

Country/entity	Papua New Guinea Bougainville
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Matakana and Okataina Understanding
Date	22 Apr 1999
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Bougainville Conflict (1987 - 1998)

The conflict on Bougainville, an island under the jurisdiction of Papua New Guinea (PNG), began in 1987 as a dispute over compensation for the use of land by Bougainville Copper Ltd, a an Australian subsidiary. The underlying issue of independence soon emerged and the conflict escalated between the government of PNG and the native islanders, in turn spearheaded by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA). Until fighting ended in 1998, an estimated 20,000 died in the conflict. Several pre-negotiation agreements culminated in an agreement to a 'permanent and irrevocable' ceasefire, and a framework for normalizing the PNG-Bourgainville relationship, which included elections.

Close

Bougainville Conflict (1987 - 1998)

Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Bougainville: peace process
Parties	Signed: Honourable Sir John R Kaputin, KBE, CMG, MP, Special State Negotiator, Papua New Guinea Government; Honourable Sam Akoitai, MP, Minister for State, Papua New Guinea Government; Honourable John L Momis, MP, Member for Bougainville Regional; Honourable Michael Ogio, MP, Member for North Bougainville, Deputy Speaker, Papua New Guinea National Parliament; Honourable Michael Laimo, MP, Member for Bougainville South; Joseph Kabui, Co-Chairman, Bougainville Constituent Assembly; Gerard Sinato, Co-Chairman, Bougainville Constituent Assembly; Joel Banam, Chairman, Leitana Council of Elders; Hilary Masiria, Chairman, Bougainville Resistance Forces;

Third parties Witnessed by:
Sir Paul Reeves, GCMG, GCVO, CF, QSO;

Description Understanding among Bougainville parties for government. Paved way for formation of interim advisory body.

Agreement document [PG_990422_Matakana and Okataina Understanding.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) Page 1, Preparing future arrangements for government on Bougainville
2. Bearing in mind the need to look beyond the immediate situation, the parties agree that the Special State Negotiator will prepare a package of proposals on the powers, functions, structure and status of Bougainville's government, geared to Bougainville's needs.

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

Page 2, Leadership Issues

9. While participants in the peace process are entitled to select their leaders in their own ways, we recognise that there must be proper elections when the agreed package for Bougainville comes into effect, and request the Electoral Commission to begin preliminary work for such elections.

10. The parties will co-operate in explaining and publicising their agreement regarding elections to the people.

Electoral commission

Page 2, Leadership Issues

9. While participants in the peace process are entitled to select their leaders in their own ways, we recognise that there must be proper elections when the agreed package for Bougainville comes into effect, and request the Electoral Commission to begin preliminary work for such elections.

Political parties reform

No specific mention.

Civil society

No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders

Page 4,

Signed:

... Joel Banam, Chairman, Leitana Council of Elders;

Public administration

No specific mention.

Constitution

No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing	Power sharing→Political power sharing→General State level Page 3, National Political Support 14. The National Government will prepare proposals for legislation to establish an authority containing representatives of all major groups to plan and manage major reconstruction activities in meaningful consultation with the four Bougainvillean National Parliamentarians.
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	14. The National Govt will prepare proposals for leg to establish an authority containing representatives of all major groups to plan and manage major reconstruction activities in meaningful consultation with the four Bougainvillean National Parliamentarians.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.

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 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 sector

Security Guarantees	Page 3, Implementation of existing Agreements 16. As part of our shared commitment to the mutual confidence-building on which the peace process is based, the parties reaffirm the agreement made in the Lincoln and Ceasefire Agreements for the PPCC to develop detailed plans for phased withdrawal of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force and the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary Mobile Riot Squad from Bougainville subject to restoration of civil authority
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
Police	Page 3, Implementation of existing Agreements 16. As part of our shared commitment to the mutual confidence-building on which the peace process is based, the parties reaffirm the agreement made in the Lincoln and Ceasefire Agreements for the PPCC to develop detailed plans for phased withdrawal of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force and the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary Mobile Riot Squad from Bougainville subject to restoration of civil authority
Armed forces	Page 3, Implementation of existing Agreements 16. As part of our shared commitment to the mutual confidence-building on which the peace process is based, the parties reaffirm the agreement made in the Lincoln and Ceasefire Agreements for the PPCC to develop detailed plans for phased withdrawal of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force and the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary Mobile Riot Squad from Bougainville subject to restoration of civil authority

DDR	Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions Page 2, Weapons disposal 12. Weapons disposal should begin immediately. – The Peace Process Consultative Committee (PPCC) should convene immediately and discuss detailed plans for weapons disposal. – New Zealand will be asked to assist and facilitate the weapons disposal process. – The current United Nations observer mission will be asked to be present and observe the process.
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	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 12. The current UN observer mission will be asked to be present and observe the process.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.
