GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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PEACE AND CONFLICT

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Topic: Measures to prevent armed conflicts in states with limited UN recognition.

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Position: Chair.

Introduction

Around the world, there are 193 states that fail to meet recognition from the United Nations. To name a few, Taiwan, Northern Cyprus and Kosovo along with many others disputed lands were formed as a result of several conflicts. Although these states attempt to seek independence and diplomatic recognition from other sovereign states, the international community does not recognize them as one of these. Taking this into account, millions of people become directly involved in the undergoing of various conflicts or issues related to this same matter. Meaningful international engagement and cooperation with these de facto states that suffer from little to no recognition, is key to solving these conflicts, and help to ensure the well-being of their populations.

Definition of Key Terms

De facto states

De facto states are political entities that control a defined territory and govern its inhabitants but lack widespread international recognition of their sovereignty.

De facto governments

De facto governments are authorities that hold power and govern a territory effectively, though their legitimacy may be disputed, and they may not be officially recognized internationally.

Satellite states

These are countries that are formally independent in the world but under heavy political, economic, and military influence or control from another country.

Recognition

Recognition is an expression of support and readiness to conduct diplomatic and other relations by a country to a de facto state.

Parent State

Refers to the recognized sovereign state that claims the territory that the de facto state occupies

Patron state

A patron state is the powerful military protector that supports and finances the de facto state.

Territorial Integrity

The principle that a state's borders and territory should be respected and not violated by other states.

Sovereignty

The legal authority and responsibility of an independent state to govern and regulate its political affairs without foreign interference.

Background Information

Causes for the formation of the de facto states

There are many reasons why self-proclaimed countries could have formed. Some regions declared their sovereignty as a result of military actions, revolutions, armed conflicts, and national liberation struggles. Not so long ago, numerous unrecognized countries surged, which became the reason for the emergence of a situation of separation from the metropolises, states located on the territory of an earthly country. This applies to former colonies. For example, there are many of them on the African continent. Most states received sovereignty and consent to make decisions.

Another option for the emergence of such states is the foreign economic and foreign policy manipulations of various countries. Some participants in world conflicts created so-called "puppet states" - which were an effective technique for creating a neutral zone between warring countries. Thanks to this, they managed to protect themselves from hostile armies. Forming a satellite state is also an excellent way to lobby the state. Many countries of the world have resorted to this method at different stages of their development. Simultaneously, constituting new independent states. Seeing as it is still a puppet-state, it remains under the complete control of another country, dictating its political and economic interests. A vivid example of such a state, Manchukuo, which had been created by Japan in 1932. Countries such as the USSR, the USA, Nazi Germany, and South Africa had also resorted to this method.

Conflict and Tension

For states with limited or no United Nations recognition often entails armed conflicts which arise due to disputes over sovereignty, territory, and ethnic or political differences. These conflicts can be complex, long-lasting, and usually involve multiple parties. An example of such conflict is the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian conflict. Rooted due to several cultural, social and political motives. In other cases, despite ceasefire, and absence of extreme war, there remains to be many tensions around these territories, which become contests for international legitimacy. Resolutions put by the parent states to international organizations, such as the United Nations (UN) or Council of Europe, ask that these break-away entities be condemned as illegal.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Partially recognized states

Northern Cyprus-proclaimed after the Turkish military invaded Cyprus in 1974, declared its independence in 1983. In 2004, the territory of the TRNC was formally included in the European Union as part of the Republic of Cyprus. Recognized by Turkey and Abkhazia. All other UN member states recognize the territory of Northern Cyprus as part of the Republic of Cyprus.

Abkhazia - is an autonomous republic within this state of Georgia; since 1992 it has been virtually independent. On November 26, 1994, the republic was declared a sovereign state and a subject of international law. The independence of Abkhazia has been recognized since 2008 by 6 UN member states - Russia, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Nauru, Vanuatu and Tuvalu. All other UN member states recognize the territory of Abkhazia as part of Georgia.

South Ossetia - according to the Constitution of Georgia, the territory of South Ossetia is part of several regions of Georgia. In 1991, it gained de facto independence, which since 2008 has been recognized by 5 UN member states: Russia, Nicaragua,

Venezuela, Nauru and Tuvalu. All other UN member states recognize the territory of South Ossetia as part of Georgia.

Khalistan - in 1987, the creation of an "independent" state of Khalistan was announced. The president of the "new state" was Gurmit Singh Aulakh (a highly respected emigrant who led the Sikh diaspora in the USA). Independence was proclaimed in the US capital.

The Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic is recognized by 48 states and is a member of the African Union. Most of the country's claimed territory is controlled by Morocco.

The Republic of Kosovo - according to the Constitution of Serbia, is part of this state as the Autonomous Province of Kosovo. Based on Security Council Resolution 1244, the UN is under international governance. In 2008, Kosovo authorities declared independence, which is now recognized by 106 UN member states. The authorities of the Republic of Kosovo do not actually control its northern part, inhabited by Serbs.

Palestine is currently recognized by 134 UN member states. It is an observer state at the UN. Divided into two borderless parts: the Gaza Strip, controlled by Hamas, and the West Bank, partly controlled by the Palestinian National Authority. However, the recognition of Palestine remains a contentious and unresolved issue due to the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with some nations, including Israel and the United States, not officially recognizing Palestinian statehood.

