

Country/entity	Zimbabwe
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Memorandum of Understanding between the Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front) and the two Movement for the Democratic Change Formations
Date	21 Jul 2008
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Zimbabwean Post-electoral Political Crisis (2008)

After removing the white minority-ruled 'Rhodesia' from the map and establishing the state of Zimbabwe in 1980, the Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) took power. Its long-time leader, Robert Mugabe, acted as Prime Minister from 1980 to 1987, and then took over the Presidency. He centralised power and, throughout the 1990s, established an authoritarian state. After suffering a near defeat by the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) in the 2008 elections, the ZANU-PF launched an intimidation campaign against the unarmed opposition, which led to numerous Human Rights violations, widespread torture and disappearances. Under strong international pressure Mugabe entered negotiations with the opposition, a Global Political Agreement was signed by him and the representatives of the two major wings of the MDC in September 2008.

Close

Zimbabwean Post-electoral Political Crisis (2008)

Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Zimbabwe post-election process
Parties	'The Parties' shall mean ZANU-PF, the two MDC formations led by Morgan Tsvangirai and by Arthur Mutambara respectively. Robert G. Mugabe - President, ZANU-PF; Morgan R. Tsvangirai - President, MDC; Arthur G. O. Mutambara - President, MDC
Third parties	Thabo Mbeki - SADC Facilitator
Description	The 'Memorandum of Understanding' is a short agreement stating commitment to enter dialogue, its agenda and principles. It includes 12 short sections: 1. Definitions, 2. Declaration of Commitment, 3. Representation, 4. Agenda, 5. Facilitation, 6. Time frames, 7. Venue, 8. Communication with the media, 9. Decisions by the Parties, 10. Interim measures, 11. The role of SADC and the AU, 12. Execution of the agreement.

Agreement document [ZW_080721_MoU-between-Zimbabwe-African-National-Union-and-MDC-Formations.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** Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Substantive
Page 4, 10. Interim measures:
10.2 Hate speech
The Parties shall refrain from using abusive language that may incite hostility, political intolerance and ethnic hatred or undermine each other.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced
persons** Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive
Page 4, 10. Interim measures:
10.1 Security of persons
...
(d) The Parties agree that, in the interim, they will work together to ensure the safety of any displaced persons and their safe return home and that humanitarian and social welfare organisations are enabled to render such assistance as might be required.

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) Page 1, Preamble:
We the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding;
...
Acknowledging that we have an obligation of establishing a framework of working together in an inclusive government;

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)	<p>Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references</p> <p>Page 1, Preamble: We the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding; ... Acknowledging that we have an obligation of establishing a framework of working together in an inclusive government;</p> <p>Page 2-4, 4. Agenda: The Parties have agreed to the following Agenda: 4.1. Objectives and Priorities of a new Government ... (b) POLITICAL ... (vi) State organs and institutions (vii) Legislative agenda priorities ... 4.2. Framework for a new Government ... 4.4. Global political agreement ... 9. Decisions by the Parties The Parties shall not, during the subsistence of the Dialogue, take any decisions or measures that have a bearing on the agenda of the Dialogue, save by consensus. Such decisions or measures include, but are not limited to the convening of Parliament or the formation of a new government.</p>
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 Governance→Constitution→Constitutional reform/making
Page 2, 4. Agenda:
The Parties have agreed to the following Agenda:
4.1. Objectives and Priorities of a new Government
...
(b) POLITICAL
(i) New Constitution
...

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 2-3, 4. Agenda:
The Parties have agreed to the following Agenda:
4.1. Objectives and Priorities of a new Government
...
(b) POLITICAL
...
(v) Rule of Law

Page 4, 10. Interim measures:
10.1 Security of persons
...
(b) The Parties are committed to ensuring that the law is applied fairly and justly to all persons irrespective of political affiliation.

Page 4, 10. Interim measures:
10.2 Hate speech
The Parties shall refrain from using abusive language that may incite hostility, political intolerance and ethnic hatred or undermine each other.

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 2-3, 4. Agenda:
The Parties have agreed to the following Agenda:
...
(d) Communication
(i) Media
(ii) External radio stations

Page 4, 8. Communication with the media
None of the Parties shall, during the Dialogue period, directly or indirectly communicate the substance of the discussion with the media. The parties shall refrain from negotiating through the media, whether through their representatives to the Dialogue or any of their Party officials.

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 2, 4. Agenda:
The Parties have agreed to the following Agenda:
4.1. Objectives and Priorities of a new Government
(a) ECONOMIC
(i) Restoration of economic stability and growth
(ii) Sanctions
(iii) Land question

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 Land, property and environment→Land reform/rights→Other land rights
Page 2, 4. Agenda:
The Parties have agreed to the following Agenda:
4.1. Objectives and Priorities of a new Government
(a) ECONOMIC
...
(iii) Land question

**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 2-3, 4. Agenda:
The Parties have agreed to the following Agenda:
4.1. Objectives and Priorities of a new Government
...
(c) SECURITY
(i) Security of persons and prevention of violence
...

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments
Page 4, 10. Interim measures:
10.1 Security of persons
(a) Each Party will issue a statement condemning the promotion and use of violence and call for peace in the country and shall take all measures necessary to ensure that the structures and institutions it controls are not engaged in the perpetration of violence.
...
(c) The Parties will take all necessary measures to eliminate all forms of political violence, including by non-state actors, and to ensure the security of persons and property.

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	Page 1, Preamble: We the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding; ... Determined to build a society free of violence, fear, intimidation, hate, patronage, corruption and founded on justice, fairness, openness, transparency, dignity and equality;
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 2, 4. Agenda:
The Parties have agreed to the following Agenda:
4.1. Objectives and Priorities of a new Government
...
(b) POLITICAL
(ii) Promotion of equality, national healing and cohesion, and unity

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory Thabo Mbeki SADC Facilitator (Southern African Development Community)

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism Page 2-3, 4. Agenda:
The Parties have agreed to the following Agenda:
...
4.3. Implementation mechanisms
