

# Study Guide



Council: UNHCR

**Topic: Ensuring the fundamental rights of the refugees in the Negro-Karabakh conflict**

## Table of Contents

Introduction to the Committee .....	3
About .....	3
History.....	3
Key Conventions.....	4
Figures at a glance .....	4
UNHCR staff .....	5
How it is funded .....	5
Introduction to the topic .....	6
History of the topic.....	8
Relevant stakeholders .....	9
Armenia .....	9
Azerbaijan .....	9
Russia .....	9
Turkiye .....	10
OSCE.....	10
United States of America .....	10
UN's role .....	11
Possible solutions.....	12
Negotiations and Diplomacy: .....	12
International Peacekeeping Mission: .....	12
International Guarantees: .....	13
Humanitarian Measures:.....	13
References .....	14

# Introduction to the Committee

## About

Today, the UNHCR is a global organization that helps people who are forced to flee from conflict or persecution and are left stateless. Also, it called for a comprehensive European response to the crises and emphasized the need for safe and legal asylum pathways. It delivers life-saving assistance, helps safeguard human rights, and develops solutions that ensure people have a home in a safe place. Its office was established on 14 December 1950 by the General Assembly mandated to provide international protection to refugees and to seek permanent solutions for the problem of refugees. Initially, it was established to help the millions of Europeans who had fled or lost their homes. It was given three years to complete the work, and afterward, it should be disbanded. As new refugee crises came up, the mandate was extended multiple times throughout the 20th century until the General Assembly resolution in 2003 made the mandate permanent. The scope has widened over the years. Nowadays it also includes supporting refugees returning home, internally displaced and stateless people. UNHCR also helps governments translate the documents into national laws to make sure that refugees are protected and can exercise their rights.

## History

After the First World War, millions of people fled their homelands and became refugees. As a consequence, governments drew up a set of international agreements to provide travel documents for these people. The number of refugees rose dramatically during and after the Second World War. It brought huge devastation to Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Pacific, and millions more people were forcibly displaced. At that time, UNHCR's predecessor (IRO) helped one million people to resettle in other countries. In response to the Second World War, the international community established a set of guidelines, laws, and conventions aiming to protect basic human rights and the treatment of people who are forced to flee conflict and persecution. This process culminated in the 1951 Convention.

In the following years, it served in several emergencies:

- 1956 - Hungarian uprising; It caused 20000 people to flee to neighboring countries.
- May 1957 - Tunisia asked UNHCR to assist in protecting thousands of Algerian refugees who fled the war of independence with France. UNHCR provided food, clothes, and medical assistance to more than 20000 refugees in Tunisia and Morocco.
- Following the Fall of Saigon, Vietnamese refugees took to the sea. 255000 Vietnamese boat people were given temporary asylum in Malaysia, and UNHCR helped over 240000 resettle in other countries.
- Victories in former French colonies of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam drove mass displacement in the region. When the Khmer Rouge regime fell in 1979, hundreds of thousands streamed into Thailand to shelter in UNHCR-supported camps.
- The 1980s: UNHCR was involved in Central America due to civil wars and human rights abuses which displaced two million people from Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. More than 300,000 people were assisted in the region through the organization of agricultural and other self-sufficiency projects. Between April and July 1994, 80000 Rwandans were killed in massacres, and two million more people fled to neighboring countries. UNHCR provided camps and humanitarian aid.

- 2011 - The conflict in Syria forced millions of people to flee their home over the next few years. By 2021, 6,8 million Syrian refugees were still displaced.
- 2022 - The Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine made 5,7 million Ukrainians flee the country which was the fastest outflow since the Second World War.

