

Country/entity	Georgia Abkhazia
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Concluding Statement on the Outcome of the Resumed Meeting between the Georgian and Abkhaz parties
Date	19 Nov 1997
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Georgian Separatist Conflicts (1989 -)

The Abkhazia-Georgia Conflict (1992 -)

Much like other conflicts that sprung up in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Abkhazia conflict emerged as an ethnic conflict following heightened nationalist awareness among Abkhaz and other minorities residing in the region. In 1978, protests against the Georgianization of Abkhazia emerged from Abkhaz intellectuals. Towards the end of the 1980s, both Georgian and Abkhaz nationalists demanded independence from the Soviet Union. Tensions began following clashes at Sukhumi University between pro-Unity protestors and Abkhaz nationalists in April-July 1989. However, the conflict remained a legal conflict up until August 1992 following the 1991 elections, wherein Abkhazians felt they were under-represented. War broke out between Abkhaz separatists, supported by Russian forces and hired fighters from the North Caucasus. Within Abkhazia, Abkhaz separatists were generally supported by ethnically Armenian and Russian residents. Within Georgia the conflict was exacerbated following conflict in South Ossetia from 1989 onwards in addition to political strife between the supporters of the ousted president, Zviad Gamsakurdia, and the post-coup government led by Eduard Shevardnadze.

Significant human rights abuses occurred, particularly after the capture of Sukhumi in September 1993, after which Georgian residents, which consisted of 45 per cent of the population in 1989, were faced with mass expulsion and ethnic cleansing. Russian Peacekeepers acting under the umbrella of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), were deployed on the Abkhazia-Georgia line following a ceasefire in 1994. Atrocities towards ethnic Georgian's continued with over 1,500 deaths post-conflict. In 1998 fighting re-erupted following a flare up of fighting in South Ossetia. Again it was resolved with a ceasefire agreement. However, as of 2016 the conflict remains unresolved.

The Russo-Georgian War (South Ossetia) (1989 -)

Following heightened nationalist awareness among Ossetians and policies undertaken at the expense of ethnic minorities by the Georgian government led by President Gamsakurdia, calls for Ossetian Independence increased. After clashes broke out in Tskhinvali during a pro-Georgia protest, the conflict began to militarize. When President Gamsakurdia maintained his position after elections in 1990, which were boycotted by South Ossetia, Ossetians organised elections for their own parliament. The central Georgian government reacted by abolishing the autonomous status previously held by South Ossetia. The formation of ethnic militias and increased attacks on civilians escalated on both sides and in December 1990 a state of emergency and an economic blockade were declared. Fighting was haphazard as fighters on both sides were poorly equipped and disciplined. The Georgian National Guard was primarily formed of volunteers due to a lack of resources and as a result fighters often acted out of self-interest. Assaults on Tskhinvali by Georgian forces were repulsed on several occasions, and Georgian forces were also noted to expel Ossetian residents and destroy villages out of revenge and as a means to re-claim territory.

The Sochi agreement (1992) established a ceasefire and security corridor, as well as divided the territory between Georgian and Ossetian administration. Relations deteriorated drastically in April 2008, and following shelling of Georgian villages on August 1, the Georgian military responded in force retaking most of Tskhinvali by August 7. Russian forces intervened on behalf of Ossetian separatists and after retaking Tskhinvali, opened another front in the Kodori Gorge. A ceasefire was brokered on August

Stage	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Abkhazia peace process
Parties	Signed only by UNSRSG
Third parties	talks under the auspices of the UN with the participation of reps of the Russian Federation acting as facilitator, the OSCE; States belonging to the Group of Friends (Germany, France, Russian Federation, UK, US) as observers
Description	Welcomed proposals to strengthen involvement of UN and noted progress had not been made on the pivotal issues. Reaffirmed commitment to non-use of force and condemned acts of violence by armed groups or placement of mines. Agreed to take measures to halt any activity by illegal armed formations, terrorist and other 'subversive groups and individuals' and to take measures to convene a joint commission to resolve any practical issues. Also provided for establishment of a Coordinating Council and placed emphasis on need to resume process of voluntary return of refugees/displaced persons. Agreed to refrain from dissemination of hostile propaganda.

Agreement document [GE_971119_Concluding Statement on the Outcome of the Resumed Meeting.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→Rhetorical
Page 2, 10. The parties condemn acts of violence by armed groups and the placement of mines, which has resulted in a deterioration of safety conditions for the local population, returning refugees and displaced persons, UNOMIG personnel and CIS peacekeepers, and other international personnel working in Abkhazia.

