

Committee: GA4; Special Political and Decolonization Committee

Agenda Item: Taking measures to ensure humanitarian conditions while sustaining reconciliation in the Nagorno-Karabakh region

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Introduction

Spanning over three decades, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict stands as the longest-running post-Soviet dispute in Eurasia, symbolizing the challenges of reconciliation in the aftermath of an empire. The mountainous and landlocked region of Nagorno-Karabakh has been at the center of a prolonged territorial conflict between Azerbaijan, within whose borders it is located, and its Armenian population which is ethnically predominant in the region. Until recently, the Nagorno-Karabakh region was known as the Republic of Artsakh—a breakaway state whose territory was internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan. For centuries and centuries, Muslim Azerbaijanis and Christian Armenians fought over their shared homeland with one question in mind: Who holds sovereignty over the Nagorno-Karabakh region? This region has always been subject to questions for hundreds of years, and this story is no exception considering that it goes all the way back to the early 20th century. Russian rule began in 1823 and ended completely with the 1918 collapse of the Russian Empire, leaving behind an ongoing territorial conflict between both nations who wanted to rule over their home. Five years later, the Nagorno-Karabakh region was declared an autonomous administrative region within the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic, ignoring its population made up of 94% ethnic Armenians. This region remains an international flashpoint, as the following sections will delve into the reasons behind the complete depopulation of Nagorno-Karabakh and why the region has been formally dissolved, both as of just this year.

Definition of Key Terms

Frozen Conflict: A situation where active hostilities have ceased without a formal resolution of the underlying dispute, leaving the conflict unresolved and prone to reignition. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was long considered a frozen conflict after the 1994 ceasefire until major escalations occurred in 2020 and 2023.

Ethnic Cleansing: The systematic and forced removal of an ethnic or religious group from a specific area, often involving violence or intimidation. Accusations of ethnic cleansing have been central to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, particularly regarding the displacement of Azerbaijani and Armenian populations.

Self-Determination: The principle in international law that allows peoples to decide their political status and pursue their economic, social, and cultural development. Ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh have invoked self-determination to justify their demands for independence, often in direct conflict with Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

Right of Return: The principle that individuals displaced from their homes during conflict have the right to return to their place of origin. This concept is a point of contention in Nagorno-Karabakh, as both displaced Azerbaijanis and Armenians claim this right for territories they consider their homeland.

Irredentism: A political movement or policy advocating the reclamation of a territory believed to be part of a nation due to historical, cultural, or ethnic connections. In the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, irredentist claims have been made by both Armenia and Azerbaijan, with Armenia supporting ethnic Armenians' aspirations for unification, and Azerbaijan asserting its territorial rights.

Ethnonationalism: A form of nationalism in which the nation is defined by a shared heritage, ethnicity, and culture. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is deeply rooted in ethnonationalism, as both Armenians and Azerbaijanis view the region as integral to their national identity and cultural history.

De Facto Statehood: The status of a region that operates with political and administrative independence without international recognition as a sovereign state. Until 2023, Nagorno-Karabakh operated as a de facto state under Armenian-backed governance, despite lacking legal recognition.

Pereyaslavization: A term derived from Soviet-era policies, referring to the strategic incorporation of ethnically diverse or contested regions into centralized governance structures, often through manipulation or force. This concept can be linked to how Soviet authorities managed Nagorno-Karabakh's autonomy within Azerbaijan, exacerbating tensions.

Major Actors Involved

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan, a key party in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, is a post-Soviet republic located in the South Caucasus. The country asserts sovereignty over Nagorno-Karabakh based on international recognition of its territorial integrity, as endorsed by the United Nations. Azerbaijan's primary goal is to re-establish full control over the region, viewing it as a matter of national pride and a cornerstone of its statehood. Following the 2020 war and the subsequent 2023 developments, Azerbaijan regained effective control over the region, forcing the Armenian population to flee. Its strong partnership with Turkey bolsters its military and political influence, while its energy resources, including oil and gas exports to Europe, provide it with strategic leverage.