## Key Conventions

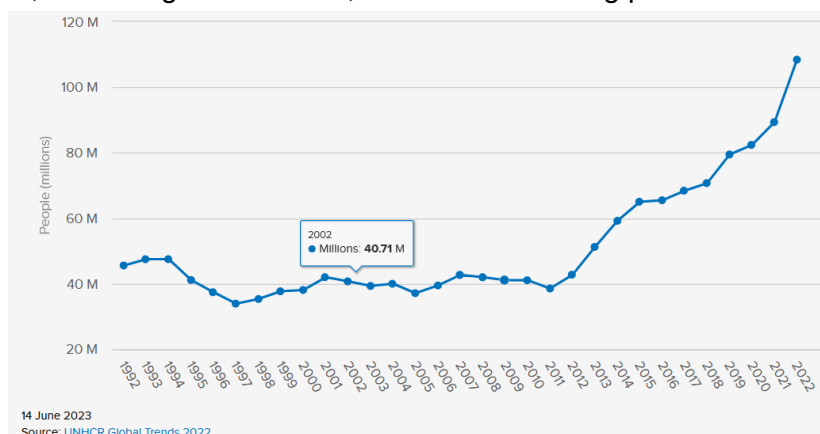
On 10 December 1948, the General Assembly of the UN adopted the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, where Article 14 (1) states: "Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution".

On 28 July 1951, the **Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees** was adopted which provided the most comprehensive codification of refugee rights at that time. It defines the term "refugee", and outlines their rights and international standards. The Convention's core principle is non-refoulement which asserts that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face threats to their life or freedom. Moreover, it outlines basic minimum standards for the treatment of refugees, including the right to housing, work, and education. It also defines a refugee's obligation to host countries and specifies categories of people (e. g. war criminals) who don't qualify for refugee status. However, it was limited to those who became refugees before 1951.

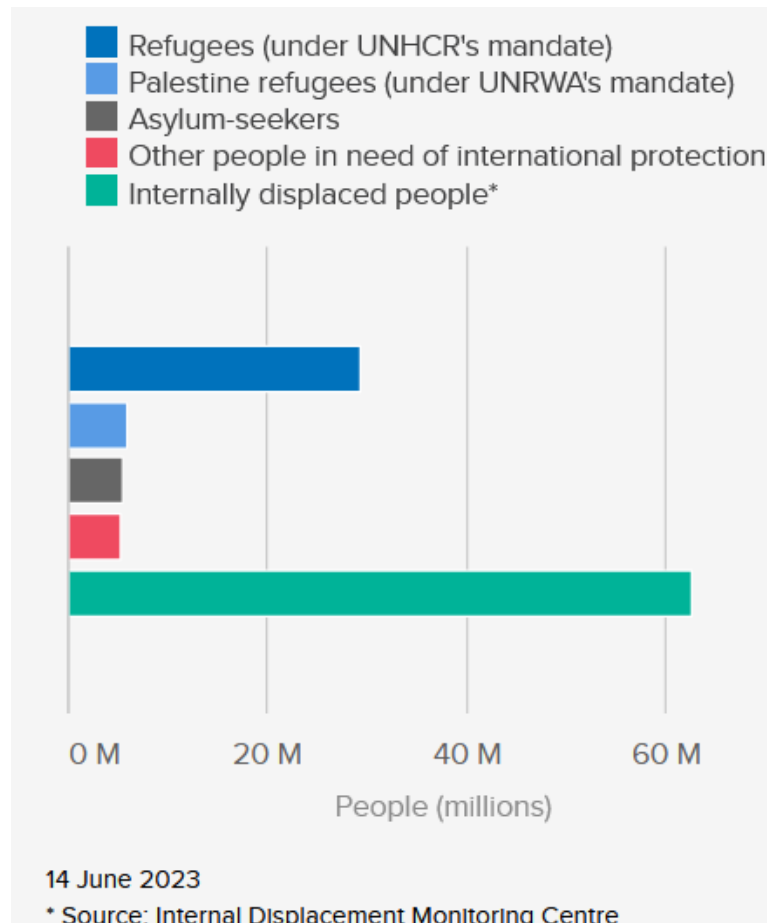
The **1967 Protocol** was adopted on 4th October 1967 and amended the 1951 refugee convention. It extends protection to all refugees no matter the date they were forced to leave their homes. Both the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol are the key legal documents that form the basis of UNHCR's work. Apart from defining the term "refugee", they outline their rights and the international standards of treatment for their protection.

