

SOCHUM

SECRETARÍA GENERAL ADJUNTA DE NACIONES UNIDAS



MUNUS
Model United Nations Universidad de La Sabana

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1. LETTER FROM THE DAIS

Esteemed delegates,

As presidents of the Social, Cultural and Humanitarian committee, we are delighted to welcome you to MUNUS 2019, convinced that it will be a chance to discover the wonder of learning, the courage of persevering, and the joy of growing in mind and spirit. As a first instance, it is important to remember how the United Nations was created specifically for true leaders: people with a sense of solidarity, patience, wisdom and discipline but, mostly, with a sense of proactiveness: you must study, investigate, ask, observe and create.

Your words and ideas should focus on justice and teamwork in order to achieve your goals as delegates and human beings. Seeing that, don't believe in what you have done, but rather in what you can do, just because, as your guides, grand expectations have been placed on each and everyone one of you. In SOCHUM, we believe in hard work and thorough research. We believe in a world asking for young minds to search for solutions and stability. We believe in the topic to be discussed as an opportunity for changing lives. We believe in strategy and fair play. But, most importantly, we believe in you!

Moreover, having confidence that you will find the Models of United Nations just as charming as we have, please do not hesitate on contacting us for any advice concerning MUNUS or any other future model. As your mentors and family, you have the chair's full availability and effort to assure a great committee.

All the best and kind regards,

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2. FUNCTIONING OF THE UN SECRETARIAT

For this version of MUNUS, the four committees of the UN Secretariat will work in an interconnected way. For achieving such goal, a situational room has been established, which will be a transverse axis of the Secretariat. Furthermore, the situational room has the power to summit all the Secretariat's committees, in order to develop a General Assembly. If summoned, the General Assembly will work under the parameters established by the situational room and under the rules set by the Handbook. In order to deepen on the functioning of the situational room, we have arranged a guide explaining the dynamics of the mentioned situational room.

The situational room looks to establish a solid connection between each committee and to contribute with the development of the committee. This room is composed by 4 expert advisers, who have an area of expertise, which are economics, politics, laws and humanitarian situation.

Furthermore, the Secretariat will be connected with Press Corps. Therefore, UN Journal and UN Radio delegates will have access to the information discussed during the debates, as well as access to the sessions.

3. INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

3.1. Committee's history

The General Assembly (GA) agenda is extremely abundant, making it extremely inefficient, if not logistically impossible, to properly address each and every element during General Debate. Thus, the agenda is divided between the GA's six committees to allow smaller groups to explore more effectively into the issues at hand.

The Committee on Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs (SOCHUM, for its acronym in English: Social, cultural and humanitarian) exists as the Third Committee of six in the General Assembly. It was established in 1947, as the others GA's committees, and it follows the rules of the GA, which is indicated in the Charter of the United Nations. The membership of the SOCHUM includes all 193 member states. In addition, non-member states and other entities recognized by the UN as permanent observers may attend and participate in meetings, but they cannot vote. (United Nations, third committee, 2019).

3.2. Committee's mandate and scope

SOCHUM focuses on assigning agenda to items exclusively related to a number of social and humanitarian issues, were

human rights may be at stake. It discusses, as well, topics associated to the progress of women, the protection of children, the welfare of indigenous groups, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination.

The committee tackles, not less importantly, questions about social development, were youth, aging, disability, prevention of crimes, penal justice and international inspection of drugs constitute a fundamental branch of the committee's investigation. Taking the latter into account, by means of recommendations expressed in the resolutions dropped by this honorable committee, the assigned States are committed to look for viable solutions to the problematics to be treated and the help it shall be needed.

3.3. Committee's functions

The third committee is the most important subsidiary organ in human rights, social and cultural matters of the United Nations. Through resolutions that are not binding for the states, regarding that are oriented to work as recommendations for the state's member of this committee, SOCHUM pretends to decrease the social crises that are around the world, based specifically on the topics of its mandate and scope.

Given that SOCHUM is a committee under the General Assembly, it does not have the independent power to pass resolutions. Rather, during SOCHUM's sessions, which occur concurrently with those of the GA, members draft regulations to then be presented for debate in the General Assembly.

