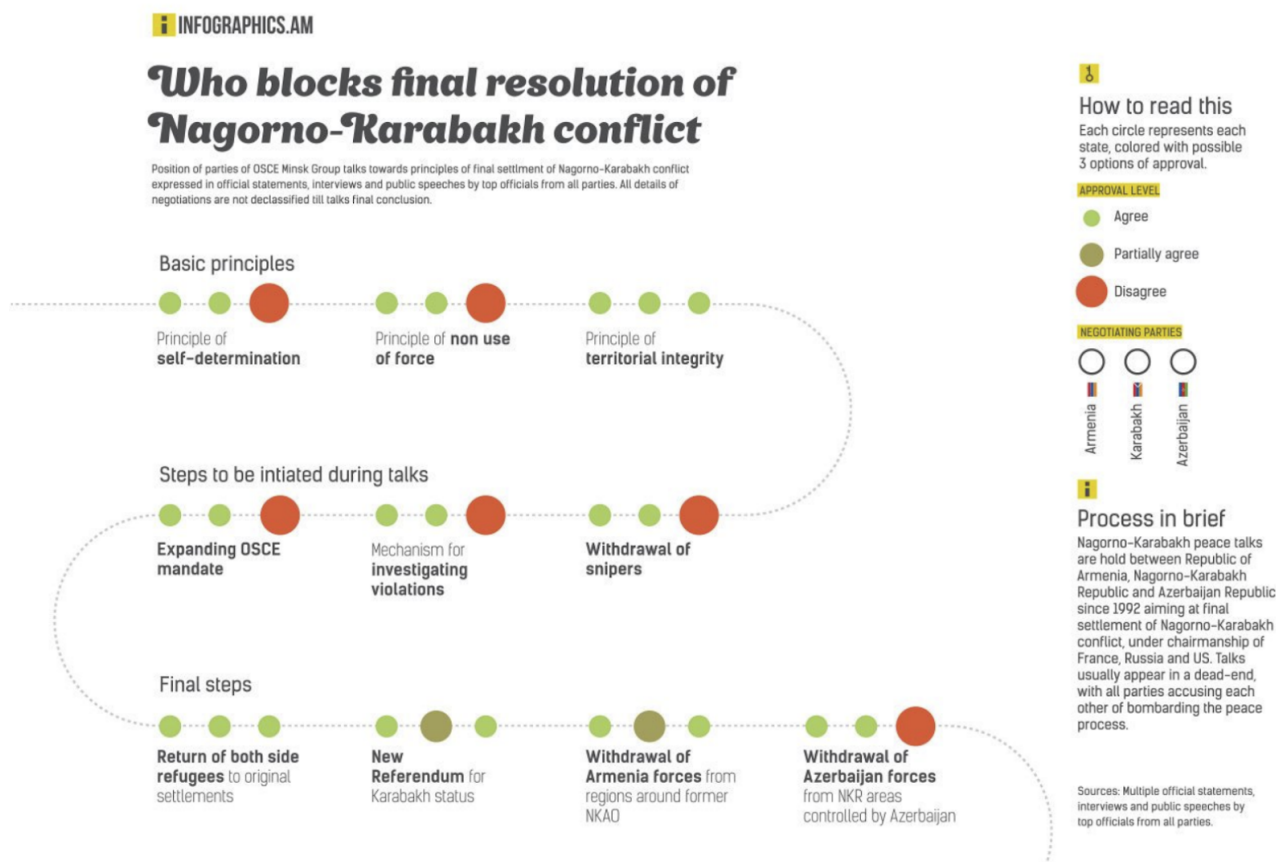


OSCE MINSK GROUP AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) Minsk Group has determined that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict must be solved in accordance with the principle of self-determination, non-use of force, and territorial integrity. As the graphic below shows, Azerbaijan has only supported conflict resolution on the grounds of territorial integrity as demonstrated by the 2020 Artsakh War.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly obstructed the OSCE Minsk Group's efforts, including increasing the number of OSCE ceasefire monitors, the withdrawal of snipers from the Line of Contact (LoC), and the implementation of a gunfire locator mechanism for investigating ceasefire violations. This was reflected in the 'Madrid Principles', a proposed settlement that called on Armenia to make unilateral concessions to Azerbaijan with no guarantee of Artsakh's security. On all three counts, Azerbaijan has been uncooperative in the conflict resolution process and instead opted for the use of deadly force.



