

Country/entity	Georgia Russia Abkhazia
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Joint Statement of the Russian Federation and Georgia
Date	17 Nov 1999
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

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	Ceasefire/related
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Abkhazia peace process
Parties	Republic of Georgia; Russian Federation
Third parties	-
Description	Agreement facilitates the withdrawal of Russian forces from Georgia, to be facilitated by Georgia. Allows temporary use and dual usage of existing military installations.

Agreement document	GE_RU_991117_Joint Statement of the Russian Federation and Georgia.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** No specific mention.

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) No specific mention.

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	Page 1, Untitled preamble, Reaffirming their intention to fully implement provisions stipulated in the adapted Treaty on CFE [Decision of the Joint Consultative Group on adaptation of Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) of March 30 1999]
Civil and political rights	No specific mention.
Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.

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 No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

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→General commitments

Page 1, Reached an agreement on the following:

1. The Russian Federation commits itself to reduce, no later than December 31, 2000, the level of its conventional forces, deployed on the territory of Georgia, so that total number of armaments shall not exceed 153 tanks, 241 combat infantry vehicles (CIV), and 140 artillery systems.

Page 1, Reached an agreement on the following:

... 2. ... The Russian military bases located in Gudauta and Vaziani shall be disbanded and withdrawn from the territory of Georgia no later than July 1, 2001.

Page 1, Reached an agreement on the following:

... 3. The Georgian Side undertakes to grant the Russian Side a right of temporary deployment of its military equipment in the military bases in Batumi and Akhalkalaki.

Page 1, Reached an agreement on the following:

... 4. The Georgian Side shall promote the process of creation of necessary conditions for reduction and withdrawal of Russian armed forces. In this regard, the Parties express the readiness of OSCE member-States to render financial support to that process.

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

Page 1, Reached an agreement on the following:

1. The Russian Federation commits itself to reduce, no later than December 31, 2000, the level of its conventional forces, deployed on the territory of Georgia, so that total number of armaments shall not exceed 153 tanks, 241 combat infantry vehicles (CIV), and 140 artillery systems.

Page 1, Reached an agreement on the following:

... 2. No later than December 31, 2000 the Russian Federation shall withdraw its military equipment and weaponry from the Russian military bases deployed in Vaziani, Gudauta and repair utilities located in Tbilisi.

The Russian military bases located in Gudauta and Vaziani shall be disbanded and withdrawn from the territory of Georgia no later than July 1, 2001.

Within the same time-framework, an issue related to utilization, including joint utilization of the remained military objects and infrastructure of disbanded military bases shall be resolved.

Page 1, Reached an agreement on the following:

... 4. The Georgian Side shall promote the process of creation of necessary conditions for reduction and withdrawal of Russian armed forces. In this regard, the Parties express the readiness of OSCE member-States to render financial support to that process.

Page 1, Reached an agreement on the following:

... 5. Within 2000, the Parties shall complete the negotiation process on time-terms of withdrawal and pattern of functioning of military bases located in Batumi and Akhalkalaki and other military utilities on the territory of Georgia.

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	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory	No specific mention.
Other international signatory	No specific mention.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.
Related cases	No specific mention.

Source	Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Archive; http://www.rrc.ge/law/stat_1999_11_17_e.htm Originally from, Abkhaz Issue in Official Documents, Legislative and Executive organs of Georgia, International Organizations, 1989-1999, part II, 1995-1999; authors: Vakhtang Kholbaia, Teimuraz Chakhrakia, Rafiel Gelantia, David Latsuzbaia, Tb., 2000, p. 332 /in Georgian.
---------------	--
