

The Security Council's Role across Multiple Countries

Khachatryan Kristine H.

YSU International Relations Master's student, Laboratory assistant at the Institute for Armenian Studies, YSU Institute for Armenian Studies (Yerevan, RA)

 <https://orcid.org/0009-0007-3722-4322>

kristine.khachatryan444@gmail.com, kristine.khachatryan@ysu.am

UDC: 323; EDN: ESBYBL

DOI: 10.58587/18292437-2025.2-16

Keywords & phrases: Security Council, National Security, Foreign Policy, Domestic Policy, Global Security Challenges, Security Mechanisms

Անվտանգության խորհրդի դերը տարբեր երկրներում

Խաչատրյան Կրիստինե Հ.

ԵՊՀ Միջազգային հարաբերությունների մագիստրատուրայի ուսանող,
ԵՊՀ Հայագիտական հետազոտությունների ինստիտուտի լաբորանտ (Երևան, ՀՀ)

Ամփոփագիր. Անվտանգության խորհուրդը առանցքային դեր է խաղում ազգային անվտանգության ձևավորման, երկրի ներքին ու արտաքին քաղաքականության համակարգման գործերում: Թեպետ շատ երկրներում այս մարմինը կատարում է նմանատիպ գործառնություններ, սակայն աշխատանքի կառուցվածքն ու մեթոդները հաճախ զգալիորեն տարբերվում են: Այս աշխատությունը ուսումնասիրում է Հայաստանի, ԱՄՆ-ի, Ռուսաստանի, Թուրքիայի և Իսրայելի Անվտանգության խորհուրդները և դրանց ազդեցությունը անվտանգության ռազմավարությունների, ներքին և արտաքին քաղաքականության մշակման վրա: Առանձնահատուկ ուշադրություն է դարձվում այս խորհուրդների դերի էվոլյուցիային՝ ժամանակակից սպառնալիքների համատեքստում, ինչպիսիք են կիբեռ սպառնալիքները, ահաբեկչությունը, կլիմայի փոփոխությունը և այլն: Համեմատական իրավական և վերլուծական մեթոդների կիրառմամբ ուսումնասիրվում են տարբեր երկրներում Անվտանգության խորհուրդներից յուրաքանչյուրի կիրառած մոտեցումները: Աշխատանքի նպատակն է բացահայտել Անվտանգության խորհուրդների՝ որպես ազգային անվտանգության և կայունության ապահովման գործողությունները համակարգող մարմինների դերի հիմնական միտումները և գնահատել դրանց ազդեցությունը միջազգային անվտանգության զարգացման վրա:

Հանգուցաբառեր և բառակապակցություններ՝ Անվտանգության խորհուրդ, Ազգային անվտանգություն, արտաքին քաղաքականություն, ներքին քաղաքականություն, անվտանգության գլոբալ մարտահրավերներ, անվտանգության մեխանիզմներ

Роль Совета Безопасности во многих странах

Хачатрян Кристине Г.

Студентка магистратуры по международным отношениям, ЕГУ,
лаборант Института арменоведческих исследований ЕГУ (Ереван, РА)

Аннотация: Совет безопасности играет ключевую роль в формировании национальной безопасности и координации внутренней и внешней политики. В разных странах этот орган выполняет сходные функции, однако структура и методы работы могут значительно различаться. В данной работе рассматриваются Советы безопасности Армении, США, России, Турции и Израиля, а также их влияние на разработку стратегий безопасности и внешней политики. Особое внимание уделяется эволюции роли этих Советов в ответ на современные угрозы, такие как киберугрозы, терроризм и изменения климата. Используя сравнительно-правовой и аналитический методы, исследуются подходы, применяемые каждым из Советов безопасности в разных странах. Цель работы – выявить основные тенденции в роли Советов безопасности как органов, координирующих действия по обеспечению национальной безопасности и стабильности, а также оценить их влияние на развитие международной безопасности.

