



# MCGSMUN 2025



Eye of The Hurricane

## United Nations Security Council

Discussing the Conflict of Armenia-Azerbaijan with special emphasis on  
Nagorno-Karabakh

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## **Letter from the EB**

Dear Delegates,

A warm welcome to the United Nations Security Council at the MCGS MUN. Our committee is set to deliberate on the crucial agenda of “Discussing the Conflict of Armenia-Azerbaijan with special emphasis on Nagorno-Karabakh.”

The success of our committee relies on your active participation and unwavering commitment. Your insights and contributions will shape our discussions on combating sex trafficking. Thorough preparation, understanding the nuances of the issue, and recognizing its global context are paramount. Regardless of your prior Model United Nations experience, a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to research is fundamental for a meaningful simulation. Beyond the varied approaches to address sex trafficking, it's crucial to delve into understanding and critically analyzing the information at hand.

Diplomatic conduct remains at the forefront. Comprehending diplomatic norms and your country's specific stance on sex trafficking is pivotal. As we aim to refine skills like reasoning, negotiation, and diplomacy, we expect impeccable conduct from all participants. To maintain the integrity of our discussions, we kindly request that delegates refrain from using AI platforms, including ChatGPT or other similar tools, for their speeches. Your authentic and original contributions will enrich our discourse and create a more meaningful experience for all. Any disruptive behavior or misuse of committee procedures will not be tolerated. Familiarize yourselves with the UNSC's procedures to ensure respectful and productive deliberations.

Regarding the background guide, it serves as an initial research brief, not an exhaustive source. It provides a foundational understanding and an equitable starting point for all participants. It's imperative to expand your research beyond the guide. We encourage you to prepare diligently, fostering mutual learning and growth throughout this simulation. For any queries, feel free to reach out to any member of the Executive Board.

Best regards,

Executive Board

United Nations Security Council

## **About UNSC**

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN), responsible for maintaining international peace and security, recommending the admission of new UN members to the General Assembly, and approving amendments to the UN Charter. Its powers, as outlined in the United Nations Charter, include establishing peacekeeping operations, enacting international sanctions, and authorizing military action. The UNSC is the only UN body with the authority to issue resolutions that are binding on member states.

Established after World War II to address the failures of the League of Nations in maintaining global peace, the Security Council held its first session on January 17, 1946. However, its effectiveness was limited during the ensuing Cold War due to political deadlock between the United States and the Soviet Union (and their respective allies). Despite this, the UNSC authorized military interventions in the Korean War and the Congo Crisis, as well as peacekeeping missions in Cyprus, West New Guinea, and the Sinai Peninsula. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, UN peacekeeping efforts expanded significantly, with major missions authorized in Kuwait, Namibia, Cambodia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Security Council is composed of fifteen members, including five permanent members: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These nations were the principal victors of World War II (or their recognized successor states). The permanent members hold veto power, allowing them to block any substantive Security Council resolution, including those related to the admission of new UN member states or the appointment of the Secretary-General. However, this veto power does not extend to matters in the General Assembly, where votes are non-binding. The remaining ten members are elected on a regional basis for two-year terms. The presidency of the Security Council rotates monthly among its members.

Security Council resolutions are typically enforced by UN peacekeepers, consisting of military forces voluntarily contributed by member states and funded separately from the main UN budget. As of November 2021, there were 12 active peacekeeping missions involving over 87,000 personnel from 121 countries, with an annual budget of approximately \$6.3 billion.

## **Mandate**

The United Nations Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.

According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes:

- to maintain international peace and security;
- to develop friendly relations among nations;
- to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;
- and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend that the parties try to reach agreement by peaceful means. The Council may:

- set forth principles for such an agreement;
- undertake investigation and mediation, in some cases;
- dispatch a mission;
- appoint special envoys; or
- request the Secretary-General to use his good offices to achieve a pacific settlement of the dispute.

When a dispute leads to hostilities, the Council's primary concern is to bring them to an end as soon as possible. In that case, the Council may:

- issue ceasefire directives that can help prevent an escalation of the conflict;
- dispatch military observers or a peacekeeping force to help reduce tensions, separate opposing forces and establish a calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought.

