"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University

Faculty of Filosophy and Socio-Political Studies

International mediation and the efficiency of peaceful means of conflict resolution
Resume

Scientific Coordinator,

University Professor PhD. George Poede

PhD. Student,

Olesea Țaranu

This PhD thesis, entitled "**International mediation and the efficiency of peaceful means of conflict resolution**" aims to present and analyze the tools for peaceful conflict resolution, available to the international community, tools that have proved useful many times in the positive development of the conflicts that have shaken too often, the international system, adversely affect the development of states, their relationships and the lives of individuals, with special attention being paid to international mediation in an attempt to identify those elements and aspects recommends as a highly effective and commonly used in efforts to resolve the conflict. The research fits within the field of International Relations, the subfield of Security Studies, placing it in the area of professional interest. The concern and interest in this issue are older, this approach is a natural continuation of research during the Master of European Integration and Security Studies. Considering the topic for the dissertation "Mediation as a method of settling disputes peacefully. Case study: Transnistrian conflict ", I decided to stay in the same field, developing and deepening a topic as complex, sometimes marked by uncertainty and underdeveloped concept in the local area, as it is interesting, generous, and challenging. The study of instruments and means of peaceful resolution of international conflicts is a passion that developed as a result of interest in the resolution of frozen conflicts especially in the former Soviet Union (in this regard, interest has been expanded in recent years and moved to include other areas of conflict, one reason being the low chances of solving conflicts in the former Soviet Union, due to the presence of Russia performing conflicting roles that render any resolution attempt by the international community). Thus, the reason I started this approach is, on one hand, the desire to deepen an area that is useful in work and, on the other hand, emphasize the need for understanding the phenomenon of conflict and identify effective tools in an effort to resolve them internationally. In the same time I also support the need and possibility of peaceful conflict resolution.

And if I exposed the personal reasons that determined the choice of this research subject, it is absolutely mandatory and desirable to identify a number of objective justifications of the decision to tackle such a subject. As follows:

1. First, the topic of peaceful resolution of international conflicts through the tools available to the community, is a topic intensely debated globally, this claim is substantiated by legal documents that enshrine the obligation of peaceful settlement of conflicts, rich literature in

the field has been developed for decades, the large number of examples of practical application of mediation in inter-and intrastate conflicts (but not only), as well as other tools used by the international community, the growing interest that manifests many actors to engage in conflict resolution through one or another of the available methods.

2. Secondly, I believe that such an approach can help to enrich literature in this field in our country. Unfortunately, we must recognize that in Romania, the subject is treated predominantly by international law specialists and representatives of the military, embracing both specific and limited perspectives in our field of interest. Consequently, the latest analysis, that are built on a solid foundation offered by Security Studies and International Relations, can be, in general, considered genuine and welcome.

3. Third, the generosity of the chosen topic was one of the reasons for selection. Given the multitude of issues likely to be addressed in a subject so vast, invites further research in several directions, different aspects being analyzed at different depth levels, some subjects provide support for understanding and deepening others considered relevant in this context. The study in question, provides, through its general approach, many opportunities to deepen the subject, this being a future career goal, this opening is in itself a justification for choosing the topic.

4. Fourth, the choice of the research is justified by the practical importance that the international mediation presents in international relations, the use of this instrument for conflict resolution being on an upward trend even in the transformations suffered by the international environment, special ability to adapt to new challenges and new situations accentuated or exacerbated by globalization, flexibility, dynamism, suppleness and efficiency to provide the best recommendations.

In order to achieve the overall goal mentioned above, this research was developed around two key objectives, as the title suggests:

1. In a general context, the first objective was to analyze the means that the international community has at its disposal for peaceful resolution of conflicts, identifying the main characteristics of conflict resolution instruments, with advantages and disadvantages, the comparisons between different instruments being extremely useful in our approach,

2. In particular, the focus of this research was directed on international mediation. Based on the finding that mediation is one of the oldest tools for resolving conflicts, being commonly used and, dare I say, extremely effective in international practice, this thesis aims to analyze the

international mediation in the sense of its means of settling international conflicts, by identifying and detailing those elements that we consider essential for shaping the most accurate and comprehensive picture and identifying those characteristics which recommend it as an effective tool, easy to adapt to a new complex context, usable both in interstate conflicts and in the intrastate that seem to dominate today.

The reasons justifying the choice of this research topic, and the objectives, determined the structure, comprising, besides introduction, four chapters - each chapter containing, where appropriate, subchapters, divisions and subdivisions, each of them, in turn, containing secondary endpoints, specific conclusions and bibliography.

Chapter I. The main features of contemporary security environment. Threats and vulnerabilities in Post Post-Cold War era was meant to be an exhaustive analysis of the security environment that has emerged since the end of the Cold War, from the perspective of Security Studies, an original and useful approach that distances us from the traditional approach to international law, placing our work on solid and specific ground. The following is a culmination of years of study and training, the personal touch is visible in the perspective of the researcher elected to treat problems, in selecting issues to be examined, and also in the last part of the chapter the conclusion is meant to be an interesting exercise that aims to identify potential future international system milestones. Among the topics touched in this chapter, lists the consequences of the Cold War and configuration of contemporary security environment, the post-Westphalian challenges, the changing nature of conflict, the relationship between war and globalization, the impact of the Revolution in Military Affairs on how the war is conducted, the challenge represented by the asymmetric enemies, and also the identification of new sources of insecurity in the Post Post-Cold War era.

