

Regional cooperation as an instrument of conflict resolution and security in Eurasia

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Abstract: In this book chapter, the importance of regional organisations in the management and resolution of ethnoterritorial conflicts, which rose up especially after the Cold War, is studied. The research aims to reveal an exploratory analysis within the scope of the qualitative research method. In this way, it is aimed at emphasising the potential contribution of regional cooperation and regional organisations to the security and peaceful resolution of conflicts, whose impact on conflict resolution has been somewhat overlooked. The aim of this study is to explore the possibilities and capabilities of regional organisations in conflict management and to draw attention to the success and failure factors in their new roles as conflict managers in the international system.

Keywords: regional cooperation, international organizations, ethnopolitics, regional security, Eurasia.

Introduction

Contrary to what was predicted, the end of the bipolar world order was not the end of the history of conflicts and actually paved the way for us to encounter the most brutal face of another type of armed conflict. The power vacuum created by the dissolution of the Eastern Bloc caused the peoples here to face great chaos in all areas of life. Particularly, while the political and economic chaos has fed micro-nationalism, it has revealed different types of ethnic-based conflicts that are increasing and spreading on a global scale. Ethno-territorial conflicts are one of them.

In ethno-territorial conflicts, which is one of the types of ethnicity-based conflicts, the conflict between ethnic groups arises from a regional factor. For this reason, the contentious region and territoriality that are the subject of the conflict play a decisive role in ethno-territorial conflicts. In this study,

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the importance of regional cooperation in the resolution of ethno-territorial conflicts and the re-establishment of peace in the geopolitical area called Eurasia is mentioned. In conflict management and conflict resolution, the influence of more global-scale international organisations such as the UN and NATO and the role of more micro-scale regional organisations, whose members are composed of regional states and which have emerged to address common regional problems, have been compared.

The role of international organisations such as the UN and NATO in research on the resolution of conflicts with micro-nationalism and ethnicity-based conflicts, which increased rapidly after the Cold War, was frequently mentioned. Scientific research on the contribution of international organisations in this field has been very limited. Apart from the EU and OSCE, which are regional organisations, other regional formations in Eurasia escape attention. It is seen in academic research on the roles of international structures such as the UN and OSCE in conflict resolution that, although an important step has been taken in the resolution of the conflicts in which these structures take charge, no definite results can be obtained in the stages of definitively ending the conflict and re-establishing peace.

At this point, we can consider the Nagorno-Karabakh problem the most striking example. Although there were gradual and partial ceasefire processes with the support of the OSCE in the long-lasting conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, the contentious region between Azerbaijan and Armenia, concrete steps could not be taken for the final resolution of the conflict. The Eastern Ukraine issue is also an unmanaged process despite all the efforts of the OSCE, and this process eventually turned from ethnopolitical conflict to ethno-regional conflict and then to international conflict. The efforts of the United Nations under the peacekeeping mission were also not sufficient to end the conflicts. Even though the Macedonian-Albanian conflict seems to have been resolved in the context of the Ohrid framework agreement, in fact, the conflicts continued after the date of this agreement. For this reason, while regional cooperation for the resolution of conflicts started to gain importance over time, the proactive efforts of regional organisations such as the EU, ASEAN, CSTO, and SCO began to be seen. Regional organisations such as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the African Union (AU), and the European Union (EU) are defined as important conflict prevention actors in their regions. (Swanström 2005; Walter 1999; Kim and Merican 1997)

Article 52 of the United Nations Charter authorises regional organisations, through regional action, to address issues relating to the maintenance of regional international peace and security, provided that such action is consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations. Article 53(1) expressly states that “The Security Council shall, when necessary, use such regional arrangements or institutions for enforcement actions under its jurisdiction”, but this and other relevant articles of the United Nations expressly recognise the role of regional organisations in conflict resolution. However, some natural limitations have been introduced. First, regional organisations are geographically constrained by narrow conflicts, as opposed to those with a wider scope and potential impact. Second, regional organisations will be expressly subject to the United Nations Security Council, which has supervisory authority over regional actions and, if necessary, the right to supersede regional efforts.