Ключевые слова и словосочетания: Совет Безопасности, Национальная безопасность, Внешняя политика, Внутренняя политика, Глобальные вызовы безопасности, Механизмы безопасности

Introduction

Before talking about security councils, it is necessary to first understand the conceptual meaning of security. Security is a pillar for every state, as it refers not only to military defense, but also includes many other areas important to the country. These include, for example, physical,

environmental, ecological, cyber, information, economic security, etc. Therefore, as such, security represents a comprehensive framework for states, which is aimed at protecting not only the territorial integrity of the country, but also its political, economic, social and cultural well-being from internal and external threats.

Each country defines its own concept of national security, which is shaped by its specific geopolitical context, historical experience and strategic interests. In the case of the Republic of Armenia, the definition of national security is mostly enshrined in the country's legal framework, in particular, in the law on national security bodies. According to this law: The national security of the Republic of Armenia refers to a state and societal condition that ensures the security of the individual, society, and the state. It encompasses the protection of the country's territorial integrity, sovereignty, constitutional order, and the healthy development of the economy. It also includes safeguarding the material and spiritual values of society, the rights and freedoms of citizens, and the environment, while securing them from both internal and external threats. The relevant state administration bodies are responsible for carrying out the tasks related to ensuring the national security of the Republic of Armenia, within the scope of their authority [4].

In ensuring national security, Armenia, like almost all countries, relies on a number of specialized institutions and bodies to manage, coordinate and implement measures aimed at mitigating potential threats. The Security Council of the Republic of Armenia bears a significant part of the responsibility for maintaining the country's national security. It is obvious that the Security Council of the Republic of Armenia plays a central role in coordinating domestic policy in this sense.

The significance of security councils in the context of national security cannot be undervalued. Security councils are key institutions that allow for the coordination of national security policy and strategy. They often operate at the highest levels of government, involving key decision-makers from various sectors, including military, intelligence, foreign affairs, law enforcement, economic, etc. While the specific mandate, composition, and functions of security councils vary from country to country, their role remains largely the same: to formulate and oversee the implementation of policies that protect national security interests.

The first part of this work examines the role of the Security Council in Armenia, focusing on its functions as one of the main actors in ensuring the well-being of the country. The work examines the structure, mandate and other functions of the councils. The second part of the work covers a broader scope of the field of study, including the study of the Security Councils of a number of other countries, including the United States, Russia, Turkey and Israel, considering the strategic priorities of these councils, policy outcomes, as well as the approach of these countries to national security coordination in general.

In conclusion, the Security Council represents a mechanism that is a crucial tool for states in their efforts to ensure their security. As Barry Buzan and Lene Hansen argue in their widely recognized book, *The Evolution of International Security Studies*, 'Security has a particular discursive and political force and is a concept that does something – securitise – rather than an objective (or subjective) condition', therefore a study of the Security Councils of Armenia, as well as other countries, will allow us to understand their nature as one of the main actors in the most important issues of the country [1, p. 214].

1. The Security Council's Role Across the Republic of Armenia: The Republic of Armenia has undergone significant political and institutional changes since its transition to a parliamentary republic model. Following the constitutional reforms of 2015, Armenia shifted to a parliamentary form of governance. As a result, significant changes occurred in the country, of which the country's legal framework could not remain inseparable, one of which was the law "On the Formation and Activities of the Security Council" [14]. This law regulates the status, functions, and powers of the Security Council, its composition—members of the Security Council, the procedure of its activities—organization and conduct of Security Council meetings, decisions—types of decisions, the procedure for their adoption, ensuring the smooth operation—working procedures of the Security Council, the Secretary of the Security Council, and the Secretariat. To understand the role of the Security Council of the Armenia can play in coordinating the policy of the Republic of Armenia, it is essential to familiarize yourself with the functions and powers of the council, which are also summarized in the aforementioned law, particularly in article 2.