Armenia

Armenia is a landlocked nation with deep historical, cultural, and religious ties to Nagorno-Karabakh, which it refers to as Artsakh. Armenia supported the ethnic Armenian population of the region politically, militarily, and economically for decades, advocating for their right to self-determination. Although it has faced significant defeats in recent years, Armenia continues to emphasize humanitarian concerns for displaced Armenians and calls for international attention to what it perceives as ethnic cleansing. Armenia maintains a strategic alliance with Russia through membership in the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), though its reliance on Moscow has been strained by recent developments in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Russia

Russia plays a dual role as both mediator and power broker in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Historically, it has maintained influence over both Armenia and Azerbaijan, supplying arms to both sides and positioning itself as a peacekeeper. Following the 2020 war, Russia deployed peacekeeping forces to Nagorno-Karabakh to monitor the ceasefire, although its role diminished after the 2023 Azerbaijani offensive. Russia's broader goal is to retain its dominance in the South Caucasus and prevent Western actors from gaining influence in the region, but its involvement in Ukraine has constrained its ability to act decisively.

Turkey

Turkey is Azerbaijan's closest ally, offering consistent military, economic, and diplomatic support. It frames its involvement as a defense of Azerbaijan's sovereignty, emphasizing the ethnic and cultural ties between the two nations. Turkey played a decisive role in Azerbaijan's military success in the 2020 war by supplying advanced drones and training. Beyond military interests, Turkey's engagement in the conflict strengthens its influence in the South Caucasus and

challenges Russia's regional dominance. Turkey's relationship with Armenia remains tense, although there have been sporadic attempts at normalization in recent years.

Iran

Sharing borders with both Armenia and Azerbaijan, Iran adopts a cautious approach to the conflict. While it officially supports Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, it is wary of Azerbaijani nationalism inspiring its own ethnic Azerbaijani population. Iran has also historically maintained good relations with Armenia as part of its strategy to counterbalance Turkey and Azerbaijan's growing regional influence. In the context of the conflict, Iran has called for peaceful resolution and offered to mediate, but its role is complicated by its geopolitical rivalry with Turkey and concerns over its internal stability.

United Nations

The United Nations (UN) recognizes Nagorno-Karabakh as part of Azerbaijan and has passed resolutions reaffirming Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. However, the UN has also highlighted the humanitarian consequences of the conflict, calling for the protection of civilian populations and the provision of aid. The UN's involvement is primarily through agencies like the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which focus on addressing displacement and ensuring access to humanitarian assistance.

European Union

The European Union (EU) plays a role as a mediator and supporter of peace initiatives in the South Caucasus. Through its Eastern Partnership program, the EU seeks to promote stability, good governance, and economic cooperation in the region.

It has provided humanitarian aid to displaced persons and hosted negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. While the EU does not take sides, it emphasizes the importance of a peaceful resolution that respects human rights and international law. Its strategic interest lies in securing energy supplies from Azerbaijan while fostering long-term stability in its neighborhood.

OSCE Minsk Group

The OSCE Minsk Group, co-chaired by Russia, the United States, and France, was established in 1992 to mediate the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. While it played a significant role in facilitating negotiations and proposing peace frameworks in the past, its influence has waned, especially following the 2020 war. Criticized for its lack of tangible results, the group remains a symbol of multilateral efforts to resolve the conflict peacefully. Its future relevance is uncertain, given the shifting dynamics in the region.

United States of America

The United States has played a multifaceted role in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, primarily as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group alongside Russia and France. The U.S. advocates for a peaceful resolution based on international law, balancing its relations with both Armenia and Azerbaijan. While supporting Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, the U.S. has also expressed concern for the rights and safety of the ethnic Armenian population in Nagorno-Karabakh. Through humanitarian aid and diplomatic initiatives, it seeks to promote stability in the region, while its broader interest lies in countering Russian and Iranian influence in the South Caucasus.

France

France, as another OSCE Minsk Group co-chair, has been particularly vocal in its support for Armenia, influenced by its significant Armenian diaspora. It has condemned actions by Azerbaijan that undermine the security of ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh and has advocated for stronger international monitoring of human rights in the region. France's stance reflects both its commitment to multilateral diplomacy and its geopolitical interest in maintaining influence in the South Caucasus.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The ICRC has been a critical humanitarian actor in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, providing aid to displaced populations, facilitating prisoner exchanges, and advocating for compliance with international humanitarian law. Operating independently, the ICRC bridges the gap between warring parties, ensuring that humanitarian needs are met even amid heightened tensions. Its presence underscores the importance of protecting civilian lives in conflict zones.

