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| Country/entity | Guinea-Bissau |
| Region | Africa (excl MENA) |
| Agreement name | Agreement between the Government of Guinea Bissau and the Self-proclaimed military junta ('Abuja Accord') |
| Date | 1 Nov 1998 |
| Agreement status | Multiparty signed/agreed |
| Interim arrangement | Yes |
| Agreement/conflict level | Intrastate/intrastate conflict |

Guinea-Bissau Civil War (1998 - 1999)

An attempted coup d'etat by Brigadier General Mane against the government of President Vieira in June 1998 led to a conflict that killed thousands as Vieira - backed by neighbouring states - attempted to re-take the country. A national unity government was established in an agreement signed in November 1998, but fighting continued until Vieira was deposed in May 1999. Only months before the coup attempt, Brig. Gen. Mane was suspended on grounds of a dereliction of duty following the discovery of a weapons cache and the arrest of several army officers on charges of arming Casamance insurgents in neighbouring Senegal. Following the deposal of Vieira, it was agreed that he would stand trial on the same charges. His deposal was condemned by ECOMOG, but ECOMOG troops were nonetheless withdrawn from Guinea-Bissau. The constitution was amended to limit presidential terms to a maximum of two and the death penalty was abolished. The opposition party won the parliamentary elections held in November 1999 by a large majority.

Close

Guinea-Bissau Civil War (1998 - 1999)

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|------------------------|---|
| Stage | Framework/substantive - partial |
| Conflict nature | Government |
| Peace process | Guinea Bissau peace process |
| Parties | (Signed) President, João Bernardo VIEIRA for the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (Signed) General Ansumane MANE for the self-proclaimed military junta |

Third parties

WITNESSED BY:

(Signed) His Excellency, General Abdulsalami ABUBAKAR
Head of State, Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
for and on behalf of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS

(Signed) His Excellency, Yahya A. J. J. JAMMEH
President of the Republic of the Gambia

(Signed) Honourable Koffi PANOU
Minister of Communications of the Togolese Republic
for and on behalf of the President of the Togolese Republic and the Chairman of ECOWAS

(Signed) H.E. Lansana KOUYATE
ECOWAS Executive Secretary

(Signed) Professor Ibrahima FALL
Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs
for and on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

(Signed) Ms. Adwoa COLEMAN
Organization of African Unity Representative
for and on behalf of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)

Description

A short agreement between the government of Guinea-Bissau and the Military Junta. The agreement reaffirms the ceasefire and provides for the withdrawal of foreign forces, the deployment of an ECOWAS interposition force, the establishment of a government of national unity and a deadline for the holding of general and presidential elections.

Agreement document

[GW_981101_AbujaAccord.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) Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→Temporary new institutions
Page 1, 4: To immediately put in place a government of national unity, which will include, among other things, representatives of the self-proclaimed junta, in line with the agreement already reached by the parties;

Elections Page 1, 5: That general and presidential elections shall be held not later than the end of March 1999. These elections will be observed by ECOWAS, the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries and the international community.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society Page 1, 3: That the interposition force will guarantee security along the Guinea- Bissau/ Senegal border, keep the warring parties apart and guarantee free access to humanitarian organizations and agencies to reach the affected civilian population. In this regard, the Oswaldo Vieira international airport and the seaport shall be opened immediately;

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

**Public
administration** No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

**Political power
sharing** Power sharing→Political power sharing→General
State level
Page 1, 4: To immediately put in place a government of national unity, which will include,
among other things, representatives of the self-proclaimed junta, in line with the
agreement already reached by the parties;

**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** No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Detention procedures | No specific mention. |
| Media and communication | No specific mention. |
| Mobility/access | Page 1, 3: That the interposition force will guarantee security along the Guinea- Bissau/ Senegal border, keep the warring parties apart and guarantee free access to humanitarian organizations and agencies to reach the affected civilian population. In this regard, the Oswaldo Vieira international airport and the seaport shall be opened immediately; |
| Protection measures | No specific mention. |
| Other | No specific mention. |

Rights institutions

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|--|----------------------|
| NHRI | No specific mention. |
| Regional or international human rights institutions | No specific mention. |

Justice sector reform

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|---|----------------------|
| 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→Ceasefire provision
Page 1, 1: To reaffirm the ceasefire agreement signed in Praia on 26 August 1998;

Police No specific mention.

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| Armed forces | No specific mention. |
| DDR | No specific mention. |
| Intelligence services | No specific mention. |
| Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces | Page 1, 4: To immediately put in place a government of national unity, which will include, among other things, representatives of the self-proclaimed junta, in line with the agreement already reached by the parties; |
| Withdrawal of foreign forces | Page 1, 2: To the total withdrawal from Guinea-Bissau of all foreign troops. This withdrawal shall be done simultaneously with the deployment of an ECOWAS Military Observer Group interposition force, which will take over from the withdrawn forces; |
| Corruption | No specific mention. |
| Crime/organised crime | No specific mention. |
| Drugs | No specific mention. |
| Terrorism | No specific mention. |

Transitional justice

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| 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

WITNESSED BY:

...(Signed) Professor Ibrahima FALL
Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs
for and on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

Other international signatory

(Signed) His Excellency, General Abdulsalami ABUBAKAR
Head of State, Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
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Referendum for agreement

No specific mention.

International mission/force/ similar

Page 1, 2: To the total withdrawal from Guinea-Bissau of all foreign troops. This withdrawal shall be done simultaneously with the deployment of an ECOWAS Military Observer Group interposition force, which will take over from the withdrawn forces;

Page 1, 3: That the interposition force will guarantee security along the Guinea- Bissau/ Senegal border, keep the warring parties apart and guarantee free access to humanitarian organizations and agencies to reach the affected civilian population. In this regard, the Oswaldo Vieira international airport and the seaport shall be opened immediately;

Page 1, 5: That general and presidential elections shall be held not later than the end of March 1999. These elections will be observed by ECOWAS, the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries and the international community.

Enforcement mechanism

2. ECOMOG interposition force to take over from withdrawn foreign troops, and 3. to guarantee security along border with Senegal; 5. elections to be observed by ECOWAS, Community of Portuguese-speaking countries, and the intl community