

**Forum:** United Nations Security Council

**Issue:** The situation in the Caucasus

**Student Officer:** Erdiñç ACAR

**Position:** Deputy Chair



Picture 1: Map of the Caucasus region

## Introduction

The Caucasus region is situated at the intersection of Europe and Asia and is located between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. This transcontinental region mainly comprises Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Northern Iran, parts of Southern Russia, and Northeastern Türkiye. This mountainous territory contains a variety of ethnic groups, languages, and religions which also contributes to both its challenges and its richness. Furthermore, by looking at the past of this culturally diverse area, it can be seen that its history has a big impact on today's issues. Historical events such as the dissolution of the Soviet Union created deep scars and shaped the current geopolitical landscape and the alleged Armenian Genocide which has created divisions and tensions between member states.

It can be seen that the tension in this region has risen in the last two decades. These tensions have resulted in issues such as the Georgia-Russia War which took place in 2008, the Nagorno-Karabakh

Conflict, and other conflicts consisting of border skirmishes and breakaway regions. These conflicts fall under the responsibility of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to resolve with minimal damage to the people and the member states.

The Caucasus region which is marked by diverse ethnicities, historical conflicts, and complex power dynamics provides a context for why it is crucial to have international reconciliation. It is needed to increase diplomatic efforts to resolve crises and conflicts, to build relations, and to resolve the problems that came from the past.

## Definition of Key Terms

**Nagorno-Karabakh:** A region located in Southeastern Azerbaijan. The conflict in this region is raised by ethnic and territorial disputes. Historically, the inhabitants of Nagorno-Karabakh consisted mostly of Armenians. Despite its Armenian majority, the region was an autonomous oblast within the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the oblast wanted a unification with Armenia which led to violent conflicts.

**Autonomous Country:** A defined area of a country that is self-governed and has the right to make decisions independently within itself with external sight of the country that it is in. To give an example, the Adjara Autonomous Republic is an autonomous region within Georgia, and Nakhchivan is an autonomous republic within Azerbaijan.



Picture 2: Map of Georgia and the Adjara Autonomous Republic

**Oblast:** An administrative division that corresponds to an autonomous province, or region in the Russian Federation. This term was also used in the Soviet Union. It corresponds to the “states” in the

United States of America. To illustrate the image better, Donetsk is an oblast within the Russian Federation.



Picture 3: Map of the Russian Oblasts

**Armenian Genocide:** The term refers to an occasion where the Ottoman Empire killed more than 1.5 million Armenians during the First World War while battling on the Eastern front. The acts committed against the Armenians meet the definition of genocide given in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

**De facto:** It is a legal concept that refers to what happens in reality or practice which also means “from the fact” in Latin.

**Pipeline Politics:** It refers to the strategic, and geopolitical considerations involved in the construction, management, and utilization of energy pipelines. Keeping control of the energy pipelines can enhance the influence of the member states. So that is why states try to reduce their influence by constructing more supply routes to diversify them. The pipelines can impact the economic development of the member states. These projects also raise environmental concerns due to gas leaks or oil leaks.

## General Overview

### Armenian-Azerbaijani Conflict:

The Armenian-Azerbaijani Conflict is the most well-known ethnic conflict in the region. There have been border disputes regarding the Nagorno-Karabakh as well as the Nakhchivan region. Both of the regions were ruled by various empires in the past. The conflict between these two countries has ethnic, historical, and cultural dimensions which has led to military clashes between the two.

**Nagorno-Karabakh problem:**

Taking after the Russian Revolution when the Tsarist administration collapsed and shortly after the collapse of the Transcaucasian Democratic Federal Republic, the Nagorno-Karabakh locale was set under the administration of Soviet Azerbaijan despite its majority Armenian populace. The Soviet Union made the Nagorno-Karabakh Independent Oblast within Azerbaijan in 1924.

In 1988, the Nagorno-Karabakh Independent Oblast asked to connect with Soviet Armenia knowing that the Soviet Union had weakened. The increase of pressures and viciousness between the Azerbaijani and the Armenian populace has driven Nagorno-Karabakh to declare its freedom in 1991. After this statement, a full-scale war broke out between both countries which resulted in ethnic cleansing and uprooting of their populaces. A ceasefire known as the Bishkek protocol has been brokered by Russia and the hostilities among people have been minimized. This ceasefire left Nagorno-Karabakh *de facto* independent with a self-proclaimed government but still reliant on close economic and military ties with Armenia.

