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On the Eve of Its 80th Anniversary: Rethinking the Ethos of the United Nations

On October 24, 1945, the United Nations Charter officially came into force, marking the establishment of the United Nations — the most prominent and influential international organization in our Home Globe. In the year 2025, we proudly commemo-

rate the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

The Republic of Azerbaijan, which restored its independence on October 18, 1991, was admitted to the UN membership shortly thereafter on March 2, 1992.



Azerbaijan closely cooperates with the main organs, specialized and other agencies of the UN. Azerbaijan's non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for the period of 2012-2013 can be considered significant in this context. The convening of such a momentous international forum as COP29—dedicated to addressing the climate crisis, the foremost existential challenge confronting our planet—in Azerbaijan serves as yet another testament to the profound confidence and recognition the global community places in our country. The initiatives undertaken by Azerbaijan, in its capacity as the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement under the auspices of the United Nations during the



COVID-19 pandemic—one of the gravest challenges confronting humanity—are of historic significance and enduring value. It is an undeniable fact that Azerbaijan has continued to develop its cooperation with relevant international institutions, especially the UN, in the fields of peace and security, development and human rights over the last 33 years. Established in 2011 under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA) has since served as a pivotal instrument of the country's foreign policy, extending humanitarian assistance to a wide array of nations across the globe. ASAN Service, embodying the principles of modernity, transparency, efficiency, and citizen-centric governance in the delivery of public services in Azerbaijan, stands as a pioneering model admired globally.

According to the order signed by the President of Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, 2025 has officially declared as the Year of Constitution and Sovereignty. This is because the concepts of Constitution and Sovereignty are regarded as sacred within Azerbaijan's understanding of statehood. And the reason for this is clear.

Since the dawn of the humanity, the necessity for norms has been evident, arising from human beings' capacity of reason and free will. Norms were established to safeguard the human mind/capacity of reason from descending into malevolence. Another crucial point that warrants emphasis is that the so-called "Wild World/Wild Nature"—which I personally find a misnomer—requires no normative structures, whereas norms are absolutely indispensable for human society.

Let us recall a deeply bitter truth — in 2019, the World Health Organization found it necessary to explain how we ought to wash our hands. Among the core



principles of the peace agreement proposed by Azerbaijan to Armenia in 2022 were respect for the **Sovereignty** and **Territorial Integrity** of the neighboring country. The number of examples reflecting bitter realities that should have no place in the 21st century—and which deal a blow to our level of civilization—can easily be multiplied.

In ancient Greece and even in Confucianism had a concept/goal of Common Good. The concept of Common Good, which has developed over time with the influence of various religious, political, ideological, conjunctural processes and other factors throughout the history, maintains its essence. This is **Civilization of Peaceful Coexistence**.

- The main idea of Confucianism was: “Do not impose on others what you yourself do not desire”.
- Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was saying: “He is not a believer whose stomach is filled while his neighbour goes hungry”. This approach may be regarded as a lasting and comprehensive remedy to a wide spectrum of the pressing challenges confronting the contemporary world.
- Plato argued that a just society is one where everyone fulfills their role for the benefit of the whole. According to Plato the common good is linked to justice, harmony, and the moral development of citizens.
- Aristotle defined the common good as the flourish-



ing (eudaimonia) of all citizens through virtue and civic participation.

