

Country/entity	Papua New Guinea Bougainville
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Resolution on Weapons Disposal
Date	9 May 2001
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	Ishmael Toroama, Chief of Defence, Bougainville Revolutionary Army; Hilary Masiria, Chairman, Bougainville Resistance Forces; William Dihm, Leader, National Government Delegation; Kapeutu Puaria, Leader, Bougainville Joint Technical Team; David Onavui, Member, Bougainville Joint Technical Team;
Third parties	Witnessed by: H.E. Ambassador Noel Sinclair, Director, United Nations Observer Mission to Bougainville, Chairman, Peace Process Consultative Committee; Brigadier Michael Swan, Commander, Peace Monitoring Group;
Description	Agreement to establish Peace Process Consultative Commission Sub-Committee on weapons disposal, and parties agree stages to weapons disposal plan, with UNOMB verification role.

Agreement document

[PG_010509_Resolution on Weapons Disposal.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 Page 2, Stage 3: Final Fate of the weapons
8. a) A decision on the final fate of the weapons should be made within 4 months of the coming effect of the constitutional amendments. If no decision is made, the Parties will meet with a view to reaching agreement on whether or not the elections should be delayed, taking into account whether or not there has been genuine handing in of weapons and the level of security of the weapons.
b) In any event, any of the parties may call on the UNOMB with the assistance of the PMG to verify and certify whether there has been substantial compliance by the parties in the handing in of weapons and whether the level of security of the weapons makes it conducive to holding the elections.
... d) The Bougainville parties will be bound by UNOMB's findings on whether or not the first election for the autonomous Bougainville Government will be deferred, and the length of any deferral.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	Page 1, Introduction 3. ... b) The sub-committee may, by agreement, co-opt other members, including representatives of other groups.
Traditional/religious leaders	Page 1, Stage 1 6. 1) Council of Chiefs/Elders will inform UNOMB when the people in a particular area are ready for ex-combatants to disarm and re-integrate into the community, remaining Defence Force and Police Mobile Units to withdraw, and weapons to be securely contained;
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	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 No specific mention.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions
 [Summary]
 Main body of agreement deals directly with Weapons disposal. The process will take place in three stages as follows:
 1. Weapons will be handed to BRA/BRF commanders
 2. These weapons will then be placed in containers with a dual lock. The local commanders will hold one key, the UN observer mission on Bougainville will hold the other.
 3. Within 4 months the parties will decide upon the fate of the weapons and the effect of the process upon the likelihood of holding election for the autonomous Bougainville Government.

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	Page 3, Reconciliation 14. Recognising that weapons disposal and reconciliation are both mutually reinforcing and necessary to lasting peace by peaceful means, the parties undertake to co-operate in promoting reconciliation among ex-combatants and in the wider community, and restoration of civil authority in Bougainville.

Implementation

UN signatory	Page 4, Witnessed by: H.E. Ambassador Noel Sinclair, Director, United Nations Observer Mission to Bougainville, Chairman, Peace Process Consultative Committee; Brigadier Michael Swan, Commander, Peace Monitoring Group;
Other international signatory	No specific mention.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	Page 2, Verification and Other Practical Considerations 9. a) UNOMB will carry out such inspections and inquiries as its representative considers necessary at each stage , verify the collection and storage of weapons, and report its findings regularly, frequently and fly to the PPCC, with respect for such confidentiality as may be required.