Despite the ceasefire, there have been incidents, and clashes with occasional escalations. There are some notable incidents such as the one that occurred in April 2016. The conflict escalated but it returned to a ceasefire in a few days. The other notable escalation is the one which occurred in September 2020. Azerbaijani and Armenian forces have clashed, and Azerbaijan has gained back some territory including some parts of Nagorno-Karabakh in a Russian-brokered peace deal.

There have been a lot of violations which also provoked cross-border fights. Ever since the biggest violation has been the one in 2022. During the conflict, Armenia requested help from Russia and the Collective Security Treaty Alliance (CSTO), an intergovernmental military organization, but the request was denied since Armenia was also trying to keep close ties with the United States of America and also it has have joined the International Criminal Court's (ICC) Rome Statute. The Russians decided to stay neutral and not respond to any request since the ICC ordered the arrest of Vladimir Putin, the President of the Russian Federation for his acts on the Russian-Ukrainian War, and since they have tried to strengthen their ties with the United States.

The offensives have made the borders of these member states more militarized which also disrupted the lives of the people living near the borders which can also be understood by Ilham Aliyev's threats such as "They must not forget, the Armenian villages are visible from here."



Picture 4: Map which shows Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the Nagorno-Karabakh region

### **Nakhchivan problem:**

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Nakhchivan remained as an exclave of Azerbaijan which is surrounded by Armenia in the north, Iran in the South, and Türkiye in the west. During the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the exclave territory of Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan, has been more isolated since Azerbaijan lost control over Nagorno-Karabakh and it became further separated from the mainland.

Nowadays Nakhchivan has become a strategic area for Azerbaijan. It aims to develop its structure and to develop its trade routes to mitigate the effects of the losses in the conflict. During the 2020 offensive, Azerbaijan gained back some territory. This conflict affected the broader region, including Nakhchivan.

### **Conflicts Surrounding Georgia and its Territorial Integrity:**

Since its independence, Georgia has faced many challenges. These challenges include its territorial integrity, the breakaway states, and the wars that it has gotten into.

#### **Georgian-Abkhazian conflict:**

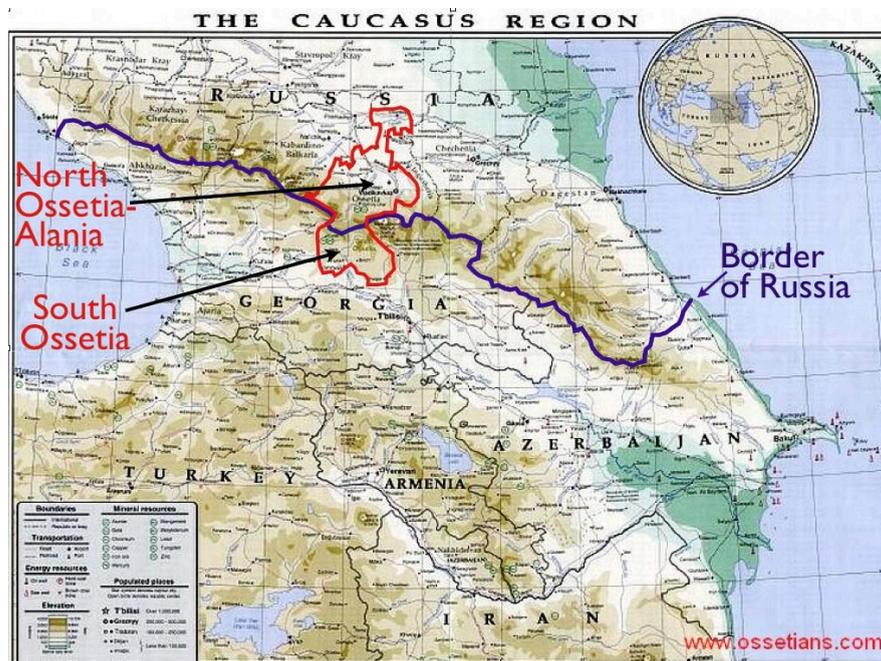
The first of these problems that Georgia faced started with the conflict between Georgia and the breakaway state within itself, Abkhazia regarding its territorial integrity. After Georgia's independence, the Abkhazian separatists and the Georgian government forces became armed. The Abkhazian forces wanted independence for the region while Georgia wanted to maintain the region in its territory. The conflict witnessed many human rights violations and atrocities, including ethnic cleansing and displacement of the populations. Both sides were responsible for these abuses.