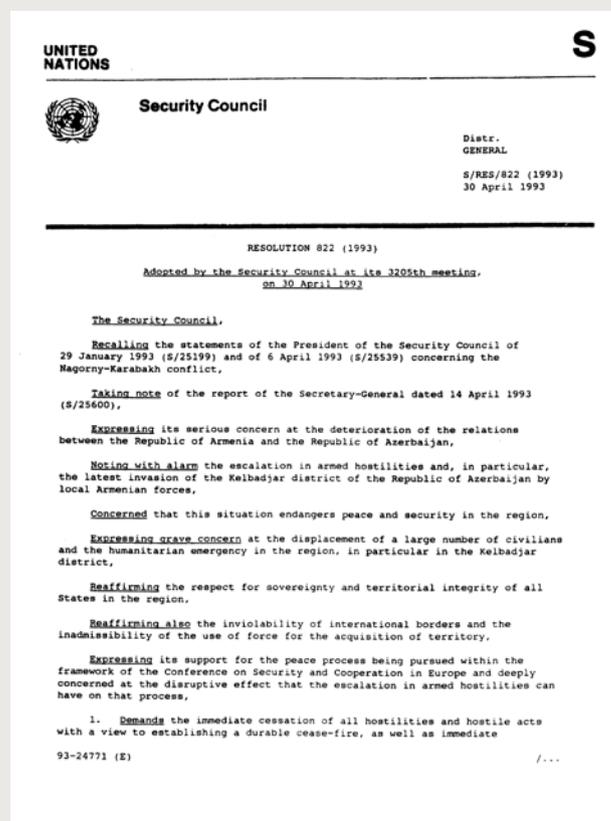
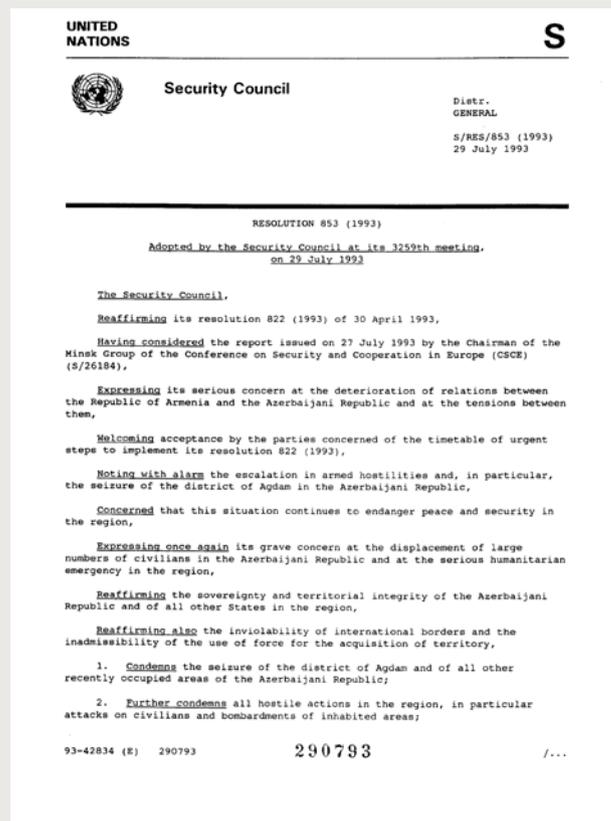
- Cicero was advocating for laws that serve the common welfare.
- Al-Farabi envisioned the ideal society as one that aims toward the perfection and happiness of all its members - collective happiness/common good is achieved through the development of moral and intellectual virtues.
- St. Thomas Aquinas defined the common good as the purpose of law and governance: peace, justice, and the flourishing of the community in alignment with divine law.



- Enlightenment thinkers like Jean-Jacques Rousseau argued that the general will (the collective interest) represents the common good.

If everyone attempts to declare and impose their own version of “the good” upon the society they live in, chaos becomes inevitable. It is not the individual’s benefit, but that which is reasonable and serves the Common Good of all, that constitutes the demand of **Universal Ethos**. We can assert that this understanding holds true on a broader scale for the global community as well. The most comprehensive document serving the Common Good of the world society is the UN Charter. The advancement of our **level of civilization** is directly proportional to the strengthening of the UN Charter’s constitutional authority.

