Country/entity	China Russia
Region	Asia and Pacific Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Agreement on the Eastern Section of the Boundary between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the People's Republic of China (1991 Sino-Soviet Border Agreement)
Date	16 May 1991
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Interstate/interstate conflict

Sino-Soviet Border Conflict (1969 - 1991)

Lasting 7 months, this undeclared border war erupted at the height of the Sino-Soviet split in March 1969 in the area of Zhenbao on the Wusuli River. Ten years earlier, the two allies had stood as champions of communism. Indeed, Soviet Russia played a key role in supporting Communist rebels against the nationalist Koumintang. However, relations soured over differences in ideology and leadership and although a border treaty was drawn up in 1965, Nikita Krushchev refused to sign after allegations by Mao Zedong were leaked that Tsarist Russia had stripped China of its historical territory. Accounts of the conflict vary between Chinese and Russian historians. Nonetheless, a People's Liberation Army raid on a Soviet border outpost on March 2, 1969 left over a hundred dead. Although, the conflict brought both countries to the brink of a greater war, with troops amassing on both sides, this outcome was avoided. The conflict was formally ended in September 1991 with the first border demarcation agreement.Other agreements were signed with formerly-Soviet States included Kazakhstan.
Close
Sino-Soviet Border Conflict (1969 - 1991)

Stage	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Territory
Peace process	China-Russia border dispute peace process
Parties	People’s Republic of China Plenipotentiary Qian Qichen Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Plenipotentiary Alexander Bessmertnykh

Third parties	-
Description	Detailed border demarcation agreement on the Eastern Sector of the Sino-Russian border running through thirty three boundary points running South Easterly from Tarbagan-Dakh to Guoluminiwujiaoshi Mountain. Agreement stipulates that the seventh, eighth, tenth and eleventh boundary points will be agreed upon in another agreement. Agreement establishes a boundary demarcation committee.

Agreement document	CN_RU_910516_Agreement on the Eastern Section of the Boundary.pdf (opens in new tab) | Download PDF
Agreement document (original language)	CN_RU_910516_Agreement on the Eastern Section of the Boundary_CN.pdf (opens in new tab)

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 [Summary] Entire agreement is a border demarcation agreement.

Page 1, Article 1
The contracting parties agree to use the existing treaty related to the Sino-Soviet border line as a basis and to act in accordance with the standards of international law, based on the spirit of equal agreement, mutual understanding and mutual accommodation. In addition, they will use the agreement reached in the process of border negotiations, to fairly and reasonably resolve the historical issue of the Sino-Russian border and clarify and determine the direction of the borderline which runs between the two countries.

Page 1-8, Article 2
[Summary] Description of the 33 border points in eastern section running south east from Tarbagan-Dakh to the Guoluminiwujiaoshi Mountain.

Page 8, Article 3
The Contracting Parties agree to continue negotiations on the direction of the eastern section of the Sino-Soviet boundary, from the seventh to the eighth boundary points, and from the tenth to the eleventh boundary points, in accordance with Article 1 of this Agreement.

Page 8, Article 4
In order to clarify and determine the borderline that is described in Article 2 of this agreement, the Contracting Parties decided to establish a joint demarcation committee on the basis of reciprocity, and to give this committee the task of boundary surveying. This committee will be in charge of determining the exact location of the main channel centreline, river centreline or main stream centreline, and in accordance with Article 5 of this Agreement, will determine the ownership of the islands and islets in the centre of the rivers. It will also establish landmarks, draw up boundary surveying documents, draw up detailed boundary surveying maps, as well as resolving and completing each of the specific tasks mentioned above.

Page 8, Article 5
The Contracting Parties agree on the borderline that is described in Article 2 of this agreement, the navigable river that follows the main channel centre line, and the non-navigable river that follows the river or mainstream centre line. The exact location of the main channel and what is regarded as the borderline's main channel, the river centre line or the mainstream centre line, thus divide the islands and islets in the river and the section of the watershed that the borderline follows along will be specifically determined at the time of Sino-Soviet boundary surveying.
The main channel is determined by the water depth, combined with the channel width and the radius of curvature, in addition to comprehensive consideration. The main channel centre line indicates the centre line between the two corresponding isobaths of the main channel.
The main stream is primarily determined by the river flow rate at the mid-water level.

Page 8, Article 6
The Contracting Parties agree that the boundary line on the ground between China and the Soviet Union shall also be divided vertically into the sky and the subsoil.

Page 8-9, Article 7
Any natural changes that may occur on the boundary river do not affect the location of the Sino-Soviet boundary line and the ownership of the islands assigned in the field, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.
After the demarcation of the boundary line of the boundary river, any newly emerging islands in the boundary river will be divided according to the demarcation line. If the

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, Article 1 The contracting parties agree to use the existing treaty related to the Sino-Soviet border line as a basis and to act in accordance with the standards of international law, based on the spirit of equal agreement, mutual understanding and mutual accommodation. ...
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	Page 9, Article 8 The Contracting Parties agree that vessels of all types, including military vessels, may navigate unobstructed from the Ussuri River (Ussuri River) through Khabarovsk City to Heilongjiang (Amur River). The competent authorities of both sides shall be responsible for regulation of navigation. Page 9, Article 9 The Soviet side and its related side agrees that Chinese vessels (carrying the Chinese flag) can navigate back and forth along Tumenjiang (Tumanaya River), which is described after the thirty third boundary point narrated in article 2 of this agreement. This specific issue related to sailing shall be resolved by consultation from both parties.
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	Page 1-8, Article 2 [Summary] Description of the 33 border points in eastern section running south east from Tarbagan-Dakh to the Guoluminiwujiaoshi Mountain. Several of the border points cross or are situated in rivers and estuaries. Page 8, Article 4 In order to clarify and determine the borderline that is described in Article 2 of this agreement, the Contracting Parties decided to establish a joint demarcation committee on the basis of reciprocity, and to give this committee the task of boundary surveying. This committee will be in charge of determining the exact location of the main channel centreline, river centreline or main stream centreline, and in accordance with Article 5 of this Agreement, will determine the ownership of the islands and islets in the centre of the rivers. It will also establish landmarks, draw up boundary surveying documents, draw up detailed boundary surveying maps, as well as resolving and completing each of the specific tasks mentioned above. Page 8, Article 5 The Contracting Parties agree on the borderline that is described in Article 2 of this agreement, the navigable river that follows the main channel centre line, and the non-navigable river that follows the river or mainstream centre line. The exact location of the main channel and what is regarded as the borderline's main channel, the river centre line or the mainstream centre line, thus divide the islands and islets in the river and the section of the watershed that the borderline follows along will be specifically determined at the time of Sino-Soviet boundary surveying. The main channel is determined by the water depth, combined with the channel width and the radius of curvature, in addition to comprehensive consideration. The main channel centre line indicates the centre line between the two corresponding isobaths of the main channel. The main stream is primarily determined by the river flow rate at the mid-water level.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	No specific mention.
Ceasefire	No specific mention.

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	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.