For most of the Cold War era, regional organisations played these limited roles in conflict management. However, with the transition to the post-Soviet era, regional organisations began to assume increasingly diverse and, in some cases, primary roles in conflict management. From the beginning of the 1990s to the present, there has been a dramatic increase in all kinds of regional conflict management activities (Diehl 2008), and Hensell states that since the early 2000s, the interest of regional organisations has increased with the increase in research on conflict management. (Hensell 2002)

The increase in both the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the conflicts has made it difficult for the United Nations to undertake the success of conflict resolution and to tackle the negative consequences of conflicts on its own. In this context, it has expanded the role of regional organisations. Unfortunately, the United Nations has not been successful in the management and resolution of conflicts in places such as Bosnia, Somalia, and Rwanda, where conflicts up to the stage of ethnic cleansing are high. In the mid-1990s, regional organisations and sub-regional bodies began to emerge, willing to take on the task of filling the void.

Compared to global-scale international organisations, it is clear that regional organisations can be much more effective because they have more information on local characteristics, are recognised locally, and are open to cooperation with countries bordering or close to the conflict area. Ultimately, when a conflict in a region cannot be resolved, it will necessarily begin to pose a direct threat to regional stability and security. This will lead to the formation of a chaotic environment that draws not only the conflicting parties but also the neighbouring states directly into it. Thanks to their

economic or political ties with the parties to the conflict and their role in promoting cooperation and development in their regions, regional organisations have more flexibility than international global organisations (Swanström 2005). For this reason, it is considered important to reveal the effects of regional organisations in creating a safe and peaceful regional and international environment with conflict management and resolution.

Focusing on an in-depth analysis of the role of regional organisations in conflict management (conflict prevention), conflict resolution, peace-building, regional security, and stability, this exploratory study focuses on “how” and “why” questions. What are the reasons behind the mission undertaken by regional organisations in the conflict zone, and how do success or failure factors emerge in the realisation of this mission? The framework of the study was drawn with a comparative research method definition when a research idea was born to examine a neglected subject within the framework of certain phenomena and to create predictions.

The Role of Regional Organisations in the Resolution of Ethno-Territorial Conflicts

Regional organisations can ensure the continuity of security and stability with their activities, whose operational levels may change according to local conditions and needs, in conflict management and resolution or in the process of peace reconstruction (Cox 1971). Regional organisations can also establish norms on a variety of issues, such as the Organisation of American States (OAS) democratization norms, that can promote stability, conflict-free relations, and security in their regions. The democratization norms of the OAS stipulate that it can be involved in conflict management by intervening in an unconstitutional regime change that may disrupt regional stability. In response to the 2000 military coup in Ecuador, the OAS issued a statement condemning the coup and calling for the reinstatement of the democratically elected head of state (Cooper and Legler 2001). Another example of regional organisations establishing norms calling for an end to the conflict is the statement issued by ASEAN in 1992 to resolve conflicts surrounding the Spratly Islands and the South China Sea. Such an exemplary situation shows that regional organisations can take normative decisions and declare these decisions to potential conflict parties if they deem it necessary in cases of conflicts that destabilise security and stability.

Regional organisations may reconsider issues by pressing conflicting parties to make mutual concessions and find a point of consensus. They

can offer alternative suggestions for solutions (Hopmann 1996). Regional organisations can prevent the militarization of possible conflict groups by establishing various norms regarding armament. The Arms Control and Territorial Security (ACRS) formation in the Middle East, despite its failure, is a notable example. The ECOWAS Monitoring Group deployed in Liberia in 1990 has allowed us to see concrete steps that a regional organisation can take to “keep the peace”. In the event of threats to regional security, the deployment of a “peace force” consisting of lightly armed units to monitor the ceasefire in the conflict zone, provide humanitarian aid, and support the post-conflict process can be achieved through cooperation between all or a few of the states in the region. The ending of the Nagorno-Karabakh War in 2020, with the initiatives of Turkey and Russia, and then the deployment of the Russian Peacekeeping Force in the region can be evaluated within this framework. Here, the instrumentalization of regional cooperation in the direction of conflict resolution and security is seen by both the powerful actors in the region and the regional organisations formed by the regional states.

