Country/entity	Argentina United Kingdom
Region	Americas Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Joint Statement of Confidence-Building Measures, including an Information and Consultation System and Safety Measures for Air and Maritime Navigation
Date	15 Feb 1990
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Interstate/interstate conflict

Falklands War (1982)

The Falklands War was a manifestation of the Falklands Islands sovereignty dispute going back to the 16th Century. The Islands have been a British Crown Colony since 1841. The 10-week war began when Argentina seized the South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands eventually taking the Falklands on April 2. The British hastily sent a taskforce in response and defeated the Argentine military on June 14. Neither side officially declared war during the incident, but both accepted that the area was in a 'state of war'. The Argentine surrender spurred popular demonstrations against the military junta there. Causalities included 255 British soldiers, 649 Argentine soldiers and 3 civilians. Argentina continues to claim sovereignty over the islands, although the majority of Falkland Islanders – the descendants of British settlers from the 19th Century – are overwhelmingly, at 99.8% in a 2013 referendum, in support of continued status of remaining a British Overseas Territory.
Close
Falklands War (1982)

Stage	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Territory
Peace process	Argentina-UK: Falklands process
Parties	Joint statement, not signed, agreement mentions the following parties having produced and agreed to it: [The text of the Joint Statement was agreed by the British and Argentine Delegations at Madrid on 15 February 1990 after two days of negotiation.]

Third parties	-
Description	Joint Statement toward normalization of relations between the two parties; re-establishes diplomatic relations; established framework for reaching future agreement (communication links, air and maritime operations, facilitation of visits to cemetery by close relatives, visas, environment, drugs); British government to lift protection zone around the islands. The core issues it covers are communication mechanisms, military, humanitarian (access to the cemetery) and investment issues.

Agreement document	AR UK_900215_ Joint British-Argentine Statement on the Reestablishment of Diplomatic Relations.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	Page 3, 10: Both delegations expressed their agreement to a visit to the cemetery on the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) by close relatives of Argentine nationals buried there. The visit — based on humanitarian considerations — will take place under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Both Governments will seek the good offices of the ICRC and agree, through diplomatic channels, on the arrangements for and timing of the visit. Page 11, Statement by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to the House of Commons: [...] We look forward to a new chapter in Anglo-Argentine relations: to the re-establishment of cultural relations, co¬operation in fighting drugs and on environmental issues and an agreement to promote and protect investment. We have also undertaken to facilitate a visit by Argentine next-of-kin to their military cemetery on the Falklands under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross. [...]

State definition

Nature of state (general)	Page 2, 2: Both delegations reaffirmed that the formula on sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, recorded in paragraph 2 of the Joint Statement of 19 October 1989, applied to this meeting and its consequences. Page 11: Statement by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to the House of Commons [...] The normalisation of relations with Argentina has been achieved without discussion of sovereignty over the Falklands. The Government's determination to defend the Islanders' right to determine their own future remains firm.
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	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	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 2-3, 5:
Both Governments approved with satisfaction the final report of the "British-Argentine Working Group about measures to build confidence and avoid incidents in the military sphere" and decided, under the terms of the formula on sovereignty referred to in paragraph 2 of this Joint Statement, the following:
a) To establish an "Interim reciprocal information and consultation system" for movements of units of their armed forces in areas of the South West Atlantic. The aims of this system are to increase confidence between the United Kingdom and Argentina and to contribute to achieving a more normal situation in the region without unnecessary delay. (The text of this agreement is included as Annex I to this Joint Statement.)
b) To establish a direct communication link between the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) and the mainland in order to reduce the possibility of incidents, to limit their consequences in the case of occurrence, and to increase common knowledge of military activities in the South West Atlantic. (See Annex I.)
c) To agree on a set of rules of reciprocal behaviour for naval and air units of their armed forces when operating in proximity. (See Annex II.)
d) To agree on a mechanism for emergencies aimed at facilitating air and maritime search and rescue operations in the South-West Atlantic. (See Annex III.)
e) To establish a system of exchange of information on the safety and control of air and maritime navigation. (See Annex IV.)
f) To continue bilateral consideration of these matters and to review the measures agreed upon within one year from their coming into force.

