

<b>Country/entity</b>	Guinea-Bissau
<b>Region</b>	Africa (excl MENA)
<b>Agreement name</b>	Final communiqué of the joint Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)/ Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) consultative meeting on the situation in Guinea-Bissau
<b>Date</b>	25 Aug 1998
<b>Agreement status</b>	Unilateral document
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes
<b>Agreement/conflict level</b>	Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

#### **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 His deposal was condemned by ECOMOG, but ECOMOG troops were nonetheless withdrawn from Guinea-Bissau.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)

<b>Stage</b>	Ceasefire/related
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government
<b>Peace process</b>	Guinea Bissau peace process
<b>Parties</b>	Unsigned agreement but parties are known to be: the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau; and the Self-denominated Military Junta.

**Third parties** Unsigned agreement but the following parties are listed as present at the meeting:  
ECOWAS member States  
- Republic of Côte d'Ivoire  
- Republic of The Gambia  
- Republic of Guinea  
- Federal Republic of Nigeria  
- Republic of Senegal

CPLP member States  
- Republic of Angola  
- Federative Republic of Brazil  
- Republic of Cape Verde  
- Republic of Mozambique  
- Republic of Portugal  
- Republic of Sao Tome and Principe

The representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations is also listed as present at the meeting on special invitation.

**Description** This agreement provides for a coordinated mediation approach between ECOWAS and the CPLP Contact Group regarding ending the conflict in Guinea-Bissau. Issues covered in the agreement include: the permanence and monitoring of the ceasefire; the reopening of the airport, the return of refugees, and international financial assistance.

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**Agreement document** [GW\\_980826\\_FinalCommuniquePraia.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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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, 14: The Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-denominated Military Junta considered the issue of the Osvaldo Vieira airport which remained closed and agreed on the need to reopen it in order to:  
...- Facilitate the return of refugees and displaced persons.

**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 2, 14: The Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-denominated Military Junta considered the issue of the Osvaldo Vieira airport which remained closed and agreed on the need to reopen it in order to:  
- Ease the movement of humanitarian aid;

**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** No specific mention.

**Mobility/access** Page 2, 14: The Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-denominated Military Junta considered the issue of the Osvaldo Vieira airport which remained closed and agreed on the need to reopen it in order to:

- Ease the movement of humanitarian aid;
- Provide the logistic support for the ceasefire observer team;
- Facilitate the return of refugees and displaced persons.

**Protection measures** No specific mention.

**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** No specific mention.

**National economic plan** No specific mention.

**Natural resources** No specific mention.

**International funds** Page 2, 15: The meeting called on the international community to assist the people of Guinea-Bissau.

**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.

## **Security sector**

### **Security Guarantees**

Page 1, 8: The participants exchanged views on political and military matters as well as issues relating to regional security.

### **Ceasefire**

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

Page 1, 10: The meeting noted with satisfaction that the parties to the conflict had agreed to a truce, brokered by CPLP, and commended CPLP for its efforts.

Page 1, 11: In order to consolidate the fragile peace now holding in Guinea-Bissau and ensure that it is not short-lived, the parties to the conflict, encouraged by the ECOWAS Committee of Seven and the CPLP Contact Group, agreed to transform the current truce into a ceasefire.

Page 2, 12: The representatives of the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-denominated Military Junta then proceeded to sign the ceasefire agreement.

Page 2, 13: The meeting also agreed on the need to put in place a mechanism to supervise and monitor the ceasefire. The modalities for its implementation will be finalized during the next meeting.

Page 2, 14: The Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-denominated Military Junta considered the issue of the Osvaldo Vieira airport which remained closed and agreed on the need to reopen it in order to:

...- Provide the logistic support for the ceasefire observer team;

Page 2, 17: This will be preceded by a meeting of Chiefs of Staff or military experts of States members of the Committee of Seven and the CPLP Contact Group which will be held on 10 September to consider the technical, logistic and operational aspects of the observer team for the monitoring of the ceasefire and the interposition forces with respect to the establishment of a buffer zone along the Senegal/Guinea-Bissau borders.

### **Police**

No specific mention.

### **Armed forces**

Page 1, 8: The participants exchanged views on political and military matters as well as issues relating to regional security.

### **DDR**

No specific mention.

### **Intelligence services**

No specific mention.

### **Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces**

No specific mention.



**Withdrawal of foreign forces** Page 2, 17: This will be preceded by a meeting of Chiefs of Staff or military experts of States members of the Committee of Seven and the CPLP Contact Group which will be held on 10 September to consider the technical, logistic and operational aspects of the observer team for the monitoring of the ceasefire and the interposition forces with respect to the establishment of a buffer zone along the Senegal/Guinea-Bissau borders.

**Corruption** No specific mention.

**Crime/organised crime** No specific mention.

**Drugs** No specific mention.

**Terrorism** No specific mention.

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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** Page 1, 4: The representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations was present at the meeting, on special invitation.

**Other international signatory** Page 1, 2: The following member States were present at the meeting:  
ECOWAS member States

- Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Republic of The Gambia
- Republic of Guinea
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Republic of Senegal

CPLP member States

- Republic of Angola
- Federative Republic of Brazil
- Republic of Cape Verde
- Republic of Mozambique
- Republic of Portugal
- Republic of Sao Tome and Principe

Page 1, 3: Representatives of the ECOWAS and CPLP secretariats also participated in the meeting.

**Referendum for agreement** No specific mention.

**International mission/force/ similar** Page 2, 17: This will be preceded by a meeting of Chiefs of Staff or military experts of States members of the Committee of Seven and the CPLP Contact Group which will be held on 10 September to consider the technical, logistic and operational aspects of the observer team for the monitoring of the ceasefire and the interposition forces with respect to the establishment of a buffer zone along the Senegal/Guinea-Bissau borders.

Page 2, 18: The ministerial meeting will consider:

- ...- The establishment of an observer team; and
- The composition and all other aspects relative to the deployment of the interposition forces under the framework of the establishment of a buffer zone along the Senegal/ Guinea-Bissau borders.

**Enforcement mechanism** No specific mention.

**Related cases** No specific mention.

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

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