## Figures at a glance

At the end of 2022, 108,4 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, or events disturbing public order.



Therefore, 62,5 million are internally displaced and another 35,3 million people are refugees.



More than three-quarters of them are hosted in low- and middle-income countries and 70% in neighboring countries. 52% of them come from only three countries: Syria (6,5 million), Ukraine (5,7 million) and Afghanistan (7,7 million). The major hosting countries are Türkiye (3,6 million), Iran (3,4 million), Colombia (2,5 million), Germany (2,1 million), and Pakistan (1,7 million).

### UNHCR staff

By 31.12.2022, UNHCR employed 20739 people, of whom 91 percent are employed in the field. UNHCR works in 135 countries and territories. The teams aim to help the displaced, specializing e. g. in legal protection, administration, community services, public affairs, and health.

### How it is funded

UNHCR is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions, with 75 percent from governments and the European Union. Another 21 percent comes from the private sector, and three percent come from other intergovernmental organizations. UNHCR was launched on a budget of 300000 USD in 1950, rose to 1 billion USD in the early 1990s up to 10,714 billion in 2022.

## Introduction to the topic

The conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region is an ethno-territorial conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. In 2020, the most serious military conflict between Azerbaijani and Armenian armed forces since the end of the first Karabakh war between 1991 and 1994 alarmed international politics. Already in the last ten years, considerable militarisation and rearmament have taken place on both sides of the conflict. On the 27th of September 2020 started along the approx. 200 km long ceasefire line of 1994 ("line of contact") a war. Azerbaijan – supposedly in response to Armenian military advances - launched a comprehensive "opposite offensive" aimed at "liberating all occupied parts of the country", i.e. the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and the seven districts occupied by Armenian troops in its area. Azerbaijan, which is also more economically powerful, has been supplied with modern weapons by third countries such as Russia, Israel, and Turkey. In the following weeks, Azerbaijan made significant land gains in the occupied territories and Nagorno-Karabakh. Although Turkey did not officially intervene in the war and the extent of Turkish support is not entirely clear, it arguably played a significant role by providing equipment and intelligence information, particularly for the drone operation. By October 2020, a large number of the Armenian civilian population (allegedly 90,000 people) had already fled from Nagorno-Karabakh. According to the agreement of 10 October Several thousand returned in November.

At the beginning of November 2020, Azerbaijan captured the city of Shusha. Due to its location close to the Lachin Corridor, the main land link between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as close to and above the Karabakh capital Stepanakert, the loss of Shusha was a severe military setback for the Armenian side. The following day, on the night of 9 to 10 November 2020, the government led by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan was forced to sign a ceasefire agreement brokered by Moscow. Armenia had to cede the Azerbaijani territories held as security and parts of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Lachin Corridor was placed under the control of a Russian peacekeeping mission, which is also responsible for monitoring the ceasefire. Around 2,000 people will remain in Nagorno-Karabakh for five years, with the option of a further extension. The main point of conflict, namely the status of Nagorno-Karabakh under international law, remains unresolved. The signing of the agreement triggered a domestic political crisis in Armenia. On 10 November, demonstrations and riots broke out in Yerevan and protesters forced their way into the parliament building. In April 2021, Nikol Pashinyan resigned and announced new elections. The election held in June of that year demonstrated above all the legitimacy of the government and the broad social acceptance of the ceasefire agreement: Pashinyan's "Civil Agreement" party received an absolute majority. Of the approximately 150,000 people who lived in Nagorno-Karabakh before the outbreak of the war, almost half initially fled, most of them to Armenia. Around 150 civilians died, as did more than 2,300 military personnel on the Armenian side and more than 2,780 on the Azerbaijani side.

