Country/entity	Croatia Yugoslavia (former)
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Agreement on the Normalization of Relations
Date	23 Aug 1996
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

Balkan Conflicts (1991 - 1995) (1998 - 2001)

Former Yugoslavia

The disintegration of former Yugoslavia post cold war saw conflicts which became mediated and produced peace agreements in Slovenia (where the brief independence conflict was mediated by the EC Troika in 1991), Croatia (between Croatian and Serb populations 1991-1995), in Bosnia (between Croatian, Serb and Bosniak populations 1992-1995), in Macedonia (where mediation played a key pre-emptive role in preventing large scale conflict in 2001), in Kosovo (between Kosovar Albanians and Serbian population and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), but also between FRY and NATO, 1998-1999), and a conflict in the Presevo Valley (between Albanians in South Serbia and FRY, 2000-2001). The continued fall-out of the disintegration of former Yugoslavia also saw mediated agreement and ultimate dissolution of the Union between Serbia and Montenegro.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

In 1991, after nationalist parties won the first multi-party elections in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a violent process of disintegration commenced. With its mixed population, Bosnia-Herzegovina became the centre of the following civil war that began in 1992 between the newly formed army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (mostly Muslim Bosniacs), and the parastatal forces of self-declared Bosnian Croat (Herzeg-Bosnia) and Bosnian Serb (Republika Srpska) entities within Bosnia-Herzegovina, supported by Croatia and Serbia, with various, often short-lived, coalitions. The General Framework Agreement (Dayton Peace Agreement), signed in 1995, split the country into two ethno-federal entities, the Bosniak-Croat Federation and the Republika Srpska, and included continued peacekeeping and institutional administration by international actors.

Kosovo

The conflict between Serbs and Kosovar Albanians has a long history and always involved territorial disputes as well as ethno-political, cultural and linguistic factors. The most recent phase of the conflict began in November 1997 when the Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA or UCK) began their campaign for the independence of Kosovo from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY – then Serbia and Montenegro). The subsequent war lasted until the NATO intervention, which undertook bombing campaigns of Belgrade and other places in Serbia during spring 1999. The main agreements solving the conflict were internationally driven and, finally, a UNSC resolution imposed a post-conflict arrangement in the wake of what was essentially a NATO military victory. In February 2008, Kosovo's parliament declared independence, but independence is still internationally disputed.
Close
Balkan Conflicts (1991 - 1995) (1998 - 2001)

Stage Framework/substantive - partial

Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Croatia negotiation process
Parties	For the federal Republic of Yugoslavia: Milan Milutinovic, Federal minister for Foreign Affairs For the Republic of Croatia: Dr. Mate Granic, Vice-President of the Government and Minister for Foreign Affairs
Third parties	-
Description	This agreement on normalization of relations provides for: basic principles of independence, sovereignty and equality of states; mutual recognition; provision for missing persons; repatriation of refugees and displaced persons; human rights guarantees; and cooperation in various other matters.

Agreement document	HR RS_960823_AgreementNormalizationRelationsYugoslaviaCroatia.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	Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Substantive Page 3, Article 8 The Contracting Parties shall guarantee the Croats in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Serbs and Montenegrins in the Republic of Croatia all rights they are entitled to under international law.
Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons	Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive Page 2, Article 7 The Contracting Parties shall ensure conditions for a free and safe return of refugees and displaced persons to their places of residence or other places which they freely choose. The Contracting Parties shall ensure to these persons return into possession of their property or a just compensation. The Contracting Parties shall ensure full security to the refugees and displaced persons who return. The Contracting Parties shall assist these persons to ensure necessary conditions for normal and safe life...
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, Article 1 The Contracting Parties shall respect each other as independent, sovereign and equal States within their international borders. Page 1, Article 2 Each Contracting Party shall respect, in accordance with international law, the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the other Contracting Party. The Contracting Parties confirm that they shall carry out the regulation of their borders and the delimitation through mutual agreement only, that they shall solve disputes by peaceful means and refrain from threat or use of force in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The Contracting Parties shall seek to foster mutual confidence, good will and tolerance and shall cooperate in promoting peace, stability and development in the region.
State configuration	No specific mention.
Self determination	No specific mention.
Referendum	No specific mention.