General Overview of the Issue

Historical Foundations: From Antiquity to Imperial Rule

Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous region in modern Azerbaijan, has been home to a predominantly Armenian population for centuries. Armenians trace their presence in the area back to antiquity, pointing to historical records, ancient monasteries, and cultural landmarks such as the Gandzasar and Dadivank monasteries. Meanwhile, Azerbaijani historians emphasize the influence of Turkic tribes and Persian governance, framing the region as an integral part of Azerbaijan's broader historical narrative. From the 16th to the 18th century, Nagorno-Karabakh was part of the Persian Empire, administered through semi-autonomous khanates.

The Karabakh Khanate, ruled by Muslim Turkic elites, exercised authority over a multi-ethnic population, including Armenians. During this period, Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh maintained a degree of cultural and religious autonomy, organizing themselves into melikdoms—local Armenian principalities that collaborated with Persian rulers while preserving their internal governance.

The geopolitical landscape shifted dramatically with the Russo-Persian Wars of the early 19th century. The Treaty of Gulistan (1813) and the Treaty of Turkmenchay (1828) ceded the South Caucasus, including Nagorno-Karabakh, to the Russian Empire. Russian rule introduced new administrative structures and population shifts. Armenians were encouraged to settle in Nagorno-Karabakh as part of broader Russian strategies to strengthen Christian populations in the region, creating friction with the Muslim communities.

The Collapse of Empires: 1918-1921

When the Russian Empire collapsed in 1917, the South Caucasus descended into chaos. Armenia and Azerbaijan declared independence in 1918, each laying claim to Nagorno-Karabakh. This period was marked by interethnic violence, including massacres and forced displacements. Azerbaijan asserted control over the region, citing the legacy of the Karabakh Khanate, while Armenians invoked their historical majority and cultural ties.

The territorial dispute escalated into open conflict. Clashes over Nagorno-Karabakh culminated in the creation of short-lived independent Armenian and Azerbaijani administrations in the region, which were quickly destabilized by violence. By 1920, both Armenia and Azerbaijan were absorbed into Soviet Russia, ending their brief independence but leaving the Nagorno-Karabakh question unresolved.

Soviet Era

Under Soviet rule, the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO) was established in 1923 within the Azerbaijani Soviet Socialist Republic. This decision, driven by Stalin's "divide and rule" strategy, aimed to balance power in the South Caucasus by fostering tensions that would require Moscow's mediation. Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh were granted limited autonomy, allowing for the use of the Armenian language and the practice of Christianity, while Azerbaijani authorities maintained political and economic control.

Throughout the Soviet era, Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh expressed grievances over economic neglect and cultural marginalization. Allegations of forced Azerbaijani settlement and restrictions on Armenian cultural expression fueled resentment. Despite repeated petitions to transfer Nagorno-Karabakh to the Armenian SSR, the Soviet leadership consistently rejected such demands, prioritizing political stability over local ethnic concerns.

The End of the USSR

The weakening of Soviet authority in the late 1980s reignited the conflict. In 1988, the NKAO's legislature voted to unite with Armenia, sparking violent riots and pogroms in both Armenia and Azerbaijan. As the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1991, Nagorno-Karabakh declared independence, a move supported by Armenia but rejected by Azerbaijan. This declaration triggered full-scale war, with Armenia and Azerbaijan mobilizing forces to claim the region.

The war, which lasted from 1991 to 1994, was characterized by brutal fighting and widespread atrocities. Armenian forces, with backing from Armenia and its diaspora, captured Nagorno-Karabakh and significant adjacent Azerbaijani territories, displacing hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis.

By the time a Russian-brokered ceasefire was signed in 1994, Nagorno-Karabakh had become a de facto independent state under Armenian control, though its independence was not recognized internationally.