Page 5, Annex I, Interim Reciprocal Information and Consultation System:
Both parties agree to establish an Interim Reciprocal Information and Consultation System for movement of units of their Armed Forces in areas of the South West Atlantic. The aims of this system are to increase confidence between Argentina and the United Kingdom and to contribute to achieving a more normal situation in the region without unnecessary delay. The system consists of the following provisions:
I. Direct Communication Link
A. A direct communication link will be established between the respective military authorities –under the supervision of both Foreign Ministries — in order to:
− reduce the possibility of incidents and limit their consequences if they should occur;
− increase common knowledge of activities in the South West Atlantic
[...]

Page 6, Annex I, Interim Reciprocal Information and Consultation System: III. Reciprocal Information about Military Movements:
1. Reciprocal written information will be provided through diplomatic channels, not less than 25 days in advance, about:
A. Movements of naval forces involving four or more ships;
B. Movements of aerial forces involving four or more aircraft;
C. Exercises involving more than 1,000 men or more than 20 sorties by aircraft;
D. Amphibious or airborne exercises involving more than 500 men or more than 20 sorties by aircraft. The main application of this measure are:
For British Forces: the area south of parallel 40 S, west of meridian 20 W and north of 60 S.
For Argentine Forces: within rhumb lines joining the following geographical coordinates in the specified order: 46S 63W, 505 63W, 505 64W, 53S 64W, 53S 63W, 60S 63W, 60S 20W, 46S 20W, 46S 63W
Each party will accept the presence of an observer ship from the other party in the vicinity of naval forces involving four or more ships engaged in manoeuvres within the relevant area of application.

2. Reciprocal notification of identity, intended track and purpose will be given, not less

Protection measures	Rights related issues→Protection measures→Other Page 3, 12. Both Governments, recognising that the promotion and reciprocal protection of investments should encourage private initiative and increase prosperity in both states, agreed to begin, through diplomatic channels, the negotiation of an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement.
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

Page 3, 7: Both delegations expressed the satisfaction of their Governments with the report of the Working Group on fisheries which met in Paris on 18 and 19 December 1989. It was agreed that both Governments should proceed — through their respective Foreign Ministries — to exchange available information on the operations of the fishing fleets, appropriate catch and effort statistics and analyses of the status of the stocks of the most significant off-shore species in the maritime area of the Atlantic Ocean between latitude 45 degrees S and latitude 60 degrees S. They also agreed to assess jointly such information, and to explore bilaterally the possibilities for co-operation and conservation.

Page 11, Statement by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to the House of Commons:
[...]
The Governor has briefed Falkland Islands councillors on the results of these talks. We believe that the reduction in tension, the removal of obstacles to air and sea links between the Islands and South America, and the opportunity for talks on fish conservation will be welcome in the islands.
[...]

International funds

No specific mention.

Business

Page 3, 9: Both delegations considered the situation regarding contacts between the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) and the mainland and agreed to continue considering this matter. The British delegation recognised the Argentine readiness to facilitate communications and trading opportunities between the Islands and the mainland.

Page 3, 12: Both Governments, recognising that the promotion and reciprocal protection of investments should encourage private initiative and increase prosperity in both states, agreed to begin, through diplomatic channels, the negotiation of an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement.

Page 4, 16:
Both delegations, noting the importance of current international trends towards greater political and economic interdependence and integration, agreed to consult through diplomatic channels on these trends, particularly those concerning the European Community and Latin America.

Page 11, Statement by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to the House of Commons:
[...]
We look forward to a new chapter in Anglo-Argentine relations: to the re-establishment of cultural relations, co¬operation in fighting drugs and on environmental issues and an agreement to promote and protect investment. We have also undertaken to facilitate a visit by Argentine next-of-kin to their military cemetery on the Falklands under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross.
[...]