The Australian Government long-held policy is to support the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs in working towards a peaceful settlement under the Helsinki Final Act Principles of non-use of force, territorial integrity and the equal rights to self-determination of peoples. Under this new 2020 ceasefire agreement, the ANC-AU calls upon the Australian government to ensure that the status of the Republic of Artsakh is ensured through recognition of the independence and right to self-determination of the indigenous Armenian population of Artsakh, who have already lost so much due to the neglect of the international community.

REPUBLIC OF ARTSAKH RECOGNITION



Domestic Recognition

There are two Australian states that currently recognise the Republic of Artsakh. In 2012 and 2019, the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, of the New South Wales Parliament, the largest state in Australia, respectively passed motions recognising the Armenian republic's right to self-determination. In 2019, the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council called on the Australian Federal Government to do the same. Following this, in 2021, the Parliament of South Australia passed a motion in the Legislative Assembly becoming the second state to recognise the independence of the Republic of Artsakh, while also condemning Azerbaijan and Turkey for their recent invasion and attacks on the country's indigenous Armenian population.

Additionally, there are also two local governments in New South Wales that have adopted resolutions recognising the Republic of Artsakh. On May 22, 2018, the City of Ryde unanimously adopted a motion which recognised the country's independence and encourages Artsakh's involvement in the international community, also calling upon the Commonwealth Government to officially recognise the independence of the Republic of Artsakh and strengthen Australia's relationship with the Republic of Artsakh and its citizens. In 2019, the City of Ryde became a Friendship City with the capital of Artsakh, Stepanakert.

On November 9, 2020, the City of Willoughby passed a similar motion recognising the Republic of Artsakh and calling on all Australians to advance this to the Federal level of government. The motion also condemned Azerbaijani and Turkish aggression during the 2020 Artsakh War.

A number of political parties including the Australian Greens, several senior and youth state branches of the major political parties including the New South Wales Young Liberals, as well as influential advocacy groups including the New South Wales Young Liberals and the Executive Council of Australian Jewry also recognised the Republic of Artsakh and the right to self-determination for the indigenous Armenian population.



"The pathway to a lasting peace in the Nagorno-Karabakh region is international community recognition of the Republic of Artsakh, and Australia should support that recognition."

- JOEL FITZGIBBON MP



International Recognition

To date, several legislative bodies of countries have recognised the Republic of Artsakh.