Page 2, 12. The parties have agreed that progress towards strengthening trust, mutual understanding and cooperation between them could be achieved through direct bilateral contacts and other means. They believe that the speediest possible agreement on and signature of the relevant documents on a settlement of the conflict would be a real step towards bringing about a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict. In this respect, particular attention was given to the issue of the return of refugees and displaced persons to their place of permanent residence. At the same time, emphasis was placed on the need to renew the process of voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons and to create safe living conditions for them.

Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive
Page 3, 15. The programme of action and the mechanism for its implementation are as follows:
(a) the parties shall establish a Coordinating Council and, within its framework, working groups on the following areas:
... refugees and internally 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 3, 14. The parties agreed to refrain from disseminating hostile propaganda about each other and to take measures to promote an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding. The parties have agreed to institute exchange visits by parliamentarians, academics, intellectuals, journalists and other representatives of society in order to help achieve this objective.

**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 Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles
Page 3, 14. The parties agreed to refrain from disseminating hostile propaganda about each other and to take measures to promote an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding. The parties have agreed to institute exchange visits by parliamentarians, academics, intellectuals, journalists and other representatives of society in order to help achieve this objective.

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 Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development
Page 3, 15. The programme of action and the mechanism for its implementation are as follows:
(a) the parties shall establish a Coordinating Council and, within its framework, working groups on the following areas:
... economic and social problems;

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 2, 10. The parties condemn acts of violence by armed groups and the placement of mines, which has resulted in a deterioration of safety conditions for the local population, returning refugees and displaced persons, UNOMIG personnel and CIS peacekeepers, and other international personnel working in Abkhazia.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments
Page 2, 7. The parties reaffirmed their commitment made in the Tbilisi statement of 14 August 1997 to the non-use of force or threat of the use of force against one another. Any contentious issue shall be settled by the parties through exclusively peaceful means.

Page 3, 15. The programme of action and the mechanism for its implementation are as follows:
(a) the parties shall establish a Coordinating Council and, within its framework, working groups on the following areas:
issues related to the lasting non-resumption of hostilities and security problems;
... (d) the Coordinating Council shall be convened by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations during the first week of December 1997. The working groups shall start their work in December 1997. The working group on issues relating to the lasting non- resumption of hostilities and security problems will meet frequently, at least once a week.

Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	<p>Page 2, 10. The parties condemn acts of violence by armed groups and the placement of mines, which has resulted in a deterioration of safety conditions for the local population, returning refugees and displaced persons, UNOMIG personnel and CIS peacekeepers, and other international personnel working in Abkhazia.</p> <p>Page 2, 11. The parties will take all necessary and effective measures to halt any activity by illegal armed formations, terrorist and subversive groups and individuals, including those penetrating Abkhaz territory from outside, which could destabilize the peace process and precipitate a resumption of hostilities.</p>
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	Page 2, 11. The parties will take all necessary and effective measures to halt any activity by illegal armed formations, terrorist and subversive groups and individuals, including those penetrating Abkhaz territory from outside, which could destabilize the peace process and precipitate a resumption of hostilities.

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 Signed only by UNSRSG

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar Page 2, 8. The meeting took note of the contribution made by the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States ("the CIS peacekeeping force") in stabilizing the situation in the conflict zone and noted the significant strengthening of cooperation between UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force.

Page 2, 9. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Georgia, representatives of the OSCE and States members of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General call on the parties and the Russian Federation to support the continuation of the peacekeeping operation of the CIS peacekeeping force in order to secure favourable and peaceful conditions to achieve a comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

Enforcement mechanism 13. agreed on the need to convene joint/bilateral commission to resolve any practical issues arising with refugee return; 15. agreed programme of action for implementation: a. parties to establish a Coordinating Council and, within its framework, working groups on the following areas: lastign non-resumption of hostilities, refugees and IDPs, economic and social problems; (b) the coordinating council and working groups to convene under the chairmanship of the UNSRSG, with facilitation by the Russian Federation and reps of the OSCE and with Group of Friends; © separate groups of experts may be established to advise; 16. meetings of the two sides will be held periodically to consider the progress of the negotiations, to be chaired by UNSRSG

Related cases No specific mention.

Source INCORE: <http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/services/cds/agreements/pdf/geo3.pdf>