Dissatisfied with the status quo, Azerbaijan has been claiming the entire Armenian-populated Nagorno-Karabakh; the territorial gains in 2020 did not go far enough for the government: The Armenians living there should come under the control of the Azerbaijani leadership. Azerbaijan claims that it then wants to grant them the same rights as all other citizens. So far, however, it has always resulted in the Armenians living there fleeing as soon as an area is given up.

With the attacks since 2021, Azerbaijan also targeted localities outside Nagorno-Karabakh, aiming to put the Armenian government under further pressure to ultimately be able to push

through its demands. This is firstly about the claim to the entire Nagorno-Karabakh region and corrections to border demarcations, and secondly about Armenia's agreement to a connecting road to Nakhichevan, an important transport corridor for Azerbaijan, which runs right through the Sangesur region (which is largely located in Armenia). In June 2021, a dangerous border dispute occurred. According to Armenian reports, Azerbaijani soldiers advanced into the southern Armenian regions of Syunik and Gegharkunik. In November of that year, the dispute led to another ceasefire agreement. However, in spring 2022, the Azerbaijani military breached it. In August 2022, there were repeated clashes. The Azerbaijani army had captured several mountain ranges in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, resulting in fatalities and injuries on both sides.

In September 2022, violent clashes in the border region of Syunik in southern Armenia took place, namely near the towns of Goris, Sotk, and Djermuk. Armenia accused Azerbaijan of attacking Armenian positions. Azerbaijani forces are said to have attempted to enter Armenian territory. Azerbaijan, on the other hand, spoke of an Armenian attempt at sabotage that had triggered the fighting and accused Armenia of "large-scale subversive actions" near the border and of firing on its military positions. According to Armenia, over 100 soldiers are said to have been killed. The Ministry of Defence in Baku announced that over 70 Azerbaijani soldiers had become "martyrs" as a result of "provocations" by Armenia.

The situation for the Armenian population living in the Nagorno-Karabakh region has become increasingly precarious throughout the year. The Armenian population living there is suffering from the blockade introduced by the government in Azerbaijan, which has prevented deliveries via the only supply route between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, the Lachin Corridor. Food and everyday products are becoming increasingly scarce and there is now a shortage of almost everything. For a while, there seemed to be a prospect of improvement. With significant mediation by the International Red Cross, an agreement was reached at the beginning of September 2023 to resume aid deliveries.

On 20 September 2023, Azerbaijan launched an offensive activity, aiming to end Nagorno-Karabakh's autonomy and achieve complete control over the area. According to local reports, the attack claimed the lives of more than 200 people in the affected region of Nagorno-Karabakh. One day after the start of the Azerbaijani military operation, a ceasefire has been agreed in the conflict region under Russian mediation. The authorities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region had accepted a corresponding proposal from the Russian side. They agreed to the demand to end the fighting. The agreement reportedly includes the withdrawal of remaining Armenian military units and military equipment from Nagorno-Karabakh and the disarmament of local defense forces. The Armenian fighters will be allowed to leave their positions and surrender. In addition, they are said to have agreed to negotiations with the government in Baku on the integration of the region into Azerbaijan. According to Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashiny, his country was not involved in drawing up the ceasefire agreement, but the decision of the leaders in Nagorno-Karabakh had been noted.

Shortly after the agreed ceasefire, Azerbaijan launched a large-scale military offensive, and the pro-Armenian fighters in Nagorno-Karabakh had to admit defeat. On 21 September, Azerbaijan declared military victory over Armenia in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. By 1st October 2023, more than 100000 inhabitants of the Nagorno-Karabakh region fled to Armenia. The whole population was estimated to be around 120000 people. Following the defeat of the

pro-Armenian forces against Azerbaijan, the government in Nagorno-Karabakh has announced the dissolution of the self-proclaimed republic. In a decree, the leadership of the local authorities ordered the dissolution of "all state institutions and organizations" in the Caucasus region by 1 January 2024. Nagorno-Karabakh will thus "cease to exist". The corresponding document was signed by the head of government Samvel Shakhmalyan. After the dissolution of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, the population must familiarise themselves with Azerbaijan's laws on the integration of the region and then decide for themselves whether they want to return to Nagorno-Karabakh, according to Shakhmalyan's decree.

