

FORUM: Legal Committee (GA6)

QUESTION OF: Examining principles of public international law in the context of self-determination and national sovereignty

SUBMITTED BY: Rwanda

CO-SUBMITTED BY: Australia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Israel, India, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Ukraine

THE 6TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE,

Recognizing that self-determination is a fundamental principle of international law enshrined in Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights,

Reaffirming the importance of the universal recognition of peoples' right to self-determination enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations to guarantee the observance of human rights,

Acknowledging the complex interaction between self-determination and national sovereignty in cases of secession, autonomy movements, and territorial disputes, and concerned by instances where claims to self-determination have incited separatist violence, undermined peace, or caused economic strain,

Recalling its resolutions 78/193 of 22 December 2023, 78/208, 1514 (XV), and 2625 (XXV),

Reaffirming that democracy is a universal value based on the will of people to determine their own political, economic, social, and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives, and that while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and that democracy does not belong to any country or region, and reaffirming further the necessity of due respect for sovereignty and the right to self-determination,

Further reaffirming every state's right to independently make its own security policy choices as stated in article 2 (7) of the United Nations Charter,

Alarmed by the diminishing attention on the continued Russian aggression in Ukraine, and emphasizing that anything other than Russia's failure in Ukraine would fuel their military power further into Europe and motivate other authoritarian powers to do the same,

1. Suggests the establishment of the United Nations Council of Ombudsmen for the Decisions of Land (UNCODL), a subsidiary United Nations (UN) body which will be formed by a collection of legal experts, each representing and appointed by their respective nation as to ensure equal representation, whose aim will be determining which group or peoples have claim to an expanse of land during diplomatic talks regarding thereof, processes during which a multitude of factors will be considered before reaching a decision, such as, but not limited to:

- a) historical ties,
 - b) cultural connections,
 - c) the religious significance of the area,
 - d) military-related aspects;
2. Calls for the establishment of a clear legal framework for all member states on national autonomy, sovereignty and self-determination, so as to ensure no external interference in:
- a) political procedures,
 - b) economic relationships,
 - i. all Member States are allowed to self-determination,
 - ii. all Member States maintain sovereignty, keeping a government that is stable and can appropriately govern the country;
3. Requests the development of the appropriate regulations to provide support on weaker member-state governments, in order to ensure they are able to maintain sovereignty and stability within their borders, while making sure not to affect its right to self-determination, by providing aid such as:
- a) economical support to:
 - i. maintain a substantial standard of living,
 - ii. develop required infrastructure,
 - b) humanitarian assistance protecting the people's:
 - i. human rights,
 - ii. wellbeing,
 - iii. beliefs,
 - c) health aid towards citizens,
 - d) social reinforcement to the government;
4. Suggests that all Member States adopt measures to protect and preserve cultural heritage, as a means for strengthening national stability, through:
- a) digitalization projects funded by and monitored by the state, conducted by teams of experts as for the information preserved to be accurate and bias to be minimized,

- b) cultural dissemination actions in media, organized by a collaborative effort of media and heritage experts as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in an effort to broaden the spread of cultural knowledge and awareness,
 - c) workshops promoting cultural connection through focusing on traditional arts and crafts, local music and cuisine,
 - d) Enforcing laws and through collaborations with NGOs such as United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a means of protecting pieces of local history;_
5. Recommends the development of educational programs which will foster understanding and respect for national sovereignty by focusing on:
- a) creating school curricula which include educational programs, in which diverse cultural, historical and political perspectives will be the main focus, so that citizens can understand the true importance of both self-determination and national sovereignty,
 - b) public awareness campaigns in order to respect each other while co-operating for a common purpose, which will emphasize how different groups can live peacefully in the same territorial group,
 - c) the creation of training programs for government officials, mediators and diplomats to effectively address self-determination issues and promote peace while also staying in line with the international law;
6. Supports the role of international courts in resolving disputes between self-determination and national sovereignty in order to by means such as but not limited to:
- a) interpreting and applying International Laws and the rules surrounding self-determination, such as those in the United Nations Charter,
 - b) acting as a neutral party that prevents escalation of violence,
 - c) providing advisory opinions to clarify ambiguities in international law,
 - d) ensuring all parties receive a fair and impartial hearing, in accordance with international legal standards and human rights protections.
7. Urges the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to provide financial incentives to post-conflict zones so as to uphold the national sovereignty of the affected states, through:
- a) official development assistance allowing for infrastructure building and reduction of states' dependency on foreign actors thus safeguarding sovereignty,

- b) regional investment projects such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), encouraging international cooperation and large-scale development within countries.