Post-War Stalemate and Renewed Violence

For nearly three decades, Nagorno-Karabakh operated as a self-declared republic, heavily dependent on Armenian support. Negotiations mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group failed to resolve the conflict, as Armenia demanded self-determination for Nagorno-Karabakh while Azerbaijan insisted on territorial integrity. Sporadic violence continued along the ceasefire line, keeping the conflict simmering.

In 2020, the stalemate was broken by a six-week war. Azerbaijan, supported militarily and diplomatically by Turkey, launched a major offensive, reclaiming large portions of territory. Armed with advanced drones and precision weaponry, Azerbaijan's forces overwhelmed Armenian defenses. The war ended with a Russian-mediated ceasefire, granting Azerbaijan control over key areas and deploying Russian peacekeepers to monitor the situation.

The 2023 Offensive and Its Aftermath

In September 2023, Azerbaijan launched a lightning offensive, taking full control of Nagorno-Karabakh. This operation prompted the mass exodus of nearly all ethnic Armenians from the region, effectively ending their centuries-old presence. The international community criticized Azerbaijan's actions as ethnic cleansing, while Azerbaijan asserted its sovereignty and dismissed accusations of rights violations.

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has drawn the involvement of numerous international actors. Russia, traditionally the dominant power in the South Caucasus, has acted as both a mediator and military guarantor. However, its focus on Ukraine has reduced its regional influence, allowing Turkey to strengthen its role as Azerbaijan's key ally. Meanwhile, Iran has expressed concerns about destabilization near its borders, while Western powers like the United States and the European Union have sought to mediate but face challenges in countering entrenched Russian and Turkish influence.

The conflict remains a focal point of geopolitical competition, with its resolution complicated by deep-rooted historical grievances, competing nationalisms, and shifting alliances. Understanding the interplay of history, politics, and culture is crucial to addressing the enduring tensions in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Political Dynamics and Nationalism

At the heart of the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute is the issue of territorial sovereignty versus self-determination. For Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh is a critical part of its internationally recognized borders, and the government views the region as an integral part of its territorial integrity. Any attempt to create an independent Nagorno-Karabakh or to annex it to Armenia is seen as an existential threat to Azerbaijan's sovereignty. The narrative of territorial integrity is deeply embedded in Azerbaijani political rhetoric, with widespread support from the population, which views the loss of Nagorno-Karabakh as a source of national humiliation.

For Armenians, the situation is framed as a fight for self-determination and the preservation of their cultural and historical heritage. The Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh has long sought independence or union with Armenia, which they view as the legitimate homeland of ethnic Armenians.

This demand for self-determination is backed by strong nationalist sentiments within Armenia and the Armenian diaspora, which has consistently advocated for Nagorno-Karabakh's independence. Furthermore, Armenia perceives Azerbaijan as a threat to the security of ethnic Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh, citing past massacres and the displacement of Armenians during the previous wars.

The politics of the region are also influenced by the broader issue of regional power dynamics. Russia, as a traditional power broker in the Caucasus, has played an essential role in the region, often using its influence to mediate between Armenia and Azerbaijan. However, Russia's shifting priorities and weakened position due to its involvement in Ukraine have allowed other powers, particularly Turkey, to increase their influence. Turkey's firm support for Azerbaijan, both militarily and diplomatically, has intensified the conflict. Azerbaijan's reliance on Turkish support, especially in terms of advanced weaponry and strategic coordination, has shifted the regional balance of power, further complicating efforts at peace.

Geopolitical Interests and Regional Alliances

The geopolitical landscape surrounding the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is characterized by the involvement of several regional powers, each with its own interests in the outcome of the dispute. Turkey and Azerbaijan share close cultural, linguistic, and political ties, with Azerbaijan positioning itself as a close ally of Turkey in its struggle against Armenian claims to the region. Turkey's backing of Azerbaijan has been marked by the provision of military support, including the supply of advanced drone technology, as well as diplomatic advocacy. This alliance between Turkey and Azerbaijan has solidified in recent years, especially with the rise of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's more assertive foreign policy, which seeks to expand Turkey's influence in the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

On the other hand, Armenia, despite its own strategic alignment with Russia, has cultivated relations with other countries, particularly France and the United States, which have played a critical role in mediating peace talks and providing humanitarian aid. Russia's role, however, remains the most significant, as it has historically served as Armenia's primary security partner. Armenia is a member of the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), and Russia has provided military assistance to Armenia in the past. Nevertheless, Russia's growing alignment with Turkey, particularly in the context of the Syrian Civil War and other geopolitical conflicts, has caused some tension with Armenia, who feels increasingly isolated in its strategic alliances.

