

Forum: Security Council

Student Officers: Nathan Baek, Erica Lim, Hien Nguyen

Be sure to consult the [UNIS MUN LibGuide](#) for additional resources.

TOPIC 2: The issue of the federalization of fragile and failed states.

I. Introduction to the Topic

As countries may have different (possibly ethnic, religious, linguistic) groups of people inside of a nation, it can cause internal conflicts even though they might have a democratic system in place to resolve any disagreements. Having multiple groups can be difficult for a nation to run smoothly as each of them may have contrasting ways to complete daily/vital tasks. Fortunately, federalization is one possible governing method to mend fragile and failed states, creating a stable and functional country as they distribute power amongst regions fairly.

With possible imbalances of power inside failed and fragile states, sometimes it is necessary for other nations to intervene in the conflict if it scales to certain regions violating human rights or the four mass atrocities. However, not all countries can intervene in conflicts as that can also create tensions between nations that are involved. Furthermore, this may affect the country's image because countries may try to keep internal conflicts away from the international press.

Moreover, if failed and fragile states conflict escalates, it may involve nations surrounding those countries and possibly make them become a part of the conflict entirely. For example, the current conflict between Ethiopia and Tigray has resulted in Eritrea, since Ethiopia has used Eritrean troops to battle against Tigray. This may cause unwanted hate toward neighbouring countries and may discourage nations to aid each other in times of crisis.

In addition, with failed and fragile states, the nation either has an imbalance of power within groups or no governmental body. Federalization would help resolve this problem as power and resources would be distributed equally towards the different groups of people. In addition, this would allow different groups to run separately in their own governments and have their own legislations. For example, the United States has different government bodies in states to manage them and report back to the main government body in Washington DC.

Lastly, federal governments allow different citizens to coexist in one country even though they might have differences as powers are evenly distributed and they all report to one central government. However,

there can be multiple ethnic, religious, and linguistic groups that live in one region and federalism alone cannot give them enough protection. They will most likely need special minority rights and legislation to protect them as they will be under a different governing force.

II. Definition of Key Terms & Concepts

Definition of Key Terms

Federalization: is a type of government that would have at minimum 2 government levels -- central and regional -- which provides a way for different groups of people in the country to reside together. This could be one method that failed and fragile states combine and develop to become harmonious states.

Failed and the Fragile States: are nations that have a government, but their economic/political structure is so weak to the point where there is no governmental power. Without a functional government body, the states cannot function, especially not with good intent.

Government: a group of individuals that officially control and manage the country which is broken up into multiple distinct offices. There can be multiple government types that can affect how a country is operated such as democracy, communism, socialism, monarchy, etc...

Autonomy: the right of freedom of an organization to govern the state itself. Autonomy is part of federalism for a government to run as they are multiple government bodies working together as a nation.

Democracy: a government system in which any decisions, policies, and representatives will be directly or indirectly finalised by a group of recognized individuals. Democracy is one of the types of government that is incorporated into a federal government style.

III. Key Stakeholders

Governments: are key stakeholders in this topic as failed and fragile states are an issue due to the lack of presence of a government body. Without proper representation, regions within a nation may get into big conflicts and it would be hard to find a common agreement then.

Variety of Groups within a nation: they represent different ethnic, religious, and linguistic groups inside of a nation. If they have an imbalance of power, it is easy for the most powerful group to overthrow other groups and create tension between them.

United Nations: a key stakeholder as they are viewed as an organization that is created to solve national problems. Specifically, helping failed and fragile states become more developed and promoting peace for all parties.

Neighboring nations: nations that are near failed and fragile states can be affected by any conflicts that may rise in those countries. They might be dragged into the conflict and cause unnecessary tension both nationally and internationally. It also opens up more possibilities that their government will be criticized for the decisions made.

IV. Key Issues including Background Information

Difference in wants/needs: With multiple groups of individuals that have different perspectives, the political power within a nation can be unbalanced and can cause civil wars and possibly genocide. At this point, democracy cannot stop strong political parties from causing havoc and taking over the country which can dissatisfy others.

Multiple groups in one region: There can be multiple ethnic, religious, and linguistic groups that live in one region and federalism alone cannot give them enough protection. They will most likely need special minority rights and legislation to protect them as they will be under a different governing force.

Federalism's cost: Federalism can be expensive to implement because there would be duplication of the government offices as there are multiple layers of government (central and regional). This would be a difficult resolution to apply as most fragile and failed states are Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs).

Federalism's weaknesses: Federalism can be inefficient and inflexible as it would require more coordination to respond/resolve any incident such as natural disasters, war, or a pandemic. If the governments do not work together then it makes it harder to initiate anything.

V. Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Date	Description of event
1824	Federalism was introduced in Mexico's Constitution as a resolution to the tension between states after the independence when the central government gained power.
1867	Canada adopted federalism due to a large number of territories, 12 to be exact, that were added over a span of a century.

