

Country/entity	South Africa
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Groot Schuur Minute
Date	4 May 1990
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict Post Apartheid South Africa and Namibian Independence (1990 - 1994) South Africa – internal. The roots of the modern South African conflict are found in the British and Dutch colonization of Southern Africa, which resulted in the introduction of a white minority who soon held power in the region. The South African state emerged following a hard-fought pact between the British government and the white Afrikaner minority. ‘Apartheid’ – the Afrikaans word for separateness – became official government policy after 1948. Resistance to this system was widespread and took diverse forms. In 1912, the African National Congress (ANC) was formed to push for reforms in the country. After the 1960 Sharpeville massacre several organisations around the ANC took up arms and began to fight the Apartheid government using violent means. During the 1980s, President P.W. Botha introduced a reform policy that enabled the post-1990 peace agreements, which paved the way for the end of the apartheid system. South Africa- Namibia. One set of agreements relates to the independence of Namibia which followed from the end of apartheid. Close Post Apartheid South Africa and Namibian Independence (1990 - 1994)
Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	South Africa peace process
Parties	Government of South Africa, ANC
Third parties	-
Description	The Parties agree to establish working group to define political offences and consider mechanisms for dealing with amnesties and prisoner releases, with a view to facilitating further negotiations between the parties.

Agreement document[ZA_900504_Groote Schuur Minute.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	<p>Page 1,</p> <p>1. The establishment of a working group to make recommendations on a definition of political offences in the South African situation; to discuss, in this regard, time scales; and to advise on norms and mechanisms for dealing with the release of political prisoners and the granting of immunity in respect of political offences to those inside and outside South Africa. All persons who may be affected will be considered. The working group will bear in mind experiences in Namibia and elsewhere. The working group will aim to complete its work before 21st May 1990. It is understood that the South African government, in its discretion, may consider other political parties and movement and other relevant bodies. The proceedings of the working group will be confidential. In the meantime the following offences will receive attention immediately:</p>
Traditional/religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	No specific mention.
Constitution	No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing	<p>Power sharing→Political power sharing→Proportionality in legislature</p> <p>State level</p> <p>Page 1,</p> <p>1. The establishment of a working group to make recommendations on a definition of political offences in the South African situation; to discuss, in this regard, time scales; and to advise on norms and mechanisms for dealing with the release of political prisoners and the granting of immunity in respect of political offences to those inside and outside South Africa. All persons who may be affected will be considered. The working group will bear in mind experiences in Namibia and elsewhere. The working group will aim to complete its work before 21st May 1990. It is understood that the South African government, in its discretion, may consider other political parties and movement and other relevant bodies. The proceedings of the working group will be confidential. In the meantime the following offences will receive attention immediately:</p>
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 1,
2. ... The government reiterates its commitment to work towards the lifting of the state of emergency. In this context, the ANC will exert itself to fulfil the objectives contained in the preamble. 5. Efficient channels of communication between the government and the ANC will be established in order to curb violence and intimidation from whatever quarter effectively.

Mobility/access Page 1,
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(a) The leaving of the country without a valid travel document.

Protection measures	No specific mention.
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Other	No specific mention.
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Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
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Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.
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Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	Justice sector reform→Criminal justice and emergency law→Reform to specific laws Page 1, 1. The establishment of a working group to make recommendations on a definition of political offences in the South African situation; to discuss, in this regard, time scales; and to advise on norms and mechanisms for dealing with the release of political prisoners and the granting of immunity in respect of political offences to those inside and outside South Africa. All persons who may be affected will be considered. The working group will bear in mind experiences in Namibia and elsewhere. The working group will aim to complete its work before 21st May 1990. It is understood that the South African government, in its discretion, may consider other political parties and movement and other relevant bodies. The proceedings of the working group will be confidential. In the meantime the following offences will receive attention immediately: ... (b) Any offences related merely to organisations which were previously prohibited.
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State of emergency provisions	Page 1, ... The government reiterates its commitment to work towards the lifting of the state of emergency. In this context, the ANC will exert itself to fulfil the objectives contained in the preamble.
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Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
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Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
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Traditional Laws	No specific mention.
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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
Guarantees**

Page 1,

The government and the African National Congress agree on a common commitment towards the resolution of the existing climate of violence and intimidation from whatever quarter as well as a commitment to stability and to a peaceful process of negotiations. Flowing from this commitment, the following was agreed upon:

Page 1,

2. In addition to the arrangements mentioned in paragraph 1, temporary immunity from prosecution of political offences committed before today, will be considered on an urgent basis for members of the National Executive Committee and selected other members of the ANC from outside the country, to enable them to return and help with the establishment and management of political activities, to assist in bringing violence to an end and to take part in peaceful political negotiations. The government undertakes to review existing security legislation to bring it into line with the new dynamic situation developing in South Africa in order to ensure normal and free political activities. The government reiterates its commitment to work towards the lifting of the state of emergency. In this context, the ANC will exert itself to fulfil the objectives contained in the preamble. 5. Efficient channels of communication between the government and the ANC will be established in order to curb violence and intimidation from whatever quarter effectively.

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

Page 1,
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Amnesty/pardon

Transitional justice→Amnesty/pardon→Amnesty/pardon proper
Page 1,
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Courts

No specific mention.

Mechanism

No specific mention.

Prisoner release	<p>Page 1,</p> <p>1. The establishment of a working group to make recommendations on a definition of political offences in the South African situation; to discuss, in this regard, time scales; and to advise on norms and mechanisms for dealing with the release of political prisoners and the granting of immunity in respect of political offences to those inside and outside South Africa. All persons who may be affected will be considered. The working group will bear in mind experiences in Namibia and elsewhere. The working group will aim to complete its work before 21st May 1990. It is understood that the South African government, in its discretion, may consider other political parties and movement and other relevant bodies. The proceedings of the working group will be confidential. In the meantime the following offences will receive attention immediately:</p>
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	No specific mention.
Related cases	No specific mention.
Source	<p>Originally sourced from the ANC website: www.anc.org.za [no longer available from source].</p> <p>Also available from UN Peacemaker: https://peacemaker.un.org/southafrica-grooteshuur90</p>