Regional and global organisations are able to impose a particular solution in a particular conflict – Kosovo (Lepgold and Weiss 1998). Since trying to impose a certain solution will require the deterrent effect of a strong military operation, it is thought that the success rate of such a method is directly proportional to the organic bond of the structure that carries out the operation with the conflict zone. In a determined, strong military intervention for the resolution of the conflict, the dynamics of the conflicting parties and the conflict factors must be very well analysed. In other words, the third party’s ability to analyse the conflicting parties in terms of socio-political, socio-cultural, and socio-psychological aspects will enable them to predict their reactions to the imposed solution proposals. The reliability of these predictions will determine the success rate of the solution process. Bennet states that regional organisations are more advantageous than the United Nations because their membership is more homogeneous (Bennett 1991). Indeed, since the members have veto rights in the decisions of global organisations such as the UN, there may be failures in the processes for the resolution of conflicts due to delays. In the Kosovo crisis and the intervention process in the conflict, NATO took a unilateral decision to exclude the United Nations from its military operation in Kosovo. NATO officials defined the military intervention carried out under the “Unification for Peace Decision” as “Europe’s own answer to Europe’s problem”. Behind this unilateral and separate operation of NATO from the UN is undoubtedly the prediction that Russia and China can use their veto rights to block the

UN resolution. Regional organisations appear as important actors that play an active role in conflict resolution, maintain peace and stability, and are based on regional cooperation. Drawing attention to the contribution of regional organisations to conflict prevention, Young explains the intervention of a regional organisation in conflicts as follows: "A regional organisational intervention is a concrete action, whether political, economic or military, undertaken by a governmental or intergovernmental actor of the international system whose purpose is primarily to influence the direction, duration or outcome of an internal/civil or international conflict." (Young 1967, 34)

Accordingly, factors such as historical background, social and economic development, institutional political power, and security threats of conflict are the factors that shape the response of regional organisations to conflicts. Since the impact of these factors is different for each phenomenon, it is clear that the dynamics, capabilities, and institutional culture of regional organisations will also be different. Indeed, when we compare the ethno-regional conflicts in the Eurasian geopolitical region included in this study, the main causal factors behind each phenomenon are different. When we compare the Kosovo and Nagorno-Karabakh conflicts, the uniqueness of the conflicts in the context of the unique characteristics of the Balkans and the South Caucasus Regions and, of course, the structural differences of the regional organisations emerge. In this context, while the EU's role as a solution provider for an ethno-regional conflict in the Balkan Peninsula in southeast Europe is effective, it is relatively unlikely that the same EU will show the same success in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Contributions of regional organisations to conflict resolution will be in line with their abilities developed through cooperation between the member states of the organisation. Swanström states that these capabilities are also developed thanks to the cooperation of member states with international organisations such as the UN, NATO, and the WTO (Swanström 2005). Jones, on the other hand, argues that the quantitative multiplicity of the actors striving to prevent conflict will bring along difficulties in coordination (Jones 2010). Coordination in conflict resolution is inversely proportional to the number of actors. In other words, as the number of actors playing a role in the resolution of the conflict increases, coordination among the actors towards a solution will become more difficult.

On the other hand, protecting the delicate balance between regional organisations, conflict management, and the sovereign rights of the state or states that are parties to the conflict is an issue that needs to be clarified

(Carment and James 2000). For this reason, the roles of organisations such as the ASEAN in conflict resolution have been limited (Swanström 2005). As an exception to this limitation, the OSCE is a different example. Among regional organisations, only the OSCE can rise above national sovereignty for conflict prevention (Elliason and Rydberg 1998).