The functions and powers of the Security Council of the Republic of Armenia are: According to part 2 of article 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, one of the key functions of the Security Council is to determine the main directions of defense policy [3]. In addition, the Security Council plays a decisive role in discussing issues related to national security, territorial integrity and the inviolability of the borders of Armenia, which are considered at the proposal of the Prime Minister. The Council is authorized to make decisions on various issues related to defense policy, in particular, on its basic principles, as well as may make decisions on other issues that fall within its sphere of responsibility and are of a parliamentary nature. It should also be noted that in addition to the provisions enshrined in the RA Law "On the Formation and Activities of the Security Council",

the powers and functions of the Security Council are also defined by the RA Law “On Defense”, which is an additional legal basis [15].

As it became clear from the above text, one of the main functions of the Security Council is to define the primary directions of defense policy. In order to fully and thoroughly understand the nature of this authority, it is necessary to first become familiar with these directions. Referring to the official webpage of the Security Council Office of Armenia, we can identify that these directions include strategic planning for defense, its review, and approval, which encompasses plans for the development, deployment, mobilization, and use of the armed forces, plans for the development of other forces, operational defense equipment for the protection of the territory of Armenia, national civil defense plans, senior command positions within the armed forces, positions of the highest military ranks, as well as the corresponding lists of senior military officer ranks [6]. In addition to all this, another primary direction for the defense sector policy is the implementation of other powers defined by law.

Analyzing the functions and powers of the Security Council, we come to the conclusion that the Security Council in the context of the Republic of Armenia, where military protection and military readiness have always been the one of the main guarantees of the country's security and well-being, is directly related to the coordination of the country's domestic policy, and the future of Armenia largely depends on the decisions made by the Council and their effective implementation. The approval of significant plans by the Security Council - the development plan of the armed forces, the development plan of other forces, the deployment plan of the armed forces, etc. - once again show that the country's security policy is largely dependent on the work of the Council. Of course, all of these are very important issues for the Republic of Armenia, but it is worth emphasizing one of the main functions of the Security Council, which is becoming increasingly relevant and key for today's Armenia, when the country is facing complex geopolitical challenges, namely: the Security Council, at the proposal of the Prime Minister, discusses issues concerning the security, territorial sovereignty, and inviolability of Armenia's borders. This again emphasizes the central role of the Security Council in national security decision-making, and in this context, the Security Council is perceived as both a military oversight body and one of the primary bodies for security policy coordination across various branches of government.

2. The Security Council's Role Across the United States of America, Russian Federation,

Republic of Turkey, and State of Israel : *United States:* The National Security Council serves as the President's primary platform for addressing matters related to defense and international relations, gathering top officials and key advisors. It plays a crucial role in ensuring policy coordination among various government agencies.

Given the complexity of today's challenges, U.S. national security is taking a more integrated approach across the nation's diverse sectors, including economic, health, and environmental security.

The President's legal counsel and the NSC's legal advisor are invited to participate in all National Security Council meetings. In addition, agency heads and key senior officials from other executive branch departments, including the COVID-19 Response Coordinator and the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate Action, are invited to attend NSC meetings as needed, where national issues, including homeland security, global health, the international economy, climate change, science and technology, cybersecurity, migration, and other issues, are discussed.

The National Security Council is presided over by the President of the United States and comprises a core group of high-ranking officials who play a pivotal role in shaping national security and foreign policy. Its permanent members include the Vice President, the Secretary of State, Treasury, Defense, Energy, Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the United States Representative to the United Nations, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. Moreover, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff functions as the chief military consultant to the council, whereas the Director of National Intelligence offers strategic oversight and intelligence evaluations [13].

From the foregoing, it is clear that the United States National Security Council (NSC) plays a very critical role in coordinating national security and domestic policy, and it is the president's most important decision-making forum. However, according to John Gans' book *White House Warriors*, the NSC has been a force behind U.S. security strategy for decades and has influenced both military operations and governance itself. From its offices in the Executive Office Building and through direct counsel to the president, the NSC has shaped national security decisions more than any other institution or adviser in modern American history. This was particularly evident in the Iraq War and the 2007 troop surge, when NSC staffers, such as Meghan O'Sullivan, played a critical role in shaping U.S. war strategy and briefing President

George W. Bush before the policy shift was announced [2, pp. 7-9]. Yet the reach of the NSC extends beyond war planning, shaping not only the nation's approach to battle but how Washington operates overall. Its importance is also highlighted by the fact that it now oversees a broad array of security concerns, ranging from environmental and health security to cybersecurity and economic stability. As international challenges become increasingly sophisticated, the NSC tries that domestic and foreign policy remain integrated, coordinating federal departments and agencies to manage proactively, mitigate, and anticipate the diverse threats to the United States.