## History of the topic

The roots of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh can be traced back centuries. Changing power relations led to a mixture of Armenian, Persian, Tatar-Mongolian, Turkish, Russian, and other influences. With the nation-building processes that took place in Europe at the beginning of the 20th century, the question of national identity became increasingly important. When Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia declared their independence in 1918, political and sometimes violent disputes came up over the question to which state the Nagorno-Karabakh region should belong. Azerbaijan was given administrative power over the region. The mostly Armenian population could negotiate an agreement with Azerbaijan in August 1919, which guaranteed the region far-reaching autonomy rights. However, this was repeatedly violated, resulting in revolts by the Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians and violent retaliatory strikes by Azerbaijan. The Shusha pogrom occurred during this period.

The tensions were simultaneously kept under wraps and intensified during the Soviet phase between 1920 and 1988. On the one hand, the Soviet central government in Moscow ensured that there was no political unrest in the union republics, including Armenia and Azerbaijan. On the other hand, Nagorno-Karabakh, which had a majority Armenian population of around 95 percent, was annexed to the Azerbaijan Union Republic in 1920, which laid the foundations for later conflicts. Three years later, it became an autonomous territory of the Soviet Republic. During the Soviet time, Armenia sought several times for the revision of that decision.

A serious conflict arose during the transition from the Soviet period to the post-Soviet period. With the first signs of the dissolution of the Soviet Union at the end of the 1980s, the issues of nation-building and national self-determination resurfaced, and with them the existing lines of conflict and inter-ethnic tensions. In the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the helplessness of the Soviet Central Power became apparent. In 1988, in the Armenian capital Yerevan, there were demonstrations with hundreds of thousands of participants. In Azerbaijan, national dissidentism had previously been limited to some narrower circles. In response to the Armenian advance, a broader national movement has now also grown there. In February 1988, the parliament of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region passed a resolution on the transition from the Azerbaijani to the Armenian Union Republic.

The dissolution of the Soviet Union was followed by the declaration of independence in 1991 - while Armenia and Azerbaijan also became independent states. Since then, Nagorno-Karabakh has established many quasi-state structures, which means that it can be seen as a de facto state even if it is not recognised under international law. There is a parliament, the office of the president, its armed forces, and foreign relations with Germany, Russia, the USA and other countries. The political upheavals following the dissolution of the Soviet Union were accompanied by increasing ethnically motivated violence on both sides: Expulsions, rapes, minor violent clashes to major pogroms, and ethnic cleansing with hundreds of deaths.



Between 1991 and 1994, the conflict turned into an all-out war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, resulting in between 20,000 and 30,000 deaths and over a million refugees. This First Nagorno-Karabakh War hardened the rifts between the Armenian and Azerbaijani sides. Due to the high number of victims, there were now hardly any people in the two countries or in Nagorno-Karabakh who had not experienced violence themselves or through their immediate social environment. Moreover, it triggered the largest movement of refugees in the South Caucasus. Azerbaijan's UN refugee organization listed more than 700,000 refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The Baku government indicates this figure even higher. At that time, about 400,000 Armenians fled from Azerbaijan to Armenia. Flight, expulsion, and ethnic cleansing led to a rigorous spatial (and perceived) separation between the Armenian and Azerbaijani populations.

The "Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh" ("Republic of Arzach" in Armenian), since 2017, was supported by Armenia, but has not been recognised by the international community as an independent state. According to the last census of 2005, the Armenian population was nearly 99% of its 150.000 inhabitants. The conflict is not only about Nagorno-Karabakh but also about seven Azerbaijani provinces in its surroundings. The areas had been occupied by Armenian troops since 1994. From there come the majority of Azerbaijani internally displaced persons.