The correct management of a conflict's probability and the continuous development of new strategies for resolving an ongoing conflict are important in ensuring a successful transition to the peace reconstruction process. The dynamism and intensity of conflicts are different in each case. Undoubtedly, the difference in phenomena also depends on regional peculiarities. For this reason, it is thought that strategies should be developed considering the specificity of the conflict and regional factors in the resolution of conflicts. Developing new strategies depending on the subjective conditions of the phenomenon in question undoubtedly requires flexibility in structural changes. It is clear that global organisations do not have such comfortable mobility during such changes. This is related to the excess number of member states, the fact that the members are not in a single region, and the slower progress of the procedural processes. Regional organisations, on the other hand, can act more dynamically, especially according to the conditions in their regions. Here, the change in the structural character of the CSTO in relation to the Kyrgyz-Uzbek conflict shows that a regional organisation is flexible to rapid changes when necessary. The intervention of regional organisations in the ethno-regional conflict between the Kyrgyz and Uzbeks, the sub-ethnos of a super-ethno (Turkish), has become mandatory, and in this direction, the CSTO will include not only external interventions but also internal interventions in the mission of providing regional security.

The strategy (or policy) to be followed in the management and/or resolution of ethno-regional conflicts may include factors such as minimising regional inequalities, economic development, and increasing efficiency in corporate governance. These elements can be made much more effective with the support of regional cooperation and regional organisations. Such structural methods are not only preventive or end violence in the management and resolution of a conflict but also ensure sustainable peace (Lund 2009). It is worth remembering that structures for international cooperation such as the EU, ASEAN, AU, OAU, OAS, SCO, CSTO, and EEC are regional organisations that have contributed to regional security and stability by playing a role in conflict management, either directly or through structural methods.

The potential effects of such regional organisations in conflict resolution can be explored through strategies based on regional cooperation, such as diplomacy (multi-directional, such as direct interstate diplomacy, diaspora diplomacy, and diplomacy of leaders), mediation, and the development of early warning and early action mechanisms through tools such as international political economy analysis and macroeconomic measures. As is known, early warning and action mechanisms require the development and commitment of important skills such as diplomacy, mediation, negotiation, problem solving, and technical assistance (Collins et al. 2006). The intervention tools of regional organisations are the organisation's field of activity, resources, and current potential. The ability to use these tools for the resolution of an ethno-territorial conflict in its own region directly depends on the character of the cooperation between the member states.

The point that draws attention here and needs to be emphasised is, in fact, whether the management, resolution, and post-conflict role of a regional organisation in a conflict in its own region is equally or nearly as effective in conflicts outside its own region. The argument put forward in this research indicates the opposite of this proposition. If a regional organisation, as its name suggests, is a formation that has been created with the aim of cooperation or solidarity among the states in its region, the basic mission of this organisation will develop within the framework of the dynamics in its region. In this context, it will have a regional character, and therefore, it will approach the problem in a different region from its own subjective perspective. In addition, since a regional organisation will act in line with the cooperation and mutual interests of its member states, it will give priority to its own regional interests regardless of the issue.

Although the sample area of the research is the Eurasian geopolitical area, considering the uniqueness and specificity of different regions in this wide area, it cannot be expected that each of the regional organisations will contribute equally or similarly to each phenomenon in this area. It is argued that the efforts for the stability and security of Eurasia can only be successful when the international formations in different regions of Europe and the Asian continents are supported by the argument that they will offer more proactive and effective solutions to the conflicts in their own regions. If we remember the founding story of the EU, we can see that the European states that were destroyed after the Second World War needed to come together in order to stand up again, and within this framework, they soon laid the foundations of a cooperation organisation. The member states of the European Union have come together to solve their own common issues

