Country/entity	Senegal Casamance
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Joint Statement
Date	9 Apr 2021
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Senegal-Casamance Conflict (1982 -)

Since 1982, the separatist movement known as the Movement des Forces Democratises de la Casamance (MFDC) has fought the Senegalese Government for independence. Despite a great level of ethnic diversity, 60 per cent of Casamance's population belong to the Diola and the conflict is often labelled the Affaire Diola by the Senegalese state. Cultural differences include higher proportion of Animist practices, particularly around the regional capital of Ziguinchor, and an egalitarian socio-economic approach. Attempts by the Senegalese government at state-building, first favoured the French and then Wolof languages to the detriment to other national languages - policies that were rejected by the residents of Casamance. Attempts at co-opting regional elites also occurred at the expense of the Diola, due to the lack of hierarchal practices in local culture.

Land grievances emerged following the nationalisation of communally-owned land in 1964. Moreover, a lack of investment, led to problems in the local labour market, particularly following an influx of northerners in to the southern region.
In the early 1980s tensions peaked following student and football protests, leading to a large protest on December 26,1982, and hundreds of arrests. When sentencing commenced the following December, violence increased.
Mediation attempts saw the signing of a ceasefire between the MFDC's military-wing, Atika, which split into two factions, Front Nord and Front Sud.

The first ceasefire was signed in 1991 with little participation from the broader MFDC and violence erupted again in 1992. A second ceasefire was signed in July 1993 by a more representative group from the MFDC, however, the situation escalated once more four months later following the release of the Chary report, by the French historian Jacques Chary, which dispelled the significance of Casamance's independent historical governance.
Fighting and human rights abuses increased between 1995-1998 until another peace process began in 1999. However, the conflict remains unsolved and has internationalized to Gineau-Bissau and Gambia.
Close
Senegal-Casamance Conflict (1982 -
)

Stage Pre-negotiation/process

Conflict nature Government/territory

Peace process Casamance process

Parties Agreement does not have signatures, but the text lists the delegation from the State of Senegal and a delegation from the Provisional Committee of the Unified Political and Combatant Wings of the Movement of the Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC)

Third parties	Agreement does not have signatures, but the text lists representatives of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue as facilitators.
Description	In this very short agreement, the representatives of Senegal and those of the MFDC agree on basic principles of the negotiation process: willingness to resolve the conflict through dialogue, confidentiality of negotiations, courteous and constructive exchanges.

Agreement document	SE_210409_Joint-statement-Praia.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	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	Page 1, They adopted a Joint Declaration on the following axes to guide negotiations between the Parties: 1. Solemn proclamation of the willingness of the two Parties (State of Senegal and the Provisional Committee) to resolve the conflict in Casamance through dialogue; 2. Full confidentiality on negotiations, apart from general communiques decided upon by mutual agreement; 3. Establishment of mutual trust through respect and courtesy, without any aggressive language during exchanges, negotiations and other forms of contact between the two Parties; 4. Work to promote constructive behaviour, avoiding any criminal action on the ground that could generate tension.
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	Page 1, They adopted a Joint Declaration on the following axes to guide negotiations between the Parties: ... 4. Work to promote constructive behaviour, avoiding any criminal action on the ground that could generate tension.
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	Page 1: A delegation from the State of Senegal and a delegation from the Provisional Committee of the Unified Political and Combatant Wings of the Movement of the Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) met in Praia, Cabo Verde, on April 8 and 9, 2021, in the presence of representatives from the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) who served as the facilitator.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/ similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.