Beyond this, the Council may opt for enforcement measures, including:

- economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties and restrictions, and travel bans;
- severance of diplomatic relations;
- blockade;
- or even collective military action.

A chief concern is to focus action on those responsible for the policies or practices condemned by the international community, while minimizing the impact of the measures taken on other parts of the population and economy.

## **Functions and Power**

Under the United Nations Charter, the functions and powers of the Security Council are:

- to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- to recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- to formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- to call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- to take military action against an aggressor;
- to recommend the admission of new Members;
- to exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.

## Credible Sources accepted in the Committee

The following sources will be accepted as credible in the committee:

1. News Sources
  - a. Reuters – Any Reuters’ article which clearly makes mention of the fact stated or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by another delegate in council can be used to substantiate arguments in the committee. (<http://www.reuters.com/>)
  - b. State operated News Agencies – These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council. Some examples are, RIA Novosti (Russia) <http://en.rian.ru> IRNA (Iran) <http://www.irna.ir/ENIndex.htm>
  - c. Al Jazeera (maybe accepted)
  - d. BBC (maybe accepted)
  
2. Government Reports: These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, a nuance is that the Executive Board as credible information can still accept a report that is being denied by a certain country. Some examples are Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America <http://www.state.gov/index.htm> or the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation <http://www.eng.mil.ru/en/index.htm> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations like India (<http://www.mea.gov.in/>) or People’s Republic of China (<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn>). Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Reports <http://www.un.org/en/members/> (Click on any country to get the website of the Office of its Permanent Representative.) Multilateral Organisations like the NATO (<http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/index.htm>), ASEAN (<http://www.aseansec.org/>), OPEC ([http://www.opec.org/opec\\_web/en/](http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/)), etc.
  
3. UN Reports: All UN Reports are considered credible information or evidence for the Executive Board of this joint session. UN Bodies like the UNSC (<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/>) or UNGA (<http://www.un.org/en/ga/>). UN Affiliated bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency (<http://www.iaea.org/>), World Bank (<http://www.worldbank.org/>),

International Monetary Fund (<http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>),  
International Committee of the Red Cross (<http://www.icrc.org/eng/index.jsp>),  
etc



## **Introduction**

In September 2023, Azerbaijan launched a rapid military offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh, a region long disputed with Armenia. This decisive action allowed Azerbaijan to regain full control over the area within 24 hours, compelling the self-proclaimed Republic of Artsakh to surrender. This offensive marked the end of decades of separatist rule by ethnic Armenians in the region. The aftermath was characterized by a mass exodus of approximately 100,000 ethnic Armenians to Armenia, effectively emptying Nagorno-Karabakh of its Armenian population. On January 1, 2024, the Republic of Artsakh was formally dissolved, solidifying Azerbaijan's sovereignty over the region.

Following the offensive, Azerbaijan began integrating Nagorno-Karabakh into its national framework, launching extensive infrastructure and energy projects. During COP29, Azerbaijan unveiled ambitious renewable energy initiatives, including solar parks and wind farms in Nagorno-Karabakh. These projects are part of Azerbaijan's strategy to enhance its international standing by showcasing a commitment to sustainable development. However, these efforts have been met with criticism from human rights organizations, which accuse Azerbaijan of using these projects to improve its global image while ignoring the humanitarian crisis caused by the displacement of Armenians.

Diplomatic relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan remain tense, despite both nations expressing a willingness to pursue peace. In February 2025, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan proposed a national referendum to adopt a new constitution aimed at resolving political legitimacy issues and facilitating a peace treaty with Azerbaijan. However, significant challenges persist, including the closure of their shared border and continued military tensions. The international community continues to monitor the situation, with ongoing discussions about the geopolitical and humanitarian implications of the recent developments.

## **What is Nagorno-Karabakh?**

The landlocked mountainous region of Nagorno-Karabakh was the subject of a long-standing territorial dispute between Azerbaijan, in which it lies, and its ethnic Armenian majority, backed by neighbouring Armenia.

Internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, until recently much of it was governed by the unrecognised Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, also known as the Republic of Artsakh.

Following decades of ceasefires punctuated by sporadic clashes and upsurges of violence, Azerbaijani forces overwhelmed the territory's defenders in a short campaign in September 2023.