and the problems they interact with on a regional scale, rather than solving conflicts or problems on a global scale. As another example, various regional formations that emerged in the post-Soviet space after the USSR can be considered. The main purpose of regional organisations such as the Eurasian Economic Union, CIS, CSTO, and SCO is to create policies and action plans for the common problems of the countries in the region that are members. In 2001, the European Council approved the "EU Programme for the Prevention of Severe Conflicts", aimed at building the Union's capacity to take consistent early warning, analysis, and action, while conflict prevention is one of the main objectives of the Union's external relations. With the article "European Security and Defence Policy should be integrated with all relevant aspects, including development, cooperation, and trade", security problems, instability, and conflicts that emerged in the Balkans and Eastern Europe after the disintegration of the USSR and Yugoslavia are prioritized. Ultimately, the resolution of these conflicts, which have the risk of spreading to central Europe, will eliminate possible threats to the security of the region (Europe).

The efforts of the EU to resolve the Macedonian-Albanian ethnopolitical conflict in 2001 can be evaluated in this context. The EU's investments in civil conflict prevention capabilities, such as early warning systems and financial mechanisms, have been important strategic tools in conflict management and resolution. The EU's regional (Macedonia and Kosovo) and global-scale conflict resolution efforts in different regions (Mali, Rwanda) are generally aimed at the fight against international terrorism, the stability of the member states, the countermeasure against the problem of international migration, and the security of EU citizens, which are directly related to the security of the EU. The fact that the conflicts in Africa are in the former colonial regions of the EU member states explains the reason for the EU's perception of a security threat. Although the Kosovo conflict did not attract the attention of the EU in its early stages, the problem grew over time, forcing the organisation to take a role in the resolution of the conflict. However, the EU's attitude towards the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has been more passive than "forced determination". Although the OSCE Minsk group did not take an active role in the negotiations, it was limited to waiting for a consensus to emerge between Armenia's "self-determination" and Azerbaijan's "territorial integrity" theses. The difficulty of reconciling these two opposing theses on the common point (perhaps it would be more accurate to say its impossibility) caused the Nagorno-Karabakh problem to not be resolved for many years and the conflict to continue. On the other hand, despite the failure to reach an agreement on the final status and final

solution between Serbia and Kosovo, the EU has become the main actor in gradually resolving the conflict in different ways since 2008 (Hughes 2009).

The Kosovo Constitution, adopted in June 2008, was prepared with the help of experts from the EU and the US. The fact that Nagorno-Karabakh is regionally different from the local composition of the EU or from the regions with which it directly interacts may have led to the disintegration of the OSCE and the EU's focus on conflict resolution. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was ultimately resolved not with the initiatives of the EU and the OSCE but directly with the efforts of the regional actor states (Russia and Turkey). In addition to the losses suffered by Azerbaijan and Armenia during the conflict, the political, economic, and social stability and security of the South Caucasus region, as well as the neighbouring states, were inevitable to be negatively affected.

After the Kosovo crisis, the EU reshaped its approach towards Southeast European countries and developed the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe. This development has changed the perception of the region as a part of Europe and not as a near-abroad region. In addition, the EU paved the way for the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) and EU membership for the countries in this region. The EU has claimed to develop relations with this region, establish peace, and contribute to post-conflict reconstruction as its objectives (Glenny 1999). The EU sees enlargement as its most important instrument and contributes to peacebuilding, stability, prosperity, the rule of law, human rights, etc. The development of the regional approach and EU integration have been crucial tools that have made the EU an important actor in the post-conflict environment in Kosovo. Even though there were attempts to resolve the Eastern Ukraine issue with the efforts of the OSCE, the Minsk Agreements, and the Normandy Quartet, they could not be successful. The ethno-political conflict that started in 2014 has gradually turned into an ethno-regional conflict. Since 2022, it has gained an international character with the military operations of Russia. When the Eastern Ukraine problem is compared with the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, the Minsk and OSCE processes are similar. The OSCE has not been successful in the management and resolution of both conflicts, and in our opinion, it is more likely that the solution of the Ukraine problem will be possible through the initiatives of regional states and cooperation organisations in the region, not through different regional or global organisations, as in the Nagorno-Karabakh example. When the four (4) ethno-regional conflicts (Kosovo-Macedonia, Kosovo-Nagorno-Karabakh, and Nagorno-Karabakh-East Ukraine) examined in the study are compared