The conflict also has broader implications for the region's economic and energy landscape. Azerbaijan is a key player in global energy markets, especially through its oil and gas reserves, and its control over Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding territories enhances its ability to influence regional energy flows. Azerbaijan's relations with Turkey and its access to the Mediterranean through Turkey make it a critical player in the wider geopolitics of Central Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

Armenia, in contrast, is more geographically isolated and economically dependent on Russia for both security and energy needs. The economic hardship resulting from the blockade of the Lachin Corridor, which connects Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia, has strained Armenia's economy, and the country has relied on international aid from the European Union and the United States to survive. However, Armenia's political options remain limited, as its reliance on Russia and its strained relations with Azerbaijan complicate its ability to explore other avenues of diplomatic engagement.

Economic and Humanitarian Dimensions

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has had profound economic consequences for both Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as for the wider region. Both countries have been forced to allocate significant portions of their national budgets to military expenditures, diverting resources away from vital social and economic development initiatives. The destruction of infrastructure, displacement of populations, and the high cost of war recovery have placed immense strain on both economies.

Azerbaijan has benefited from its energy wealth, using its oil and gas resources to fuel military expansion and reconstruction projects. The economic boom enabled by the oil sector has allowed Azerbaijan to maintain a strong military and exert influence over neighboring states. In contrast, Armenia's economy has suffered due to its limited access to international markets, compounded by its ongoing blockade and the economic impact of the wars. The humanitarian toll, including the displacement of ethnic Armenians and Azerbaijanis, has left a lasting impact on both countries' populations.

The economic challenges are mirrored in the humanitarian situation, where tens of thousands of people have been displaced by the conflict, creating long-term refugee crises. The most recent mass exodus of ethnic Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh in 2023 left many people homeless and destitute. This new wave of displacement has exacerbated the existing refugee problem, with many Armenian families seeking refuge in Armenia and other countries. Conversely, Azerbaijan has also faced challenges with displaced populations in the wake of the earlier wars and the ongoing tensions.

Moreover, the conflict has had lasting cultural and social impacts on both societies. National identities in Armenia and Azerbaijan have become deeply intertwined with the conflict, with each side using historical narratives to justify their claims to Nagorno-Karabakh. Nationalism has been harnessed by political elites in both countries to mobilize public support and legitimize their policies.

Diplomatic Efforts

Efforts to mediate the conflict have been ongoing for decades, with the OSCE Minsk Group (co-chaired by the United States, France, and Russia) leading the most significant peace negotiations. Despite numerous ceasefires and peace talks, no lasting agreement has been reached. The complexities of the dispute, along with the entrenched positions of Armenia and Azerbaijan, have created significant barriers to progress.

The 1994 ceasefire left Nagorno-Karabakh in a state of limbo, and while it ended the immediate fighting, it failed to address the underlying political and territorial issues. Subsequent negotiations have struggled to balance Armenia's demand for the right to self-determination for Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan's insistence on maintaining its territorial integrity. The rise of nationalism, the influence of external powers, and the changing geopolitical environment have further complicated peace efforts.

In recent years, Russia's diminished influence and Turkey's growing involvement in supporting Azerbaijan have altered the balance of power, making it more difficult for traditional mediators to find a resolution. As Azerbaijan solidifies its control over Nagorno-Karabakh, the international community faces a difficult challenge in promoting reconciliation and fostering stability in the region.

Timeline of Important Events

Date	Event
1823	Russian Control of Nagorno-Karabakh
1918	Independence of Armenia and Azerbaijan
1923	Soviet Involvement in Nagorno-Karabakh
1988	Nagorno-Karabakh Uprising

1991	Declaration of Independence by Nagorno-Karabakh
1992-1994	Nagorno-Karabakh War
1994	Ceasefire Agreement
2016	Four-Day War
2020	Second Nagorno-Karabakh War
2020	Moscow Ceasefire Agreement
2023	Mass Exodus of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh

Related Documents

[UN Security Council Resolution 822 \(1993\)](#): Calls for an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of forces from occupied territories around Nagorno-Karabakh.