The majority of ethnic Armenians fled and on 1 January 2024 Nagorno-Karabakh was formally dissolved.

While Armenia itself never officially recognised the region's independence, it became its main financial and military backer and the territory functioned as a de facto part of Armenia.



## **Background**

In 1923, the Soviet Union established the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast—home to a 95 percent ethnically Armenian population—within the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. Nagorno-Karabakh’s regional legislature passed a resolution in 1988 declaring its intention to join the Republic of Armenia despite its official location within Azerbaijan. Armed fighting between the two republics, which have a long history of ethnic tension, quickly followed. Amid Soviet dissolution in 1991, just as Armenia and Azerbaijan achieved statehood, Nagorno-Karabakh officially declared independence, and full-scale war erupted. The first Karabakh war, from 1988 to 1994, resulted in roughly thirty thousand casualties and created hundreds of thousands of refugees. By 1993, Armenia had gained control of Nagorno-Karabakh and occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan’s geographic area. In 1994, Russia brokered a ceasefire known as the Bishkek Protocol, leaving Nagorno-Karabakh de facto independent, with a self-proclaimed government in Stepanakert, but still heavily reliant on close economic, political, and military ties with Armenia.

Since the bilateral acceptance of a ceasefire in 1994, which formally remained in force until September 2020, the use of attack drones, shelling, and special operations activities by Armenian and Azerbaijani troops have led to intermittent clashes. Early April 2016 witnessed the most intense fighting since 1994, leading to hundreds of casualties along the line of separation. After four days of fighting, the two sides announced they had agreed to cease hostilities. However, a breakdown in talks resulted in both sides accusing each other of ceasefire violations, and tensions remained high.

Following a summer of cross-border attacks, heavy fighting broke out along the Azerbaijan-Nagorno-Karabakh border in late September 2020. More than seven thousand soldiers and civilians were killed, with hundreds more Armenian and Azerbaijani soldiers wounded. Both countries initially rejected pressure from the United Nations, the United States, and Russia to hold talks and end hostilities, and instead pledged to continue fighting. Tensions escalated further when both sides switched from cross-border shelling to longer-range artillery and other heavy weaponry. After several failed attempts by Russia, France, and the United States, to negotiate a ceasefire, Russia successfully brokered a deal on November 9, 2020, reinforced by Russian peacekeepers, ending the six-week Second Nagorno-Karabakh War. Azerbaijan reclaimed most of the territory it lost two decades prior, leaving Armenia with only a portion of Karabakh. The agreement also established the Lachin corridor, a small strip of land to be monitored by Russian peacekeepers that would serve as a transit route connecting Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Negotiation and mediation efforts, primarily led by the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), have failed to produce a permanent solution to the conflict. The Minsk Group was created in 1994 to address the dispute and is co-chaired by the United States, France, and Russia. The three co-chairs are empowered to organize negotiations with the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan, separately and at summits. Although the group has successfully negotiated ceasefires, territorial disputes remain as intractable as ever.

## **Recent Developments**

Periodic violations of the 2020 ceasefire eventually escalated into a two-day conflict beginning September 13, 2022—the most significant provocation since 2020. The death toll has been disputed, with estimates ranging from one to three hundred killed in the cross-border attacks. Azerbaijan launched attacks on several locations inside Armenian territory, which forced the evacuation of more than 2,700 civilians. Armenia and Azerbaijan have exchanged accusations of blame for initiating the violence. Despite its focus on the conflict in Ukraine, Russia claimed credit for mediating a truce between the warring parties. Additional border clashes were reported on September 21, September 23, and September 28, less than one week after the Russian-brokered truce.

In December 2022, Azerbaijani activists occupied the Lachin corridor, ostensibly protesting environmental degradation caused by illegal mining in Nagorno-Karabakh. However, the protesters reportedly had state backing from Baku, and they blocked all traffic except for Red Cross and Russian convoys. The Russian peacekeepers, in place to ensure the artery remained open for Armenian supplies, were unwilling or unable to secure and reopen the highway. As a result, residents in Nagorno-Karabakh faced severe shortages and rationing.

