

**SECURITY COUNCIL**

Briefing Paper

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**Topics of debate:**

**The Question of Nagarno-Karabakh**

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is centrally concerned with the political disposition of the region situated within the South Caucasus, primarily encompassing territory within Azerbaijan but inhabited predominantly by ethnic Armenians. Historically, Nagorno-Karabakh has been characterized by its Armenian majority demographic, yet it was formally designated to Soviet Azerbaijan during the 1920s under the auspices of Joseph Stalin. The dissolution of the Soviet Union in the late 1980s catalysed escalating tensions between Armenian and Azerbaijani populations within Nagorno-Karabakh, ultimately culminating in a protracted armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan spanning from 1988 to 1994. The cessation of hostilities in 1994, brokered by Russia, yielded a ceasefire agreement; however, it failed to yield a definitive resolution to the conflict. Subsequently, Nagorno-Karabakh unilaterally declared independence as the Republic of Artsakh, a move unrecognized by the international community. Despite the ceasefire, intermittent eruptions of violence have punctuated the region’s stability, notably in 2016 and 2020.

At the crux of the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute lies the pivotal inquiry regarding the region's political status: whether it ought to be acknowledged as an independent sovereign entity, be assimilated into Armenia, or retain a measure of autonomy within Azerbaijan. The resolution of this quandary necessitates a multifaceted examination of principles concerning self-determination, territorial integrity, and the safeguarding of minority rights.

Persistent efforts to negotiate a sustainable resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict have involved diplomatic endeavours facilitated by international entities . However, despite these concerted efforts, the attainment of a comprehensive resolution has remained elusive, with the situation retaining an undercurrent of tension and the potential forfurther outbreaks of violence.

**Points to consider:**

* Methods to ensure peace between the two counties through achieving an agreement plan
* The establishment of placement for those displaced in order to ensure their safety
* Measures in place to uphold and protect minority rights
* What will your national response be?
* What should international response be?

**Useful websites**

<https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15418.doc.htm>

<https://www.azer.com/aiweb/categories/magazine/64_folder/64_articles/64_un_yasharaliyev.html>

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS\_ATA(2023)749774](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_ATA%282023%29749774)

**The question of Taiwan**

The question surrounding Taiwan concerns its political status and its relationship with China. Taiwan, officially recognised as the Republic of China (ROC), asserts its sovereignty as a separate state with an independent government, military, and democratic framework. Conversely, China regards Taiwan as an integral part of its territory and advocates for eventual reunification, with the possibility of resorting to force if necessary.

Since Chiang Kai-Shek’s death in 1975, Taiwan has morphed into one of Asia’s most successful economies. It has become a technology superpower, leading the world in the production of advanced microchips, and it has blossomed into a multiparty democracy. It has a vast amount to offer the world, but at the U.N., this potential is stifled by China’s lobbying. Taiwan is a responsible global actor, contributing to international efforts from public health to disaster relief. However, its exclusion from international organisations impedes its ability to help address global challenges.

Disregarding the existence of Taiwan has led to increasingly untenable circumstances. Taiwanese journalists encounter consistent rejection in their efforts to access United Nations (U.N.) organisations. A notable incident occurred when Taiwanese students were barred from attending a session on the Human Rights Commission in Geneva due to the non-recognition of their passports as valid documentation by U.N. officials.

The origins of the Taiwan issue can be traced back to the Chinese Civil War in the 1940s, culminating in the retreat of the ROC government to Taiwan in 1949. Since that time, Taiwan has been governed independently from mainland China. Despite lacking widespread international acknowledgment as a sovereign state, Taiwan functions as a de facto autonomous entity with its own governance structures, economic systems, and diplomatic engagements. The unresolved status of Taiwan evokes considerable controversy and sensitivity, with potential ramifications for regional stability and global diplomacy. Attempts to address this issue have been hindered by geopolitical complexities, conflicting sovereignty claims, and Taiwan's insistence on maintaining its autonomy. Consequently, the matter remains unresolved, characterised by ongoing diplomatic manoeuvres and periodic escalations of tensions between Taiwan and China

**Points to consider:**

* The importance of constructive engagement and negotiation to address differences and build mutual trust
* Prioritize regional stability and security by promoting dialogue and cooperation among relevant stakeholders, including China, Taiwan, the United States, and other countries with interests in the region.
* Ways to encourage constructive dialogue and exchanges between mainland China and Taiwan to reduce tensions and foster mutual understanding.

**Useful websites**

<http://gm.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/sgxw/202208/P020220810850182763063.pdf>

<http://th.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/ztbd/twwt/><https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/focus/en/features/z0405_00011.html>

**The Question of the Colonisation of the Moon**

The question of the colonization of the Moon encompasses various scientific, technological, ethical, and legal considerations. As humanity advances in space exploration, particular with the ambition of establishing a sustained presence beyond Earth, the Moon stands as a compelling target due to its proximity and resource potential.

Scientifically, lunar colonization offers opportunities for further research into lunar geology, the origins of the solar system, and potential insights into Earth's history. Moreover, the Moon could serve as a testing ground for technologies and systems necessary for deeper space exploration, such as life support, habitats, and resource utilization.

Technologically, significant advancements are required to make lunar colonization feasible and sustainable. This includes developing robust and efficient transportation systems, constructing habitats capable of withstanding the lunar environment, and establishing reliable methods for resource extraction and utilization.

Ethically, the colonization of the Moon raises questions about equitable access to space and the responsible stewardship of celestial bodies. Considerations must be made to ensure that lunar exploration and utilization benefit all of humanity and do not exacerbate existing disparities or create new forms of exploitation.

Legally, the governance of lunar activities is governed by international treaties and agreements, such as the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, which prohibits the appropriation of celestial bodies by any means. However, as commercial and governmental entities increasingly express interest in lunar exploration and utilization, there is a need for clearer regulatory frameworks to address issues such as property rights, environmental protection, and liability.

**Useful websites**

<https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/treaties/moon-agreement.html>

<https://www.britannica.com/question/What-happened-on-Neil-Armstrongs-Apollo-11-mission>

**Points to consider:**

* Colonizing the Moon could provide unique opportunities for scientific research and exploration
* Colonizing the Moon could have environmental consequences, including the disruption of pristine lunar landscapes and the potential release of contaminants into the lunar environment.
* Ways to mitigate the risks of living on the moon - numerous safety and health risks, including exposure to radiation, microgravity-induced health issues, and psychological challenges associated with isolation and confinement. 