in pairwise groups, there is a relationship between the success of the EU, OSCE, CSTO, CIS, and SCO in conflict resolution and regional factors. There appears to be a direct relationship. Although the relative failure of the OSCE in its attempts to resolve ethno-regional conflicts in the post-Soviet space is criticised, the flexibility of the organisation, which has fifty-seven (57) members, becomes dependent on the political situation, thus limiting its contribution to conflict resolution. Similarly, conflicts between member states remain one of the most important challenges to the success of the EU and its role in conflict prevention in the post-conflict phase.

In the academic literature of international relations and political science, peacekeeping organisations are usually understood as various peacekeeping and “coercive” measures carried out by the United Nations or any other third party for the purpose of resolving the consequences of an armed conflict. Sometimes “peacekeeping” is defined as a broad, general, and imprecise term to describe any activity of the UN and other international political organisations that has anything to do with establishing, strengthening, or expanding opportunities for peace. This means:

- monitoring the conduct of elections;
- establishment of civil and/or police defence in countries where there is a conflict;
- organisation of events for the delivery of humanitarian aid;
- monitoring compliance with ceasefire agreements;
- separation of the parties to the conflict. (Kolobov et al. 2011)

Apparently, the scope of the term “peacekeeping”, which took on its narrowest context in the post-Second World War, should be broadened. In today’s political context, meaning of the term “peacekeeping” expresses an unrealistic goal. When the meaning of the term “peacekeeping” comes to mean the provision of international peace organisations only to high-pressure the parties in conflict and control compliance with the signed ceasefire, that is an understatement.

It is possible to offer some suggestions about the role of regional cooperation in conflict resolution, stability, and security in Eurasia. Concrete steps taken thanks to the active policies and cooperation initiatives of Russia and Turkey in the solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which is one of the ethno-regional conflicts, have shown the importance of “political dialogue” for the management and peaceful resolution of such conflicts. It is thought that other countries and regional organisations in the regions of conflict will play an important role in “strengthening the political dialogue”,

especially by undertaking negotiation and mediation missions. Regional cooperation ensures that communication channels are kept open and dialogue is maintained between the conflicting parties. This can increase understanding between parties, help build trust, and reduce tension. It is important to promote and maintain political dialogue between regional actors. Political meetings held regularly between the countries of the region ensure that regional security problems are discussed, the conflict parties come together, and the disputes are resolved through peaceful means.

Regional cooperation allows for “diplomatic efforts” in conflict resolution, while countries in the region can play a role in mediation or negotiations for the peaceful resolution of conflicts. Regional actors can gain an advantage in impartiality by being accepted as reliable mediators between parties and bridging conflicting parties. At this point, it is necessary to mention Turkey’s mediation attempts to end the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which has been going on since the beginning of 2022. When Turkey’s NATO membership and the opposition to Russia in NATO’s general attitude towards the Ukraine issue are examined, Ankara’s determination to remain neutral and its solution-oriented efforts, which can be evaluated within the framework of regional security concerns and the importance of regional cooperation, show that states prioritise their regional interests over their global interests. The fact that regional organisations create an environment of mutual trust among the member states and that they can share “intelligence” in this way will create an early warning opportunity that will be effective in the management and resolution of conflicts. In this context, increasing intelligence sharing among the countries in the region can be effective in combating terrorism, organised crime, and other security threats. Information and intelligence sharing can increase regional security through an early warning system, enabling rapid and effective measures to be taken. The establishment of “common security mechanisms” among the countries in the region can create dynamics that support cooperation on security issues.