Russia (RF): The Russian Federation, as a preamble to the creation of the Security Council, emphasizes the fact that the thorough analysis, strategic planning and decision-making on all issues related to the country's security, as well as the ongoing need to formulate presidential decrees, require the existence of a special constitutional advisory body accountable to the President. This entity is referred to as the Security Council.

The Security Council is tasked with developing policy recommendations aimed at ensuring stability and protection across various levels of governance and public welfare. It contributes to the development of a comprehensive national security strategy and supports the President in executing constitutional responsibilities, including the protection of human rights, civil liberties, national sovereignty, independence, and the territorial integrity of the state.

The President establishes the Security Council following the provisions of the Constitution and the Federal Law "On Security." Serving as its Chairman, the President is also responsible for selecting its members. The Council's activities are supervised by its Secretary, who reports directly to the President and directs the work of the Council and its Office.

The Office of the Security Council operates as a separate unit within the Executive Office of the President and holds the designation of a directorate. To effectively carry out its duties, the Security Council establishes interdepartmental committees, which are its main operational units. These committees may be formed either on a special

function or regional basis and may be temporary or permanent.

The Security Council meets regularly on a schedule determined by the President. Extraordinary meetings may be called in urgent situations. The President establishes the meeting agenda based on the suggestions of the Council's Secretary and presides over the sessions. The Secretary also holds ongoing meetings with the members of the Council to ensure ongoing coordination and progress.

The Security Council is responsible for preparing important documents that define the main strategies for national security.

Examining the functions of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, it becomes noticeable that the Russian Federation considers the Security Council one of the most important bodies of the country and the coordination of both Russia's domestic and foreign policies directly stems from it, since, as already mentioned, this body is entrusted with the development of proposals these national policies, designed to safeguard the core interests of individuals, society, and the state from both internal and external dangers, serve as the foundation for a nation's long-term stability. The establishment of a Scientific Council, made up of experts from the Russian Academy of Sciences, specialized academies, and educational institutions, operates to provide scientific expertise for the work of the Council once again emphasizes how serious and important this structure is for the Russian Federation, in particular its involvement in issues of coordinating the country's multi-vector policies [5; 12].

Turkey: The establishment of the structure by the decree of the Supreme Defense Assembly in 1933 is considered as the first step taken by Turkey to build national security, the latter was engaged in national mobilization issues. The structure of today's Turkey responsible for this has undergone a number of constitutional and legal changes within the framework of Turkey's accession process to the European Union. At present, the structure is referred to as the "National Security Council". It serves as the paramount coordinating body of the state for security and defense policy matters. The Council convenes once every two months, on a constitutional framework.