State symbols	No specific mention.
Independence/ secession	Page 2, Article 5 Proceeding from the historical fact that Serbia and Montenegro existed as independent States before the creation of Yugoslavia, and bearing in mind the fact that Yugoslavia has continued the international legal personality of these States, the Republic of Croatia notes the existence of the State continuity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Proceeding from the historical fact of the existence of the various forms of statal organization of Croatia in the past, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia notes the existence of the continuity of the Croatian statehood. The Contracting Parties are agreed to solve the issue of the succession of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the basis of the rules of international law on succession of States and through agreement.
Accession/ unification	No specific mention.
Border delimitation	Page 1, Article 2 Each Contracting Party shall respect, in accordance with international law, the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the other Contracting Party. The Contracting Parties confirm that they shall carry out the regulation of their borders and the delimitation through mutual agreement only, that they shall solve disputes by peaceful means and refrain from threat or use of force in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The Contracting Parties shall seek to foster mutual confidence, good will and tolerance and shall cooperate in promoting peace, stability and development in the region. Page 1-2, Article 4 The Contracting Parties are agreed to solve the disputed issue of Prevlaka through mutual negotiations. Thereby a contribution shall be made to the full security of the part of the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the Boka Kotorska Bay and the part of the territory of the Republic of Croatia in the area of the Dubrovnik region. The two Parties shall solve this important disputed issue through mutual negotiations in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and good-neighbourliness. Until mutual agreement on Prevlaka is reached, the Contracting Parties are agreed to respect the existing security regime established through United Nations monitoring.
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 2 Each Contracting Party shall respect, in accordance with international law, the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the other Contracting Party. The Contracting Parties confirm that they shall carry out the regulation of their borders and the delimitation through mutual agreement only, that they shall solve disputes by peaceful means and refrain from threat or use of force in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The Contracting Parties shall seek to foster mutual confidence, good will and tolerance and shall cooperate in promoting peace, stability and development in the region. Page 2, Article 7 ...The Contracting Parties shall declare general amnesty for all acts committed in connection with the armed conflicts, except for the gravest violations of humanitarian law having the nature of war crimes... Page 3, Article 8 The Contracting Parties shall guarantee the Croats in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Serbs and Montenegrins in the Republic of Croatia all rights they are entitled to under international law.
Civil and political rights	No specific mention.
Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	Rights related issues→Citizenship→Citizens, specific rights Page 3, Article 7 ...Each Contracting Party shall guarantee the same legal protection to the property of physical persons and legal entities having the citizenship of the other Party, that is, being seated in the territory of the other Party, as the one enjoyed by its own citizens, that is, its legal entities.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles Page 3, Article 12 The Contracting Parties shall continue to promote post, telephone and other telecommunications.

Mobility/access	Page 3, Article 10 The Contracting Parties shall continue to cooperate in normalizing road, railway, air and river traffic on the basis of the principle of reciprocity and good-neighbourliness. Page 3, Article 11 Internal regulations in force concerning the stay and movement of foreigners shall be applied without discrimination to the entry, movement and stay of the citizens and vehicles of one Contracting Party in the territory of the other Contracting Party.
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	Land, property and environment→Land reform/rights→Property return and restitution Page 2, Article 7 The Contracting Parties shall ensure conditions for a free and safe return of refugees and displaced persons to their places of residence or other places which they freely choose. The Contracting Parties shall ensure to these persons return into possession of their property or a just compensation... Page 3, Article 7 ...Each Contracting Party shall guarantee the same legal protection to the property of physical persons and legal entities having the citizenship of the other Party, that is, being seated in the territory of the other Party, as the one enjoyed by its own citizens, that is, its legal entities. Within six months from the date of the entry into force of this Agreement, the Contracting Parties shall conclude an agreement on compensation for all destroyed, damaged or lost property. Such agreement shall define the procedures for the realization of the rights to fair compensation which shall not include court proceedings. For the purpose of implementing the obligations under this article, a joint commission, consisting of three representatives of each Contracting Party, shall be established within 30 days from the signing of this Agreement.
Pastoralist/ nomadism rights	No specific mention.
Cultural heritage	Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Promotion Page 4, Article 13 ...The Contracting Parties shall immediately conclude an agreement on cultural cooperation which shall include the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage.

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	Transitional justice→Amnesty/pardon→Amnesty/pardon proper Page 2, Article 7 ...The Contracting Parties shall declare general amnesty for all acts committed in connection with the armed conflicts, except for the gravest violations of humanitarian law having the nature of war crimes...
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	Page 2, Article 6 The Contracting Parties undertake to speed up forthwith the process of solving the questions of missing persons, and both Contracting Parties shall immediately exchange all available information about these persons.
Reparations	Transitional justice→Reparations→Material reparations Page 3, Article 7 ...Within six months from the date of the entry into force of this Agreement, the Contracting Parties shall conclude an agreement on compensation for all destroyed, damaged or lost property. Such agreement shall define the procedures for the realization of the rights to fair compensation which shall not include court proceedings...
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	Page 2, Article 4 ...Until mutual agreement on Prevlaka is reached, the Contracting Parties are agreed to respect the existing security regime established through United Nations monitoring.
Enforcement mechanism	Page 3, Article 7 ...For the purpose of implementing the obligations under this article, a joint commission, consisting of three representatives of each Contracting Party, shall be established within 30 days from the signing of this Agreement.