3.4. Committee's context.

In this edition of MUNUS, the committee will be specializing on matters concerning on ethnic threats, cultural and social identity crisis of the people from South Ossetia against Georgia, and, the migration as a consequence of the conflict in South Ossetia. These topics are to be addressed with the true purpose of unleashing the very core of the territories present conflict, in order to protect achieve peace and plausible solutions for a population that stands within nothing more to hold on to than what the United Nations can grant them.

4. TOPIC A: ETHNIC THREAT, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL IDENTITY CRISIS OF THE PEOPLE FROM SOUTH OSSETIA AGAINST GEORGIA

4.1 Introduction

As it is of common knowledge, the Soviet Union reached an end on the 20th century. Its strategy once helped them to gain immense territories and multiple earnings that would benefit the people who inhabited these lands. But, with its disintegration, the once powerful Soviet Union didn't just leave geopolitical and economical sequels among their path, but a worse consequence: the sense of humanity was lost. The Asian and Oriental Europe continents suddenly found themselves between an identity war against themselves, and a conflict started raging due to differences between cultures or invasions in not welcomed territories. Health was precarious and food scarce.

This is why, following the line of occurred events, South Ossetian and Georgian hostilities began 1989, just after Georgia gained recognition as an independent state and refused to acknowledge the autonomy of regions such as South Ossetia and Abkhazia, creating great tension.

The fight resulted in a humanitarian crisis that still rages currently, with around 80 ethnic groups being threatened, thousands of Georgians being expelled from South Ossetia, more than 7,000 casualties due to burnt building and numerous razed villages. This conflict has brought as a result an identity problem suffered by South Ossetians, as well as Georgians, as religions don't seem to have strong roots that allow them to defend themselves morally and identify their own mandates, causing the country that was thought to be a country, to no longer be one.

The population got used to living among disillusion and a failing democracy with a nationwide depression that needs to be stopped. The history and richness behind each culture, along with an enhanced self-respect, are the key to save them, and it is the job of the SOCHUM delegates to unleash all the factors and to create a long-term, realistic and stable solution in order to find peace between Russia, Georgia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia and stop the violation of the human rights and suffering lives.

4.2. Georgian-Ossetian conflict

The conflict between South Ossetia and Georgia was an ethno-political conflict over Georgia's former autonomous region of South Ossetia, which evolved in 1989 and developed into a 1991–1992 South Ossetia War. Despite

a declared ceasefire and numerous peace efforts, the conflict remained unresolved. In August 2008, military tensions and clashes between Georgia and South Ossetian separatists erupted into the Russo-Georgian War.

During the five-day conflict, 170 servicemen, 14 policemen, and 228 civilians from Georgia were killed and 1,747 wounded. Sixty-seven Russian servicemen were killed and 283 were wounded, and 365 South Ossetian servicemen and civilians (combined) were killed, according to an official EU fact-finding report about the conflict. (CNN, 2019).

4.2.1 Timeline regarding the Russo-Georgian war:

The Russo-Georgian, according to the Atlantic Council, a report from the Official Journal of the European Union and to CNN worldwide, it might be understood in a timeline:

“1918-1921 - Georgia is briefly an independent state after separating from the Russian Empire.

1921 - After the Red Army invasion, Georgia and Abkhazia are declared Soviet Socialist republics.

1922 - The South Ossetia Autonomous Oblast is created within Georgia.

1931 - Abkhazia's status is reduced to an autonomous republic within Georgia.

1990 - South Ossetia declares its independence from Georgia.

April 9, 1991 - Georgia declares independence.

1991-1992 - Civil war breaks out in Georgia. Zviad Gamsakhurdia is deposed as president.

1992 - Abkhazia declares its independence from Georgia, leading to armed conflict.

October 1992 - Eduard Shevardnadze is elected to lead Georgia. He is re-elected in 1995 and 2000.

September 1993 - Abkhazian separatist forces defeat the Georgian military.

October 1993 - Georgia joins the Commonwealth of Independent States.