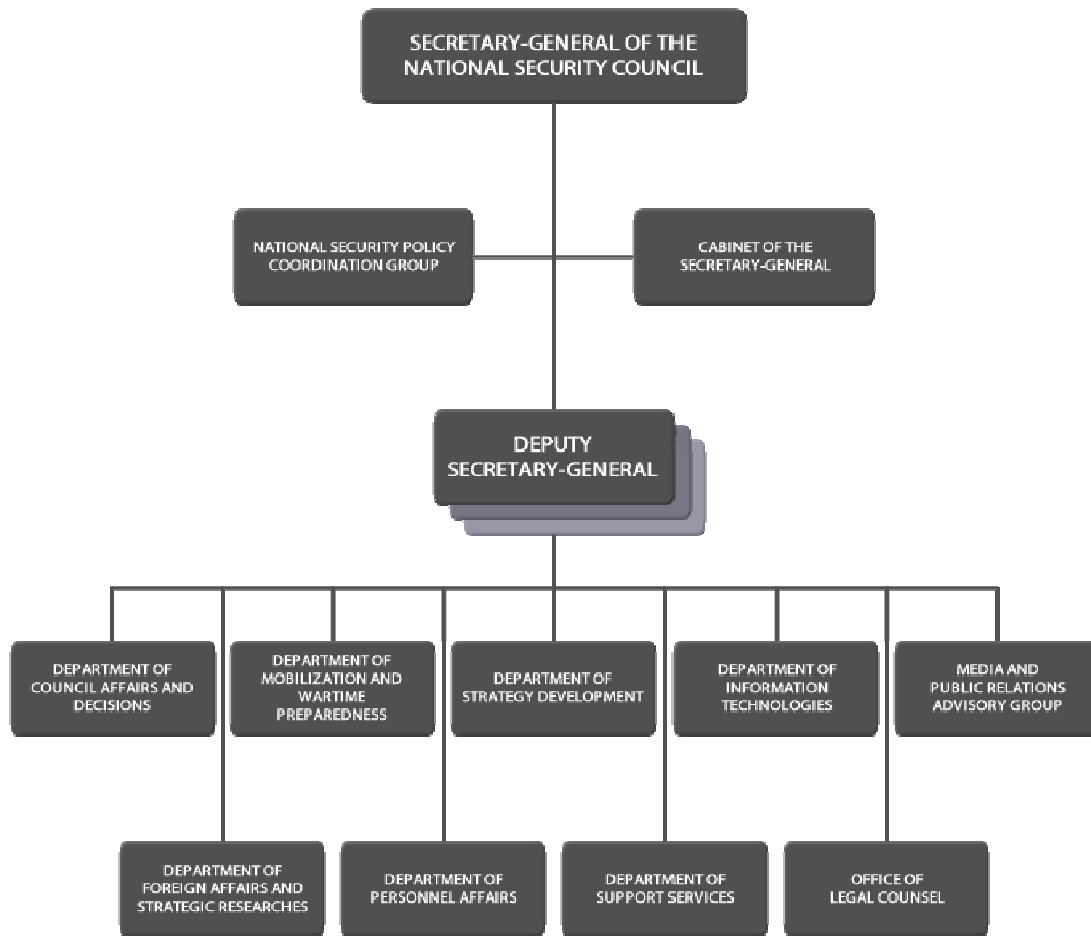


Figure 1: Organizational chart of the General Secretariat of the Turkish National Security Council [11].

The National Security Council of the Republic of Turkey is made up of the President, Vice Presidents, and the Ministers of Justice, National Defense, Internal Affairs, and Foreign Affairs, as well as the Chief of the General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces, and the Commanders of the Land Forces, Navy, and Air Force. Additionally, if the agenda requires, ministers and other relevant individuals may be invited to attend Council meetings to offer information and participate in discussions on the presented matters. When the President is absent, the Vice President takes on the responsibility of presiding over the NSC. Figure 1 shows the organizational chart of the General Secretariat of the Turkish National Security Council [9; 10].

From the above, it becomes clear that for the Republic of Turkey, the role of the Security Council is not only important for the involvement in and resolution of security issues in various sectors of the country, but the structure is considered the highest coordinating council for the state in the field of coordination of defense and security policy, therefore it is concluded that the decisions made by

the Security Council in both Turkey's foreign and domestic policies are classified as of primary importance.

Israel: The NSC of Israel is the principal advisory council to the Prime Minister and government on matters related to foreign affairs and national security, according to guidelines laid out in the National Security Council Law. As the central coordinating mechanism for national security policy, the NSC formulates strategic suggestions, ensures inter-organizational and inter-departmental coordination, and puts forth alternative policy suggestions for consideration by the government, submitting well-reasoned justifications. It is also charged with the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of government decisions and reporting directly to the Prime Minister. Additionally, the NSC plays a significant role in determining priorities of foreign affairs and security agenda, conducting political-security analyses—intelligence analysis included—and producing annual and multi-year analyses. Its responsibilities are to monitor the defense, foreign affairs, and security ministries' budgets for headquarters

