

Country/entity	Georgia Abkhazia
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Protocol, The Sukhumi Meeting between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides on the Implementation of the Protocol of 24 September 1998 and Other Measures Aimed at Stabilization of the Situation in the Zones of Security and Limited Weaponry
Date	3 Feb 2000
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 heightened 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 Caucasus. 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 Russo-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 Tskhinvali, opened another front in the Kodori Gorge. A ceasefire was brokered on August

Stage	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Abkhazia peace process
Parties	On Behalf of the Abkhaz Side, Mr. V. Tsugba; On Behalf of the Georgian Side, Mr. V. Lortkipanidze;
Third parties	On Behalf of the CIS Peace- Keeping Forces, Mr. S. Korobko; On Behalf of the UN, Mr. D. Boden
Description	Short agreement renewing commitment to a number of previous agreements and outlining the implementation means of the Protocol of 24 September 1998.

Agreement document [GE_980928_Sukhumi Meeting.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) 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 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 logistics
Page 2, 4. The Parties undertake to materialize the point 3 of the Protocol of 21 December 1998 on the establishment of permanent telephone "hot" line between the heads of the Gali and Zugdidi Administration and between the field commanders acting in the zones of security and limited weaponry, and in conformity with the point 4 of the same Protocol to settle the issue of rotation of armed formations located along the line dividing the Parties.

Page 2, 6. In order to guarantee the implementation of the provisions of this Protocol, the Parties commit themselves to maintain permanent connection and if necessary, to undertake joint measures.

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 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

No specific mention.

Ceasefire

No specific mention.

Police

Page 1, However, the operative situation in the zones of security and limited weaponry remains rather tense. There are a lot of cases of subversive activities and terrorist acts. In most cases, the victims of these illegal activities are law enforcement personnel and civilian population.

Armed forces

No specific mention.

DDR

No specific mention.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces

Page 2, 2. The Parties, together with the CIS Peace-Keeping Forces and UNOMIG, will undertake within a month all appropriate measures to withdraw from the zones of security and limited weaponry all illegal armed groups and individuals.

Withdrawal of foreign forces

No specific mention.

Corruption

Page 1, However, the operative situation in the zones of security and limited weaponry remains rather tense. There are a lot of cases of subversive activities and terrorist acts. In most cases, the victims of these illegal activities are law enforcement personnel and civilian population.

Page 2, 5. In conformity with the Gagra Protocol of 25 May 1998, the Parties commit themselves to undertake all necessary measures to prevent penetration of criminal armed formations and individuals into the zones of security and limited weaponry.

Crime/organised crime

No specific mention.

Drugs

No specific mention.

Terrorism

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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 Page 2, 3. ... Within the same time limit, the Georgian side will transfer to the Abkhaz side the bodies of those individuals perished on 25 January 2000.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory On Behalf of the UN, Mr. D. Boden

Other international signatory On Behalf of the CIS Peace- Keeping Forces, Mr. S. Korobko;

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/ similar Page 1, 1. Based on the point 1 of the Protocol dated 24 January 1998, the Parties, together with the CIS Peace- Keeping Forces and UNOMIG, commit themselves to calculate within a month the number of military personal and weaponry in the zones of security and limited weaponry and bring it down to the level agreed before and will not allow it to exceed the limit in the future.

Page 2, 2. The Parties, together with the CIS Peace-Keeping Forces and UNOMIG, will undertake within a month all appropriate measures to withdraw from the zones of security and limited weaponry all illegal armed groups and individuals.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source Relief Web; <http://reliefweb.int/report/georgia/protocol-sukhumi-meeting-between-georgian-and-abkhaz-sides-stabilization-situation>