On April 23, 2023, Azerbaijan opened a checkpoint on the highway, which it claimed was necessary to intercept and deter military shipments from Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh. The protests ended days later, suggesting that the government's true objective was to block Armenian passage. Armenia and ethnic Armenian leaders in Nagorno-Karabakh condemned the checkpoint, saying Azerbaijan sought to isolate Karabakh Armenians and solidify its control over the region.

Russia, meanwhile, issued only a mild statement criticizing the move. In the face of repeated efforts to restrict Armenia's access to the region, the peacekeeping force's passivity eroded trust in Russia as a viable security guarantor.

Azerbaijan further tightened access to Nagorno-Karabakh, banning even Red Cross convoys from passing through the Lachin Corridor to the region over alleged smuggling of unsanctioned products. Azerbaijani security forces also detained an individual passing through a checkpoint for medical care in Armenia, leading to a suspension of medical evacuations for critically-ill patients. With no supplies allowed to pass through the corridor, shelves sat empty and two children died as the humanitarian crisis turned critical. Azerbaijan offered aid, but the region's leaders rejected it, saying they would not accept aid from the country responsible for the crisis.

On September 19, 2023, days after an agreement to reopen the Lachin Corridor for aid deliveries sparked hopes of easing the crisis, Azerbaijan launched an "anti-terrorist" offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh. Karabakh officials said at least two hundred people died in the operation, which Azerbaijan said was aimed at neutralizing Armenian military installments. Within two days, Azerbaijan claimed to have regained full control over the region, and Russia-mediated negotiations began in Yevlakh, Azerbaijan, over the disarmament of Armenian separatists and the reintegration of Nagorno-Karabakh into Azerbaijan.

Meanwhile, protestors took to the streets in Yerevan, Armenia, accusing the government of failing to protect ethnic Armenians and demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. At stake was the status of around 100,000 ethnic Armenians living in the disputed territory; thousands immediately fled to Armenia, fearing persecution if they stayed, and officials demanded security guarantees for those who remained before they agreed to give up their weapons.

### **Timeline of Key Events**

The conflict has roots dating back well over a century into competition between Christian Armenian and Muslim Turkic and Persian influences.

**19th Century-** Populated for centuries by Christian Armenian and Turkic Azeris, Karabakh became part of the Russian empire.

**Early 20th Century-** Acts of brutality on both sides punctuate the region's relative peace, and live on in the popular memory.

**1920s-** After the end of World War One and the Bolshevik revolution in Russia, the new Soviet rulers, as part of their divide-and-rule policy in the region, established the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, with an ethnic Armenian majority, within the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan.

**1991-** With the break-up of the Soviet Union, Karabakh declares itself an independent republic, and as Soviet control loosens Armenian-Azeri frictions escalate into a full-scale war.

**1992-94-** First Karabakh war: During the fighting up to 30,000 people are estimated to have lost their lives. Armenians gain control of the region and push on to occupy Azerbaijani territory outside Karabakh, creating a buffer zone around Lachin, linking Karabakh and Armenia.

More than one million people flee their homes during the fighting. The ethnic Azeri population - about 25% of the total before the war - leaves Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia while ethnic Armenians flee the rest of Azerbaijan.

**1994-** Russian-brokered ceasefire is signed leaving Karabakh as well as swathes of Azeri territory around the territory in Armenian hands.

**1994-2020-** A simmering stalemate prevails punctuated by armed clashes.

**2017-** In a referendum, voters approve a new constitution turning the government from a semi-presidential to a fully presidential one. The territory changes its name from Nagorno Karabakh Republic to Republic of Artsakh, though both remain official names. Karabakh is the Russian rendering of an Azeri word meaning "black garden", while Nagorno is a Russian root meaning "mountainous". Artsakh is an ancient Armenian name for the area.

**2020-** Second Karabakh war: Azerbaijan launches an offensive that recaptures territory around Karabakh. Some 3,000 Azerbaijani soldiers and 4,000 Armenian soldiers are killed in six weeks of fighting.

Russian peacekeepers are deployed to monitor a new Moscow-brokered ceasefire, and also to ensure safe passage through the so-called "Lachin corridor" that separates Nagorno-Karabakh from Armenia.

