Country/entity	Papua New Guinea Bougainville
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Joint Bougainville Ex-combatants Agreement on Weapons Disposal (Rotakas Record)
Date	3 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	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Bougainville: peace process
Parties	Chief of Defence, Bougainville Revolutionary Army, General Ishmael Toroama; Chairman, Bougainville Resistants Force, Hilary Masiria; Commanders, Bougainville Revolutionary Army, Steven Topesi, Peter Naguo, Justin Kokiai, Thomas Tari, Glen Bearas, Dominic Babatani, Joe Pakoi, Joe Korerua, Damien Kora, Cosmas Ito; Commanders, Bougainville Resistants Force, Laurie Patrick, Hilary Loni, Michael Komoiki, Ambrose Omi, Jacob Naisy, Paul Akoitai, Matthew Warapere
Third parties	Witnessed by: Ambassador Noel Sinclair, UNOMB; Matt Anderson, PMG; Amos Tevaria, Chief; Jeremiah Voiporea, Chief; James Vasiviri; Martin Varieto; Tabitha Rueta, Womens' representative
Description	Joint Bougainville Ex-Combatants Agreement on Weapons Disposal, with weapons disposal plan and timetable.

Agreement document	PG_010503_Joint Bougainville Ex-combatants Agreement on Weapons Disposal (Rotakas Record).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	Page 6, And Witnessed by: Tabitha Rueta, Womens' representative
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	Page 2, Weapons Disposal Plan, Public Awareness, 2. Immediately after the signing of this Amgt, the BRA and BRF will begin a thorough programme of public awareness through the island to stimulate the widest possible support for and participation in the Plan. Page 2, Weapons Disposal Plan, Implementation of Plan, 3. The people in each area will decide when thery are ready to move on demilitarization and will soinform the UNOMB representative through their Council of Chiefs/Elders

Traditional/ religious leaders	Page 2, Weapons Disposal Plan, Implementation of Plan, 3. The people in each area will decide when they are ready to move on demilitarization and will so inform the UNOMB representative through their Council of Chiefs/Elders. 4. When the Chiefs or Elders decide, after consultation with the ex-combatants, that an area is ready for demilitarization, it will inform the UNOMB representative, who in turn will notify the Commanders of the PNG Security Forces and the two factions.
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	Page 1, Untitled Preamble, ... Committed to the development of peace, democracy and the restoration of fundamental human rights without the threat or the use of weapons;
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 1, Untitled Preamble, ... Committed to the development of peace, democracy and the restoration of fundamental human rights without the threat or the use of weapons;
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	Page 3, Weapons Disposal plan, Implementation of Plan, 11. Each step in the process shall be subject to independent verification by UNOMB, whose representative is to be given free access to all locations, documents and files.
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 1, Untitled Preamble,
... Acknowledging that a Weapons Disposal Plan can be implemented without risking the security of any of the parties;

Page 1, Hereby resolve,
... - That in areas where, by agreement, the PNG Security Forces undertake not to patrol, BRA and BRF will do their best to gather all arms and hold them securely, relying upon the goodwill and honour of the Commanders;

Page 2, Weapons Disposal Plan, Implementation of Plan,
4. When the Chiefs or Elders decide, after consultation with the ex-combatants, that an area is ready for demilitarization, it will inform the UNOMB representative, who in turn will notify the Commanders of the PNG Security Forces and the two factions.
6. After the PNG Security Forces agree to depart, BRA and BRF will order that all arms not under control will be gathered by Unit Commanders and held securely. The Unit Commanders shall provide a complete inventory of arms held in his area to UNOMB and their respective Headquarters.
7. After arms have been returned to Unit Commanders they shall be delivered to the relevant Company Commanders after the Security Forces withdraw.
8. In any case there will be no withdrawal of the PNG Security Forces from any area until UNOMB has verified the collection of weapons by the relevant Unit Commanders.
9. In implementing this agreement arms held by Company Commanders will be held securely, and once passed into their possession, will not be re-issued and once withdrawn from an area the PNG Security forces shall not be re-deployed in that area. A fresh inventory shall be prepared and handed to UNOMB.

Page 3, Weapons Disposal Plan, Implementation of Plan,
10. After the PNG Security Forces withdraw from each command area the Company Commanders shall deliver arms held by them to one central collection point in each command area. Weapons under the control of BRF may be returned to the PNGDF for delivery to the central armoury.

Page 3, Weapons Disposal Plan, Phases of Plan, Phase 3,
14.(a) If no decision on the final fate of the weapons is made within that time, the Parties must meet with a view to determining whether or not to hold the Elections despite the absence of the decision and 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 that there has been substantial compliance by the parties in the handing in of weapons and that the level of security of the weapons makes it conducive to holding the elections.

Page 4, Weapons Disposal Plan, Verification,
19. This plan shall not be regarded as completed until there has been substantial compliance with this weapons plan and all PNG Security forces have withdrawn from Bougainville.

Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
Page 1, Untitled Preamble,
... Recognising that, for the most part, they have honoured and abided by the terms and conditions of the Ceasefire Agreement of April 30th, 1998;

Page 1, Hereby resolve:
... - That in areas where, by agreement, the PNG Security Forces undertake not to patrol, BRA and BRF will do their best to gather all arms and hold them securely, relying upon the goodwill and honour of the Commanders;

Page 2-3, Implementation of Plan
4. When the Chiefs or Elders decide, after consultation with the ex-combatants, that an area is ready for demilitarization, it will inform the UNOMB representative, who in turn will notify the Commanders of the PNG Security Forces and the two factions.
6. After the PNG Security Forces agree to depart, BRA and BRF will order that all arms not under control will be gathered by Unit Commanders and held securely. The Unit Commanders shall provide a complete inventory of arms held in his area to UNOMB and their respective Headquarters.
7. After arms have been returned to Unit Commanders they shall be delivered to the relevant Company Commanders after the Security Forces withdraw.
8. In any case there will be no withdrawal of the PNG Security Forces from any area until UNOMB has verified the collection of weapons by the relevant Unit Commanders.
9. In implementing this agreement arms held by Company Commanders will be held securely, and once passed into their possession, will not be re-issued and once withdrawn from an area the PNG Security forces shall not be re-deployed in that area. A fresh inventory shall be prepared and handed to UNOMB.
10. After the PNG Security Forces withdraw from each command area the Company Commanders shall deliver arms held by them to one central collection point in each command area. Weapons under the control of BRF may be returned to the PNGDF for delivery to the central armoury.

Page 4, Verification
19. This plan shall not be regarded as completed until there has been substantial compliance with this weapons plan and all PNG Security forces have withdrawn from Bougainville.

Police

No specific mention.

Armed forces

No specific mention.

DDR

Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions
Page 1, Untitled Preamble,
... Acknowledging that a Weapons Disposal Plan can be implemented without risking the security of any of the parties;
Aware of efforts already being undertaken by all parties to informally register and control weapons in the community;
Committed to the development of peace, democracy and the restoration of fundamental human rights without the threat or the use of weapons;

Page 1, Hereby resolve:
- To continue to use their best endeavours to locate, identify, control and withdraw their respective weapons in the community;
- That the process of reconciliation between the Parties and the greater Bougainville community is necessary to the achievement of weapons disposal and will continue to be a common shared priority;
- That in areas where, by agreement, the PNG Security Forces undertake not to patrol, BRA and BRF will do their best to gather all arms and hold them securely, relying upon the goodwill and honour of the Commanders;
- That during this phase weapons misused by ex-combatants will be taken from them;
- That actions to take control of weapons shall be reported to UNOMB, which will verify that they have been taken;

Page 2, Weapons Disposal Plan, Implementation of Plan,
3. The people in each area will decide when they are ready to move on demilitarization and will so inform the UNOMB representative through their Council of Chiefs/Elders.
4. When the Chiefs or Elders decide, after consultation with the ex-combatants, that an area is ready for demilitarization, it will inform the UNOMB representative, who in turn will notify the Commanders of the PNG Security Forces and the two factions.
5. After such notification the parties will immediately withdraw their forces or dispose of their weapons. This withdrawal/disposal shall be completed within 28 days after the notification by UNOMB.
6. After the PNG Security Forces agree to depart, BRA and BRF will order that all arms not under control will be gathered by Unit Commanders and held securely. The Unit Commanders shall provide a complete inventory of arms held in his area to UNOMB and their respective Headquarters.
7. After arms have been returned to Unit Commanders they shall be delivered to the relevant Company Commanders after the Security Forces withdraw.
8. In any case there will be no withdrawal of the PNG Security Forces from any area until UNOMB has verified the collection of weapons by the relevant Unit Commanders.
9. In implementing this agreement arms held by Company Commanders will be held securely, and once passed into their possession, will not be re-issued and once withdrawn from an area the PNG Security forces shall not be re-deployed in that area. A fresh inventory shall be prepared and handed to UNOMB.

Page 3, Weapons Disposal Plan, Implementation of Plan,
10. After the PNG Security Forces withdraw from each command area the Company Commanders shall deliver arms held by them to one central collection point in each command area. Weapons under the control of BRF may be returned to the PNGDF for delivery to the central armoury.
11. Each step in the process shall be subject to independent verification by UNOMB, whose representative is to be given free access to all locations, documents and files.

Page 3, Weapons Disposal Plan, Phases of Plan, Phase 1,
12. (a) The weapons returned shall be held in secure containment under the control of the parties themselves until the constitutional amendments come into effect.

Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	Page 4, Weapons Disposal Plan, Verification, 19. This plan shall not be regarded as completed until there has been substantial compliance with this weapons plan and all PNG Security forces have withdrawn from Bougainville.
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	Page 6, And Witnessed by: Ambassador Noel Sinclair, UNOMB;
Other international signatory	No specific mention.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/ similar	Page 4, Weapons Disposal Plan, Verification, 20. The Governments of Australia and New Zealand shall be requested to provide personnel and technical services to assist the processes of containment and verification under the umbrella/control of the UNOMB through the PMG or by some other appropriate means.
Enforcement mechanism	Page 2, Weapons Disposal Plan, Management of Plan, 1. The Weapons Disposal process will be managed by a special sub Sub-Committee of the PPCC which will be chaired by the United Nations representative (with the PMG Commander or his delegate as Vice Chairman) and will coordinate the details of the programme on the basis of close consultation with the parties and local communities. This Committee will also resolve such differences as may arise during implementation of the Plan.