

Country/entity	Guinea-Bissau
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Final communiqué of the joint Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)/ Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) consultative meeting on the situation in Guinea-Bissau
Date	25 Aug 1998
Agreement status	Unilateral document
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

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 His deposal was condemned by ECOMOG, but ECOMOG troops were nonetheless withdrawn from Guinea-Bissau.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)

Stage	Ceasefire/related
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Guinea Bissau peace process
Parties	Unsigned agreement but parties are known to be: the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau; and the Self-denominated Military Junta.

Third parties Unsigned agreement but the following parties are listed as present at the meeting:
ECOWAS member States
- Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Republic of The Gambia
- Republic of Guinea
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Republic of Senegal

CPLP member States
- Republic of Angola
- Federative Republic of Brazil
- Republic of Cape Verde
- Republic of Mozambique
- Republic of Portugal
- Republic of Sao Tome and Principe

The representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations is also listed as present at the meeting on special invitation.

Description This agreement provides for a coordinated mediation approach between ECOWAS and the CPLP Contact Group regarding ending the conflict in Guinea-Bissau. Issues covered in the agreement include: the permanence and monitoring of the ceasefire; the reopening of the airport, the return of refugees, and international financial assistance.

Agreement document [GW_980826_FinalCommuniquePraia.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 Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive
Page 2, 14: The Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-denominated Military Junta considered the issue of the Osvaldo Vieira airport which remained closed and agreed on the need to reopen it in order to:
...- Facilitate the return of refugees and displaced persons.

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 Page 2, 14: The Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-denominated Military Junta considered the issue of the Osvaldo Vieira airport which remained closed and agreed on the need to reopen it in order to:
- Ease the movement of humanitarian aid;

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 Page 2, 14: The Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-denominated Military Junta considered the issue of the Osvaldo Vieira airport which remained closed and agreed on the need to reopen it in order to:

- Ease the movement of humanitarian aid;
- Provide the logistic support for the ceasefire observer team;
- Facilitate the return of refugees and displaced persons.

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 Page 2, 15: The meeting called on the international community to assist the people of Guinea-Bissau.

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, 8: The participants exchanged views on political and military matters as well as issues relating to regional security.

Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

Page 1, 10: The meeting noted with satisfaction that the parties to the conflict had agreed to a truce, brokered by CPLP, and commended CPLP for its efforts.

Page 1, 11: In order to consolidate the fragile peace now holding in Guinea-Bissau and ensure that it is not short-lived, the parties to the conflict, encouraged by the ECOWAS Committee of Seven and the CPLP Contact Group, agreed to transform the current truce into a ceasefire.

Page 2, 12: The representatives of the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-denominated Military Junta then proceeded to sign the ceasefire agreement.

Page 2, 13: The meeting also agreed on the need to put in place a mechanism to supervise and monitor the ceasefire. The modalities for its implementation will be finalized during the next meeting.

Page 2, 14: The Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-denominated Military Junta considered the issue of the Osvaldo Vieira airport which remained closed and agreed on the need to reopen it in order to:

...- Provide the logistic support for the ceasefire observer team;

Page 2, 17: This will be preceded by a meeting of Chiefs of Staff or military experts of States members of the Committee of Seven and the CPLP Contact Group which will be held on 10 September to consider the technical, logistic and operational aspects of the observer team for the monitoring of the ceasefire and the interposition forces with respect to the establishment of a buffer zone along the Senegal/Guinea-Bissau borders.

Police

No specific mention.

Armed forces

Page 1, 8: The participants exchanged views on political and military matters as well as issues relating to regional security.

DDR

No specific mention.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces

No specific mention.

Withdrawal of foreign forces Page 2, 17: This will be preceded by a meeting of Chiefs of Staff or military experts of States members of the Committee of Seven and the CPLP Contact Group which will be held on 10 September to consider the technical, logistic and operational aspects of the observer team for the monitoring of the ceasefire and the interposition forces with respect to the establishment of a buffer zone along the Senegal/Guinea-Bissau borders.

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 1, 4: The representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations was present at the meeting, on special invitation.

Other international signatory Page 1, 2: The following member States were present at the meeting:
ECOWAS member States

- Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Republic of The Gambia
- Republic of Guinea
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Republic of Senegal

CPLP member States

- Republic of Angola
- Federative Republic of Brazil
- Republic of Cape Verde
- Republic of Mozambique
- Republic of Portugal
- Republic of Sao Tome and Principe

Page 1, 3: Representatives of the ECOWAS and CPLP secretariats also participated in the meeting.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar Page 2, 17: This will be preceded by a meeting of Chiefs of Staff or military experts of States members of the Committee of Seven and the CPLP Contact Group which will be held on 10 September to consider the technical, logistic and operational aspects of the observer team for the monitoring of the ceasefire and the interposition forces with respect to the establishment of a buffer zone along the Senegal/Guinea-Bissau borders.

Page 2, 18: The ministerial meeting will consider:

- ...- The establishment of an observer team; and
- The composition and all other aspects relative to the deployment of the interposition forces under the framework of the establishment of a buffer zone along the Senegal/ Guinea-Bissau borders.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.
