

2024

BACKGROUND PAPER

Topic: Discussing Post-Soviet States' Access to Infrastructure
and Western Country Partnerships

General Assembly

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Committee Background



The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) stands as the principal decision-making body of the Organization. Encompassing all Member States, it serves as a distinctive platform for the multilateral discussion of various international issues outlined in the United Nations Charter. Each of the 193 Member States holds an equal vote. The UNGA is responsible for pivotal decisions within the UN, including:

- Appointing the Secretary-General upon the Security Council's recommendation.
- Electing non-permanent Security Council members.
- Ratifying the UN budget.

The Assembly convenes for regular sessions from September to December annually, and when necessary thereafter. It delves into specific matters through dedicated agenda items or sub-items, leading to the adoption of resolutions. Seating arrangements in the General Assembly Hall vary with each session. During the 78th Session (2023-2024), North Macedonia will occupy the primary seat in the Hall, including in the Main Committees, followed by other countries in English alphabetical order.



Introduction of the Topic

The dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 resulted in 15 independent states inheriting an extensive yet aging infrastructure complex designed for central planning and military purposes. Presently, these post-Soviet states confront significant hurdles in modernizing and enhancing access to infrastructure, impeding economic growth, social progress, and environmental sustainability. While Western nations play a pivotal role in collaborating with these states to tackle these challenges, the landscape of needs and collaborations has undergone substantial evolution in recent decades.

Evolution of the Topic



Following the initial shock of transition, post-Soviet states experienced a gradual economic resurgence and aspirations for global market integration. Infrastructure requisites shifted from basic repairs to upgrades for heightened trade and efficiency. Geopolitical dynamics underwent transformations, transitioning from Cold War tensions to a more intricate web of interests, including resource dependence, security apprehensions, and competition with other global actors. Western engagement progressed from humanitarian aid to investment and development partnerships, aiming for both economic opportunities and geopolitical stability.

Navigating Disparities in Access

Access to pivotal infrastructure sectors such as transportation, energy, water, sanitation, and digital connectivity exhibits significant variation across post-Soviet states. Nations with abundant natural resources or strategic locations tend to fare better, while others grapple with economic stagnation and limited investment. These disparities not only impede regional progress but also exacerbate social inequalities and environmental vulnerabilities.

Western Partnerships: Opportunities, Challenges, and Success Stories

Western nations participate in infrastructure development in post-Soviet states through diverse partnership models: public-private ventures, multilateral cooperation such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and bilateral agreements. While these collaborations present opportunities for modernization, technology transfer, and economic growth, they also pose challenges like transparency issues, environmental impacts, and corruption risks. Success stories, like the revitalization of the Silk Road trade route through Central Asia, underscore the potential benefits of sustainable and cooperative infrastructure development.

External Actions



The United Nations and its agencies, such as UN-Habitat and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), play a crucial role in facilitating sustainable infrastructure development in post-Soviet states. They offer technical assistance, advocate for good governance, and promote inclusive and eco-friendly approaches. For instance, the UN-led "Smart Cities" initiative aids cities in developing integrated and sustainable infrastructure solutions.



Committee Focus



Examining Sustainable Development Strategies for Improving Infrastructure Access in Post-Soviet States: Enhancing Collaboration with Western Partnerships.





Conclusion

Ensuring equitable and sustainable access to infrastructure in post-Soviet states demands a multifaceted approach, blending domestic endeavors, Western partnerships, and UN support. Innovative financing mechanisms, sound governance practices, and community engagement stand as essential elements in surmounting existing challenges and forging a future where infrastructure acts as a catalyst for prosperity, regional collaboration, and global connectivity.

Participation List



China



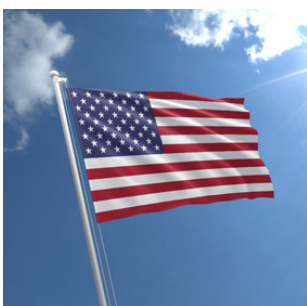
France



Russia



United Kingdom



USA



Canada



Mexico



New Zealand



Germany



India



South Korea



Australia

Participation List



Tajikistan



Armenia



Kazakhstan



Kyrgyzstan



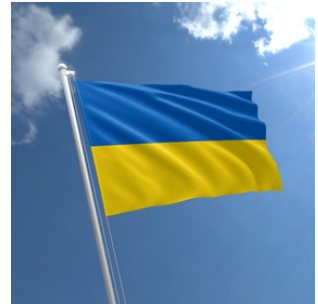
Lithuania



Moldova



Estonia



Ukraine

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