1936	Federalism was adopted in the Russian government system by Joseph Stalin during the First World War and still remains a part of the government, becoming the largest federal country.
1949	After the Second World War the United States, United Kingdom, Soviet Union, and France assumed all governance powers and responsibilities in the nation, dividing the country into four zones of occupation. Following up by the collapse of the Berlin wall and Iron Curtain in Europe which shaped the German Federal government.
1960	While declaring independence, Nigeria had taken the structure of a federal government, but they had a powerful central government. Now, they have slowly split up into 36 states due to the military.
1990's	South Africa brought down the system of racial segregation and minority rule and used federalism to unite multiple tribes after British rule.
1994	Even though being one of the oldest states, Ethiopia adopted federalism in the late 1994's after expelling The Derg in 1991.
2005	The annual report titled Fragile States Index (FSI) indicates which nations are vulnerable to conflict or collapse of the government. There are 12 indicators and are assessed on a scale from 1-10, making the total score of 120. The higher the score the more fragile the state is.
2019	The FSI was passed to The New Humanitarian, which is a project of the United Nations Office for Coordinations for Human Affairs

VI. Possible Challenges & Solutions

Difference in wants/needs: The nation can have different groups of people and they can have different wants and needs. To combat this the country can create a peace contract between the regions and make sure that all regional governments are not overpowering one another, being very compensative with the agreements can help regions unite together. Furthermore, neighboring countries and the United Nations should aid the failed and fragile nations to help settle down on agreements. However, countries that are extremely politically weakened might lead to more corruption and there might not be anything to hold the wrong-doers accountable.

Multiple groups in one region: There can be multiple ethnic, religious, and linguistic groups that live in one region and federalism alone cannot give them enough protection. With federalism having different regional governments in each area, the central government of the nation can create passes for everyone to

have access to all regions (or the regions they apply for) or allow them to have access throughout the nation. The United Nations and other MEDC countries can help reinforce the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the failed and fragile nation to keep all citizens safe. Nonetheless, this would still not stop any war crimes from initiating between groups of people suddenly.

Federalism's cost: Federalism can be expensive to implement because there would be duplication of the government offices as there are multiple layers of government (central and regional). To help combat this, they can be funded by multiple organizations, such as fundraising, or NGOs, that aid failed and fragile countries to become developed. Specifically, helping the country to rebuild its economic sectors and trying to reshape it towards a more stable profit for these governments. Yet, it would still be hard to dedicate money and effort as there are currently dozens of failed and fragile states that severely need support. They will also need the support of other people outside of countries to support the organizations financially as they will be doing a lot of work and without proper representation, they might not receive adequate fundraising to achieve their goals.

Federalism's weaknesses: Federalism can be inefficient and inflexible as it would require more coordination to respond/resolve any incident such as natural disasters, war, or a pandemic. Governments should have instant and direct communication lines resistant to natural disasters and other possible accidents that may try to destroy the line. Governments should work and create a flow of how to respond to certain situations and have the United Nations and other countries refine the plan. With the aim of becoming a more developed nation, they will still need external funding to build and finish the operation order of governments (installing communication lines) which has the limitations written above.

VII. Recommendations for Resolution Writing including Research

1. Low-Income Less Economically Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, Small Island Developing States:
 - a. What is impacting your nation's instability? (is it economics, politics, or security?) Address them in your resolution.
 - b. Consider the different groups (possibly ethnic, religious, linguistic) within the nation's wants and needs
 - c. Consider the current impacts of the failed and fragile states on the neighboring nations.
2. High-Income More Developed Countries:
 - a. How can you aid the failed and fragile nations?

- b. Consider the impacts of the countries' intervention on the failed and fragile states. Would it cause more tension or conflicts?
3. P5 Nations:
 - a. Consider the impacts of the P5 countries on the failed and fragile states, would it benefit the failed and fragile states or even your own?
 - b. What is your relationship with the failed and fragile nation? Would your country help?
4. When the delegate is stuck, please don't be shy and reach out to their chairs
5. Using sources that are based on the delegate's country can help delegates understand their countries' stance (for example, if the delegate is assigned Vietnam, they can look at vnexpress.net)
6. Always remember to write in the delegate's country stance to keep the legitimacy of the country's perspective
7. Reach out to ally countries days (preferably weeks) before the conference to plan/draft each other's resolutions

VIII. Bibliography

Balázs Jarábik, and Balázs Jarábik. "The Only Way to Save Ukraine: Federalization." *Carnegie*

Endowment for International Peace, 2014,

carnegieendowment.org/2014/05/13/only-way-to-save-ukraine-federalization-pub-55581.

Accessed 15 Dec. 2022.

Canada Revenue Agency. "Climate Action Incentive Payment - Canada.ca." *Canada.ca*, 2022,

www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/cai-payment.html. Accessed 14

Dec. 2022.

