and Security: Vote on a Resolution, https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2021/12/climate-change-and-security-vote-on-a-resolution.ph $\underline{\nu}$

¹³ Maintenance of international peace and security Climate and security Letter dated 9 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2021/782), https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_pv.8864.pdf
¹⁴ Joint efforts for Sustaining Peace: Meet the UN Climate Security Mechanism, https://www.unssc.org/news-and-insights/blog/joint-efforts-sustaining-peace-meet-un-climate-security-mechanism

stance, both indicating that it is "very dangerous" to discuss climate change in security council meetings.¹⁵

On November 29, 2020, China also joined Russia and India's position, highlighting that the other countries' arguments lack scientific background that proves the relationship between climate change and security.²⁶

On the other hand, during the December 9th open debate, most of the sixty speakers who were representing their countries have expressed their support of tackling the issue.²⁶

CONCLUSION

Climate change is still a major concern for all nations from an environmental and humanitarian perspective. However, some nations fail to identify that climate change also poses severe security risks that could threaten peace on lands, specifically in Africa. African countries realized the scale of magnitude of the impact climate change is having on their continent. Yet, cooperation is needed to ensure that this issue is discussed in Security Council at a deeper level and a reform paper could finally be issued.

QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

The following questions must be addressed during the research process in order to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive knowledge of the topic and be able to propose viable and efficient solutions.

- What suggestions did your country make to address the issue nationally, and how would it apply to Africa?
- How is your country willing to support peacebuilding on Africa territories?
- How would your country's stance on the feasibility of discussing climate change in the UNSC affect the flow of debate?
- In what ways does your country see lack of security in Africa a global threat?
- To what extent should your resolutions be specifically targeting climate change?

¹⁵ Climate Change and Security: Vote on a Resolution, https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2021/12/climate-change-and-security-vote-on-a-resolution.ph

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Title	Link	Description
Security Council	https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFC	China's presidential
Resolution	F9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_prst_20	statement on peace
	<u>22_6.pdf</u>	and security in
		Africa
Draft Resolution	https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFC	The Draft
	F9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2021_9	resolution on
	<u>90.pdf</u>	12/13/2021 after the
		December 9 th Open
		debate
"A lack of weather	https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/09/24/afric	Lack of sufficient
data in Africa is	<u>a-climate-weather-data/</u>	climate data to
thwarting critical		analyze the impacts
climate research"		of climate change
		in Africa
"Armed Actors and	https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/11/armed-actors-	Resource-related
Environmental	and-environmental-peacebuilding	conflict in The
Peacebuilding"		Democratic
		Republic of Congo

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Topic B: Azerbaijan-Armenia: Ending the Dispute in the Nagorno-Karabakh region

INTRODUCTION

The Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict is a longstanding dispute over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, a region located within Azerbaijan but predominantly populated by ethnic Armenians. The conflict has its roots in the early 20th century, but has escalated in recent decades, leading to a full-scale war from 1991 to 1994 and ongoing periodic flare-ups of violence¹⁶. The situation remains unresolved, and has had significant humanitarian consequences, including the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. Efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict through negotiations have so far been unsuccessful.

BACKGROUND

The Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict dates back to the early 20th century and centers around the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh. The region that can be seen in Figure 1 below, which is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, has a predominantly Armenian population and has been the subject of a long-standing territorial dispute between the two countries¹⁷.

¹⁶ https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54324772

¹⁷ https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/armenias-postwar-crisis-what-know



Figure 1 - (Zeyd Abdullah Alshagouri / TRTWorld)

The conflict first erupted into violence in 1988, when Nagorno-Karabakh declared its independence from Azerbaijan. This led to a full-scale war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, which lasted until 1994 and resulted in the de facto independence of Nagorno-Karabakh¹⁸. A ceasefire was signed, but tensions between the two sides have continued to flare up periodically, with occasional outbreaks of violence.

In recent years, the conflict has been further complicated by the involvement of other regional powers, such as Russia and Turkey. Both countries have long-standing ties to Azerbaijan and Armenia, respectively, and have used their influence in an attempt to shape the outcome of the conflict.

Since the ceasefire, Nagorno-Karabakh has been de facto controlled by a separatist government led by ethnic Armenians, but it is still internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan. This has led to periodic flare-ups of violence, including a four-day war in April 2016 and ongoing clashes along the line of contact between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces¹.