Unrecognized states

Transnistria (since 1990) is an unrecognized state proclaimed on part of the territory of Moldova. The Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic is not recognized by any state with wide international recognition, but it is recognized by Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Somaliland-Located in northwestern Somalia. In May 1991, the northern clans proclaimed the Independent Republic of Somaliland, which included 5 of the 18 administrative regions of Somalia. Somaliland continues to defend its independence till this day.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (since 1991) is an unrecognized state proclaimed within the borders of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region (NKAO), as well as the adjacent former Shaumyan region of the Azerbaijan SSR, within these borders it was an enclave within the Azerbaijan SSR.

Timeline of Events

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC):

1922	Ottoman Empire collapses; Cyprus comes under British control.
1974	Turkish military intervention following a coup attempt by Greek Cypriots; TRNC declares independence in the northern part of Cyprus, but it is only recognized by Turkey

Transnistria (Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic)

1991	After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Transnistria declares independence from Moldova, leading to a brief armed conflict.
	Ceasefire agreements and peace negotiations have

continued sporadically, but Transnistria remains
unrecognized.

Republic of Abkhazia

1992

Abkhazia declares independence from Georgia,
leading to a conflict with Georgian forces.

Russia recognizes Abkhazia's independence
following the Russo-Georgian War in 2008, but it
remains unrecognized by most of the international
community.

Republic of South Ossetia

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Republic of South Ossetia

1992

South Ossetia declares independence from Georgia,
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Russia recognized South Ossetia's independence
following the Russo-Georgian War in 2008, but the
international community does not widely recognize
it.

Kosovo

1999	NATO intervenes in Kosovo, ending the Kosovo War between Serbian forces and ethnic Albanian insurgents.
2008	Kosovo unilaterally declared independence from Serbia, but its statehood is only recognized by a limited number of countries.

Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh):

2020	Azerbaijan and Armenia engage in a war over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh).
	A ceasefire is brokered with the help of Russia, but the status of Artsakh remains unresolved, with limited international recognition.

Relevant UN Treaties and Resolutions

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2625 (XXV) - The Friendly Relations Declaration (1970)
This resolution outlines the principles of international law related to sovereignty. It affirms, that no state may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another state in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind.

Security Council Resolution 1244, the UN
Adopted in 1999, called for a ceasefire in Kosovo, authorized international missions to oversee the region, reaffirmed Yugoslavia's territorial integrity, and aimed for substantial

autonomy for Kosovo. It also encouraged negotiations for its future status and emphasized human rights and minority protection.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 541 (1983) and Resolution 550 (1984)*:* These resolutions refer to the situation in Cyprus. They emphasize the condemnation of the declaration of independence and call on states not to recognize the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus."

Helsinki Final Act (1975):
The Helsinki Final Act, which emerged from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, recognizes the importance of respecting the inviolability of borders and territorial integrity. It is relevant in the context of conflicts involving de facto states in Europe.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

The Georgia Peace Plan (2008)*:*
The Georgia Peace Plan of 2008, also known as the Sarkozy-Medvedev Plan, was an international peace proposal aimed at resolving the conflict between Georgia and Russia over the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The content of the peace agreement included international mediation, ceasefire agreement, military forces withdrawal and political discussion regarding the stay of both regions within Georgia.

The Geneva International Discussions (Abkhazia and South Ossetia)*:*
The Geneva International Discussions were launched in Geneva, Switzerland, in October 2008, in order to address the consequences of the 2008 august war in Georgia. The decision on the formation of such a format was adopted according to the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement.

From that period the Geneva discussions were held four times a year. Co-chaired by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the European Union and the United Nations the Geneva process brings together representatives of Georgia, the Russian Federation, the United States and Georgia's breakaway regions - Abkhazia and South Ossetia

The Annan Plan

The Annan Plan was a United Nations-sponsored peace proposal for the reunification of Cyprus, which had been divided between the Greek Cypriot south and the Turkish Cypriot north since 1974. The plan, developed by then-UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, was put to a referendum in 2004. The plan was rejected by the Greek Cypriots in a referendum while being accepted by Turkish Cypriots. Consequently, Cyprus remains divided, with the Republic of Cyprus in the south and the self-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in the north. The failure to reunify Cyprus remains a significant diplomatic challenge.

Possible Solutions

Regarding the prevention of the armed conflicts on the territories of the states with no or limited UN recognition, states are encouraged to implement policies such as, but not limited to:

-Devising more sophisticated rules of engagement for de facto territories within a framework of non-recognition, based on their situation and openness to international cooperation.
-Where appropriate, be prepared to engage more directly with de facto authorities on a give-and-take principle, offering more assistance in return for cooperation on issues of

international concern, such as criminality, trafficking, and minority rights.

-Look to establish a presence on the ground with representatives and status-neutral liaison offices to work more efficiently with people inside the territories.

-(For the EU) In Abkhazia, work to reinvigorate the Non-Recognition and Engagement Policy by reviving proposals on mobility, trade, and education.

-(For the EU) In Transnistria, extend the economic assistance program for implementation of the Moldova DCFTA to the region.

-(For the EU) In northern Cyprus, work to implement the three regulations unveiled in 2004 to promote development of the north of the island.

-In northern Cyprus, start a much more ambitious program, in partnership with the de facto authorities and in coordination with the government of the Republic of Cyprus, to prepare the territory for the EU acquis, regardless of what happens in the negotiating process.

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