May 1994 - A ceasefire is agreed upon and signed between the Georgian government and Abkhaz separatists. Russian peacekeeping forces are deployed to the area.

October 2001 - Fighting resumes between Abkhaz troops and Georgian paramilitaries. Russia states that it believes Georgia is harboring Chechen rebels, a claim denied by Georgia.

September 2002 - Russian President Vladimir Putin sends a letter to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, UN Security Council members, and members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe stating that Georgia must respond to accusations they are harboring Chechen militants or face military action from Russia.

October 2002 - Tensions with Russia are defused after Shevardnadze, Georgia's president, promises to work with Russia to fight Chechen rebels.

November 2003 - Shevardnadze is forced to leave office in the "Rose Revolution."

July 2005 - Under terms of a deal reached in May, Russia starts to withdraw its troops from two Soviet-era military bases.

May-June 2006 - Tensions between Georgia and Russia rise again when Georgia demands that Russian peacekeepers in South Ossetia have visas.

November 12, 2006 - A referendum is voted upon in which South Ossetians overwhelmingly demand independence.

November 2007 - Russia announces that it has withdrawn its troops that had been based in Georgia since 1991. It retains a peacekeeping presence in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

April 3, 2008 - NATO members at a summit in Bucharest, Romania, defer the decision on Georgia and Ukraine's admittance until December 2008.

April 21, 2008 - Georgia accuses Russia of shooting down an unmanned drone over Abkhazia on April 20. Russia denies the claim.

April 29, 2008 - Russia sends more troops to Abkhazia to counter what it says are Georgia's plans for an attack.

May 26, 2008 - A UN investigation concludes that the drone shot down on April 21 was struck by a missile from a Russian fighter jet.

May 30-31, 2008 - Russia sends several hundred unarmed troops to Abkhazia, saying they are needed for railway repairs. Georgia accuses Russia of planning a military intervention.

August 7-8, 2008 - Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili sends troops into South Ossetia. Russia responds by moving its troops to the border, flying aircraft over Georgia, and beginning air strikes in South Ossetia.

August 8, 2008 - The United States, United Kingdom and NATO call for a cease fire of military hostilities by both Russia and Georgia.

August 9, 2008 - A delegation of EU and US diplomats head to Georgia to resolve escalating tensions.

August 10, 2008 - Russia moves tanks and soldiers through South Ossetia and into Georgia proper, advancing towards the city of Gori.

August 12, 2008 - Russia calls a halt to its military incursion into Georgia and agrees to a six-point diplomatic push for peace. The plan is announced by French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

August 13, 2008 - US President George W. Bush announces humanitarian aid is to be sent to Georgia. It is also announced that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will be sent to France and Georgia for a diplomatic mission.

August 15, 2008 - Saakashvili signs a cease fire agreement with Russia. The deal is brokered by Sarkozy.

August 16, 2008 - Medvedev signs the cease fire agreement.

August 22, 2008 - Russia partially withdraws its troops from Georgia, as part of the cease fire agreement. Russia maintains soldiers at checkpoints near the disputed territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

August 26, 2008 - Medvedev signs an order recognizing the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. In

response, President Bush releases a statement saying, in part, "The United States condemns the decision by the Russian president to recognize as independent states the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia...The territorial integrity and borders of Georgia must be respected, just as those of Russia or any other country."

July 2009 - UN observers leave Georgia after nearly 16 years. The mission was not extended due to a Russian veto.

September 2009 - A report from an EU fact-finding mission determines that historical tensions and overreaction on the part of both Russia and Georgia contributed to the five-day conflict. Georgia's attack on the South Ossetian capital of Tskhinvali on the night of August 7 is seen as the start of the armed conflict, however the report notes that the attack was the culmination of years of increasing tensions, provocations and incidents.

January 27, 2016 - The Hague-based International Criminal Court authorizes a probe into possible war crimes committed by Russian, Georgian and South Ossetian forces during the conflict." (CNN, 2019).

"The 2008 Georgian War was Russia's first successful military action outside of its borders since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The invasion came on the heels of Russian President Vladimir Putin's now famous imperialist revival

speech at the 2007 Munich Security Conference, where he launched into a long tirade against the West, enumerating Russia's grievances and posturing to regain a global superpower status." (Atlantic Council, 2018).