After the involvement of the Russian Federation with its support to the Abkhazian separatists, a ceasefire brokered by Russia in 1993 led to a de facto separation of Abkhazia. The region stayed

unrecognized by the majority of the member states until the 2008 war between Georgia and Russia where in its conclusion Russia recognized it. The status of the region continues to be a source of tension for Georgia and Russia.

**Georgian-South Ossetian conflict:**

The region of South Ossetia wanted independence from Georgia and also wanted to reunite with North Ossetia which is located in the Russian Federation. The first major armed conflict was in 1991-1992 resulting in a ceasefire brokered by Russian and Georgian negotiators. This ceasefire left the region functionally independent with Russian forces deployed in it. The situation stayed tense after the ceasefire and until the 2008 war when Russia recognized its independence.



Picture 5: Map of the Ossetian region

**2008 Georgian-Russian war:**

In 2008, a war broke out between Russia and Georgia when Georgia propelled a hostile towards South Ossetia to recapture its control over the separatist locale. Russia chose to mediate militarily. Beneath universal weight, especially from France and the European Union (EU), a ceasefire understanding was marked which called for the withdrawal of strengths and the sending of worldwide screens. After the war, Russia recognized both Abkhazia and South Ossetia with both locales beneath Russian impact and military nearness.



Picture 6: Map of the offensives made by the Russian Federation and Georgia

### Religious Diversity:

In the Caucasus region, there are many various religious practices and traditions. The primary religions in the area are Christianity and Islam and with these religions, it comes with different sects and denominations.

To begin with, Orthodox Christianity is the predominant Christian denomination in the Caucasus region. Member states such as Armenia, Georgia, and Russia have strong ties to the Eastern Orthodox Church. The churches of these member states are influential institutions in their respective countries. In addition to the Orthodox Christianity, Catholicism is also present in the region. The Roman Catholic church has followers in certain communities of the member states within the Caucasus region.

Secondly, the practice of Sunni Islam is mostly practiced in Türkiye and Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan is predominantly Muslim with a population with most people following Sunni Islam. The Shia sect of Islam is much more common in Iran which also is a major center of Shia Islam. Parts of Azerbaijan, particularly the northwestern part of the state also contain an Azerbaijani Shia population. Sufism also has an historical presence in the region particularly among some communities in the Caucasus region.

Some other religions like Judaism are also present in the Caucasus. Particularly in Georgia, Tbilisi, and Azerbaijan, Baku some small Jewish communities and synagogues exist. In some cases,

historical remnants of Zoroastrianism, an ancient Persian religion can be found in the region which was practiced during the Persian empire times, can be found in areas such as Azerbaijan.

## **Economic Struggles:**

The Caucasus region has faced various economic challenges due to several factors. These may be due to historical issues, instability, and post-conflict transitions.

### **Corruption and Governance Issues:**

There are many issues with political backgrounds in the Caucasus region. These issues have a significant effect on the economy of the Caucasus region. The political problems within the region may discourage foreign investments, undermine public trust, and contribute to social and economic inequality. Corruption can distort market dynamics by favoring businesses close to those in power and it may result in inefficient public services.

### **Armed Conflicts:**

The region has seen a lot of armed conflicts such as the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, and the conflicts in South Ossetia and Abkhazia involving Georgia and Russia. These conflicts have resulted in the displacement of the people which also results in the drain of labor from the region, destruction of the infrastructure which includes transportation and communication networks which also results in limited trading and economic growth, and effects on economic activities.

### **Trade restrictions:**

International sanctions and trade sanctions result in economic struggles and limits on economic activities which also limits access to global services and markets. To give an example, sanctions are imposed on Iran particularly related to its nuclear program. These sanctions indirectly affect the countries in the Caucasus region.

### **Oil and Gas reserves:**

The Caspian Sea which is next to the Caucasus region, is rich in oil and natural gas reserves. Countries in the Caucasus region such as Azerbaijan, and other countries such as Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan contribute to the energy wealth of the Caspian region.

