

Country/entity	Papua New Guinea Bougainville
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Agreed Principles on Referendum
Date	26 Jan 2001
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Bougainville Conflict (1987 - 1998)

The conflict on Bougainville, an island under the jurisdiction of Papua New Guinea (PNG), began in 1987 as a dispute over compensation for the use of land by Bougainville Copper Ltd, a an Australian subsidiary. The underlying issue of independence soon emerged and the conflict escalated between the government of PNG and the native islanders, in turn spearheaded by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA). Until fighting ended in 1998, an estimated 20,000 died in the conflict. Several pre-negotiation agreements culminated in an agreement to a 'permanent and irrevocable' ceasefire, and a framework for normalizing the PNG-Bourgainville relationship, which included elections.

Close

Bougainville Conflict (1987 - 1998)

Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Bougainville: peace process
Parties	H.E. Ambassador Noel Sinclair, Chairman, Director, UNOMB;
Third parties	Witnessed by: Dr Stephen Henningham, Chief Negotiator, PMG;
Description	A short agreement briefly setting out the terms for a planned referendum on independence for Bougainville.

Agreement document [PG_010126_Agreed Principles on Referendum.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)	Page 1, 1. The National Government will move amendments to the National Constitution to guarantee a referendum on Bougainville's future political status.
State configuration	No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum The agreement in its entirety provides for a referendum.

State symbols No specific mention.

**Independence/
secession** Page 1,
2. The choices available in the referendum will include a separate independence for
Bougainville

**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 Governance→Constitution→Constitutional reform/making
Page 1,
1. The National Government will move amendments to the National Constitution to guarantee a referendum on Bougainville's future political status.

Page 1,
4. a) The constitutional amendments will guarantee that the referendum will be held:

Page 1,
5. ... b) The Constitutional amendments and any Organic Law required to implement the agreed referendum arrangements will be introduced into the National Parliament together, and drafted to take effect at the same time.

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 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 No specific mention.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions
Page 1,
4. The constitutional amendments will guarantee that the referendum will be held:
... b) The conditions to be taken into account include:
weapons disposal, and

Page 2,
13. Agreed plans for weapons disposal will be fully implemented before elections for the autonomous Bougainville Government are held.

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 Page 2,
H.E. Ambassador Noel Sinclair, Chairman, Director, UNOMB;

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism Page 1,
9. International observers will be invited to observe the conduct of the referendum.