Armenian forces agreed to return to Azerbaijan all occupied territory outside of the former Soviet Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast.

**2022-** Fighting breaks out between Armenian and Azerbaijani troops along Armenia-Azerbaijan, with about 100 Armenian and 70 Azerbaijani soldiers killed in the clashes.

**2023-** Following a months-long Azerbaijani blockade of the Lachin corridor, Azerbaijani forces rapidly overwhelm defending troops and seize the region after 24 hours of fighting.

The majority of ethnic Armenians flee.

**2024-** Nagorno-Karabakh is formally dissolved.

## **Humanitarian Crisis**

In September 2023, Azerbaijan launched military action in Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave with a 95% ethnic Armenian population of approximately 120,000. This followed a nine-month blockade of the Lachin Corridor, the only road linking the enclave to Armenia, leading to severe shortages of food, fuel, medicine, and basic supplies. By August 2023, the UN had declared a humanitarian emergency in the region.

Following the offensive, Nagorno-Karabakh came under Azerbaijani control, prompting nearly the entire ethnic Armenian population to flee to Armenia. Most refugees are now in Yerevan and the provinces of Syunik, Ararat, and Kotayk. Despite provisional measures by the International Court of Justice ordering Azerbaijan to allow safe and unimpeded return, the refugees remain in Armenia.

Action Against Hunger estimates that 1 in 30 people in Armenia is now a refugee, with over half being women and girls, nearly one-third children, and one-fifth elderly. The influx has created an extensive refugee crisis, straining Armenia's capacity to address both immediate humanitarian needs and long-term integration challenges. In January 2024, Marina Nagai of International Alert noted that while Armenian society is actively helping, the scale of the crisis exceeds Armenia's resources.

In October 2023, the UNHCR launched a \$97 million Emergency Refugee Response Plan for Armenia, scheduled to run until March 2024. The International Committee of the Red Cross, in collaboration with the Armenian Red Cross, has been providing healthcare, food, basic services, and economic assistance. The World Health Organization has also been supporting Armenia's Ministry of Health in delivering mental health services to refugees.

International support has been substantial:

- The UK committed £1 million to the ICRC's humanitarian response in September 2023.
- France contributed a total of €27.5 million to emergency appeals by the ICRC, UNHCR, and other NGOs in 2023.
- The EU has provided €17.5 million in humanitarian aid since September 2023.

- The United States announced an additional \$4.1 million in November 2023, bringing its total aid to \$28 million since 2020.

## **Foreign Policy**

**Russia-** Russia maintained an official stance of neutrality in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, positioning itself as a mediator and calling for peaceful resolutions. However, journalist Thomas de Waal noted that while Russia publicly claimed neutrality, it generally favored Armenia, though various Russian actors supported both sides at different times. Other analysts, like Svante Cornell, argued that Russia strategically played both sides to maximize its regional influence. During the first Nagorno-Karabakh War, Russia was widely seen as backing Armenia, providing around \$1 billion in military aid, which played a key role in Armenia's victory. Despite this, Russia also gave some support to Azerbaijan, creating a complex dynamic on the battlefield.

After the war and until 2022, Russia was Armenia's main arms supplier and military ally. However, it also sold significant arms to Azerbaijan, challenging the view of Russia as solely pro-Armenian. In February 2022, Russia and Azerbaijan signed a "Declaration of Allied Interaction," enhancing military cooperation and affirming mutual respect for territorial integrity. Meanwhile, Armenia continued to receive Russian weaponry at discounted rates until Russia suspended arms deliveries in 2022.

**United States-** In 2000, the US officially supported Azerbaijan's territorial integrity but enacted policies that effectively favored Armenia's claims. Sergo Mikoyan noted in 1998 that US policy was inconsistent due to the influence of the Armenian lobby on Congress, while the executive branch pursued a pro-Azerbaijani stance influenced by Turkish interests and oil companies.

Congress showed its pro-Armenian stance by passing Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act in 1992, which banned assistance to Azerbaijan. This was amended in 2001 and waived by President George W. Bush from 2002 onward. The US has since provided military aid to both countries, with Azerbaijan receiving significantly more than Armenia, especially under the Trump administration, which aimed to counter Iran and strengthen Azerbaijan's border security.