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https://www.rferl.org/a/probe-sought-into-nagorno-karabakh-decapitations-other-war-crimes-/3099414 6.html

The situation in Nagorno-Karabakh remains tense, with both sides accusing the other of violating the ceasefire and engaging in provocative military actions¹⁹. The conflict has had a devastating humanitarian impact, with thousands of people killed and hundreds of thousands displaced from their homes.

The international community, including the United Nations, has been involved in efforts to broker a peaceful resolution to the conflict. However, so far these efforts have been largely unsuccessful, and the conflict remains unresolved.

PAST ACTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, AND CURRENT PROGRAMS

Since the ceasefire, various international organizations, including the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), have worked to try to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict. In 2008, the OSCE established the Minsk Group, which is co-chaired by France, Russia, and the United States, to facilitate negotiations between Azerbaijan and Armenia²⁰.

In recent years, there have been a number of attempts to reach a peaceful settlement to the conflict. In 2016, the sides came close to reaching a deal, but ultimately it was not successful. In 2017, there was a flare-up of violence along the line of contact between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces, resulting in several deaths.

Currently, the OSCE Minsk Group is continuing to work towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict. This includes efforts to establish a lasting ceasefire, as well as negotiations on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh and the return of displaced persons. There have been some positive developments in recent years, including the opening of a land route between the two countries. The Minsk Group has also worked to promote confidence-building measures and other steps to reduce tensions between the two sides.

https://www.france 24.com/en/live-news/20201019-un-security-council-discusses-nagorno-karabakh fighting

¹⁹

²⁰ https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54903869

A. UN Role and Resolutions

It is important to note that the United Nations has not made any official resolutions on the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict since 1993. In resolution 62/243, the UN demanded that Armenia withdraw its troops from Azerbaijan²¹. This sets a precedent that the UN will not intervene in fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh but will try to intervene if either side invades territory outside of that area. There are no other UN resolutions on the conflict. The UN Security Council has discussed the conflict informally, often through Arria-style meetings, which are only for airing views.

COUNTRY STANCES

As a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, the United States has been involved in efforts to facilitate negotiations between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The United States has consistently called for a peaceful resolution to the conflict and has supported efforts by the Minsk Group to find a lasting solution.

The United States has also provided assistance to both Azerbaijan and Armenia to help them address the underlying issues that have contributed to the conflict. This has included humanitarian assistance to those affected by the conflict, as well as support for economic and political reforms in both countries.

Overall, the United States has been supportive of efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict and has urged both sides to engage in dialogue and find a mutually acceptable solution²².

Russia has close ties with Armenia and has traditionally been seen as more supportive of Armenia's position in the conflict. Russia has a military base in Armenia and has provided military assistance to the Armenian government. Overall, Russia has been supportive of efforts to

²² https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/03/30/army-pentagon-nagorno-karabakh-drones/

²¹ https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/62/243

find a peaceful resolution to the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict but has also been seen as more sympathetic to Armenia's position⁸.

In addition, China has sought to maintain good relations with both Azerbaijan and Armenia and has worked to develop its economic and political ties with both countries. China is a major trade partner for both Azerbaijan and Armenia and has also invested in infrastructure projects in both countries.

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

If the Security Council were to take action on the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict, it could use a range of tools to try to bring about a peaceful resolution to the dispute.

One potential action the Security Council could take is to adopt a resolution calling on both Azerbaijan and Armenia to adhere to the ceasefire and refrain from any actions that could escalate the conflict. The Security Council could also call on the parties to engage in negotiations and find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Another potential action the Security Council could take is to establish a UN peacekeeping mission in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. This would involve deploying UN peacekeepers to the area to help maintain the ceasefire and promote stability.

Overall, the Security Council has a range of tools at its disposal to try to bring about a peaceful resolution to the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict. It could use these tools to support the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group and other international organizations that are working to find a peaceful solution to the dispute.

Timeline of Key Events

Date	Description of event
1813 - 1828	Treaties of Gulistan, Russian acquisition of the Caucuses
1917	Bolshevik Revolution, Azerbaijan SSR and Armenian SSR established
February 20th 1988	Nagorno-Karabakh referendum for self determination
Feb 1998 - May 1994	First Nagorno-Karabakh War
Feb – Mar 1998	Sumgait Pogrom
November 1988	Kirovabad Pogrom
Jan – Feb 1990	Baku Pogrom (Black January)
1991	Collapse of the Soviet Union
Sep 27 – Nov 9 2020	Second Nagorno-Karabakh War

Figure 2 – Timeline of Azerbaijan-Armenia Conflict Events²³

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