Country/entity	Georgia Abkhazia
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Yalta Declaration of the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides and Programme of Action on Confidence-Building
Date	16 Mar 2001
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate conflict

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 heighten 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 Caucus. 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 Russio-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 Tskihvali, opened another front in the Kordori Gorge. A ceasefire was brokered on August

Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Abkhazia peace process
Parties	The Georgian Side was represented by a delegation headed by Mr. Giorgi Arsenishvili; The Abkhaz Side was represented by a delegation headed by Mr. Viacheslav Tsugba.
Third parties	Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Dieter Boden; Representatives of the Russian Federation as facilitator, representatives of the Group of Friends of the United Nations Secretary-General for Georgia — France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States — representatives of OSCE, the Chief Military Observer of UNOMIG, the Commander of the CIS Collective Peacekeeping Forces and the Executive Secretary of the Georgian-Abkhaz Joint Coordination Commission also participated in the Meeting. At the invitation of the Ukraine.
Description	Sides reaffirm commitment to peaceful resolution and safe return of refugees. Sides requesting UN, the Group of Friends of the UNSG for Georgia, the OSCE and CIS to become guarantors for the process. Sides agree to adopt programme of confidence-building measures annexed to Declaration.

Agreement document	GE_010316_YaltaDeclarationGeorgianAbkhazSides.pdf (opens in new tab) | Download PDF

Groups

Children/youth	Groups→Children/youth→Substantive Page 5, Appendix; Annex to the Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides 1. To organize the meeting of the youth representatives of both Sides in Tsinandali. Page 5, Appendix; Annex to the Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides ... 5. To support the conduct of seminars of young scientists of both Sides, within the framework of the projects of the Tbilisi School of Political Research.
Disabled persons	Groups→Disabled persons→Substantive Page 5, Appendix; Annex to the Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides ... 3. To support the cooperation of organizations of war veterans and invalids of both Sides.
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→Rhetorical Page 1, Yalta Declaration of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, ... They also noted the importance of reaching mutual understanding and accord, and placed special emphasis on their determination to intensify efforts to create the necessary conditions for the voluntary and safe return of refugees to their permanent residences, in the first phase to the Gali district within the old borders. Page 1, Yalta Declaration of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, ... On the basis of the above, striving to secure a durable peace, the Sides requested the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to appeal to the United Nations, the Group of Friends of the United Nations Secretary-General for Georgia, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and CIS to become guarantors for the non-resumption of hostilities, the steady and safe return of refugees and displaced persons, in the first phase to the Gali district within the old borders, and to elaborate, with the participation of the Sides, the mechanism to implement these guarantees.
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	[Summary] Page 5-6, Annex to the Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides suggests series of meetings of youth reps of both sides, different political circles, war veterans and invalids of both sides, elders, young scientists, students, instructors, university lecturers, historians, librarians, Union of Writers, aviation reps; Page 5, Appendix; Annex to the Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides ... 13. To promote media coverage of the process of mutual understanding between the Sides within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action on Confidence-building, including the activities of the Coordinating Council, its working groups and the Bilateral Georgian-Abkhaz Coordination Commission, as well as the implementation of joint economic, cultural and educational projects, the activities of non-governmental organizations, etc.
Traditional/ religious leaders	Page 5, Appendix; Annex to the Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides ... 4. To support the continuation of meetings of the Elders of both Sides.
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	Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles Page 5, Appendix; Annex to the Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides ... 13. To promote media coverage of the process of mutual understanding between the Sides within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action on Confidence-building, including the activities of the Coordinating Council, its working groups and the Bilateral Georgian-Abkhaz Coordination Commission, as well as the implementation of joint economic, cultural and educational projects, the activities of non-governmental organizations, etc. Page 6, Appendix; Annex to the Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides 14. To broaden the exchange of newspapers between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides by exchanging an equal number of copies of Sakartvelos Respublica and Apsny, with the financial and material support of the United Nations and OSCE. Page 6, Appendix; Annex to the Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides 15. For faster exchange of information, to provide technical support in setting up direct electronic communications between Apsnypress and Kavkazpress and other media agencies of both Sides, with the assistance of the United Nations.
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	Page 5, Appendix; Annex to the Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides ... 12. To establish cooperation in wine-making.
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	Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Tangible Page 5, Appendix; Annex to the Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides ... 7. To support the continuation of contacts between the directors of the Tbilisi and Sukhumi libraries. 8. To organize meetings of the representatives of the Union of Writers of both Sides. Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Promotion Page 5, Appendix; Annex to the Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides ... 13. To promote media coverage of the process of mutual understanding between the Sides within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action on Confidence-building, including the activities of the Coordinating Council, its working groups and the Bilateral Georgian-Abkhaz Coordination Commission, as well as the implementation of joint economic, cultural and educational projects, the activities of non-governmental organizations, etc.
Environment	Page 5, Appendix; Annex to the Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides 11. To continue close cooperation on the question of moving radioactive wastes currently located at the Sukhumi Physico-technical Institute to a safe storage place.
Water or riparian rights or access	No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	No specific mention.
Ceasefire	Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments Page 1, Yalta Declaration of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, During the Meeting, in their desire to ensure favourable conditions for the continuation of the peace process so as to achieve a settlement and prevent a deterioration of the situation in the conflict zone, the Sides reaffirmed their commitments regarding the non-use of force against each other in resolving any disputes, with a view to achieving a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict.
Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	No specific mention.