Image 1: Russo-Georgian War territorial description.

To deeply understand and realize the consequences, history and the importance of the Russo-Georgian War, the delegates recommend the delegates to read the report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Conflict in Georgia, which can be found at the recommended bibliography.

4.3 What is an ethnic threat?

The meaning of the word ethnic can be found on the Cambridge Dictionary, and is related to a race of people. In this case, the ethnic groups located at South Ossetia and the ones that came to Georgia are being discriminated by the counterpart and, nevertheless, those groups are losing their identity in the wake of the huge number of migrants.

Besides that, the Article 2 of the UN Universal Declaration of the Human Rights expresses that: "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty".

However, that principle of non-discrimination is not being respected at all in this sociocultural context, mainly when that article refers about the national or social origin and the territory to which a person belongs.

4.4 What is a cultural and social identity crisis?

In firsthand, it is needed to define both concepts to relate them with the South Ossetian and Georgian crisis. Then, the social identity can be understood as “a person’s sense of who they are based on their group membership(s).” (Simple Psychology, 2008).

The cultural identity can be understood as:

“all the things that make up a certain way of life or living. That includes all the beliefs and values, language, customs, style of dress, food, song, and stories that belong to a group of people. A person's cultural identity comes from the way they take certain aspects of each of the cultures they belong to and use them to shape and define who they are. [...] For some people, culture is more about the families you create rather than your birth heritage. This could mean a local club, community group or sports team.” (Common Ground, 2019).

Taking into account both definitions and relating them to the South Ossetian and Georgian context, we can affirm that one of the principal consequences of the conflict is the crisis of the social and cultural identity, alluding to the civilians. It configures a huge problem to their statehood, patriotism and nationalism, because they are not identifying themselves with their country, their folk and their culture.

5. TOPIC B: MIGRATION AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE CONFLICT IN SOUTH OSSETIA

5.1. Introduction

Population in South Ossetia have experimented the worse secondary effects a war could present. According to statistics, more than 18,000 Ossetian refugees from Georgia were obliged to migrate, due to violence and tough living conditions, to North Ossetia. Additionally, 23,000 ethnic Georgians were driven out of South Ossetia, causing a severe sudden mix up of cultures in countries such as Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, among others.

The persecution, low human rights, poverty and failing economy have pushed citizens from an area of 3,900 km² into a possible prison, the Russian Republic of North Ossetia, as most of the refugees will be unable to go back to their natal towns after the leave.

The whole international community has been a continuous viewer of the tragedy and it is the job of close-by countries to define the whereabouts and well-being of thousands of innocents at stake. It is important to bear in mind, as well,

the consequences migration might cause along all territories and nations in the world if measures are not correctly taken.

5.2 What is migration?

According to the IOM (International Organization for Migration), the migration consists on:

“the movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a State. It is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification.” (IOM, 2019, Key Migration Terms).

Is important to try to understand the causes of this phenomenon, that can be seen according to different causes, such as:

5.2.1. Data

Over 80 ethnic groups live in Georgia, the largest, and politically most significant, ones being Georgians, Armenians, Russians, Abkhaz and South Ossetians:

Ossetians (67%), Georgians (25%), Russians (3%), Armenians (1.3%), Jews (0.9%), others (2.6%). (Cornell, 2001)

- Better living conditions;
- Access to health care;
- Access to good education;
- Better employment prospects;
- Higher wages.

Also, the migration can bring with it many effects. Some of them are:

- Healthcare and education services can become strained;
- A large influx of migrants can lead to housing shortages;
- Cultural differences can lead to racial tensions;
- The welfare system can become strained if migrants claim benefits.