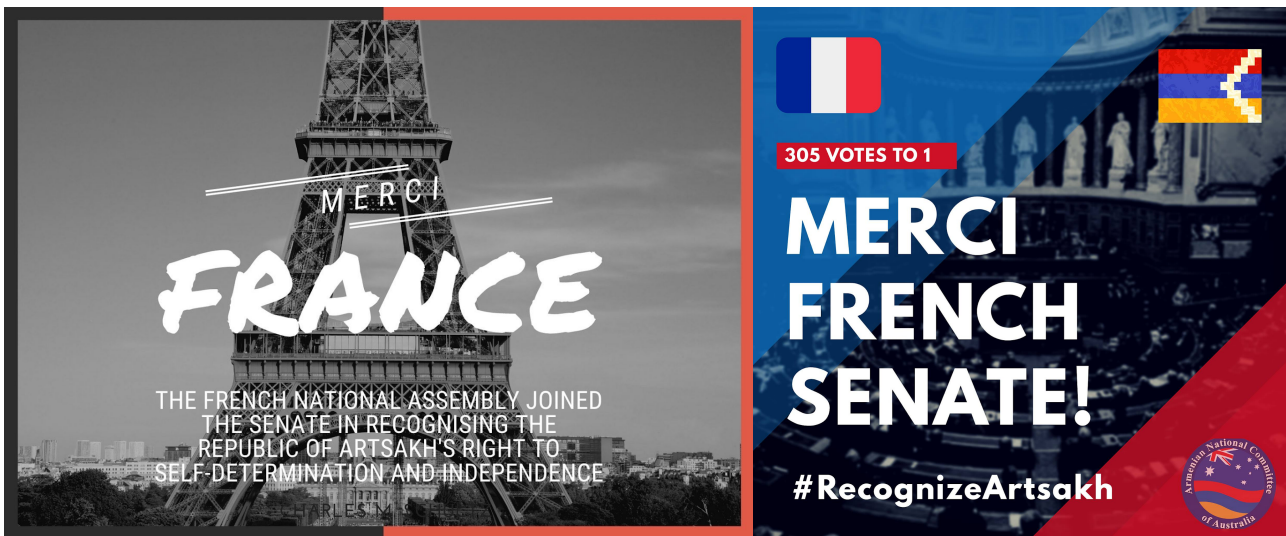
France

The French Government recognised the Republic of Artsakh through resolutions in both the National Assembly on December 4, 2020 and the Senate on November 26, 2020.



This is in addition to several French cities and states which have also recognised the right to self-determination and independence of the Republic of Artsakh.

Although the President of France has not recognised Artsakh, he has condemned Azerbaijan and Turkey for their egregious attacks on the indigenous Armenian population of Artsakh and called for a lasting peaceful settlement through the OSCE Minsk Group.



Internationally, various state and local legislatures have adopted motions recognising the Republic of Artsakh and have issued calls for recognition by their national government.

In 2012, several states in the United States, including Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Maine passed resolutions recognising Artsakh's independence and urging the Federal Government to do the same.



Australia's Record on Recognition of Self-Determination



**REPUBLIC OF
Kosovo**
(19 February 2008)

The Assembly of Kosovo unilaterally declared the independence of the United Nations administered territory from Serbia as the Republic of Kosovo on 17 February 2008.

Two days later, Australia recognised the state on 19 February 2008. The decision to recognise the Republic of Kosovo was made despite Australian commentators like Michael McKinley claiming it could adversely affect relations with Russia, China, Romania and Spain.

On the day Kosovo declared independence, former Prime Minister of Australia Kevin Rudd said that "We've already indicated to our diplomatic representatives around the world that this (independence) would be an appropriate course of action".

In this case, Australia recognised the plight and right to self-determination of an indigeneous population being oppressed by states far larger and oppressive. As a result, Australia and Kosovo now enjoy diplomatic relations and Australia stands on the right side of history and upheld its reputation on human rights.

On 12 March 2008 following Kosovo's declaration of independence, the National Assembly of Nagorno-Karabakh adopted a statement calling on the world's parliaments to be consistent in their recognition of states established on the basis of the right for self-determination and not to use double standards. The statement commended the stance of the international community respecting the human and civil rights of the majority of Kosovo's population.



**TIMOR-LESTE
(EAST TIMOR)**
(20 May 2002)

Initially, Australia supported the annexation of East Timor by Indonesia, however due to large scale protests in Melbourne and Sydney and other Australian cities, the Australian governments support for annexation fell and support of recognitions grew.

As a result, on 20 May 2002, Timor-Leste achieved their independence, after 24 years occupation by Indonesia and three years of UN administration.

In 2002, Timor-Leste became the first new sovereign nation of the 21st century. Australia's involvement with East Timor has deepened since independence, especially after the internal conflict in 2006 and the sending of Australian peacekeepers.

Australia has led international support for East Timor during its first 10 years of independence, not only as the largest bilateral donor of development assistance, but also by providing a leadership role to ensure security and stability in the country.

The Foreign Ministry of Artsakh welcomed the declaration of the independence of East Timor. Senior official Leonid Martirosian said that East Timor's independence was eliminating the danger of the precedent of recognising new states.

"Nagorno Karabakh, like East Timor, has passed the same path managing to overcome independently and at the expense of huge victims and suffering humanitarian crises and built an independent state," Leonid Martirosian said.