DDR	No specific mention.
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 5, Appendix; Annex to the Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides [Summary] Annex lists various mean to promote confidence between Georgian and Abkhaz sides. Page 5, Appendix; Annex to the Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides ... 6. To organize meetings of students, instructors and lecturers at universities and other higher educational institutions of both Sides, including historians, with a view to restoring scientific ties and the exchange of information and lectures. 7. To support the continuation of contacts between the directors of the Tbilisi and Sukhumi libraries.

Implementation

UN signatory	Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Georgia as signatory and chairman.
Other international signatory	No specific mention.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.

International mission/force/ similar

Page 1, Yalta Declaration of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides,
... The Sides noted the failure to prevent the resumption of military activities in May 1998, which appeared to be, inter alia, a consequence of the absence of reliable guarantees for the maintenance of peace. In the course of these events, there had also been a failure to employ in full all the mechanisms for the prevention of hostilities, including the CIS Collective Peacekeeping Forces and UNOMIG. At the same time, the Sides recognize the stabilizing role of the CIS Collective Peacekeeping Forces and UNOMIG in the conflict zone.

Page 1, Yalta Declaration of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides,
... In case of a threat of military clashes or the resumption of military clashes, the CIS Collective Peacekeeping Forces, in accordance with their mandate of 26 May 1995, will undertake immediate measures to disengage military groups of the belligerents, along the disengagement line determined by the Moscow Agreement of 14 May 1994. The Sides reaffirm their commitments regarding the observance of the ceasefire accords. They also reaffirm their obligations to prevent actions which would threaten the life and security of the personnel of the CIS Collective Peacekeeping Forces and UNOMIG, and other international personnel deployed in the conflict zone.

Enforcement mechanism

Page 1, Yalta Declaration of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides,
... On the basis of the above, striving to secure a durable peace, the Sides requested the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to appeal to the United Nations, the Group of Friends of the United Nations Secretary-General for Georgia, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and CIS to become guarantors for the non-resumption of hostilities, the steady and safe return of refugees and displaced persons, in the first phase to the Gali district within the old borders, and to elaborate, with the participation of the Sides, the mechanism to implement these guarantees.

Page 4, Appendix; Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides,
Have agreed on the following:
...3. The Sides designate the representatives who will inform the Coordinating Council at its future meetings of the progress made in implementing the confidencebuilding measures.

Page 4, Appendix; Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides,
Have agreed on the following:
...4. In order to ensure the most effective implementation of the confidencebuilding measures, both Sides undertake to provide, as necessary, the organizational and technical support for such implementation, including the preparation of the necessary travel documents and the provision of venues for meetings, and also undertake to encourage the development of bilateral contacts in general. The Sides commend the work of the Bilateral Georgian-Abkhaz Coordination Commission, reaffirm their readiness to provide it with necessary assistance and, in this connection, request the United Nations to facilitate its work and to provide technical, financial and other support.