Country/entity	Papua New Guinea Bougainville
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Era Kone Covenant on the Finalisation of the Bougainville Referendum on Independance
Date	5 Apr 2022
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	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Bougainville: peace process
Parties	Hon. James Marape, MP Prime Minister Government of Papua New Guinea Hon. Ishmael Toroama, MHR President Autonomous Bougainville Government

Third parties	Hon. Bryan Kramer, MP Minister for Justice Governor of Papua New Guinea Hon. Ezekiel Masatt, MHR Attorney General and Minister for Bougainville Independence Mission Implementation Autonomous Bougainville Government
Description	The Era Kone Covenant represents a collaborative effort between the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Autonomous Bougainville Government to address the outcomes of the Bougainville Referendum on Independence. It details the procedure for tabling the referendum results in Parliament, with a commitment to implementing the referendum's conclusions between 2025 and 2027. Furthermore, the Covenant stipulates joint formulation of a report to Parliament and acknowledges the binding nature of international agreements, emphasizing adherence to internationally recognized human rights conventions.

Agreement document	PG_220405_Era Kone Covenant on the Finalisation of the Bougainville Referendum on Independance (opens in new tab) | Download PDF
Source of document	https://abg.gov.pg/images/misc/Signed_Era_Kone_Covenant_050422.pdf

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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 **Article 2 - Timeframe**

(i) The Parties reaffirm their solemn commitment to strengthening the implementation of the Agreement and where appropriate, all outcomes of the joint post- referendum consultations, bearing in mind the Referendum Results Implementation Roadmap (Wabag Roadmap') that requires:

(a) implementation of arrangements for independence/political settlement by no earlier than 2025 and no later than 2027;

and

(b) reporting to the 11th Parliament, tabling of the Referendum Results and outcomes of the joint post-referendum consultations by not later than the end of 2023.

Referendum

Acknowledging that this agreement is a joint creation by the National Government and ABG that encapsulates the outcomes of the consultations sanctioned by Section 342 of the National Constitution, to be known as the Era Kone Covenant on the Finalisation of Bougainville Referendum on Independence (hereinafter 'the Covenant');
Recognising the Constitutional obligation of the Parties to consult on the Bougainville Referendum Results and Implementation before tabling in Parliament under Section 342 of the National Constitution;
...
Acknowledging the final decision-making authority of the Parliament in respect to the Referendum Results and Implementation, as guided by this Covenant, in accordance with Section 342 of the National Constitution and the Agreement;
...
Welcoming also the agreement and strong commitment to table the Bougainville Referendum Results following the conclusion of the joint post-referendum consultations under section 342 (1) of the National Constitution;
Acknowledging and accepting that the Bougainville Referendum Results were independently assessed as free, fair and credible and conducted in accordance with the National Constitution, the Bougainville Constitution and the Organic Law on Peace-Building in Bougainville — Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002 and internationally-accepted standards with an absolute majority of 97.7% in favour of Bougainville Independence;
...
Article I -Outcomes of the Consultations
(i) The joint consultations were held and the outcomes are as reflected in the respective resolutions, namely, the Joint Communique on Outcome of the Bougainville Referendum set out in Annex I, Kokopo Joint Statement set out in Annex 2, Wabag Joint Statement set out in Annex 3 and Port Moresby Joint Statement set out in Annex 4.
(ii) The Bougainville Referendum Results and the outcomes of the joint post- referendum consultations will be tabled in the I Ith Parliament.
...
Article 2 - Timeframe
(i) The Parties reaffirm their solemn commitment to strengthening the implementation of the Agreement and where appropriate, all outcomes of the joint post- referendum consultations, bearing in mind the Referendum Results Implementation Roadmap (Wabag Roadmap') that requires:
(a) implementation of arrangements for independence/political settlement by no earlier than 2025 and no later than 2027;
and
(b) reporting to the 11th Parliament, tabling of the Referendum Results and outcomes of the joint post-referendum consultations by not later than the end of 2023.

State symbols

No specific mention.

