

Country/entity	Rwanda
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	N'SELE Ceasefire Agreement 29 March 1991 between the Government of the Republic of Rwanda (GRR) and the Rwandese Patriotic Front as amended at Gbadolite on 16 September 1991 and at Arusha 12 July 1992
Date	12 Jul 1992
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Rwandan Civil War (1990 - 1994)

The origins between the ethnic tensions between the Tutsi and Hutus in Rwanda are found in the original waves of migration and later into the domination of the Kingdom of Rwanda formed by the Tutsi clans. The Kingdom of Rwanda became the framework used by the German colonials to exercise power. Although the economy was reformed following the transfer to Belgian rule after World War I, the Hutu majority remained disenfranchised. Socio-economic differences were further cemented in 1935, when the Belgians introduced identity cards with Hutu or Tutsi distinctions.

Relations deteriorated after World War Two when a Hutu elite formed, and in 1959, what began as attacks on Tutsi targets evolved into the Rwandan revolution. The Belgian colonials began a programme of promotion for Hutus and following elections in the mid-1960s, the Hutus took control of most constituencies. More than 336,000 Tutsis fled Rwanda during the revolution and a failed insurgency was launched in the late 1960s.

By the late 1980s, many former Tutsi refugees in Uganda had gained integral roles in the Ugandan National Army following the overthrow of Milton Obete by Yoweri Museveni. In 1990, a Tutsi faction within the Ugandan Army, the Rwandan Patriotic Front, led by Fred Rwigyema invaded Uganda. However, the RPF came in disarray following Rwigyema's death on the second day of the attack. This led another Tutsi officer from the Ugandan Army, Paul Kagame, to step in. The troops were reassembled and another campaign was launched in 1991. By 1992, the Arusha Accords were signed in Tanzania, providing for a power-sharing government. The war took a turn for the worst when on April 6, 1994, the plane of then-President Juvénal Habyarimana, a Hutu, was shot over Kigali killing everyone on board. The next day, the Rwandan Army, alongside civilians began killing Tutsi and moderate Hutu leaders, which marked the beginning of the 3-month long genocide of Tutsis in Rwanda, until the killing was ended in July 1994 when the RNF forced the interim government into exile. Approximately 2,000,000 Hutus also fled to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda.

Close

Rwandan Civil War (1990 - 1994)

Stage	Ceasefire/related
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Rwanda-RPF process
Parties	Government of Rwanda and Rwandese Patriotic Front
Third parties	<p>For the facilitator (the United Republic of Tanzania): Hon. Ahmed Hassan DIRIA, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation</p> <p>In the presence of the Representative of the Secretary-General of the OAU, M. T. MAPURANGA, Assistant Secretary-General in Charge of Political Affairs</p>
Description	<p>This short agreement recognises ceasefire as the first stage of a peace process to culminate in a Peace Agreement. It agrees to put together a neutral military observer group under Organisation for African Unity (OAU) supervision. It provides for the establishment of Joint Political Military Commission (with Rwandan Government and RPF representatives); the formation of a national army with Government and RPF forces; and power-sharing framework; and set a timetable for further negotiations.</p>

Agreement document [RW_920712_N'seleCeasefire.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 No specific mention.

**Traditional/
religious leaders** No specific mention.

**Public
administration** No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing

Power sharing→Political power sharing→General State level

Page 5, Article V:

The signatories of the present agreement accept the following principles whose modalities of implementation shall be specified during the political negotiations.

[...]

3. Establishment of power-sharing within the framework of a broad-based transitional government.

Territorial power sharing

No specific mention.

Economic power sharing

No specific mention.

Military power sharing

Power sharing→Military power sharing→Merger of forces

Page 5, Article V:

The signatories of the present agreement accept the following principles whose modalities of implementation shall be specified during the political negotiations.

[...]

