

Country/entity	Georgia Abkhazia
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Minutes of the meeting between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides on stabilization of the situation along the line separating the sides
Date	24 Sep 1998
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	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Abkhazia peace process
Parties	For the Georgian side ²⁸ (Signed) V. LORDKIPANIDZE (Signed) K . T ARGOMADZE For the Abkhaz side ²⁹ (Signed) s. BAGAPSH (Signed) A. KCHACH (Signed) A. TARSA (Signed) A. JERGENIYA (Signed) v. MIKANBA
Third parties	From the United Nations (Signed) L. BOTA From the collective peacekeeping forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Signed) D. GAKHOKIDZE (Signed) D. BABIBASHVILI (Signed) D. TEVZADZE (Signed) S. KOROEKO
Description	Confirmed statements on halting armed conflict and overcoming differences by peaceful means, and agreed to bring military strength in security and restricted zones into line with Moscow Agreement, and to complete work defining line separating armed formations in Nabakevi-Khurcha and Otobaya-Ganmukhuri villages. Agreed to establish effective communications between heads of administration in Gali and Zugdidi districts, and between leaders of armed groups in the two villages. Also provided for the establishment of working groups to draw up regulations governing procedure for joint investigation of criminal cases involving acts of terrorism and subversion committed in security zone.

Agreement document [GE_980924_Minutes of the Meeting between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides on Stabilization.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→Other
Page 1, The sides reached agreement :
... 3. For purposes of prompt solution of problems if conflict situations arise in the security zone, effective communications shall be established between the heads of the administrations in Gali and Zugdidi districts, and also between the leaders of the armed groups of the sides in the region of Nabakevi-Khurcha and Otobaya-Ganmukhuri villages.

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

Page 1, The sides again confirmed their statements on the halting of the armed conflict and, on the basis of the Agreement on a ceasefire and separation of forces of 14 May 1994, undertake not to use force to resolve any contentious issues.

Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

Page 1, The sides again confirmed their statements on the halting of the armed conflict and, on the basis of the Agreement on a ceasefire and separation of forces of 14 May 1994, undertake not to use force to resolve any contentious issues.

Page 1, The sides reached agreement :

1. To bring the strength of the armed groups and the number of armaments in the security and restricted weapons zones into line with the Moscow Agreement of 14 May 1994 .

Page 1, The sides reached agreement :

2. To complete the work on defining more accurately the line separating the armed formations in the region of Nabakevi-Khurcha and Otobaya-Ganmukhuri villages. The sides undertake to study and resolve this issue by 1 October 1998. Until it is resolved, a temporary post of the CIS collective peacekeeping forces shall be established between them, jointly with the sides, and shall ensure compliance with the ceasefire regime.

Page 1, The sides reached agreement :

... 3. For purposes of prompt solution of problems if conflict situations arise in the security zone, effective communications shall be established between the heads of the administrations in Gali and Zugdidi districts, and also between the leaders of the armed groups of the sides in the region of Nabakevi-Khurcha and Otobaya-Ganmukhuri villages.

Police

Page 1, The sides reached agreement :

... 4. The law enforcement agencies of the sides shall cooperate in halting terrorist and subversive activity .

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	<p>Page 1, The sides reached agreement : ... 4. The law enforcement agencies of the sides shall cooperate in halting terrorist and subversive activity .</p> <p>Page 1, The sides reached agreement : ... 5. The public prosecutors' offices of Abkhaz and Georgia shall establish working groups which by 1 October 1998 shall draw up and approve regulations governing the procedure far joint investigation of criminal cases involving acts of terrorism and subversion committed in the security zone.</p>

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts Transitional justice→Courts→National courts
Page 1, The sides reached agreement :
... 5. The public prosecutors' offices of Abkhaz and Georgia shall establish working groups which by 1 October 1998 shall draw up and approve regulations governing the procedure far joint investigation of criminal cases involving acts of terrorism and subversion committed in the security zone.

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 From the United Nations (Signed) L. BOTA

Other international signatory From the collective peacekeeping forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Signed) D. GAKHOKIDZE (Signed) D. BABIBASHVILI (Signed) D. TEVZADZE (Signed) S. KOROEKO

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar Page 1, The sides reached agreement :
1. ... Monitoring of compliance with this paragraph shall be conducted by military observers of the United Nations and the CIS collective peacekeeping forces jointly with the sides.

Page 1, The sides reached agreement :
2. ...The sides undertake to study and resolve this issue by 1 October 1998. Until it is resolved, a temporary post of the CIS collective peacekeeping forces shall be established between them, jointly with the sides, and shall ensure compliance with the ceasefire regime.

Enforcement mechanism [Summary] 1. parties reaffirm commitment to Moscow Agmt, stating that compliance to be observed by UN and CIS jointly with the sides.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source on file with author