## **Relevant stakeholders**

### **Armenia**

In 2020, under the joint leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and UNHCR, the UN Country Team and several NGO partners launched the Armenia Inter-Agency Response Plan to respond to the 90.000 people who arrived in Armenia as a consequence of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, covering the time period between October 2020- June 2021. It involves 36 humanitarian partners, 188 projects with total financial requirements amounting 62,6 million USD across the sectors: protection, education, shelter and non-food items, food security and nutrition, health, and early-recovery. Since then, many people returned, but almost 37.000 remained in a refugee-like situation in Armenia. As a consequence, 15 IARP partners appealed for more than 20 million USD and the IARP was updated. As a result of the attacks in 2023, the Armenian government asked the EU to support the country with medicines and shelter. The country was overwhelmed with a high number of refugees even though they try to find a home at their relatives' place. The local housing market has been tense since many Russians entered Armenia due to the war in Ukraine.

### **Azerbaijan**

Azerbaijan, locked in a longstanding dispute with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh, asserts its sovereignty over the region. Recent military engagements, including the 2020 war, saw Azerbaijan, backed by Turkey, reclaim territories. Strategic alliances, particularly with Turkey, play a crucial role, while international diplomacy focuses on support for territorial integrity. The conflict, marked by humanitarian challenges, underscores Azerbaijan's commitment to addressing issues of displacement.

## **Russia**

Russia maintains a "strategic partnership" with Armenia. Russia has deployed 2.000 peacekeepers in the Ngro-Karabakh area and also sought to de-escalate the situation. However, this constellation is not quite so clear: Russia was the main supplier of weapons to both sides of the conflict. At the same time, Russia is a major mediator in the conflict within the framework of the Minsk-OSCE Group.

## **Turkiye**

Turkey is supporting its "Brotherland" Azerbaijan. Turkiye's goals in the conflict are to support Azerbaijan and to form a counterweight to the supporters of Armenia. From its perspective, it is the three leaders of the Minks group - the USA, France and Russia. After the separation of the Soviet Union, Turkiye supported Azerbaijan's integration into international organisations and in the establishment of its own military after the first Nagorno-Karabakh war. Türkiye always supported Azerbaijan's claims over disputed territory in the region, but did not play a significant role in support of Azerbaijan in its previous conflicts with Armenia. At the same time, Türkiye's and Armenia's history can be seen as rather tense. Armenia calls the killing of up to 1.5 million Armenians in the late Ottoman period a "genocide", which Turkey refutes.

## **OSCE**

Since 1992, the Minsk Group has been translating the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Since 1997, it has been under the direction of the USA, Russia and France. In 1994, the Minsk group carried out a ceasefire between the parties to the conflict. However, this did not achieve a sustainable state of peace.

Since 2007, the "Madrid Principles" have been on the negotiating table. These six central principles ("basic rules") for a conflict resolution:

1. The repatriation of five of the seven provinces in the area of Nagorno-Karabakh under Azerbaijani state sovereignty;
2. an interim status for Nagorno-Karabakh (until the final solution), which guarantees security and self-determination for its population;
3. a corridor between the Republic of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh;
4. the future regulation of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh by legally binding expression of the parties to the conflict;
5. the right of all displaced persons and refugees to return to their hometowns and
6. International security guarantees and peacekeeping.

Following the escalation of April 2016, the conflict mediators called for an increase in international observation on the ceasefire line, which up to this point only included an OSCE team of six people.

In October 2020, three conventions on a ceasefire and the return to negotiations within the framework of the OSCE were violated by the immediate continuation of the fighting. Russia then gave it alone an agreement with Armenia and Azerbaijan on the cessation of the fighting. November led to the provisional end of the six-week war. The agreement was preceded by considerable terrain gains by the Azerbaijani armed forces, which reached Shusha, a

strategically relevant fortress town in Nagorno-Karabakh. The result of the six-week war was understood in Azerbaijan as a triumphant victory, and in Armenia as a traumatic defeat. According to the most frequently cited estimate, the fighting has claimed about 4,000 lives.