The devastating consequences of the First World War prompted humanity to recall the notion of the Common Good. In response, the League of Nations was established, and a (weak) mechanism was designed to secure global peace. Unfortunately, within the prevailing atmosphere shaped by the demands of humanity’s then-level of civilization, the League of Nations was stillborn. The absence of an effective mechanism to secure world peace flung the doors wide open to the Second World War. The tragic aftermath of the Second World War gave rise to a new organization—the United Nations—emerging from the ashes of the League of Nations. The objectives of the United Nations—an





UNITED NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL
S/RES/874 (1993)
14 October 1993

RESOLUTION 874 (1993)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 3292nd meeting,
on 14 October 1993

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 822 (1993) of 30 April 1993 and 853 (1993) of 29 July 1993, and recalling the statement read by the President of the Council, on behalf of the Council, on 18 August 1993 (S/26326),

Having considered the letter dated 1 October 1993 from the Chairman of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Minsk Conference on Nagorny Karabakh addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/26522),

Expressing its serious concern that a continuation of the conflict in and around the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic, and of the tensions between the Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijani Republic, would endanger peace and security in the region,

Taking note of the high-level meetings which took place in Moscow on 8 October 1993 and expressing the hope that they will contribute to the improvement of the situation and the peaceful settlement of the conflict,

Reaffirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijani Republic and of all other States in the region,

Reaffirming also the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory,

Expressing once again its grave concern at the human suffering the conflict has caused and at the serious humanitarian emergency in the region and expressing in particular its grave concern at the displacement of large numbers of civilians in the Azerbaijani Republic,

1. Calls upon the parties concerned to make effective and permanent the cease-fire 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;

93-55741 (E)

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UNITED NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL
S/RES/884 (1993)
12 November 1993

RESOLUTION 884 (1993)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 3313th meeting,
on 12 November 1993

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 822 (1993) of 30 April 1993, 853 (1993) of 29 July 1993 and 874 (1993) of 14 October 1993,

Reaffirming its full support for the peace process being pursued within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and for the tireless efforts of the CSCE Minsk Group,

Taking note of the letter dated 9 November 1993 from the Chairman-in-Office of the Minsk Conference on Nagorny Karabakh addressed to the President of the Security Council and its enclosures (S/26718, annex),

Expressing its serious concern that a continuation of the conflict in and around the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic, and of the tensions between the Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijani Republic, would endanger peace and security in the region,

Noting with alarm the escalation in armed hostilities as consequence of the violations of the cease-fire and excesses in the use of force in response to those violations, in particular the occupation of the Zangelan district and the city of Goradiz in the Azerbaijani Republic,

Reaffirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijani Republic and of all other States in the region,

Reaffirming also the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory,

Expressing grave concern at the latest displacement of a large number of civilians and the humanitarian emergency in the Zangelan district and the city of Goradiz and on Azerbaijan's southern frontier,

1. Condemns the recent violations of the cease-fire established between the parties, which resulted in a resumption of hostilities, and particularly condemns the occupation of the Zangelan district and the city of Goradiz,

93-63120 (E)

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institution far more structured, cohesive, and comprehensive than its predecessor—are meticulously articulated in Article 1 of the UN Charter.

Let us remember the Article 2(1) of the UN Charter: “The Organization is based on the principle of the **sovereign equality** of all its Members.” This means that all member states, regardless of size or power, have equal rights and responsibilities under international law.

Article 2(4) states that “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.”

Within the framework of the UN Charter and, more broadly, international law, Azerbaijan ended Armenia’s occupation by military means in 2020 and 2023. After patiently waiting for three decades for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874,



and 884, Azerbaijan was ultimately compelled to enforce/fulfill them through military action in 2020 and 2023.

As long as we remain committed to the UN Charter, we will begin to see our fundamental problems—and the grave dangers that await us—with greater clarity. Chief among these are **poverty** and **climate change**. Tomorrow may be too late. We have no other home. Let us not destroy our shared home—our Earth. Do you think we are sufficiently conscious of the need to leave the Earth livable for future generations? 🌱