Table 1: Population of all Georgia Including the Regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and Population Living in the Autonomous Region of Abkhazia, Whole and by Ethnicity, 1989

	Total	Percentage	Of whom: Located In Abkhazia	Percent of population of Abkhazia
Whole population	5,400,841	100.0%	525,061	100.0%
Georgians	3,787,393	70.1%	239,872	45.7%
Armenians	437,211	8.1%	76,541	14.6%
Russians	341,172	6.3%	74,913	14.2%
Azeris	307,556	5.7%	-	-
Ossetians	164,055	3.0%	-	-
Greeks	100,324	1.8%	14,664	2.8%
Abkhazians	95,853	1.8%	93,267	17.8%
Ukrainians	52,443	1.0%	-	-
Kurds	33,331	0.6%	-	-
Jews	24,795	0.5%	-	-
Other	56,708	1.0%	-	-

Source: for Georgia, the Census 2002 publication; for Abkhazia www.abkhazia.org/georgia.html

Image 2: Georgian Census in 2002

4.3. Geographic information

4.3.1 Territorial boundaries:

South Ossetia is located along Georgia's northern frontier in the Caucasus Mountains, bordering North Ossetia, a republic of the Russian Federation. The region is surrounded to the south, east, and west by undisputed Georgian territories (Human Rights Watch, 2009).



Image 3: Territorial boundaries of the Caucasus region.

5. EXTRACTS TO BEAR IN MIND FROM THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Article 2 of the UN Universal Declaration of the Human Rights:

“Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty”.

Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations:

“The Organization and its Members, in pursuit of the Purposes stated in Article 1, shall act in accordance with the following Principles.

1. The Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members.
2. All Members, in order to ensure to all of them the rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall fulfill in good faith the

obligations assumed by them in accordance with the present Charter.

3. All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.

4. All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.

5. All Members shall give the United Nations every assistance in any action it takes in accordance with the present Charter and shall refrain from giving assistance to any state against which the United Nations is taking preventive or enforcement action.

6. The Organization shall ensure that states which are not Members of the United Nations act in accordance with these Principles so far as may be necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security.

7. Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter; but this principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII.”

Taking into the international law and its principles, Article 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice:

“1. The Court, whose function is to decide in accordance with international law such disputes as are submitted to it, shall apply:

a. international conventions, whether general or particular, establishing rules expressly recognized by the contesting states;

b. international custom, as evidence of a general practice accepted as law;

c. the general principles of law recognized by civilized nations;

d. subject to the provisions of Article 59, judicial decisions and the teachings of the most highly qualified publicists of the various nations, as subsidiary means for the determination of rules of law.

2. This provision shall not prejudice the power of the Court to decide a case *ex aequo et bono*, if the parties agree thereto.”

6. GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

1. **CASUALTIES:** A person killed or injured in a war or accident. (Oxford dictionary, 2019).
2. **DISCRIMINATION:** Treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction in favor of or against, a person or thing based on the group, class, or category to which that person or thing belongs rather than on individual merit. (Dictionary.com, 2010).
3. **ETHNIC:** Relating to a group of people having common racial, national, religious, or cultural origins. (Definitions, 2019).

4. **MIGRANT:** Someone who changes his or her country of usual residence, irrespective of the reason for migration or legal status. (Refugees and Migrants, 2019).

7. QARMAS

- Are the territorial conflicts the true causes and possible directions for solutions in the identity crisis suffered by Georgians and South Ossetians?
 - To what extent the Russian nation is obliged to neutrally support the conflict between Georgia and South Ossetia, and with which kind of resources?
 - In what way is your country willing to ensure security to the people who are currently being threatened in a humanitarian context?
 - Which kind of humanitarian measures may, and must the international community enhance in order to solve the conflict and help the people?
 - In which specific ways may the neighboring countries control the high migration rates presented, with the true purpose of protecting their own population and the migrant's rights as human beings?
- How is the international community committed to maintaining peace between two cultures and territories in dispute, bearing in mind the consequences any kind of intervention might bring upon?
 - What is the best long-term solution in order to prevent more violence being presented in regional groups of both Georgian and South Ossetian territories?
 - Are there going to be any special regulations enhanced by a specific neutral country as a solution for the ethnic threats presented?
 - Regarding the people who have been affected, will there be any kind of reparations?
 - What measures should be taken by the United Nations in order to complement existing international agreements?
 - Which international entities or regional bodies could help to solve the crisis?



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