The US also provided humanitarian aid to Artsakh, including \$36 million between 1998 and 2010 for demining. However, Azerbaijan criticized this aid, arguing it legitimized the disputed regime and compromised the US's neutrality as a mediator.



**Iran-** Iran officially maintained neutrality and sought to mediate, notably in 1992, while supporting Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. However, it unofficially favored Armenia through economic cooperation, acting as Armenia's main supplier of electricity and goods during the war. This support was partly to counterbalance Turkey's influence.

Iran's tacit backing of Armenia, including collaboration with Karabakh authorities, bolstered Armenia's power and potentially reduced its urgency to resolve the conflict. Despite this, Iran provided some humanitarian aid to Azerbaijani refugees and denied claims of military support to Armenia. In contrast, some Iranian figures, like Mohsen Rezaee, claimed Iran aided Azerbaijan during the war, including military training and equipment. Protests in 2020 by Iranian Azerbaijanis reflected discontent over alleged Iranian arms support to Armenia.

**Turkey-** Turkey is widely regarded as Azerbaijan's main supporter in the conflict, providing military aid and strong diplomatic backing. Turkish and Azerbaijani armed forces cooperate closely, regularly conducting joint military exercises, and Azerbaijan has purchased weapons from Turkey.

In 1993, Turkey closed its border with Armenia after the capture of Kalbajar and has since refused to establish diplomatic relations with Armenia in solidarity with Azerbaijan. The "Shusha Declaration" reaffirmed military and economic cooperation between Turkey and Azerbaijan, with plans for a Turkish consulate in Shusha signaling continued support.

**European Union-** The EU condemned the escalation in Nagorno-Karabakh and called on Azerbaijan to stop its military activities, the EU's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in a statement. "We call for the immediate cessation of hostilities & Azerbaijan to stop the current military activities," he said on social media platform X.

## **Major Agreements**

**Bishkek Protocol-** After the Armenian invasion of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding provinces in 1991-1993, a cease-fire protocol called the Bishkek Protocol was signed on May 8, 1994 (and went into effect on May 12) to end the armed conflict. Following negotiations on May 4-5, 1994 in Bishkek, with initiatives of the Commonwealth of Independent States Interparliamentary Assembly, Kyrgyzstan and Russia, the warring parties signed the cease-fire known as Bishkek Protocol.

The protocol stipulated that the parties would sign a treaty to reach a cease-fire by May 12, 1994, retreat forces from reserved areas, reinforce infrastructure and create a mechanism to enable the return of refugees. The protocol was signed in Baku on May 8, after the head of parliament made some changes. The word "reserved" was replaced with "invaded". The protocol foresaw a detailed deal in the future.

However, the peace treaty mentioned in the protocol never saw the light of the day. Although larger attacks and operations ended after the protocol, the cease-fire remained on paper for 26 years and both parties lost thousands of soldiers, although no official numbers were announced.

**2020 Nagorno-Karabakh Ceasefire Agreement-** On 9 November 2020, Armenia and Azerbaijan signed a ceasefire under mediation from Russia, with the Republic of Artsakh also agreeing to end hostilities. Under the deal, Azerbaijan will hold on to areas of Nagorno-Karabakh that it has taken during the conflict. Armenia has also agreed to withdraw from several other adjacent areas over the next few weeks.

Approximately 2,000 Russian soldiers were deployed as peacekeeping forces around Nagorno-Karabakh with a mandate of at least five years. The peacekeepers were also given a mandate over the Lachin corridor which remains the only passage between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

**2023 Nagorno-Karabakh Ceasefire Agreement-** On 20 September 2023 a ceasefire agreement ending the Azerbaijani military offensive against the self-proclaimed ethnic Armenian Republic of Artsakh in Nagorno-Karabakh was reached. The agreement was brokered by the Russian peacekeeping contingent stationed in the region since the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War in 2020.

The separatist Armenian forces said that Azerbaijan had broken through their lines and seized a number of heights and strategic road junctions. Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defence also said that Armenian forces in Karabakh had agreed to "lay down their weapons, abandon combat positions and military posts and completely disarm", adding that all weapons and heavy equipment were being handed over to the Azerbaijani army. Baku had demanded that the separatist political authorities in Karabakh disband before any talks were held about the future of the region, which Azerbaijan wants to fully integrate.

