



In this regard we invite the attention of the ILC to the attempts by certain states to reject social and economic rights of people, isolate them from outer world and deprive them of their means of subsistence, which is one of the manifestations of impeding realization of their right to self-determination. Attempts to criminalize entire peoples for their legitimate aspirations to freely determine their political status and dispose their natural wealth and resources in violation of their human rights, in particular the right to self-determination and the impact of degradation of environment on the people residing in conflict areas should be thoroughly studied by the ILC in the framework of the project. Protection of environment in the conflict areas through de-escalation and confidence building measures between all parties to the conflicts also deserves attention.

When it comes to legal accountability in the context of armed conflicts we note that, it is well established that the criterion for the legality and validity of legal acts of *de facto* states, according to international law, is not the country's status as recognized or unrecognized, but the conformity of such court decisions to the rights and interests of its inhabitants. The European Court of Human Rights itself has held that:

[L]ife must be made tolerable and be protected by the *de facto* authorities, including their courts; and, in the very interest of the inhabitants, the acts of these ~~authorities related thereto cannot be simply ignored by third States or by~~

~~international institutions, especially courts, including this one. To hold otherwise would amount to stripping the inhabitants of the territory of all their rights~~