operations, oversee the National Crisis Management Center in the Prime Minister's Office, and examine Israel's security doctrine periodically to suggest changes if necessary. Furthermore, the NSC evaluates major security programs and conducts personnel-related activities in the fields of foreign affairs and security, and any other activity delegated by the Prime Minister [8]. Apart from its prime functions, the NSC has been entrusted with other duties based on various government decisions. It is in charge of setting up and running the Counter-Terrorism Bureau as well as monitoring its effective function. It also has the role of enhancing ministers' knowledge concerning political and security matters. NSC has a permanent place at the ministerial committee that takes care of civil emergency preparedness. Further, it plays a significant role in preparing cabinet meetings, familiarizing new members of the cabinet, briefing government ministers on related matters, and readying them for cabinet deliberations. These duties are based on the guidelines of the Cabinet

Working Committee on Political Security (Amidror Committee), officially endorsed by the government, and reiterating the NSC's central function in determining Israel's national security policy and the state's ability to effectively respond to emerging opportunities and threats [7].

An analysis of the powers and functions of Israel's National Security Council underscores the state's prioritization of this body in shaping its security policy. A distinctive aspect of the Council's mandate is its broad scope, extending beyond the conventional responsibilities typically associated with security councils. In addition to its role in national security strategy formulation, the Council is also tasked with counterterrorism efforts, enhancing the political and security knowledge of government ministers, and addressing a range of other strategic concerns. This comprehensive and integrative approach highlights the fundamental and overarching nature of the Council, further reinforcing its pivotal role in coordinating both the state's foreign and domestic policy.

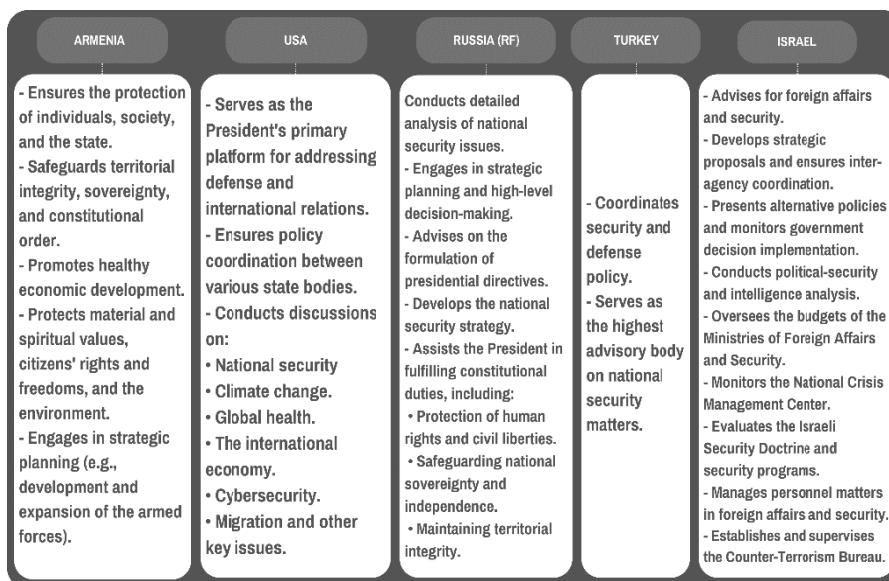


Figure 2: Comparison of the Key Functions of Security Councils Across the Countries Discussed.

Conclusion

The Security Council is a central institution in the making of national security policy in most states and occupies a central place in coordinating foreign and domestic policy. Initially focused on conflict management and defense, its mandate has grown exponentially in recent years to encompass counterterrorism, cybersecurity, economic security, and environmental protection. The comparative analysis of the Security Councils of Armenia, America, Russia, Turkey, and Israel establishes the various strategies used by states to address their unique security issues and emphasizes an overall trend—increasing centralization of security policy-making.

