

Country/entity	Georgia Abkhazia
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Memorandum of understanding between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides at the negotiations held in Geneva
Date	1 Dec 1993
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Georgian Separatist Conflicts (1989 -)

The Abkhazia-Georgia Conflict (1992 -)

Much like other conflicts that sprung up in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Abkhazia conflict emerged as an ethnic conflict following heightened nationalist awareness among Abkhaz and other minorities residing in the region. In 1978, protests against the Georgianization of Abkhazia emerged from Abkhaz intellectuals. Towards the end of the 1980s, both Georgian and Abkhaz nationalists demanded independence from the Soviet Union. Tensions began following clashes at Sukhumi University between pro-Unity protestors and Abkhaz nationalists in April-July 1989. However, the conflict remained a legal conflict up until August 1992 following the 1991 elections, wherein Abkhazians felt they were under-represented. War broke out between Abkhaz separatists, supported by Russian forces and hired fighters from the North Caucasus. Within Abkhazia, Abkhaz separatists were generally supported by ethnically Armenian and Russian residents. Within Georgia the conflict was exacerbated following conflict in South Ossetia from 1989 onwards in addition to political strife between the supporters of the ousted president, Zviad Gamsakurdia, and the post-coup government led by Eduard Shevardnadze.

Significant human rights abuses occurred, particularly after the capture of Sukhumi in September 1993, after which Georgian residents, which consisted of 45 per cent of the population in 1989, were faced with mass expulsion and ethnic cleansing. Russian Peacekeepers acting under the umbrella of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), were deployed on the Abkhazia-Georgia line following a ceasefire in 1994. Atrocities towards ethnic Georgian's continued with over 1,500 deaths post-conflict. In 1998 fighting re-erupted following a flare up of fighting in South Ossetia. Again it was resolved with a ceasefire agreement. However, as of 2016 the conflict remains unresolved.

The Russo-Georgian War (South Ossetia) (1989 -)

Following heightened nationalist awareness among Ossetians and policies undertaken at the expense of ethnic minorities by the Georgian government led by President Gamsakurdia, calls for Ossetian Independence increased. After clashes broke out in Tskhinvali during a pro-Georgia protest, the conflict began to militarize. When President Gamsakurdia maintained his position after elections in 1990, which were boycotted by South Ossetia, Ossetians organised elections for their own parliament. The central Georgian government reacted by abolishing the autonomous status previously held by South Ossetia. The formation of ethnic militias and increased attacks on civilians escalated on both sides and in December 1990 a state of emergency and an economic blockade were declared. Fighting was haphazard as fighters on both sides were poorly equipped and disciplined. The Georgian National Guard was primarily formed of volunteers due to a lack of resources and as a result fighters often acted out of self-interest. Assaults on Tskhinvali by Georgian forces were repulsed on several occasions, and Georgian forces were also noted to expel Ossetian residents and destroy villages out of revenge and as a means to re-claim territory.

The Sochi agreement (1992) established a ceasefire and security corridor, as well as divided the territory between Georgian and Ossetian administration. Relations deteriorated drastically in April 2008, and following shelling of Georgian villages on August 1, the Georgian military responded in force retaking most of Tskhinvali by August 7. Russian forces intervened on behalf of Ossetian separatists and after retaking Tskhinvali, opened another front in the Kodori Gorge. A ceasefire was brokered on August

Stage	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Territory
Peace process	Abkhazia peace process
Parties	For the Georgian side (Jaba Ioseliani) For the Abkhaz side (Sokrat Jinjolia)
Third parties	In the presence of: For the United Nations (Edouard Brunner) Russian Federation (Boris Pastukhov) CSCE (Vincenzo Manno)
Description	Commitment not to use force or threat of force for period of negotiations. Maintenance of peace to be promoted by increase in international observers and use of peace-keeping forces. Also provided for exchange of prisoners of war before 20 December in gesture of good will; urgent measures to find missing persons; creation of conditions for return of refugees and return of land and property. Parties expressed hope for participation of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and appealed for humanitarian assistance. Agreed a group of experts would prepare recommendations on the political status of Abkhazia and set date for next round of negotiations.

Agreement document [GE_931201_MoUGeorgianAndAbkhazSides.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth	No specific mention.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ethnic/ national group	No specific mention.
Religious groups	No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive
Page 1, Agreement was reached concerning the following:
... 4. The parties consider it their duty to find an urgent solution to the problem of refugees and displaced persons. They undertake to create conditions for the voluntary, safe and speedy return of refugees to the places of their permanent residence in all regions of Abkhazia. The apartments, houses, plots of land and property that they left shall be returned to all those refugees who return.
The parties express the hope for participation by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the solution to the problem of refugees.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) Page 2, 7. To prepare recommendations on the political status of Abkhazia, a group of experts, including representatives of the parties, the United Nations, the Russian Federation and CSCE will begin work in Moscow in early December 1993. The group will submit its report at the next round of negotiations.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

**Independence/
secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/
unification** No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

**Cross-border
provision** No specific mention.

Governance

**Political
institutions (new or
reformed)** No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

**Electoral
commission** No specific mention.

**Political parties
reform** No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

**Traditional/
religious leaders** No specific mention.

**Public
administration** No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights Page 2, 7. To prepare recommendations on the political status of Abkhazia, a group of experts, including representatives of the parties, the United Nations, the Russian Federation and CSCE will begin work in Moscow in early December 1993. The group will submit its report at the next round of negotiations.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Humanitarian assistance
Page 2, 5. The parties appeal to the international community to render assistance in re-establishing basic supply systems to the population in the conflict zone and to render to all victims of the conflict various types of humanitarian assistance.

Page 2, 6. The parties express the wish that for purposes of promoting economic recovery in the conflict zone an international commission be established with the participation of international and national organizations.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds Page 2, 5. The parties appeal to the international community to render assistance in re-establishing basic supply systems to the population in the conflict zone and to render to all victims of the conflict various types of humanitarian assistance.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

**Water or riparian
rights or access** No specific mention.

Security sector

**Security
Guarantees** No specific mention.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
Page 1, Agreement was reached concerning the following:
1. In accordance with the main provisions of the Sochi Agreement of 27 July 1993 on the cease-fire in Abkhazia and the mechanism for monitoring its observance, the parties commit themselves not to use force or the threat of force against each other for the period of the continuing negotiations to achieve a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	Page 1, Agreement was reached concerning the following: ... 3. As a gesture of good will, the parties will exchange prisoners of war before 20 December 1993, in accordance with the principle of all for all, without any preconditions. Urgent measures will be taken to find those missing, for which purpose the parties will give each other the appropriate lists. In addition, measures will be taken for the reburial of the dead.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.

Reparations Transitional justice→Reparations→Symbolic reparations
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Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory In the presence of:
For the United Nations
(Edouard Brunner)

Other international signatory In the presence of:
Russian Federation
(Boris Pastukhov)
CSCE
(Vincenzo Manno)

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar Page 1, Agreement was reached concerning the following:
... 2. The parties consider that the maintenance of peace would be promoted by an increase in the number of international observers in the zone of conflict and by the use of international peace-keeping forces, subject to agreement by the Security Council and the Secretary-General.

Enforcement mechanism 2. Maintenance of peace to be promoted by increase in international observers and use of peace-keeping forces. 8. date for next round of negotiations under aegis of UN, with facilitation of Russia, and participation of CSCE