The Caucasus region also serves as a transit corridor for the oil and gas pipelines connecting the region to the global markets, and Europe. These pipes are critical for transporting energy to the Mediterranean and beyond whilst reducing the dependence on traditional routes that pass through the Russian Federation.



Picture 7: Map of the Pipelines passing through the Caucasus region

**Geopolitical Influences:**

Global powers such as the Russian Federation, the United States of America, and the European countries have a huge influence on the energy policies in the Caucasus region. Especially Russia, a major energy player, aims to maintain its influence in the region by controlling energy infrastructure and by forming alliances with countries within the region.

The Caucasus region plays an important role in enhancing European Energy Security by diversifying the sources and routes of supplies with projects that aim to bring gas from the Caspian Sea to the European markets.



Picture 8: Map of the states that were formerly part of the Soviet Union

## Effects of the Dissolution of the Soviet Union:

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Cold War has ended officially, and a new era for the world has begun. Many new democratic nations have gained independence. However, a lot of new problems arose due to the economic, political, social, and cultural transformations.

### Independence and political transitions:

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, there was the emergence of independent states in the borders of it. In the Caucasus region. Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia gained sovereignty and they became independent states.

By becoming independent, they had a shift from the Soviet political structure to a more democratic system where there were elections and the formation of new political parties characterized by the early years of independence.

### Diversification of foreign relations:

With the independence of many new countries, these nations were able to diversify their foreign relations. They looked around for partnerships with a range of countries and international organizations whilst moving away from the Soviet Union.

### National identities:

After the breakup of the Soviet Union, many nations gained independence, to Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Uzbekistan. By this, the richness of the culture of the Caucasus region can now be seen with borders. This allowed them to revive and promote their cultures. However, it is important to know that not every nation got independence.

This also has brought security challenges to the region. To give an example, breakaway states such as Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Georgia faced conflicts, leading to displacements and uprisings in tensions. The unresolved conflicts have become sources of instability.

## Major Parties Involved and Their Views

### Russian Federation:

Russia has been playing a very active role in Caucasus politics. The strategic importance of the region has shaped Russia's role in Caucasus politics. The region has historical ties with Russia. During the Russian Empire era, the state reached the present-day territories of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. After World War 1 the Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic was established which lived short because of the Soviet invasion. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, many

states gained their independence. Russia has maintained close ties with these countries, both bilateral and through regional organizations like the CIS.

Russia still maintains a military presence in the Caucasus, particularly in Armenia which is an important element to Russia's regional influence. The country has played a key role in mediating conflicts in the region, particularly the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. It can be seen that Russia's involvement in the peace talks and the ceasefire highlights its mediation efforts.

The Russian Federation also tries to keep the Caucasian countries away from the West. For example, Russia invaded Georgia in 2008 due to its discussions with officials of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Georgia's ambitions of regaining control over South Ossetia with an operation. The Russian Federation responded with a large-scale military intervention by sending troops and tanks to Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Consequently, Russia recognized the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Another very important example is that during the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War, Russia decided to stay neutral because of Armenia's close ties with the West.

Russia tries to maintain its political and economic ties with the Caucasian countries, engaging in trade, energy trades, and diplomatic relations. By that, the Russian Federation tries to get ahead in the geopolitical competition with other global and regional powers.



Picture 9: Map of the breakaway states within Georgia

**Georgia:**

Georgia is a country that is a former Soviet Socialist Republic in the Caucasian region. After its independence, it has shown its commitment to democratic values by reforming the country's governance. It has shown its dedication to abandoning Soviet values. By that, Georgia has expressed aspirations for closer ties with the European Union (EU) and NATO. Georgia has signed the

Association Agreement with the EU in 2014.

Georgia entered into internal conflicts after its independence and fought a war in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. In 2003 mass protests started which led to the resignation of the president. It entered into a war with the Russian Federation in 2008 due to the breakaway state of South Ossetia. It resulted in the recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia by Russia

Georgia's stability is important for the overall stability of the Caucasus region. The unresolved conflicts of Abkhazia and South Ossetia have been impacting regional stability. It is crucial to address these conflicts and maintain peace. These ambitions and conflicts have created tensions between Georgia and Russia in the past.

### **Iran:**

Iran's role in the Caucasus region is influenced by a combination of historical, cultural, economic, and geopolitical factors. The historical and cultural ties are due to the era of the Persian, and the Safavid Empire era, and economic, and geopolitical factors are reasoned by economic alliances and economic partnerships with Caucasian countries. Iran serves as a transit country for goods moving between the Caucasus and the Persian Gulf.

