

Forum: Political Committee (PC)

Issue: Establishing a framework for dialogue with micronations and partially recognized territories

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Introduction

Micronations are small, self-declared entities that claim to be independent sovereign states, but are not recognized by any other states or supranational organizations. This situation is also true for partially recognized territories. Partially recognized territories are also not recognized by most United Nations Member States. Micronations and partially recognized territories occur in accordance with the needs and desires of people, and their presence is driven by pushes from those people. While building these micronations and territories, people are taken as basis. These “nations” are usually formed by the social groups of a recognized country. It can also be seen that both micronations and partially recognized territories are de facto, which means that they exist without legal recognition.

Definition of Key Terms

Micronation: A small area of land or a political entity claiming its national sovereignty, that is not recognized by other states or supranational organizations.

De jure: An adjective used to describe practices, and in this case countries, that are legally recognised, regardless of whether they physically exist.

De facto: A Latin term connoting "in fact" or "in practice", describes situations, and in this case countries that physically exist even though they are not legally recognised.

Partially recognised territory: Countries that might exist in a de jure or de facto manner, but are not recognised by some or most UN Member States.

Autonomous territory: An area in a country which possesses a degree of freedom from an external authority, having control over its internal affairs.

Sovereignty: Supreme authority within the bounds of a certain territory, on both internal and external affairs.

General Overview

Nations arise from people's needs, and consist of various social groups that seek the same national identity. In its current state, since the end of World War I, the world consists mostly of nation states, governments whose citizens mostly consist of the same national identity, where members of other nations are considered minorities. The most important power of these states is enforcing laws that guide everyday lives, and their citizens are the ones who legitimize political power democratic states.

Recently, there have been several declarations of independence, some of which have caused conflicts. Around the world, there are about 5000 nations, but 200 states, meaning that newly rising micronations seek to acquire their own nation-states. This is only possible by acquiring land and sovereignty from already existing states, leading to national governments' hesitance in recognising declarations of independence. Even though a state, as a legal entity, must possess a sovereign territory in order to be considered a state, possession of a territory is not enough to qualify for the legal status of statehood.

In order to start dialogue with micronations and partially recognized territories, as well as prevent the conflicts arising from this current global state, a possibly international framework is an urgent necessity. This framework should determine which entities can be considered as a nation or state, as well as the qualities that can make a territory a state, whether it be common economic goals, cultures, politics and jurisdiction, as well as shifting borders.

The Treaty of Westphalia, where the nation-state formed a basis of governance in international affairs, was what ultimately defined sovereignty for states and established

government authority to control the security and welfare of a state. The Treaty also enabled the authorities of European nation-states to control their own taxation systems, legal code, security, and economic flows in order to stimulate economic growth and development on a national scale. This helped civil societies to acquire ethical development throughout educational programmes, intercultural dialogue, and healthcare plans. On the other hand, as the world grew increasingly globalized, government control over capital diminished and supranational control over the economic system increased, breaking the isolation of nation-states.

Throughout history, people in communes decided to control a certain area of land in order to acquire resources, which gave them economic power. The citizens of that state were able to benefit from and use the resources present in their territorial boundaries, with larger territories equating to a larger sum of resources and therefore a more powerful nation. In modern day, if those resources are exploited by external forces such as companies, a state's importance decreases, displaying the difference between sovereignty and a territory where sovereignty has become separated from territorial boundaries.

The phenomenon of globalization is subject to many discussions about its effect on diminishing territorial sovereignty, as well as geographical bounds. Some may even argue that the concept of globalization is about to bring an end to nation-states' existence in general, blurring the lines on what territory is and how much it is interlinked with the idea of sovereignty. It can be said that globalization unified the world, reducing the importance of this link, and ended territorial sovereignty with either a challenge to authorities from the people they govern, or by changing government systems directly. From an alternative perspective, sovereignty and territory may be understood as important concepts that are reformed and secluded from the state. In the past, sovereign states were adamant on keeping their boundaries secure, but in our globalized society, a state's control over its borders and activities is limited with economic pressures and in some cases, sanctions, making it easier for micronations and partially recognised territories claiming land as their own under the right circumstances. According to some, the newly arising forms of governance have made states with territorial boundaries more vulnerable, such as the European Union, which is against the concept of Westphalian sovereignty.