## **UNSC Resolutions**

**UNSCR 822 (1993)**- Demanded the immediate cessation of all hostilities with a view to establishing a durable ceasefire, as well as the immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces from the Kelbadjar district and other recently occupied areas of Azerbaijan; urged the parties concerned to immediately resume negotiations for the resolution of the conflict within the framework of the peace process of the Minsk Group of the CSCE and to refrain from any action that would obstruct a peaceful solution to the problem; called for unimpeded access for international humanitarian relief efforts in the region, particularly in all areas affected by the conflict, to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population, and reaffirmed that all parties were bound to comply with the principles and rules of international humanitarian law; requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE as well as the Chairman of the Minsk Group of the Conference, to assess the situation in the region, particularly in the Kelbadjar district of Azerbaijan, and to submit a further report to the Council.

**UNSCR 853 (1993)**- Condemned the seizure of the district of Agdam and other recently occupied areas of the Azerbaijani Republic and all hostile actions in the region, in particular attacks on civilians and bombardments of inhabited areas; demanded the immediate cessation of all hostilities and the immediate and complete withdrawal of the occupying forces from all recently occupied areas; called on the parties concerned to reach and maintain durable ceasefire arrangements; welcomed the preparations for a CSCE monitor mission; urged the parties concerned to pursue negotiations within the Minsk Group of CSCE, as well as through direct contacts between them, towards a final settlement; urged the Government of the Republic of Armenia to continue to exert its influence to achieve compliance by Armenians of the Nagorny Karabakh region with resolution 822 (1993) and the present resolution, and the acceptance by this party of the proposals of the Minsk Group; urged States to refrain from the supply of weapons and munitions which might lead to an intensification of the conflict; called for unimpeded access for international humanitarian relief efforts in the region to the affected civilian population and to assist displaced persons in returning to their homes.

**UNSCR 874 (1993)**- Called upon the parties concerned to make effective and permanent the ceasefire established as a result of the direct contacts undertaken with the assistance of the Government of the Russian Federation in support of the CSCE Minsk Group; welcomed and commended to the parties the “Adjusted timetable of urgent steps to implement Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993)” set out on 28 Sept. 1993 at the meeting of the CSCE Minsk Group and called on the parties to accept it; called for the immediate implementation of the reciprocal and urgent steps

provided for in the CSCE Minsk Group's "Adjusted timetable," including the withdrawal of forces from recently occupied territories and the removal of all obstacles to communications and transportation; called also for an early convening of the CSCE Minsk Conference for the purpose of arriving at a negotiated settlement to the conflict; requested the Secretary-General to send a representative to attend the CSCE Minsk Conference and to provide assistance for the substantive negotiations that would follow the opening of the Conference; called on all parties to refrain from violations of international humanitarian law and renewed its call in resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993) for unimpeded access for international humanitarian relief efforts in all areas affected by the conflict; requested the Secretary-General and relevant international agencies to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected civilian population and to assist refugees and displaced persons in returning to their homes in security and dignity.

**UNSCR 884 (1993)**- Condemns the recent violations of the ceasefire established between the parties; calls upon the Government of Armenia to use its influence to achieve compliance by the Armenians of the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic with resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993) and 874 (1993), and to ensure that the forces involved are not provided with the means to extend their military campaign further; demands from the parties concerned the immediate cessation of armed hostilities, the unilateral withdrawal of occupying forces from the Zangelan district and the city of Goradiz, and the withdrawal of occupying forces from other recently occupied areas of the Azerbaijani Republic in accordance with the "Adjusted timetable of urgent steps to implement Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993)" (S/26522, appendix) as amended by the CSCE Minsk Group meeting in Vienna of 2 to 8 Nov. 1993; strongly urges the parties concerned to resume promptly and to make effective and permanent the ceasefire established as a result of the direct contacts undertaken with the assistance of the Government of the Russian Federation in support of the CSCE Minsk Group; urges again all States in the region to refrain from any hostile acts and from any interference or intervention, which would lead to the widening of the conflict and undermine peace and security in the region; requests the Secretary-General and relevant international agencies to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected civilian population.