## **United States of America**

The United States, serving as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group alongside France and Russia, actively engages in diplomatic endeavors to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Since 1992, the U.S. has been instrumental in mediating between Armenia and Azerbaijan, advocating for peaceful dialogue and adherence to international principles. By emphasizing humanitarian concerns and supporting ceasefires during periods of tension, the U.S. underscores its commitment to fostering stability and finding a lasting resolution to the protracted conflict in the South Caucasus.

## **UN's role**

The United Nations (UN) has played a role in addressing the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, emphasizing diplomatic efforts, humanitarian assistance, and adherence to international law. While the UN Security Council has issued resolutions calling for ceasefires and the protection of civilians, the UN's direct involvement in peacekeeping has been limited. The UN Secretary-General has consistently expressed concern over the conflict's escalation and advocated for a peaceful resolution.

From 1988 to 1991, in the initial stage of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Karabakh, the UN was acting in line with the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of the USSR. Although the collapse of the Soviet Union allowed the UN to get more actively involved in the process of resolution of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Karabakh, the UN preferred to abstain from direct mediation initiatives, instead supporting the efforts of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

In 1993, amidst the active military hostilities, the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions concerning the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict: 822 (April 30, 1993), 853 (June 29, 1993), 874 (October 14, 1993), 884 (November 12, 1993). The primary and most important requirement of these resolutions was the immediate cessation of fire, all hostilities, and hostile acts.

However, even after the establishment of the ceasefire, the requirements of the UN SC resolutions regarding the cessation of all hostilities and hostile acts have not been fully met. The Azerbaijani side has been repeatedly violating the ceasefire regime, rejecting measures proposed by the international mediators for strengthening the ceasefire, constantly threatening to resume military operations, and continuing the blockade of the NKR and Armenia. The Azerbaijani side has neglected not only the main provision of the UN SC resolution but several other provisions as well. Azerbaijan's refusal to comply with the requirements and calls of the four UN Security Council resolutions, its bet on a military solution, its unwillingness to secure peace, and constant threats of resuming military operations have devalued the mentioned resolutions and made them inapplicable.

At the beginning of October 2023, the UN started their first mission after 30 years into the Nagorno-Karabakh region to identify the humanitarian needs for the remaining people and those

who are on the move. At that time, the UN and its partners also launched an emergency response plan to help the refugees and appealed for 97 million USD to respond to the needs of the people who fled the Karabakh region and their hosts in Armenia. The plan brings together 60 partners, 43 national NGO's and covers relief efforts until the end of March 2024. It aims to support 231.000 people in total, including refugees and members of local host communities and includes protection with a focus on gender-based violence, child protection, education, food security and nutrition, resilience, shelter and non-food items.

## **Possible solutions**

The involvement and cooperation of the international community are critical to the success of these initiatives. Each of these measures is interconnected, and a comprehensive approach addressing diplomatic, security, humanitarian, and development aspects is essential for a sustainable resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

### **Negotiations and Diplomacy:**

*-Multilateral Involvement:* Engage the international community, especially the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs (France, Russia, and the United States), in facilitating and mediating negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Leverage their diplomatic expertise to bridge differences and build trust.

*-Inclusive Approach:* Encourage inclusive negotiations that involve representatives from Nagorno-Karabakh, allowing for a more comprehensive and representative dialogue. This approach ensures that the concerns of all parties are considered in the negotiation process.

*-Confidence-Building Measures:* Implement confidence-building measures to create a conducive environment for negotiations. These measures could include the exchange of prisoners of war, establishing communication channels, and reducing military tensions along the frontlines.