The idea of self-determination forms the basis of the nation-state concept, which is the right of people to rule themselves and formulate their own state, respecting everyone's right to choose the style of government to live under, as it is outlined in the Charter of the UN. Under the jurisdiction of international law, people are entitled to form their own states and rule them independently, allowing citizens to acquire self-governance and a collective identity that flourishes a community in the ideals of a state.

This concept is also related to separating from an old regime to start a new one. According to legal principles, when a territory becomes independent of a parent state, there cannot be any additional border alterations or separations. Due to this fact, autonomous countries can form inside the boundaries of the state that they wish to separate from. However, other separate states cannot be formed unless there is a strong and valid excuse supported by powerful actors on the world stage. A violation of territorial integrity may occur in a situation where a region declares itself to be independent before the parent state gave up its territory, as it is a violation of the UN Charter Article 2(4) that advises against an entity barging into the territory of another state.

One reason that any people who are in control of a certain strip of land or territory may claim to be an independent state arises from the Montevideo Convention of 1933. The Convention outlined several criteria for possessing the legal status of a sovereign state, which are having a solidly defined territory and government, a permanent population, and the ability to conduct diplomacy with other states.

All in all, the need for an international framework is clear to ensure that partially recognized territories and micronations get their fair share of representation.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

United Micronations

United Micronations, founded on the 2nd of October 2014, is a Micro Nautical organization. It was found by the People's Republic of Hashima and the United States of Antarctica. Its main objective is to regulate world Micronations under an organization that can help members maintain peace, development, mutual recognition and common diplomatic relations. There

are criteria to become a member of the United Micronation such as, all American Micronations adoption of the charter as a constitution, and the acceptance of any American micronation should be made by the United Micronations Chair. This body consists of the President, the Socialist Republic of the Sandwich Clan, the Kingdom of Chaos and the United Zonpakuto Republic (4) .

Members: United Dutch Colonies of Dixieland, Chaos Kingdom, Dixieland Democracy, North Sandwich Clan: Socialist Republic of the Sandwich Clan, South Sandwich Clan: Sandwich Clan Republic, United Republic of Zonpakuto, East Sandwich



Clan: People's Democracy of the Sandwich Clan, Democratic Detroit, New Freeland, United Holy Christian Empire, Republic of Escapleria

The United States of America

United States of America has the most micronations in the world, compared to other countries. It has 51 micronations and they are all still active. Also in the United Micronations membership, all the members should be peace loving "American" Micronations.

Some of the Micronations in the USA include: Aariania, Atovia, Aynvaul, Auvenum, Calcont, Kingdom of Emosia, Custosia, Esse, Florenia, the Lemurian Republic, and more.

Republic of Cyprus

The Republic of Cyprus is divided into two sides, Southern Cyprus and Northern Cyprus. Northern Cyprus is only recognized by Turkey. This means that the United Nations did not recognize Northern Cyprus, making it a partially recognized territory. The international community sees the Northern part of the island as the territory of the Republic of Cyprus occupied by the Turkish forces.

Timeline of Events

1933	The Montevideo Convention was created.
26 June 1945	The Charter of the United Nations was signed
2 October 2014	The United Micronations was officially established.
2018	The Rise of Non-territorial Sovereignties and Micronations published

UN Involvement

The United Nations has not taken direct action on the specific issue of micronations. It acts, however, as the de facto criteria of international recognition. Despite the criteria outlined in the Montevideo Convention, countries are not regarded as fully recognised unless they are admitted as full members of the UN.

