

<b>Country/entity</b>	Georgia Russia Ossetia
<b>Region</b>	Europe and Eurasia
<b>Agreement name</b>	Protocol of the Eighth Meeting of Expert Groups of Authorized Delegation of Sides Carried out in the Framework of Negotiation Processes on the Full-Scale Settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian Conflict
<b>Date</b>	29 Oct 2002
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	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

<b>Stage</b>	Pre-negotiation/process
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government/territory
<b>Peace process</b>	South Ossetia peace process
<b>Parties</b>	South Ossetian side Georgian side <sup>28</sup> Russian Federation side North Ossetian side
<b>Third parties</b>	-
<b>Description</b>	Agreement outlines outstanding issues in the Ossetia process, including media concerns, refugee matters, the reconstruction of roads, the restoration of key social services such as hospitals. It also iterates that talks will continue.

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<b>Agreement document</b>	<a href="#">GE_RU_021029_Protocol of the Eighth Meeting of Expert Group on Full-scale Settlement.pdf (opens in new tab)</a>   <a href="#">Download PDF</a>
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## 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 2, Untitled Preamble,  
... Sides elaborated following recommendations:  
... 6. Georgian side to speed up elaboration and adoption of the legislation on restoration and protection rights of refugees, forcedly moved and other persons, suffered from Georgian- Ossetian conflict on living space and property;

**Social class** No specific mention.

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## Gender

**Women, girls and gender** No specific mention.

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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## **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.

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## **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** Page 3, Untitled Preamble,  
... Sides elaborated following recommendations:  
... 11. Co-chairman of CKK to organize meetings between residents of settlements within the conflict zone with the aim to reinforce and develop trust between sides involved in the conflict. ...

**Traditional/religious leaders** No specific mention.

**Public administration** No specific mention.

**Constitution** No specific mention.

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#### **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.

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#### **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.

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#### **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, Untitled Preamble,

... Sides elaborated following recommendations:

... 2. To start publishing CKK bulletin with the aim to keep population informed on the progress being made in the process of peaceful settlement;

Page 2, Untitled Preamble,

... Sides elaborated following recommendations:

... 3. To hold session of CKK, where issues of CKK's operation, introduction clarities into the mechanism of its operation and appropriateness of recently arranged block-posts of law- enforcement bodies within the conflict zone will be discussed.

Page 2, Untitled Preamble,

... Sides elaborated following recommendations:

... 4. To consider expedient regular appearance of the political authorities of Georgia and South Ossetia in mass media supporting resolution of Georgian-Ossetian conflict and explanation of importance of steps being taken in the process of settlement.

Page 2, Untitled Preamble,

... Sides elaborated following recommendations:

... 5. Sides to broadcast new, interactive and other types of programs providing direct contact with representatives of both sides in live with the aim to strengthen trust in the conflict zone.

**Mobility/access**

No specific mention.

**Protection measures**

Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of groups

Page 2, Untitled Preamble,

... Sides elaborated following recommendations:

... 6. Georgian side to speed up elaboration and adoption of the legislation on restoration and protection tights of refugees, forcedly moved and other persons, suffered from Georgian- Ossetian conflict on living space and property;

**Other**

No specific mention.

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**Rights institutions**

**NHRI**

No specific mention.

**Regional or international human rights institutions**

No specific mention.

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## 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.

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## Socio-economic reconstruction

**Development or socio-economic reconstruction** Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Infrastructure and reconstruction  
Page 3, Untitled Preamble,  
... Sides elaborated following recommendations:  
... 7. Corresponding bodies of both sides to discuss issue of reconstruction of roads within the conflict zone and also in the areas of mixed residence of Georgian and Ossetian population.  
  
Page 3, Untitled Preamble,  
... Sides elaborated following recommendations:  
... 8. Sides to search possibility for the rehabilitation and reinforcement of resource base of objects of social purpose within the conflict zone (Hospital in Tskhinvali, etc.) in order to increase trust between sides.

**National economic plan** No specific mention.

**Natural resources** No specific mention.

**International funds** Page 3, Untitled Preamble,  
... Sides elaborated following recommendations:  
... 9. OSCE missions in Georgia to continue holding meetings with the representatives of donors of specific projects.

**Business** No specific mention.

**Taxation** No specific mention.

**Banks** No specific mention.



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**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.

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**Security sector**

**Security  
Guarantees** No specific mention.

**Ceasefire** No specific mention.

**Police** Page 2, Untitled Preamble,  
... Sides elaborated following recommendations:  
... 3. To hold session of CKK, where issues of CKK's operation, introduction clarities into  
the mechanism of its operation and appropriateness of recently arranged block-posts of  
law- enforcement bodies within the conflict zone will be discussed.

**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.

<b>Drugs</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Terrorism</b>	Page 1, Untitled Preamble, ... Participant of the meeting condemned hostage-taking act in Moscow, which entailed numerous victims. ...

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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.

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**Implementation**

**UN signatory** No specific mention.

**Other international signatory** Mr. Antoniu Martinsh da Kruje, acting head of OSCE, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal participated in the meeting.

**Referendum for agreement** No specific mention.

**International mission/force/similar** No specific mention.

**Enforcement mechanism** No specific mention.

**Related cases** No specific mention.

**Source** Archive of the Georgian Ministry of Affairs; [http://www.rrc.ge/law/protos\\_2002\\_26\\_10\\_E.htm](http://www.rrc.ge/law/protos_2002_26_10_E.htm)

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