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	Page 3, 14: Both Governments, conscious of the need to increase efforts to protect the environment, will work to ensure bilateral consultation and co-operation, including within the international institutions. Page 11, Statement by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to the House of Commons: [...] We look forward to a new chapter in Anglo-Argentine relations: to the re-establishment of cultural relations, co¬operation in fighting drugs and on environmental issues and an agreement to promote and protect investment. We have also undertaken to facilitate a visit by Argentine next-of-kin to their military cemetery on the Falklands under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross. [...]
Water or riparian rights or access	No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	Page 2-3, 5: Both Governments approved with satisfaction the final report of the "British-Argentine Working Group about measures to build confidence and avoid incidents in the military sphere" and decided, under the terms of the formula on sovereignty referred to in paragraph 2 of this Joint Statement, the following: a) To establish an "Interim reciprocal information and consultation system" for movements of units of their armed forces in areas of the South West Atlantic. The aims of this system are to increase confidence between the United Kingdom and Argentina and to contribute to achieving a more normal situation in the region without unnecessary delay. (The text of this agreement is included as Annex I to this Joint Statement.) b) To establish a direct communication link between the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) and the mainland in order to reduce the possibility of incidents, to limit their consequences in the case of occurrence, and to increase common knowledge of military activities in the South West Atlantic. (See Annex I.) c) To agree on a set of rules of reciprocal behaviour for naval and air units of their armed forces when operating in proximity. (See Annex II.) d) To agree on a mechanism for emergencies aimed at facilitating air and maritime search and rescue operations in the South-West Atlantic. (See Annex III.) e) To establish a system of exchange of information on the safety and control of air and maritime navigation. (See Annex IV.) f) To continue bilateral consideration of these matters and to review the measures agreed upon within one year from their coming into force.
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	Page 11, Statement by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to the House of Commons: [...] Both Government have agreed on a series of measures to increase confidence in the region. These include: the establishment of a direct military communications link between the British Forces in the Falkland Islands and Argentina; the introduction of rules of reciprocal behaviour for naval and air units operating in proximity; measures to facilitate air and maritime safety and navigation; notification of military manoeuvres and exercises in a large area of the South Atlantic; and mutual notification for military aircraft and naval vessels approaching the coasts of the Falklands or Argentina. Each Government retain the right, if they believe it necessary, to withhold agreement to movements which have been notified and which would come within 70 nautical miles (for aircraft) or 50 nautical miles (for ships) of their coasts. [...]
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	Page 4, 15: Both Governments, recognising the threat which illicit drugs and drug abuse have created for all countries, agreed to explore ways of collaborating in this field, including exchanges of information, control of trafficking and an agreement to trace, freeze and confiscate the proceeds of drug trafficking. The Argentine delegation announced that its Government would be represented at the world conference on "Demand Reduction and the Cocaine Threat" to be held in London in April 1990. Page 11, Statement by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to the House of Commons: [...] We look forward to a new chapter in Anglo-Argentine relations: to the re-establishment of cultural relations, co¬operation in fighting drugs and on environmental issues and an agreement to promote and protect investment. We have also undertaken to facilitate a visit by Argentine next-of-kin to their military cemetery on the Falklands under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross. [...]
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 4, 17: It was agreed that both Governments would jointly send the text of the present statement and its annexes to the Secretary General of the United Nations for distribution as an official document of the General Assembly, under Item 35 of the Agenda of the 44th regular session, and of the Security Council. The United Kingdom will transmit this Joint Statement to the Presidency and Commission of the European Community, and the Government of Argentina will do likewise to the Organisation of American States.
Other international signatory	Page 4, 17: It was agreed that both Governments would jointly send the text of the present statement and its annexes to the Secretary General of the United Nations for distribution as an official document of the General Assembly, under Item 35 of the Agenda of the 44th regular session, and of the Security Council. The United Kingdom will transmit this Joint Statement to the Presidency and Commission of the European Community, and the Government of Argentina will do likewise to the Organisation of American States. Page 4, 18: In conclusion, both delegations expressed their thanks to the Spanish Government for its generous hospitality and support.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/ similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	Page 2-3, 5: [...] a) To establish an "Interim reciprocal information and consultation system" for movements of units of their armed forces in areas of the South West Atlantic. The aims of this system are to increase confidence between the United Kingdom and Argentina and to contribute to achieving a more normal situation in the region without unnecessary delay. (The text of this agreement is included as Annex I to this Joint Statement.) [...] f) To continue bilateral consideration of these matters and to review the measures agreed upon within one year from their coming into force. Page 3, 8: Both Governments decided to set up a Working Group on South Atlantic Affairs with the mandate to continue consideration of the issues entrusted to the two working groups mentioned in paragraphs 5 and 7 of this Joint Statement. The Working Group will meet as frequently as the parties consider necessary; its first meeting will be held within one year of the date of this Joint Statement.