These mechanisms can offer opportunities for cooperation in a variety of areas, such as confidence-building measures, military cooperation, joint exercises, military inspections, and confidence-building measures. Within the framework of regional cooperation, it is important to implement confidence-building measures in border regions. Joint steps can be taken to improve border security, facilitate border crossings, protect the border from illegal activity, and resolve border disputes. Regional cooperation can increase trust between conflicting parties by providing confidence-building measures and

mechanisms. By focusing on a common understanding of security and common interests, conflicting parties can create a sense of trust and reduce security concerns (Collective Security Treaty Organisation, CSTO).

Regional cooperation promotes a “fair and balanced sharing of resources”. In regions where resources are limited, an equitable distribution of resources can help prevent conflict. Economic cooperation and integration play an important role in ensuring regional security and stability. Joint trade agreements, investment incentives, and economic integration projects promote stability by increasing interdependence among the countries of the region (Eurasian Economic Union, EAEU). Countries in the region should establish effective crisis management mechanisms in crisis situations. Measures such as rapid response mechanisms, peace-supporting missions, peacekeeping operations, and mediation in crisis situations are important to maintain regional security and stability. Educational and cultural exchange programmes between the countries of the region enable people to understand each other and increase mutual trust. Youth exchange programmes support interaction between non-governmental organisations and promote regional cooperation and economic, political, and social integration. Joint economic projects, trade, and investment opportunities can increase interdependence and reduce the potential for conflict. Regional integration mechanisms can play a conflict-preventing role by creating common rules and standards. These recommendations can create an effective cooperation framework for regional security and stability. However, since each region has its own unique conditions and dynamics, the implementation of the recommendations should be adapted to suit the characteristics and needs of the region.

Conclusion

In the literature review, it is seen that one factor on which the capabilities of regional organisations depend is the willingness and agreement between member states. When we compare regional organisations to the United Nations and other global organisations, they are faster, more effective, and more continuous in their processes of management, resolution, and transformation of conflicts. Diehl states that bureaucratic processes among the members of global organisations hinder the transformation of conflict or the creation of a sustainable stability and peace process, especially in the UN /Diehl 2008). Considering that regional organisations are the structures created by the states in the region, it will be obvious that they are directly

affected by the negativities of the current conflict and, therefore, they will take a determined stance in order to ensure security and stability as soon as possible. The resolution of an ethno-regional conflict and the establishment of sustainable peace afterwards will, of course, support the security and economic interests of the third-party countries in the region. However, the next more secure area through which civilians or refugees in the conflict zone will primarily pass will undoubtedly be the nearest cross-border. This, in turn, will raise the immigration problem for the third-party states in the region. As a matter of fact, the insolvency of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem has been an obstacle to the economic and social development of the South Caucasus, not only Azerbaijan and Armenia. At the same time, it had negative effects on regional states such as Russia, Georgia, Turkey, and Iran. When we consider the Ukraine-Russia conflict as a more recent phenomenon, the countries in the region are the most affected by this process, excluding the conflicted countries. The conflict in Ukraine, which is at a critical point in Eurasian geopolitics, negatively affects Eastern Europe and Central Europe, as well as the Black Sea littoral states and neighbouring regions (energy and food crises). In the examined phenomenon, it has been determined that regional organisations are more effective in preventing conflict and building sustainable peace by resolving conflict. However, it should be noted that it is necessary for regional organisations to act together with the United Nations in terms of supporting regional organisations in matters where they may be inadequate. Considering that the immediate resolution of the conflict and ensuring regional stability are in line with their national interests, for the member states that are directly exposed to a number of regional problems caused by the conflict, it will be possible to prevent the increase and spread of the conflict thanks to the conflict management and constructive initiatives of the regional organisations in the first phase of the conflict. While perhaps reconciliation can be achieved between the parties to avoid conflicts turning into violence through regional cooperation, leaving all the initiative to the UN may cause an escalation of an avoidable conflict. In this case, it is thought that the responsibility of regional organisations and third-party regional states under the umbrella of regional cooperation in ethno-regional conflicts is too important to ignore.

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