### **Azerbaijan:**

The Republic of Azerbaijan plays a significant role in the politics of the Caucasian region due to economic and military reasons. Azerbaijan possesses significant oil and natural gas reserves in the Caspian Sea. The development of these energy resources has elevated Azerbaijan's importance in global and regional energy markets. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline and the Southern Gas Corridor are vital transit routes that pass through the country which signifies the country's geopolitical importance. Azerbaijan has been involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with Armenia. The Nagorno-Karabakh region which is owned by Azerbaijan and which is mostly habited by Armenians, has been a source of conflict for both of the nations.

### **Armenia:**

The Republic of Armenia possesses an active role in the Caucasus region due to the tensions between its neighbors. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is a central aspect of Armenia's geopolitical role. The Nagorno-Karabakh region, populated mainly by ethnic Armenians, is the main point of contention between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Armenia supports the self-proclaimed Republic of Artsakh, contributing to the complexity of regional politics. Armenia also has tensions with Türkiye due to historical relations. Armenia claims that the Ottoman Empire slaughtered more than 1.5 million Armenians in the First World War. In these allegations, The Ottoman Empire has targeted the Armenian population of its eastern territories through mass deportations, forced labor, and massacres.

### **Türkiye:**

The Republic of Türkiye has very deep cultural ties with many countries in the Caucasus particularly Azerbaijan and some Turkic-speaking communities. Türkiye maintains diplomatic relations with countries in the Caucasus region. However, its relationship with Armenia has been historically strained due to the alleged Armenian Genocide during the First World War. Türkiye has supported Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, expressed political and moral support for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, and has condemned the occupation of Azerbaijani territories by Armenia. Türkiye seeks to strengthen economic ties with countries in the Caucasus by contributing to projects to build energy pipelines and infrastructure, and by contributing to economic cooperation and regional development.

### **United States of America:**

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, the United States of America has been active in Caucasian politics. Different elements, including energy security, regional stability, democratic progress, and geopolitical considerations, influence the U.S. interests in the region. The United States has backed initiatives to advance political changes and democratic governance. Building democratic institutions and holding free and fair elections are two things that the United States of America supports. The United States has also had a role in the region's pipeline politics through expanding its energy supplies and transportation networks. Some Caucasian nations have indicated their desire to join NATO. The United States has aided these nations and attempted to improve coordination between NATO and the Caucasus nations. However, conflicts have also arisen between Russia and the Caucasus nations as a result of these strong connections.

### **European Union:**

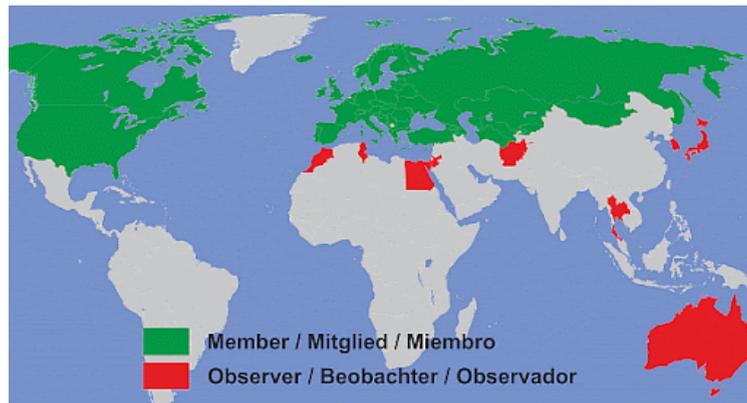
As part of its initiatives to advance stability, democracy, economic growth, and regional collaboration, the EU is involved in the Caucasus. It actively backs institutional improvements and democratic governance throughout the Caucasus. The EU supports the Caucasian countries in improving their democratic institutions and human rights practices by offering financial assistance and guidance. Additionally, the EU has contributed to measures aimed at fostering conflict resolution and peacebuilding in the Caucasus. It has backed projects about the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh and attempted to foster mutual respect and collaboration between the opposing sides.

### **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE):**

An intergovernmental organization of 57 states across the globe that has the aim of covering a wide range of security issues whilst having a presence in many different regions including the Caucasus area.