[UN Security Council Resolution 853 \(1993\)](#): Reinforces the need for a ceasefire and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

[UN Security Council Resolution 874 \(1993\)](#): Emphasizes the importance of dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan for a peaceful resolution.

[UN Security Council Resolution 884 \(1993\)](#): Continues to call for the implementation of previous resolutions and the initiation of peace negotiations.

Past Solution Attempts

Efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict have involved political, economic, and military measures, yet none have yielded a lasting resolution. Politically, the OSCE Minsk Group's mediation since 1992 aimed to balance Azerbaijan's territorial integrity with the ethnic Armenians' self-determination demands, but distrust between the parties and geopolitical competition among mediators undermined progress.

Ceasefire agreements in 1994 and 2020 temporarily halted hostilities but failed to address root causes, while EU and Russian peace proposals in recent years focused on border demarcation and reintegration of Nagorno-Karabakh into Azerbaijan but lacked robust enforcement mechanisms. Economically, Azerbaijan's post-2020 reconstruction efforts, coupled with international aid proposals, aimed to rebuild infrastructure and foster regional economic cooperation. However, resistance from displaced Armenian populations and ongoing tensions hampered these initiatives. Militarily, the First Nagorno-Karabakh War (1988–1994) left Armenia in control of the region but deepened ethnic divisions, while the Second War in 2020 saw Azerbaijan reclaim most of the territory, resulting in significant humanitarian crises. Azerbaijan's subsequent military campaigns and Armenia's complete withdrawal in 2023 led to the mass exodus of ethnic Armenians, raising international concerns over human rights violations and ethnic cleansing. These actions highlight the recurring failures of temporary solutions, the absence of trust-building, and the neglect of humanitarian considerations, all of which have perpetuated instability in the region. Sustainable peace requires comprehensive agreements that address political grievances, economic disparities, and the rights of all affected populations.

Possible Solutions

Resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict demands a deeply integrated approach that combines political agreements, security guarantees, economic cooperation, and humanitarian initiatives to address both immediate tensions and long-standing grievances. Politically, a comprehensive settlement must clearly outline Nagorno-Karabakh's governance structure, balancing Azerbaijan's sovereignty with provisions for significant autonomy and protections for ethnic Armenians. A neutral international mediator, free from vested geopolitical interests, should oversee this process, with guarantees from global powers or multilateral institutions to enforce the agreement. Security

measures, including the deployment of international peacekeeping forces, are critical to prevent further violence and to rebuild trust in ceasefire agreements. This could be complemented by demilitarized zones and joint security mechanisms involving both Armenian and Azerbaijani representatives under international supervision.

Economically, revitalizing the region requires collaborative projects, such as shared infrastructure developments, resource-sharing agreements, and incentives for regional trade that could tie the interests of both parties to peace. Investments in education, healthcare, and employment opportunities for residents of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas could serve as confidence-building measures and reduce the economic disparities fueling tensions. Humanitarian actions, including the facilitation of safe and voluntary return for displaced populations, reparations for those unable to return, and programs that promote cultural understanding, are vital.

These should be supported by international aid agencies and implemented through localized partnerships to ensure sustainability. Lastly, ongoing dialogue mechanisms—ranging from citizen diplomacy programs to high-level negotiations—must be institutionalized to address emerging issues and prevent future escalations. Long-term success will depend on the willingness of all actors to prioritize peace over nationalistic agendas and the sustained commitment of the international community to enforce and support the process.

Useful Links

[NAGORNO KARABAKH EXPLAINED](#)

[Armenia vs. Azerbaijan: Unpacking the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict || Peter Zeihan](#)

[Origins of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict](#)

[Azerbaijan's Siege of Nagorno-Karabakh Explained](#)

[Republic of Artsakh \(Nagorno-Karabakh\) | A "Country" that Disappeared?](#)

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