Chapter II of the paper entitled **International conflicts between conceptual debates and current trends** wishes to establish a theoretical basis for the entire approach. Considering the objective to bring conceptual clarification needed when we often juggle with the term „conflict", a horizontal concept in our analysis, this chapter gives us the opportunity to make a surveying, both useful and problematic, on the conceptual space, action that seeks to identify a number of operational definitions, surprising the difficulties that the analysts face when trying to explain a concept so often used and seemingly trivial but unclear and full of contradictions. Also, in this chapter, based on the relevant international guidelines, related works and conflict studies,

an overview is created of the taxonomies that present the international conflicts and their sources, while the last part deals with an issue somewhat distinct that emphasizes the original character of the perspective embraced by researcher. Thus, the last part of the chapter titled **Socio-psychological dimensions of international conflict** presents a theory that has gained in recent years more and more followers in the international relationships in general and international conflicts in particular, theory that must be seen as a different complement to the traditional realist and neorealist current, and which manages to capture a number of socio-psychological aspects that escape attention or are marginalized by the representatives of the two trends.

The socio-psychological approach paves the way, in the context of this research, for a discussion of the **Dynamics of contemporary conflicts and the means used by the international community for peaceful conflict resolution**, representing the subject of Chapter III. This chapter starts from the assumption that discussions on violent conflict can be, and are, often complex. What is meant by the ending of conflicts, the conditions for ending violent conflicts, how to ensure the prevention of the outbreak of conflicts, what tools are available to the actors in order to end conflicts, how to ensure the stability of an agreement, what are the conditions that will prevent the arise of conflicts and violence - all these questions are real challenges for both theoreticians and practitioners of the conflict resolution field, and the variety of possible responses and development places the activity of the ones implicated under doubt.

Based on a series of discussions on the life cycle of conflicts and identifying the most common measures that are adopted by the international community to respond effectively, in the pages of this chapter a description of the actions of preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding is presented. Also, in the context of a more general discussion about international peacemaking actions, one of the key issues is addressed in this research – the presentation of diplomatic and legal instruments of peaceful resolution of conflicts - negotiation, good offices, inquiry, conciliation, arbitration, and appeal to international justice – with the advantages and disadvantages that they present, which sets out a series of comparisons between instruments in order to highlight their usefulness in terms of a specific context, and a series of examples demonstrating their practical applicability.

Chapter IV of this paper **International mediation. Development of mediation as a peaceful mean of conflict resolution** is a reference section for this research, the addressed

subject serving to highlight the second goal originally set. This final chapter deals with the problem of mediaton, as means of international conflict resolution, in a generous way, analyzing in detail the conceptual aspects, the main features that distinguish it from other tools, identifying the reasons behind the decision to offer or request / accept mediation, provides detailed information about the status of mediators and mediation advantages realized by individuals, states or international organizations, about the development of mediation by presenting the most used and effective strategies and approaches to mediation, as well as providing conditions to increase the chances of success of mediation. The final part of this chapter discusses specific cases of application of mediation in the development of interstate conflict - the Camp David mediation conducted by Jimmy Carter as the official representative of his country, in the Middle East conflict on the segment of conflicting relations between Israel and Egypt, and the IGAD mediation as a regional organization aiming to end the civil war in Sudan, a representative case of application of international mediation in an intrastate conflict, a more interesting topic in light of the current trends in the international arena, showing reduced incidence of interstate conflicts and an increase of intrastate ones.

The paper ends with some **Conclusions** which summarize observations made during the research, conclusions that can and should serve as a basis for future studies.

Bibliography can be found in the last section of this approach, an important point that is a reflection of the efforts of the researcher and the academic correctness proof.

In order to achieve the objectives set for this research, we will use the theoretical framework, created conceptual as a result of careful study of literature. To support the conceptual framework we will review a number of examples illustrating how to use the tools provided and the success or failure of their application. *The main* research method used in the preparation of this thesis is the content analysis, simple or comparative where appropriate, addressed in a specific of the socio-human science, or political science. The analysis is a qualitative one, rather than quantitative. However, it should not be understood that I entirely abandoned the quantitative side, some statistical aspects being used, where appropriate, complementing qualitative analyzes and statements. If the initial phase of the research comprised of selected and representative works and documents relevant to the general topic and specific issues addressed in the paper, in the implementation phase or the exploitation phase, of the chosen materials, I preferred various techniques (from presenting and analysing the theoretical concepts, to collecting information on

certain specific examples of application of the instruments studied and so on). Examples selected and presented at the end of Chapter IV were chosen as representative for mediation, in contexts marked by interstate and intrastate conflicts, involving a mediator representing a state with a privileged position in the international system, or a regional organization, the purpose of the presentation being to identify the main aspects that explain their success, and the lessons that can be learned by contemporary and future mediators.

Regarding the *bibliographic sources* used in this research, they are both primary (national and international) - treaties, protocols, charters, strategies or other official documents, and secondary - books, articles, studies, reports in printed form and electronically, all these sources being found in the Bibliography section.

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