2. Formation of a national army consisting of Government forces and those of the Rwandese Patriotic Front.

Power sharing→Military power sharing→Joint command structures

Page 5, Article IV:

1. A Joint Political Military Commission composed of 5 representatives of the Rwandese Government and 5 of the Rwandese Patriotic Front is established;

2. The OAU and the following countries are invited to participate, as observers, in the Joint Commission: Burundi, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire, Belgium, France and the United States of America;

3. The Joint Commission shall have the following mandate:

To ensure the follow-up of the implementation of the Cease-fire Agreement;

To ensure the follow-up of the implementation of the peace Agreement to be signed at the conclusion of the political negotiations;

4. The Joint Commission shall be based at the OAU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Commission's Headquarters may be moved upon agreement by both parties;

5. The Joint Commission shall hold its inaugural meeting not later than 26th July 1992.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general

Page 5, Article V:

The signatories of the present agreement accept the following principles whose modalities of implementation shall be specified during the political negotiations.

1. Establishment of the rule of law, that is, based namely on national unity, democracy, pluralism, and respect for human rights

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 Page 5, Article V:
The signatories of the present agreement accept the following principles whose modalities of implementation shall be specified during the political negotiations.
1. Establishment of the rule of law, that is, based namely on national unity, democracy, pluralism, and respect for human rights

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 No specific mention.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
The whole agreement provides for a ceasefire and its modalities.

Length: The cease-fire commences at midnight (Rwanda time) on 31st July 1992 at the same time as the deployment of the Neutral Military Observer Group; and it is expected to be permanent (Page 3, Article 1).

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces Page 5, Article V:
The signatories of the present agreement accept the following principles whose modalities of implementation shall be specified during the political negotiations:
[...]
2. Formation of a national army consisting of Government forces and those of the Rwandese Patriotic Front.

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces No specific mention.

Withdrawal of foreign forces Page 3, Article II:
The cease-fire shall imply:
[...]
6. The withdrawal of all foreign troops after the effective deployment of the Neutral Military Observer Group (NMOG) except for Military Officers serving in Rwanda under bilateral Cooperation Agreements.

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 Page 3, Article II:
The cease-fire shall imply:
[...]
4. The release of all prisoners-of-war; the effective release of all persons arrested because and as a result of this war within five days following the entry into force of the Cease-fire Agreement.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims Page 3, Article II:
The cease-fire shall imply:
[...]
5. The possibility of recovering the remains of the dead.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory For the facilitator (the United Republic of Tanzania): Hon. Ahmed Hassan DIRIA, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

In the presence of the Representative of the Secretary-General of the OAU, M. T. MAPURANGA, Assistant Secretary-General in Charge of Political Affairs

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar Page 3, Article I:

1. A cease-fire is hereby established throughout the territory of the Republic of Rwanda/ between the Government Forces and those of the Rwandese Patriotic Front. The cease-fire shall enter into force at midnight (Rwanda time) on 31st July 1992 at the same time as the deployment of the Neutral Military Observer Group.

Page 4, Art III:

1. The verification and control of the cease-fire shall be conducted by the neutral military observer group under the supervision of the Secretary-General of OAU;

2. The Neutral Military Observer Group shall be composed of:

10 Officers from Nigeria;

10 Officers from Senegal;

10 Officers from Zimbabwe;

10 Officers from an African country to be chosen by the current Chairman of the OAU in collaboration with the President of the United Republic of Tanzania;

5 Officers from the Government of Rwanda;

5 Officers from the Rwandese Patriotic Front;

3. The Neutral Military Observer Group shall report any violation of the cease-fire to the Secretary-General of OAU and a joint political military commission;

4. The Neutral Military Observer Group shall set up the organs and machinery required for the control and verification of the cease-fire. It shall draft its own rules of procedure. It shall enjoy a status that would enable it to perform its mission as provided in the Cease-fire Agreement; including privileges and immunities enjoyed by the OAU personnel as enshrined in the general agreement;

5. The Neutral Military Observer Group shall have full communication and other equipment it deems necessary to perform its mission. The NMOG officers may have specific uniforms with insignia for easy identification, and light weapons for self-defence.

Enforcement mechanism Page 5, Article IV:
[...]

3. The Joint Commission shall have the following mandate:

- To ensure the follow-up of the implementation of the Cease-fire Agreement;

- To ensure the follow-up of the implementation of the peace Agreement to be signed at the conclusion of the political negotiations;