### **Other Resolutions**

**UNGA Resolution 48/114 (1993)**- Urgently appealed to all States, organizations and programmes of the UN, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide adequate financial, medical and material

assistance to the Azerbaijani refugees and displaced persons; invited international financial institutions and organizations of the UN system to bring the special needs of Azerbaijani refugees and displaced persons to the attention of their respective governing bodies for consideration and to report on their decisions to the Secretary-General; invited the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the overall situation of refugees and displaced persons in Azerbaijan and to make available his good offices as required; requested the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to continue her efforts to consolidate and increase essential services to refugees and displaced persons in Azerbaijan.

**UNGA Resolution 62/243 (2008)**- Reaffirmed continued respect and support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders; demanded the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all Armenian forces from all the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan; reaffirmed the inalienable right of the population expelled from the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan to return to their homes; requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its 63rd session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution; decided to include in the provisional agenda of its 63rd session the item entitled “The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.”

### **Questions to Answer**

1. What measures can be taken to ensure long-term political stability and governance in Nagorno-Karabakh under Azerbaijani control?
2. How can the rights and cultural heritage of the remaining Armenian population in Nagorno-Karabakh be protected?
3. What role should international organizations, including the UN and OSCE, play in overseeing the political transition and governance structures in Nagorno-Karabakh?
4. How can the ceasefire be effectively monitored and enforced to prevent further outbreaks of violence?
5. What security guarantees can be provided to displaced persons wishing to return to Nagorno-Karabakh?
6. Should international peacekeeping forces be deployed in Nagorno-Karabakh to maintain security and stability?
7. How can the demilitarization of the region be achieved without compromising the security of local communities?

8. What diplomatic measures can be pursued to normalize relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan?
9. How can international mediators encourage constructive dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan to resolve outstanding issues?
10. What role should regional powers, such as Russia, Turkey, and Iran, play in maintaining peace and stability in the South Caucasus?
11. How can international law be upheld in investigating and addressing alleged human rights violations during the conflict?
12. What mechanisms can be implemented to ensure accountability for war crimes and other abuses committed by all parties?
13. How can humanitarian aid be effectively distributed to all affected populations without political bias?
14. What strategies can be implemented to promote social cohesion and reconciliation between Armenian and Azerbaijani communities?
15. How can economic recovery and reconstruction be facilitated in Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding conflict-affected areas?
16. What international financial assistance is needed for rebuilding infrastructure and public services in the region?
17. How can sustainable development be promoted to reduce dependence on external aid in conflict-affected areas?
18. What role can international trade and investment play in stabilizing the economy of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding regions?

### **Further Research and Readings**

1. OSCE Minsk Group Documents-  
<https://www.osce.org/resources/documents/nagorno-karabakh?&solrsort=score%20desc&rows=10&category=Official%20Documents>
2. International Court of Justice (ICJ) Order on Provisional Measures-  
<https://www.icj-cij.org/taxonomy/term/454>
3. UNHCR Urgent Needs in Armenia and Azerbaijan-  
[UNHCR Urgent Needs in Armenia and Azerbaijan - February 2021](#)
4. The Living Conditions of Refugees in Armenia-  
[UNHCR Statistics Report](#)

5. Nagorno-Karabakh: Searching for a Solution-  
<https://www.usip.org/publications/1998/12/nagorno-karabakh-searching-solution-0>
6. Rethinking the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: Identity, Politics, Scholarship-  
<https://digital.sandiego.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1021&context=krocschol-faculty>
7. A “Frozen Conflict” Boils Over-  
<https://www.fpri.org/article/2024/01/a-frozen-conflict-boils-over-nagorno-karabakh-in-2023-and-future-implications/>
8. The fall of Nagorno-Karabakh and its impact-  
<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/the-fall-of-nagorno-karabakh-and-its-impact>
9. Arms transfers to conflict zones: The case of Nagorno-Karabakh-  
<https://www.sipri.org/commentary/topical-backgrounders/2021/arms-transfers-conflict-zones-case-nagorno-karabakh>