

FORUM: 1st Committee of the General Assembly
ISSUE: The question of Kosovo
CHAIR: Simon Spendler
POSITION: Deputy Chair

1. Description of the problem

Since 1945 the region of Kosovo had a special autonomous status. In 1989 the Yugoslavian president Slobodan Milošević reduced Kosovo's status and started the rejection of Kosovo Albanians in the society of Serbia. During the next decade the discrimination assumed alarming proportions, therefore the NATO decided to intervene into the conflict by bombing several places in Yugoslavia in 1999. On June 10, 1999 the UN Security Council passed the resolution 1244 dealing with the political status of Kosovo. Due to the resolution Kosovo was placed under transitional UN-administration and was made an autonomous region of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, legally succeeded by the Republic of Serbia. In 2008 the Kosovo declared its independence unilaterally. Only one third of the UN member states recognized Kosovo's declaration. By now the UN needs to find a compromise concerning the political status of Kosovo with which a majority of the UN member states comes to terms.

2. Definition of key terms

Kosovo

The Republic of Kosovo is located in south-eastern Europe and is a former province of Serbia. The Intervention by the NATO took place in 1999. In 2008, Kosovo declared independence, but its sovereignty was not universally recognized. 65 out of 192 United Nations member states have formally recognized the Republic of Kosovo as an independent state. As it is located on the Balkan Peninsula, the Kosovo is bordered on the north and east by Serbia, on the south by Macedonia, and on the west by Albania and Montenegro. Its population is 2.2 million, its capital is Pristina.

Serbia

Serbia is a republic of south-eastern Europe on the northern Balkan peninsula. Serbia became a major constituent of Yugoslavia. After the disintegration of Yugoslavia in the 1990s Serbia remained united to Montenegro until 2006, when the two became separate republics.

Yugoslavia

Yugoslavia is a former country of south-eastern Europe bordering the Adriatic Sea. It was formed in 1918 and was named Yugoslavia in 1929. It was controlled by Marshal Tito as a communist state until his death in 1980. Yugoslavia included Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, and Montenegro.

3. Background/ general information

The Kosovo has always been one of those controversial questions on which the opinions of countries diverge. After having declared independence, only 65 of 192 member states and 22 out of 27 EU members recognized the Kosovo as an independent state. Many of the countries who did not accept Kosovo's declaration stated that they wouldn't recognize Kosovo as a

country due to the fact that this goes against international law. The resolution 1244 decided that the Kosovo should be part of Serbia and that it should be under the administration of the UN. Since 2006 the United Nations tried to find a solution concerning the political status but they didn't come to an agreement. Also the UN Security Council remains divided on the question. Of the five members with veto power, USA, UK, and France recognized the declaration of independence, the People's Republic of China has expressed concern, while Russia considers it illegal. As a big amount of all MEDCs recognized Kosovo's independence, it shouldn't be that difficult to find a problem. But the power of the BRICs Brazil, Russia, India and China that all are against Kosovo's declaration of independence shouldn't be estimated, as they have a big impact on a great amount of countries all over the world.

4. Time line of key events

1929

The Kingdom of Yugoslavia comes into existence

February 1998

Serbia commences a huge crackdown in Kosovo by killing hundreds of people and forcing hundreds of thousands of Kosovo Albanians to flee

March 24, 1999 – June 10, 1999

NATO intervenes into the Kosovo conflict by bombing Yugoslavia

June 10, 1999

UNSC Resolution 1244 passes by the UN Security Council

February 17, 2008

Kosovo Declaration of Independence

5. Relevant treaties, UN resolutions and actions taken

In the time of 1998 and 1999 several resolutions on the issue of Kosovo passed the Security Council trying to tackle the problem. The most important resolution proposed is resolution 1244 of the Security Council from June the 10th in 1999. Another very important document concerning this issue is the declaration of independence which Kosovo published in 2008.