### **International Peacekeeping Mission:**

*United Nations Involvement:* Consider the deployment of a United Nations-led peacekeeping mission with a robust mandate to monitor and enforce a ceasefire. The mission should have the authority to intervene in case of violations and work towards preventing a resumption of hostilities.

- a. *Regional Support:* Seek support from regional actors to contribute troops and resources to the peacekeeping mission. Regional involvement can enhance the mission's effectiveness and promote a sense of ownership among neighboring countries.
- b. *Human Rights Monitoring:* Include a human rights monitoring component within the peacekeeping mission to ensure the protection of civilians and adherence to international humanitarian law. This can help address humanitarian concerns and prevent human rights abuses.

### **International Guarantees:**

- c. *Security Assurances:* Establish international guarantees, potentially through a UN Security Council resolution, to provide security assurances to both Armenia

and Azerbaijan. This could involve commitments from major powers to uphold the agreed-upon settlement and intervene in case of external threats.

- d. *Economic and Development Guarantees:* Integrate economic and developmental guarantees within the international framework to ensure the sustained implementation of agreements. International financial institutions and donor countries can play a role in supporting the economic aspects of the settlement.
- e. *Dispute Resolution Mechanism:* Include a dispute resolution mechanism as part of the international guarantees to address any disagreements or breaches of the settlement. This mechanism could involve an international arbitration process to resolve disputes peacefully.

### **Humanitarian Measures:**

- f. *IDP and Refugee Support:* Develop comprehensive programs to address the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, focusing on their resettlement, livelihoods, and psychosocial support. International organizations and donor countries can contribute to these efforts.
- g. *Safe Return Initiatives:* Implement safe return initiatives for displaced populations, ensuring that returnees can go back to their homes without fear of reprisals. International organizations can monitor and support these return processes to guarantee the safety and dignity of the affected individuals.
- h. *Reconciliation and Healing:* Promote reconciliation and healing programs that involve communities on both sides of the conflict. These initiatives can foster understanding, tolerance, and cooperation among diverse ethnic and religious groups in the region.

## References

- <https://www.bpb.de/themen/kriege-konflikte/dossier-kriege-konflikte/224129/nagorny-karabach/> (06.01.2024)
- <https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/asien/bergkarabach-aufloesung-100.html> (06.01.2024)
- <https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/armenien-bergkarabach-fluechtlinge-1.6266105> (06.01.2024)
- <https://osteuropa.lpb-bw.de/bergkarabach-konflikt#c68713> (06.01.2024)
- <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-are/figures-glance> (07.01.2024)
- <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/overview/history-unhcr> (07.01.2024)
- <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-are/1951-refugee-convention> (13.01.2024)
- <https://www.state.gov/call-for-end-of-hostilities-in-nagorno-karabakh/> (19.09.2023)
- <https://www.nkr.am/en/un-and-karabakh-conflict>
- <https://www.usip.org/publications/1998/12/nagorno-karabakh-searching-solution-0#alternative>
- <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/nov-21-2023-united-states-announces-more-4-million-additional-humanitarian-assistance-people-affected-situation-nagorno-karabakh#:~:text=Today%2C%20the%20United%20States%2C%20through,the%20situation%20in%20Nagorno%2DKarabakh.> (21.11.2023)
- <https://www.unhcr.org/am/en/humanitarian-response> (14.01.2024)
- <https://www.dw.com/en/nagorno-karabakh-what-role-does-russia-play/a-66879315> (14.01.2024)
- <https://www.swp-berlin.org/10.18449/2020C53/> (14.01.2024)
- <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/10/30/whats-turkeys-role-in-the-nagorno-karabakh-conflict> (14.01.2024)
- <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/10/1142017> (14.01.2024)
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/02/nagorno-karabakh-ghost-town-un-ethnic-armenians-azerbaijan?embed=true> (14.01.2024)
- <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press-releases/un-and-partners-appeal-us-97-million-respond-urgent-needs-refugees-and-their> (14.01.2024)