Independence/ secession	Acknowledging that this agreement is a joint creation by the National Government and ABG that encapsulates the outcomes of the consultations sanctioned by Section 342 of the National Constitution, to be known as the Era Kone Covenant on the Finalisation of Bougainville Referendum on Independence (hereinafter 'the Covenant'); ... Acknowledging and accepting that the Bougainville Referendum Results were independently assessed as free, fair and credible and conducted in accordance with the National Constitution, the Bougainville Constitution and the Organic Law on Peace-Building in Bougainville — Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002 and internationally-accepted standards with an absolute majority of 97.7% in favour of Bougainville Independence; ... **Article 2 - Timeframe** (i) The Parties reaffirm their solemn commitment to strengthening the implementation of the Agreement and where appropriate, all outcomes of the joint post- referendum consultations, bearing in mind the Referendum Results Implementation Roadmap (Wabag Roadmap') that requires: (a) implementation of arrangements for independence/political settlement by no earlier than 2025 and no later than 2027; and (b) reporting to the 11th Parliament, tabling of the Referendum Results and outcomes of the joint post-referendum consultations by not later than the end of 2023.
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 **Article I -Outcomes of the Consultations** (i) The joint consultations were held and the outcomes are as reflected in the respective resolutions, namely, the Joint Communique on Outcome of the Bougainville Referendum set out in Annex I, Kokopo Joint Statement set out in Annex 2, Wabag Joint Statement set out in Annex 3 and Port Moresby Joint Statement set out in Annex 4. (ii) The Bougainville Referendum Results and the outcomes of the joint post- referendum consultations will be tabled in the I Ith Parliament. (iii) The Parties will jointly formulate a report to brief the 1 lth Parliament on its role to give effect to Section 342 of the National Constitution. (iv) To assist the 11th Parliament, the Head of State, acting with the advice of the National Executive Council (and the Bougainville Executive Council), may make Constitutional Regulations not inconsistent with Part XIV of the National Constitution, prescribing all matters that are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out and giving effect to this Covenant in accordance with Section 349 of the National Constitution. (v) The Constitutional Regulations to be made under paragraph (iv) herein above shall not be amended or repealed by the National Government except with the approval of the Bougainville Executive in accordance with the Bougainville Constitution and the Agreement.

Power sharing

Political power sharing	No specific mention.
Territorial power sharing	Power sharing→Territorial power sharing→Autonomous regions Acknowledging that this agreement is a joint creation by the National Government and ABG that encapsulates the outcomes of the consultations sanctioned by Section 342 of the National Constitution, to be known as the Era Kone Covenant on the Finalisation of Bougainville Referendum on Independence (hereinafter 'the Covenant'); ... **Article I -Outcomes of the Consultations** (i) The joint consultations were held and the outcomes are as reflected in the respective resolutions, namely, the Joint Communique on Outcome of the Bougainville Referendum set out in Annex I, Kokopo Joint Statement set out in Annex 2, Wabag Joint Statement set out in Annex 3 and Port Moresby Joint Statement set out in Annex 4. (ii) The Bougainville Referendum Results and the outcomes of the joint post- referendum consultations will be tabled in the I Ith Parliament. (iii) The Parties will jointly formulate a report to brief the 1 lth Parliament on its role to give effect to Section 342 of the National Constitution. (iv) To assist the 11th Parliament, the Head of State, acting with the advice of the National Executive Council (and the Bougainville Executive Council), may make Constitutional Regulations not inconsistent with Part XIV of the National Constitution, prescribing all matters that are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out and giving effect to this Covenant in accordance with Section 349 of the National Constitution. (v) The Constitutional Regulations to be made under paragraph (iv) herein above shall not be amended or repealed by the National Government except with the approval of the Bougainville Executive in accordance with the Bougainville Constitution and the Agreement.
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	Recognising Papua New Guinea's obligations under international law, particularly the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, United Nations Intemational Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and United Nations Intemational Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

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	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	**Article 3 — Final Provisions** (i) This Covenant shall enter into force following the endorsement of the respective executive councils. (ii) Any questions on interpretation and implementation of this Covenant shall be undertaken jointly by the Parties through consultations in accordance with Part XIV of the National Constitution and the Agreement.