The OSCE’s Minsk, co-chaired by France, Russia, and the United States, has been tasked with facilitating peace talks and resolutions to the conflict since the early 1990s. It was involved in organizing ceasefire agreements, and peace talks. However, the conflict persisted with violence over the years.

Its influence on the Georgian-Russian war which took place in 2008 was limited. The organization engaged in diplomatic efforts to broker a ceasefire and facilitate negotiations between the conflicting parties.



Picture 10: Map of the member states and observer states within the OSCE

**Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS):**

It is a regional intergovernmental organization in Eurasia that was formed after the dissolution of the Soviet Union with the city of Minsk in Belarus designated as its administrative center.

The CIS played a role in trying to mediate the Armenian Azerbaijani conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Both of the conflicting parties are a part of this regional organization. It helped facilitate negotiations and peace talks. However, the CIS involvement has been limited.

During the Georgia-Russia war of 2008, the CIS didn’t take a unified stance on the conflict so it had played a limited role. Some of the member states, particularly Russia, were directly involved in the conflict but the other states called for peaceful resolutions through diplomatic channels.



Picture 10: Map of the member states of the CIS

## Timeline of Events

<p><b>1915-1923</b></p>	<p>The alleged Armenian Genocide took place in the Ottoman Empire leading to deportations, mass killings, and resulting in significant life loss.</p>
<p><b>7 November 1917 - 16 June 1923</b></p>	<p>The Bolshevik Revolution also known as the October Revolution (marked as October 24 in the Julian Calendar) started.</p>
<p><b>22 April 1918</b></p>	<p>The Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic has been established.</p>
<p><b>March 1920 - November 1920</b></p>	<p>Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia became Soviet Socialist Republics within the Soviet Union.</p>
<p><b>7 July 1923 - 10 December 1991</b></p>	<p>Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast has been established within Azerbaijan by the Soviet Union. This event has a</p>

	significant effect on future conflicts.
<b>21 December 1991</b>	The CIS formally came into being and began operations the following month with the city of Minsk in Belarus designated as its administrative center.
<b>February 1988 - 12 May 1994</b>	The first Nagorno-Karabakh problem arose between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the region and later became an armed conflict resulting in a ceasefire in 1994 leaving the issue unresolved.
<b>1924</b>	The Soviet Union created the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region within Azerbaijan in 1924.
<b>26 December 1991</b>	The Soviet Union has dissolved.
<b>November 2003</b>	Protests in Georgia led to the peaceful replacement of the government in the Rose Revolution.
<b>7 August 2008</b>	Georgia launched an offensive on the breakaway states in it.
<b>8 August 2008 - 12 August 2008</b>	War between Georgia, and Russia started due to the tensions raised by the separatist regions in Georgia.
<b>12 August 2008</b>	A ceasefire brokered by the pressure of the European Union and France.
<b>13 April 2018 - 8 May 2018</b>	Mass protests in Armenia led to a peaceful government change.
<b>27 September 2020 - 10 November 2020</b>	The Second Nagorno-Karabakh war has started and resulted in a ceasefire brokered by Russia.

## UN Involvement

The United Nations has been involved in various challenges and conflicts in the Caucasus region. The efforts of the UN to promote peace, security, and sustainable development. The UN also has been engaged in peacekeeping efforts related to the conflicts in the region.

The United Nations has been involved in addressing the conflicts between Georgia and the breakaway regions in its territory. The UN has established the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) which was deployed to monitor the situation and facilitate the dialogue between them.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been involved in addressing the issues of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Caucasus region due to the conflicts. The UN works to promote human rights in the region and address issues such as freedom of expression, and the prevention of human rights abuses.

## **Relevant UN Documents**

On the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan - Security Council resolution 822 (30 April 1993, S/RES/822)

On the seizure of the district of Agdam and of all other recently occupied areas of Azerbaijan - Security Council resolution 853 (1993, S/RES/853)

On settlement of the conflict in and around Nagorno Karabakh - Security Council resolution 874 (1993, S/RES/874)

On the conflict in and around Nagorno Karabakh - Security Council resolution 884 (1993, S/RES/884)

On the establishment of the UN Observer Mission in Georgia - Security Council resolution 858 (1993, S/RES/858)

On the extension of the mandate of the UN Observer Mission in Georgia - Security Council resolution 881(1993, S/RES/881)

