Country/entity	Georgia Abkhazia
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Rules Governing the Work of the Working Groups
Date	12 Jun 1997
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	Georgia, Abkhazia
Third parties	-
Description	1. Defines status of working groups as exec bodies of the Coordinating Council, to work in the following areas: issues related to the lasting non-resumption of hostilities and security problems; refugees and IDPs; economic and social problems. 2. Working Groups to consist of reps of both sides, under the chair of the UNSRSG, with reps of Russian Federation (facilitator), the OSCE, and group of Friends of the UNSG. 5. The decisions of the Working Groups are adopted by consensus. They constitute recommendations to be submitted to the Coordinating Council. 6. Working groups to submit reports to the Coordinating Council. 7. Office of the SRSG to act as secretariat to working groups.

Agreement document	GE_970612_Rules governing the work of working groups.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 1, Status: ... Working Groups are established in the following areas: - Refugees and internally displaced persons (Working Group II); Page 2, 3. Meetings: The meetings of the Working Qroups shall be convened by the SRSG, and take place as follows: ... - Working Groups II and III shall meet as necessary Page 3, 4. Agenda. The agenda of the Working Groups is decided by the Coordinating Council. Tbe following are the substantive issues to be discussed by the Working Groups: ... Working Group II: Refugees and IDPs: - provision of humanitarian assistance to refugees and IDPs; demining in the whole zone of conflict to enable the return to normal conditions of life.
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	No specific mention.
Traditional/ religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	No specific mention.
Constitution	No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing	Power sharing→Political power sharing→International involvement State level Page 1, Membership and participants. Members of the Working Groups shall be made up ofrepresentatives ofthe Georgian and Abkhaz parties, two from each side, and meet the chairmanship of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) or his authorized representatives, with the participation of representatives of the Russian Federation as facilitator and the for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), as well as the group of Friends of the Secretary-General under the conditions defined in paragraph 3 of the Concluding Statement. Advisers and consultants may attend meetings ofthe Working Groups, if the parties so wish. Power sharing→Political power sharing→Other State level Page 1, Membership and participants. Members of the Working Groups shall be made up ofrepresentatives ofthe Georgian and Abkhaz parties, two from each side, and meet the chairmanship of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) or his authorized representatives, with the participation of representatives of the Russian Federation as facilitator and the for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), as well as the group of Friends of the Secretary-General under the conditions defined in paragraph 3 of the Concluding Statement. Advisers and consultants may attend meetings ofthe Working Groups, if the parties so wish. Page 3, 5. Decisions: The decisions of the Working Groups [are adopted by consensus. They] constitute recommendations, which shall be submitted to the Coordinating Council. When no consensus is reached for a recommendation on an issue discussed, the views of the parties on it are recorded in the report of the Working Groups to the Coordinating Council.
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 3, 4. Agenda. The agenda of the Working Groups is decided by the Coordinating Council. Tbe following are the substantive issues to be discussed by the Working Groups: ... Working Group III: Economic and Social Problems: - energy, transport, communications;
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 1, Status: ... Working Groups are established in the following areas: ... - Eonomic and social problems (Working Group lll). Page 2, 3. Meetings: The meetings of the Working Qroups shall be convened by the SRSG, and take place as follows: ... - Working Groups II and III shall meet as necessary Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Humanitarian assistance Page 3, 4. Agenda. The agenda of the Working Groups is decided by the Coordinating Council. Tbe following are the substantive issues to be discussed by the Working Groups: ... Working Group II: Refugees and IDPs: - provision of humanitarian assistance to refugees and IDPs; demining in the whole zone of conflict to enable the return to normal conditions of life. Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Infrastructure and reconstruction Page 3, 4. Agenda. The agenda of the Working Groups is decided by the Coordinating Council. Tbe following are the substantive issues to be discussed by the Working Groups: ... Working Group III: Economic and Social Problems: - energy, transport, communications; - ecology; - health care.
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	Page 3, 4. Agenda. The agenda of the Working Groups is decided by the Coordinating Council. Tbe following are the substantive issues to be discussed by the Working Groups: ... Working Group III: Economic and Social Problems: ... - ecology;
Water or riparian rights or access	No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	No specific mention.
Ceasefire	Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision Page 1, Status: ... Working Groups are established in the following areas: - Issues related to the lasting non-resumption of hostilities and security problems (Working Group I); Page 2, 3. Meetings: The meetings of the Working Groups shall be convened by the SRSG, and take place as follows: - Working Group 1 shall meet as necessary, but at least once a week Page 2, 4. Agenda. The agenda of the Working Groups is decided by the Coordinating Council. Tbe following are the substantive issues to be discussed by the Working Groups: Working Group I: (A) Lasting non-resumption of hostilities: - examination of violations of the Agreement on the ceasefire and separation of forces of 14 May 1994, and - recommendations of measures to avoid recurrence; Page 2, 4. Agenda. The agenda of the Working Groups is decided by the Coordinating Council. Tbe following are the substantive issues to be discussed by the Working Groups: ... (B) · Security problems: - investigation of reports about acts of violence by armed groups and placement of mines - recommendations of measures to be taken to halt any activity by illegal armed formations, terrorists and subversive groups and individuals including those penetrating the Abkhaz territory from outside.
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	Page 2, 4. Agenda. The agenda of the Working Groups is decided by the Coordinating Council. Tbe following are the substantive issues to be discussed by the Working Groups: ... (B) · Security problems: - investigation of reports about acts of violence by armed groups and placement of mines - recommendations of measures to be taken to halt any activity by illegal armed formations, terrorists and subversive groups and individuals including those penetrating the Abkhaz territory from outside

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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	Working Groups to consist of reps of both sides, under the chair of the UNSRSG.
Other international signatory	No specific mention.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/ similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.