

Country/entity	Guinea-Bissau
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Guinea Bissau and the Self-proclaimed Military Junta
Date	26 Jul 1998
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Guinea-Bissau Civil War (1998 - 1999)

An attempted coup d'etat by Brigadier General Mane against the government of President Vieira in June 1998 led to a conflict that killed thousands as Vieira - backed by neighbouring states - attempted to re-take the country. A national unity government was established in an agreement signed in November 1998, but fighting continued until Vieira was deposed in May 1999. Only months before the coup attempt, Brig. Gen. Mane was suspended on grounds of a dereliction of duty following the discovery of a weapons cache and the arrest of several army officers on charges of arming Casamance insurgents in neighbouring Senegal. Following the deposal of Vieira, it was agreed that he would stand trial on the same charges. His deposal was condemned by ECOMOG, but ECOMOG troops were nonetheless withdrawn from Guinea-Bissau. The constitution was amended to limit presidential terms to a maximum of two and the death penalty was abolished. The opposition party won the parliamentary elections held in November 1999 by a large majority.

Close
Guinea-Bissau Civil War (1998 - 1999)

Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Guinea Bissau peace process
Parties	Unsigned transcript of the agreement but parties are as follows: For the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (Signature) For the self-proclaimed military junta (Signature)

Third parties	Unsigned transcript of the agreement but parties are as follows: For the Contact Group (Signature) [Summary: the Ministerial Contact Group of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries is comprised of the following member states: Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, (Guinea-Bissau), Mozambique, Portugal, and São Tomé and Príncipe].
Description	A signed agreement made between the government of Guinea Bissau and the military junta declaring an immediate truce and outlining a process for negotiations. The agreement includes an Annex of 26 July 1998 concerning the understanding on (and implementation of) point 1 (c) of the memorandum of understanding, and a declaration by the self-proclaimed military junta in which they state their intention to lay down arms.

Agreement document [GW_980726_MoUGuineaBissau-SelfProclaimedJunta.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) Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references
Page 1, 1: An immediate truce based on the following principles:
(a) Public recognition of the democratic institutions and their legal framework;

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	Page 1, 1: An immediate truce based on the following principles: ...(e) Immediate opening of humanitarian corridors;
Traditional/religious leaders	No specific mention.
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	Page 1, 1. An immediate truce based on the following principles: (a) Public recognition of the democratic institutions and their legal framework;
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles Page 1, 1. An immediate truce based on the following principles: ...(f) Cessation of hostile propaganda;
Mobility/access	Page 1, 1. An immediate truce based on the following principles: ...(e) Immediate opening of humanitarian corridors;
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 2, Annex of 26 July 1998 concerning the understanding on point 1 (c) of the memorandum of understanding between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the self-proclaimed military junta:

With a view to implementing point 1 (c) of the memorandum of understanding between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the self-proclaimed military junta of 26 July 1998, establishing a formal and immediate truce and the start of negotiations, the two parties agree to:

...2. Pledge to withdraw their respective forces from the Mansoa sector once the interpositional or observation force has been deployed in the aforementioned sector. That interpositional or observation force will assume and guarantee the demilitarization of the Mansoa sector until such a time as a final solution has been reached through a process of negotiation, also envisioned in the aforementioned memorandum.

Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

The ceasefire commences at 1500 hours on 28 July 1998. It's duration is unclear.

Page 1, 1. An immediate truce based on the following principles:

...(b) Cessation of hostilities;

(c) Freezing of military positions occupied by the two parties on the morning of 24 July 1998, there being no movement permitted by either force in relation to the other, nor an increase in armaments or military personnel;

...(g) The truce enters into force at 1500 hours on 28 July 1998.

Page 2, Annex of 26 July 1998 concerning the understanding on point 1 (c) of the memorandum of understanding between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the self-proclaimed military junta:

With a view to implementing point 1 (c) of the memorandum of understanding between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the self-proclaimed military junta of 26 July 1998, establishing a formal and immediate truce and the start of negotiations, the two parties agree to:

1. Maintain their respective military positions from the moment of the entry into force of the truce envisioned in the memorandum of understanding;

2. Pledge to withdraw their respective forces from the Mansoa sector once the interpositional or observation force has been deployed in the aforementioned sector. That interpositional or observation force will assume and guarantee the demilitarization of the Mansoa sector until such a time as a final solution has been reached through a process of negotiation, also envisioned in the aforementioned memorandum.

Police

No specific mention.

Armed forces

No specific mention.

DDR

No specific mention.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	Page 3, Declaration: Before the Contact Group of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the military junta declares its intention to lay down arms under conditions to be defined within the framework of the peaceful resolution of the conflict. Bissau, 26 July 1998, For the self-proclaimed military junta (Signature).
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	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory For the Contact Group (Signature)

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/ similar Page 1, 1: An immediate truce based on the following principles:
...(d) Deployment of a military observer or an interpositional force, preferably from Portuguese-speaking countries;

Page 2, Annex of 26 July 1998 concerning the understanding on point 1 (c) of the memorandum of understanding between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the self-proclaimed military junta:
With a view to implementing point 1 (c) of the memorandum of understanding between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the self-proclaimed military junta of 26 July 1998, establishing a formal and immediate truce and the start of negotiations, the two parties agree to:
...2. Pledge to withdraw their respective forces from the Mansoa sector once the interpositional or observation force has been deployed in the aforementioned sector. That interpositional or observation force will assume and guarantee the demilitarization of the Mansoa sector until such a time as a final solution has been reached through a process of negotiation, also envisioned in the aforementioned memorandum.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source UN Peacemaker: <http://peacemaker.un.org/>