Condemning violation of the cease-fire agreement and the killing of the Chairman of the Defence Council and Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia - Security Council resolution 876 (1993, S/RES/876)

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan - Resolution adopted by the General Assembly (14 March 2008, A/RES/62/243)

## Treaties and Events relevant to the issue

**Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (1918):** The treaty which ended World War 1 on the Eastern Front, and recognized the independence of Transcaucasian nations from Soviet Russia

**Moscow Treaty (1921):** The treaty which defined the modern eastern borders of Türkiye.

**Dissolution of the Soviet Union (1991):** The event where various Soviet republics declared independence, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

**Treaty on Collective Security (1992):** The treaty led to the establishment of CSTO, which is a regional security alliance among several post-Soviet states.

**Bishkek Protocol (1994):** The ceasefire agreement following the first Nagorno-Karabakh War between Armenia and Azerbaijan, brokered by the Russian Federations.

**Sochi Agreement (1992-1993):** Both of them are Russia brokered ceasefire agreements in 1992 and 1993. The South Ossetia Agreement (1992) aimed to reduce the tension between the Georgian and South Ossetian forces which also defined a zone of conflict around the South Ossetian capital and established a security corridor around it. The Abkhazia Agreement (1993) aimed to monitor the ceasefire, place UN observers in the area, and separate the forces.

**Ceasefire Agreement (2019):** An agreement that ended the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War and led to territorial changes.

## Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

During the early 1990s, after the conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, ceasefire agreements were brokered and the CIS also played a role in mediating agreements. These agreements failed because of unresolved political status questions, and lacking enforcement mechanisms, and parties did not fully act according to the terms. Organizations such as the OSCE and the UN engaged in diplomatic efforts and peacekeeping operations in the region. These efforts failed because of its inability to address the root causes of the political status of the regions and its limited influence in the region.

In 1994, the Bishkek Protocol was signed to establish a ceasefire and end the hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict but it failed to address the root causes of the conflict which left unresolved political issues.

The ceasefire agreement brokered by French President Nicolas Sarkozy in 2008 for the Georgian-Russian war also failed since the political status of Abkhazia and South Ossetia remained unresolved. The European Union Monitoring was deployed in 2008 and aimed to monitor the

ceasefire agreement. The mission contributed to regional stability but did not address the underlying political issues.

In November 2020, a ceasefire agreement brokered by Russia aimed to end the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. It did stop the active hostilities but did not resolve the fundamental political questions where a lot of the issues remained unresolved and posed challenges to a long-term solution.

## Possible Solutions

Negotiated Settlements are important to facilitate direct discussions and dialogues between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the conflicts that Georgia has with its breakaway states. The assistance of international mediators such as Russia, the USA, and France and organizations such as OSCE, CIS, and the EU can be helpful to reach a mutually acceptable solution. Implementing confidence-building measures is also essential to restore the confidence between the states. The establishment of communication channels, joint economic projects, and cultural exchanges can be helpful to maintain the trust and cooperation between them.

Addressing the status of various regions within the Caucasus region could be beneficial in resolving the ongoing issues. Considering giving a special status or autonomy to certain regions that are going to be recognized by the conflicting parties may resolve the ethnic problems. Having territorial adjustments that accommodate the interests and concerns of both parties while ensuring the security and rights of the local populations may also be effective as well.

Credible security guarantees for all parties involved, through the international peacekeepers or monitoring mechanisms to oversee ceasefire agreements and prevent escalations of violence. Also, international support and resources may help de-escalate the tensions and help resolve the conflicts whilst giving financial assistance, technical expertise on certain subjects, and diplomatic pressure to achieve peace.

## Notes from the Chair

This agenda item revolves around many different conflicts in the Caucasus region. When you are preparing your clauses it is best to include resolving the issue of territorial disputes, ethnicity problems, breakaway states, human rights violations, and lack of humanitarian assistance. It would be much better if the debates were on the conflicts such as the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and the breakaway states within Georgia which are mentioned in the chair report.

When studying your allocated country, it is important to research their involvement in the issue. Also, you should look up the past implicated solutions to see their shortcomings and their positive aspects. It would help you to write your clauses in a better way. Don't forget that there are a lot of parties involved in the issue. It is better to understand other states' and organizations' perspectives to grasp

the issue perfectly.

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