

Country/entity	Georgia Abkhazia
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Record of the first meeting of the Coordinating Council of the Georgian and Abkhaz Parties and Statute of the Coordinating Council
Date	18 Dec 1997
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

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	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Abkhazia peace process
Parties	<p>The Georgian Party was represented by a delegation consisting of Mr. Vazha Lordkipanidze, Mr. Rezo Adamia and Mr. Tamaz Khubua.</p> <p>The Abkhaz Party was represented by a delegation made up of Mr. Tamaz Ketsba, Mr. Sergei Tsargush and Mr. Victor Khashba.</p> <p>(Signed) L. Bota (Signed) T. Ketsba (Signed) V. Lordkipanidze</p>
Third parties	Representatives of the Russian Federation in its capacity as facilitator, the organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the States belonging to the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General – France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America – acting as observers, participated in the work of the session.
Description	Adopted Statute of Coordinating Council to take forward negotiations. Council would include three representatives each from Georgian and Abkhaz parties and decisions would be binding. Agreed programmes for 3 working groups: Working Group I to deal with issues related to the lasting non-resumption of hostilities and security problems; Working Group II with refugees/displaced persons and Working Group III with economic and social problems.
Agreement document	GE_971218_Record Coordination Council of the Georgian and Abkhaz Parties.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→Substantive
Page 3, Working Groups, The working groups shall carry out activities in the following areas: ... Working Group II – refugees and internally displaced persons; ...

Page 4, Jurisdiction of the Council

(b) Refugees and internally displaced persons

In accordance with the concluding statement of the Geneva meeting, consideration of proposals on the resumption of the organized process of the voluntary, safe return of refugees and displaced persons.²⁸

Working Group II shall deal with the drafting of appropriate recommendations.

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.
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Border delimitation	No specific mention.
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Cross-border provision	No specific mention.
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Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)	No specific mention.
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Elections	No specific mention.
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Electoral commission	No specific mention.
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Political parties reform	No specific mention.
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Civil society	No specific mention.
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Traditional/ religious leaders	No specific mention.
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Public administration	No specific mention.
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Constitution	No specific mention.
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Power sharing

Political power sharing	NO formal power sharing at executive level - however, page 2, paragraph 2 states that "The Council shall consist of three representatives each from the Georgian and Abkhaz Parties."
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Territorial power sharing	No specific mention.
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Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
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Military power sharing	No specific mention.
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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 4. establishes working group to examine issues concerning economic and social problems

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 Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development
Page 3, Working Groups, The working groups shall carry out activities in the following areas: ... • Working Group III – economic and social problems.

Page 4, Jurisdiction of the Council

... (c) Economic and social problems

Consideration of questions of mutual interest to the Parties (energy, transport, communications, environment).²⁸

Consideration of proposals to remove obstacles to normal economic and social development.

Working Group III shall draft proposals and recommendations on the establishment of effective cooperation between the Parties in agreed areas.

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, Working Groups, The working groups shall carry out activities in the following areas: • Working Group I – issues related to the lasting non-resumption of hostilities and to security problems;

Page 3, Jurisdiction of the Council
(a) ... Assistance in mine clearance.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
Page 3, Working Groups, The working groups shall carry out activities in the following areas: • Working Group I – issues related to the lasting non-resumption of hostilities and to security problems;

Page 3, Jurisdiction of the Council
(a) Issues related to the lasting non-resumption of hostilities and to security problems
Consideration of violations of the Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces of 14 May 1994 and the relevant provisions of Security Council resolution 937 (1994) of 21 July 1994, and the adoption of decisions to prevent such violations.
Consideration of questions relating to the Parties' effective implementation of their obligations.
... Working Group I shall investigate violations of the ceasefire regime, and terrorist or subversive activities, and shall draft proposals and recommendations on matters within its competence.²⁸
Working Group I shall meet as necessary but 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	Page 3, Jurisdiction of the Council (a) ... Adoption of effective measures to put an end to any activities by illegal armed formations, terrorist or subversive groups or individuals, including individuals who infiltrate into the conflict zone, as well as any activities that may destabilize the peace process or lead to a resumption of hostilities.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	Page 3, Jurisdiction of the Council (a) Issues related to the lasting non-resumption of hostilities and to security problems ... Working Group I shall investigate violations of the ceasefire regime, and terrorist or subversive activities, and shall draft proposals and recommendations on matters within its competence. ²⁸ Working Group I shall meet as necessary but at least once a week.

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 UN acting as facilitator; SRSG to chair the Council

Other international signatory OSCE, Russian Federation

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism Page 2, General provisions
The Coordination Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”) is established in accordance with the concluding statement on the outcome of the meeting held in Geneva from 17 to 19 November 1997. The Council is established in order to implement the provisions of the concluding statement.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source INCORE: <http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/services/cds/agreements/pdf/geo8.pdf>
