

Country/entity	Georgia Russia Ossetia
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in Restoration of Economy in the Georgian-Ossetian Conflict Zone and Return of Refugees
Date	13 Dec 2000
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

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	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	South Ossetia peace process
Parties	On behalf of the Government of Georgia, G. Arsenishvili;  On behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation, I. Klebanov
Third parties	-
Description	Agreement outlines the responsibilities of Georgia and Russia in regards to the economic restoration of Ossetia and the return of refugees, including the need to create favourable investment climates and the attraction of FDI. Agreement also places the responsibility of the electricity bill for Ossetia on Georgia.

Agreement document [GE_RU_001223_Agreement on Cooperation in Restoration of Economy in the Georgian-Ossetian Conflict Zone and return of refugees.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→Rhetorical
Page 1, Untitled Preamble,
... With a view of restoration and development of economy of the regions suffered as a result of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, and in order to create conducive conditions for return of refugees and internally displaced persons to the places of their permanent residence,

Page 1, Agreed on the following:
Article 1
The Parties acknowledge the necessity for further financing of restoration works in the Georgian-Ossetian conflict zone and shall work out, in cooperation with representatives of South Ossetian and North Ossetian Sides:
.. - The Inter-Governmental program of repatriation, accommodation, integration and re-integration of refugees, including the measures aimed at restoration of economy in the regions where refugees and internally displaced persons will return.
Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive
Page 1, Agreed on the following:
Article 1
... The Georgian Side, in full conformity with norms of the international law, shall secure full respect of human rights of refugees and internally displaced persons returning to their places of permanent residence. ...

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 Page 1, Agreed on the following:
Article 1
... The Georgian Side, in full conformity with norms of the international law, shall secure full respect of human rights of refugees and internally displaced persons returning to their places of permanent residence. ...

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation Page 1, Agreed on the following:
Article 1
... The Georgian Side, in full conformity with norms of the international law, shall secure full respect of human rights of refugees and internally displaced persons returning to their places of permanent residence. ...

Page 1, Agreed on the following:
... Article 2
In order to meet the pledged commitments in full conformity with this Agreement and norms of the international law, the Parties shall make the best use of existing capabilities to attract financial and other resources, contribute to attraction of investments, favorable credits and subsidies in the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, including inviting international and foreign organizations, the third countries, as well as promote the creation of joint enterprises, development of direct economic ties between different forms of property ownership, including industrial cooperative enterprises located in the conflict zone.

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 No specific mention.

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, Agreed on the following:

Article 1

...

- Inter-Governmental program of cooperation and restoration of economy in the Georgian- Ossetian conflict zone;

- The Inter-Governmental program of repatriation, accommodation, integration and re-integration of refugees, including the measures aimed at restoration of economy in the regions where refugees and internally displaced persons will return.

Page 1, Agreed on the following:

Article 1

... The Parties shall contribute to endeavors undertaken by International organizations in realization of social, economic and humanitarian programs in the regions suffered as a result of the conflict. ...

... The Parties consider continuation of current provision of electricity to the conflict zone as an extremely important factor, in terms of the reconstruction process and return of refugees. The pattern of provision of electricity and clearing off the debt shall be defined in the relevant contracts. ...

Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Humanitarian assistance

Page 1, Agreed on the following:

Article 1

... The Parties shall contribute to endeavors undertaken by International organizations in realization of social, economic and humanitarian programs in the regions suffered as a result of the conflict. ...

Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Infrastructure and reconstruction

Page 1, Agreed on the following:

Article 1

The Parties acknowledge the necessity for further financing of restoration works in the Georgian-Ossetian conflict zone and shall work out, in cooperation with representatives of South Ossetian and North Ossetian Sides:

Page 1, Agreed on the following:

... Article 3

The Parties shall support initiatives of the administrative-territorial bodies, enterprises and organizations of Georgia and the Russian Federation on rendering support to the South Ossetian Side in the process of restoration works and promote attraction of funds in order to secure further development of the economy.

Page 1, Agreed on the following:

... Article 4

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds Page 1, Agreed on the following:

... Article 2

In order to meet the pledged commitments in full conformity with this Agreement and norms of the international law, the Parties shall make the best use of existing capabilities to attract financial and other resources, contribute to attraction of investments, favorable credits and subsidies in the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, including inviting international and foreign organizations, the third countries, as well as promote the creation of joint enterprises, development of direct economic ties between different forms of property ownership, including industrial cooperative enterprises located in the conflict zone.

Business

Page 1, Agreed on the following:

... Article 2

In order to meet the pledged commitments in full conformity with this Agreement and norms of the international law, the Parties shall make the best use of existing capabilities to attract financial and other resources, contribute to attraction of investments, favorable credits and subsidies in the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, including inviting international and foreign organizations, the third countries, as well as promote the creation of joint enterprises, development of direct economic ties between different forms of property ownership, including industrial cooperative enterprises located in the conflict zone.

Page 1, Agreed on the following:

... Article 4

The Parties underline the sheer necessity of settlement of the issue related to payment by the consumers, living in the conflict zone, of their debts to the Russian Joint Stock Company "EAS Russia" for provision of electricity in 1998 and the first quarter of 1999. The Georgian Side commits itself to pay back the aforementioned debt on the principles of restructuring. The timetable for clearing off the debt shall be defined in a separate protocol.

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 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 No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism

Page 1, Agreed on the following:

Article 1

... The Parties shall undertake measures to secure implementation of the aforementioned programs, while inviting international organizations to participate in their implementation. ...

Page 1, Agreed on the following:

... Article 5

The current Agreement may be complemented by protocols, clarifying the mechanism of its implementation.

Control over the implementation of programs envisaged by this Agreement shall be carried out by the Joint Control Commission on Settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict.

Related cases

No specific mention.

Source

Archive of Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; http://www.rrc.ge/law/xels_2000_12_23_e.htm