Even though countries can individually recognise each other, a recognition by the UN Security Council, as well as a vote in the General Assembly, are typically regarded as the last steps of gaining full recognition. Many countries have been recognised by a majority, but not all, of UN Member States. This is the case with the recognition of Kosovo, where the P5 nations of Russia and the People's Republic of China, by refusing to recognise Kosovo, blocked its admittal to the UN. Vatican City and Palestine are observer states, Vatican being represented in the UN through the Holy See and remaining as observer by choice, and Palestine having its full admittal blocked by the United States of America. Many countries exist in various stages of limbo between complete non-recognition and Member State status.

Essentially, the UN is indirectly involved in the issue of micronations and partially recognised territories, as the definitive organization, the membership to which ensures (and requires) complete recognition.

Relevant UN Documents

Security Council Resolution 1691, 22 June 2006 (S/RES/1691)

Security Council Resolution 1426, 24 July 2002 (S/RES/1426)

Security Council Resolution 1414, 23 May 2002 (S/RES/1414)

Statement by the President of the Security Council, 22 June 2006 (S/PRST/2006/27)

Statement by the President of the Security Council, 24 July 2002 (S/PRST/2002/23)

Statement by the President of the Security Council, 31 October 2000 (S/PRST/2000/30)

Application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations - Note by the Secretary General, 23 September 2011 (S/2011/592)

Application of the Republic of South Sudan for admission to membership in the United Nations - Note by the Secretary General, 9 July 2011 (S/2011/418)

Treaties and Events

The Montevideo Convention outlines the four criteria of being considered a sovereign state.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

In 2014, United Micronations was formed. As stated above in the Major Parties section, their goal was to maintain peace, development, mutual recognition and common diplomatic relations between micronations. To take a detailed look, they aim to promote peace and security among the members, attempting to resolve existing conflicts peacefully, developing friendly relations between nations based on the principle of equality and the determination of peoples' own destiny, and last but not least, respecting international law and promoting progressive development. However, this organization has gradually started to lose its members since 2014 and some micronations grew inactive.

Another previous attempt was the Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of

States, in 1933, gave micronations the opportunity to legally exist as states. The Convention listed the criteria for being a sovereign state as having a precisely defined region and government, a permanent population and the ability to provide diplomacy with other states. This convention guided the partially recognized territories in a beneficial way.

Possible Solutions

Since the UN has not had much success in establishing any kind of dialogue between its Member States and non-Observer states, delegates have a variety of possible proposals to make. Considering the effects of the lack of dialogue, special attention may be given to areas where self-declared nations are able to participate in the international decision-making mechanisms of the UN. This can either be achieved by easing the Observer admittal process, which would most probably require the limitation of the powers of the Security Council, or by creating exclusions for non-Observer states to gain temporary Observer or Member status in one or more organs of the UN.

Dialogue does not necessarily require Observer/Member status, though. Micronations can also simply be invited to organized conventions, outside of UN organs. Furthermore, other organizations, such as the United Micronations, may be used to create a channel of communication between Micronations and UN Member States.

However, Micronations without much of a territory, government or population, are only part of the equation. For countries like Taiwan (officially the Republic of China, not to be confused with the UN Member State of the People's Republic of China), who cannot participate in the UN despite having various diplomatic missions within it, other solutions may also be needed. Reasons of non-recognition in the aforementioned case, and in the case of Northern Cyprus, may be identified and attempted to be resolved on an individual basis. To do this, a general mechanism or a course of action can be outlined and put into effect, perhaps through the establishment of a sub-organ under a relevant UN organ. Additionally, a new partial membership category for the UN may be established, with the aim of bypassing the various obstacles of gaining an Observer or Member status.

Finally, the UN does not need to be involved at all. International dialogue and diplomatic relations are usually established between international countries, or blocs of countries, not

led by the UN. Such relations may also be encouraged independently.

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