The Security Council in Armenia plays a vital function in making national defense policies and protecting territorial integrity, particularly in light of ongoing regional tensions. The United States' National Security Council serves as the President's chief advisory body, coordinating interagency response to diverse security threats ranging from cyber defense to climate threats. Russia's Security Council, solidly embedded in its government structure, extends beyond traditional security matters by influencing long-term strategic policy and scientific advice to foster national resilience. Turkey's National Security Council is the highest coordinating organ of security and defense and is pivotal in making military and political strategy,

especially concerning its regional strategy and domestic security concerns. Israeli National Security Council, with its strong intelligence and counterterrorism focus, is a model that integrates security planning with diplomatic and crisis management. Figure 2 provides a comparison of the roles and key functions of security councils across the countries under review.

In an era of transnational threats more and more typical of the global context, states must consider more cooperative relationships among their security councils, creating institutions for the sharing of intelligence, cooperation in crisis response, and unified policy strategies for emerging threats such as cyber war and environmental security.

Establishing an international forum for Security Councils, where countries can exchange best practices and coordinate the handling of transnational security concerns, can enhance global stability and resilience. Eventually, as security policymaking expands to more areas, the role of Security Councils is expected to become more pivotal. By being attuned to the evolving nature of threats in today's world and shifting towards a more integrated strategy, such institutions' effective work could not only develop national security policies but also positively impact international stability.

Bibliography and References

1. **Buzan, B., & Hansen, L.** *The evolution of international security studies.* – Cambridge University Press, 2009. P. 214.
2. **Gans, J.** *White House warriors: How the National Security Council transformed the American way of war.* – Liveright Publishing Corporation, 2020. Pp. 7-9.
3. Constitution of the Republic of Armenia: Article 155, Part 2. Accessed on 20.02.2025. Available at: <https://www.president.am/en/constitution-2015/>.
4. Law of the Republic of Armenia on National Security Bodies: Chapter 1, Article 1: Concept of national security of the Republic of Armenia. Accessed on 10.01.2025. Available at: <https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=128801>.
5. Members of the Security Council of the Russian Federation (additional). Accessed on 09.01.2025. Available at: <http://www.en.kremlin.ru/structure/security-council/members>.
6. Official webpage of the Security Council Office of Armenia: Accessed on 12.01.2025. Available at: https://www.seco.am/security_council/council?lang=en.
7. Official website of the National Security Council of Israel: last paragraph. Accessed on 13.01.2025. Available at: <https://www.gov.il/en/pages/about-the-nsc>.
8. Official website of the National Security Council of Israel: penultimate paragraph. Accessed on 13.01.2025. Available at: <https://www.gov.il/en/pages/about-the-nsc>.
9. Official website of the National Security Council of Turkey. Accessed on 13.01.2025. Available at: <https://www.mgk.gov.tr/en/index.php/national-security-council/about-the-national-security-council>.
10. Official website of the National Security Council of Turkey: National Security Council Bodies (additional). Accessed on 13.01.2025. Available at: <https://www.mgk.gov.tr/en/index.php/national-security-council/national-security-council-members>.
11. Official website of the National Security Council of Turkey: Organizational Chart. Accessed on 13.01.2025. Available at: <https://www.mgk.gov.tr/en/index.php/secretariat-general/organization-chart>.
12. **Official website of the Security Council of the Russian Federation:** paragraph 9. Accessed on 09.01.2025. Available at: <http://www.en.kremlin.ru/structure/security-scouncil>.
13. Official webpage of US White House, National Security Council. Accessed on 11.01.2025. Was available at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/>. See archive at: <https://web.archive.org/web/20250111080923/https://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/>.
14. Հայաստանի Հանրապետության օրենքը Անվտանգության խորհրդի կազմավորման և գործունեության մասին: [English: Law of the Republic of Armenia on the Formation and Activities of the Security Council]. Accessed on 12.01.2025. Available at: <https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docID=130647>.
15. Հայաստանի Հանրապետության օրենքը Պաշտպանության մասին: [English: Law of the Republic of Armenia on Defense]. Accessed on 12.01.2025. Available at: <https://www.arlis.am/documentview.aspx?docid=117631>.

Տճանա/Հանձնվել է՝ 17.03.2025
 Рецензирована/Գրախոսվել է՝ 24.03.2025
 Принята/Ընդունվել է՝ 31.03.2025