Resolution 1160 of the Security Council, 31 March 1998

<http://www.un.org/peace/kosovo/98sc1160.htm>

Resolution 1199 of the Security Council, 23 September 1998

<http://www.un.org/peace/kosovo/98sc1199.htm>

Resolution 1203 of the Security Council, 24 October 1998

<http://www.un.org/peace/kosovo/98sc1203.htm>

Resolution 1239 of the Security Council, 14 May 1999

http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council_Resolution_1239

Resolution 1244 of the Security Council, 10 June 1999

<http://www.unmikonline.org/press/reports/N9917289.pdf>

Kosovo Declaration of Independence, 17 February 2008

http://www.assembly-kosova.org/common/docs/Dek_Pav_e.pdf

6. Positions of major countries involved

Serbia

Serbia didn't recognize the declaration of independence by Kosovo and instituted an Action Plan to combat Kosovo's independence, which stipulated, among other things, recalling the Serbian ambassadors for consultations in protest from any state recognising Kosovo, which it has consistently done. Activities of ambassadors from countries that have recognized independence are limited to meetings with Foreign Ministry lower officials. Serbia still sees the Kosovo as a Serbian province and defends its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation and India

China, Russia and India didn't recognize the Kosovo as an independent state due to the fact that they believe that this recognition would fuel further conflicts in the Asian territory. On 15 May 2008, the Foreign Ministers of India, Russia and China made a joint statement concerning the declaration of independence of Kosovo. It was read by Russia's foreign minister Sergey Lavrov and it said: "In our statement, we recorded our fundamental position that the unilateral declaration of independence by Kosovo contradicts Resolution 1244. Russia, India and China encourage Belgrade and Pristina to resume talks within the framework of international law and hope they reach an agreement on all problems of that Serbian territory". China opposed the declaration directly after its publication due to the fact that they are afraid of Kosovo being an example and a motivation for other countries such as the Taiwan or Tibet to declare their independence officially.

The United States of America

The United States of America recognized Kosovo as an independent State. Furthermore they agreed on establishing formal diplomatic relations between the USA and Kosovo. They are of the opinion that the declaration of independence is the only viable option to promote stability in the region. The United States are going to work with its international partners to help on implementing Kosovo's independence in the whole world.

Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Croatia, Turkey

These non-EU member states but European countries recognized Kosovo as an independent country.

Cyprus, Greece, Romania, Slovakia, Spain

These EU member states weren't in favour of the declaration of independence of Kosovo as they believe that this unilateral declaration is a violation of international law.

7. Useful sources and links

Kosovo Declaration of Independence, 17 February 2008

http://www.assembly-kosova.org/common/docs/Dek_Pav_e.pdf

[Resolution 1244 of the Security Council, 10 June 1999](#)

<http://www.unmikonline.org/press/reports/N9917289.pdf>

The international recognition of Kosovo

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_recognition_of_Kosovo#UN_member_states

The political status of Kosovo

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_status_of_Kosovo#Status_and_the_Kosovo_War

BBC-Timeline: Kosovo- Chronology of key events

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/3550401.stm

Kosovo in the CIA world factbook

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kv.html>

Kosovo standards implementation plan

http://www.unmikonline.org/pub/misc/ksip_eng.pdf

What are the standards for Kosovo?

<http://www.unmikonline.org/standards/>

UN Security Council - Secretary General's Reports on Kosovo

<http://www.unmikonline.org/UNMIKONLINE2009/misc/docs/sc-reports.htm>

List of useful links concerning the question of Kosovo

<http://www.unmikonline.org/UNMIKONLINE2009/links.htm>

USA recognizes Kosovo as independent state

<http://www.america.gov/st/peacesec-english/2008/February/20080218144244dmslahrellek0.9832117.html>

Russia, China and India insist Kosovo and Serbia resume talks

http://rt.com/Top_News/2008-05-15/Russia_China_and_India_insist_Kosovo_and_Serbia_resume_talks.html

Serbia's reaction to the Kosovo declaration of independence

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serbia%27s_reaction_to_the_2008_Kosovo_declaration_of_independence

Website of the Serbian government

<http://www.srbija.gov.rs/>

Website of Kosovo's government

<http://www.ks-gov.net/portal/eng.htm>

NATO's role in relation to the conflict in Kosovo

<http://www.nato.int/kosovo/history.htm>