Cooley, Larry, and Jonathan Papoulidis. "Scalable Solutions in Fragile States." *Brookings*, Brookings, 28

Nov. 2017,

www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2017/11/28/scalable-solutions-in-fragile-states/.

Accessed 16 Dec. 2022.

---. "Scalable Solutions in Fragile States." *Brookings*, Brookings, 28 Nov. 2017,

www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2017/11/28/scalable-solutions-in-fragile-states/.

Accessed 15 Dec. 2022.

“Countries - Forum of Federations.” *Forum of Federations*, 4 Mar. 2022, forumfed.org/countries/.

Accessed 15 Dec. 2022.

“Federalism and Foreign Policy: The Role of States.” *Council on Foreign Relations*, 2022,

www.cfr.org/event/federalism-and-foreign-policy-role-states. Accessed 15 Dec. 2022.

Hashmatallah Moslih. “Q&A: Afghanistan’s Tajiks Plea for Federalism.” *Aljazeera.com*, Al Jazeera, 6

Feb. 2016, www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/2/6/qa-afghanistans-tajiks-plea-for-federalism.

Accessed 15 Dec. 2022.

Jazeera, Al. “Italy PM Urges “Pragmatic Federalism”, Eastward Expansion for EU.” *Aljazeera.com*, Al

Jazeera, 3 May 2022,

[www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/3/italy-pm-urges-pragmatic-federalism-eastward-expansion-for-](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/3/italy-pm-urges-pragmatic-federalism-eastward-expansion-for-eu)

[eu](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/3/italy-pm-urges-pragmatic-federalism-eastward-expansion-for-eu). Accessed 15 Dec. 2022.

“Nigeria’s Unitary Federalism.” *Council on Foreign Relations*, 2020,

www.cfr.org/blog/nigerias-unitary-federalism. Accessed 15 Dec. 2022.

“Reconciliation and Federalism Support Project (REFS) for Somalia | United Nations Development Programme.” *UNDP*, 2018,

www.undp.org/somalia/projects/reconciliation-and-federalism-support-project-refs-somalia.

Accessed 15 Dec. 2022.

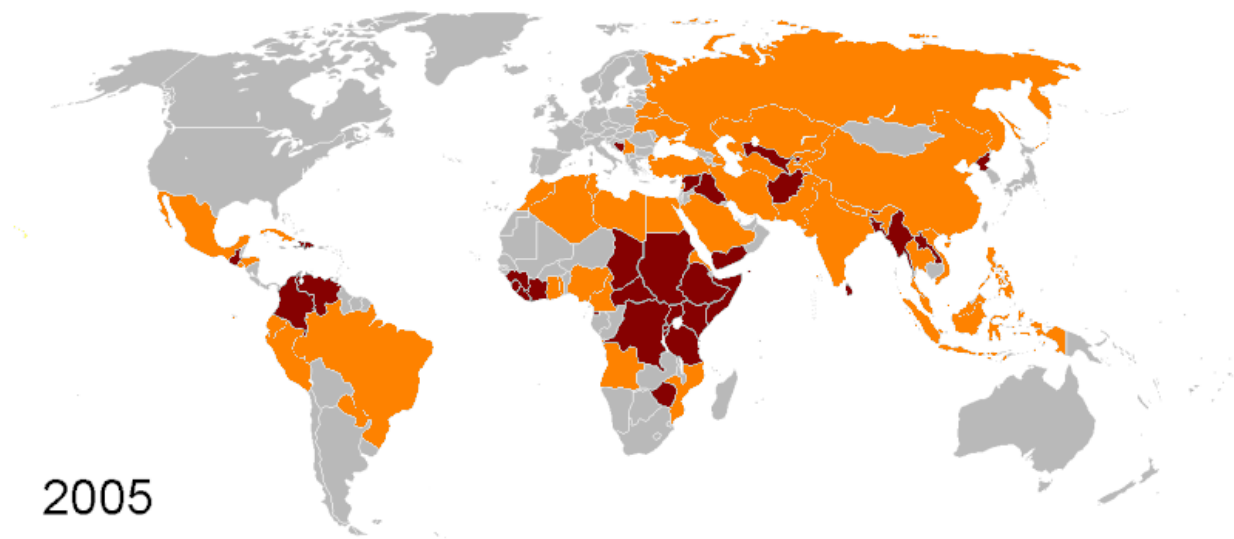
“States of Fragility 2022 | En | OECD.” *Oecd.org*, 2022,

www.oecd.org/dac/states-of-fragility-fa5a6770-en.htm. Accessed 15 Dec. 2022.






“WTO Launches Trade for Peace Network in Support of Fragile and Conflict-Affected States.” *Wto.org*,

2021, www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/acc_29mar21_e.htm. Accessed 15 Dec. 2022.

IX: Additional Resources



2005

 Alert	 Warning	 Moderate
 Sustainable	 No Information / Dependent Territory	