

Country/entity	Moldova Transdniestria
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Memorandum on the Bases for Normalization of Relations between the Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria
Date	8 May 1997
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Transdniestria War (1992)

Towards the end of the 1980s, nationalist movements became a leading force in the Moldovan Soviet Socialist Republic (SSR), which expressed intent on leaving the USSR. In 1988, the Popular Front of Moldova, demanded that the USSR make Moldovian the only official state language, thereby alienating Russian-speaking groups within the Republic. This was particularly the case with Transdniestria region where Russian-speakers (and Ukrainian-speakers) represented 53.8 per cent of the population. Furthermore, events during the Second World War helped define a historical identity for the Transdniestria region. Nonetheless, following the language laws, Slavic-backlash in the form of the Yedinstvo Movement began pressing for equal rights. Following the election of the nationalist Popular Front in the Spring of 1990, the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic was proclaimed by an unelected assembly in September. Wishing to maintain the territorial unity of the Moldavian SSR, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev intervened citing restriction on minority rights by Moldova and annulled the Pridnestrovian proclamation. Armed clashes broke out in March 1992 between Moldovian and Transdniestrian/Pridnestrovian forces. However, due to the slow devolution of Soviet authority (the armed forces had only been divided between the former republics in April 1992), the Russian Federation maintained 9,000 troops of the 14th Guards in Moldova, and they eventually intervened on behalf of Pridnestrovian forces in July 1992. A ceasefire was signed on 21 July, which has remained although the conflict remains unresolved despite attempts by the OSCE during the end of the 1990s.

Close
Transdniestria War (1992)

Stage	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Moldova Transdniestria process
Parties	For the Republic of Moldova: P. Lucinschi For Transdniestria: I. Smirnov

Third parties

For the Guarantor States:

For the Russian Federation: B. Yeltsin;

For Ukraine: L. Kuchma

In the presence of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE: N. Helveg Petersen

Description

This short agreement reaffirms commitments not to use or threaten force and to resolve differences through peaceful means with the assistance of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the OSCE and the CIS. It defines these relations and the status of Transdniestria to be based on the principles of mutually agreed decisions, including the division and delegation of competencies and mutually assured guarantees. It also requests that the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the OSCE to continue their mediating efforts and reaffirmed continuance of activities for maintaining peace carried out by the Joint Peace-keeping forces in the Security Zone.

Agreement document

[MD_970508_Memorandum on the bases for normalization of relations between the Republic of Moldova and Transdneistria.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** Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Anti-discrimination
Page 1, Untitled Preamble
...According prime importance to the realization of basic human rights and freedoms of the individual, notwithstanding ethnic origin, religious belief, political tenets, place of residence and other differences;...

Religious groups Groups→Religious groups→Anti-discrimination
Page 1, Untitled Preamble
...According prime importance to the realization of basic human rights and freedoms of the individual, notwithstanding ethnic origin, religious belief, political tenets, place of residence and other differences;...

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)

Page 1, 2.

The Parties shall continue the establishment between them of state-legal relations. The Document, defining these relations, the status of Transnistria, shall be based on the principles of mutually agreed decisions, including the division and delegation of competencies, and mutually assured guarantees. The Parties will proceed to the elaboration of this document immediately after the signing of this Memorandum, giving consideration to all previously achieved principled agreements, including those achieved on 17 June 1996.

Page 1, 3.

Transnistria shall participate in the conduct of the foreign policy of the Republic of Moldova - a subject of international law - on questions touching its interests. Decision of such questions shall be taken by agreement of the Parties. Transnistria has the right to unilaterally establish and maintain international contacts in the economic, scientific-technical and cultural spheres, and in other spheres by agreement of the Parties.

State configuration

Page 2, 11.

The Parties shall build their relations in the framework of a common state within the borders of the Moldavian SSR as of January of the year 1990.

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 UN Peacemaker YES
Coder NO

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, Untitled Preamble
...According prime importance to the realization of basic human rights and freedoms of the individual, notwithstanding ethnic origin, religious belief, political tenets, place of residence and other differences;...

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation Page 1, Untitled Preamble
...Reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the UN, OSCE, and generally recognized norms of international law, and also to the agreements reached previously between the Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria;...

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 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 2, 9.
The Parties reaffirm that activities for maintaining peace, carried out by the Joint Peace-keeping forces in the Security Zone in accordance with the agreement between the presidents of the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation dated 21 July 1992 “On the Principles of Peaceful Settlement of the Armed Conflict in the Transdniestrian Region of the Republic of Moldova” shall be continued.

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 For the Guarantor States:
For the Russian Federation: B. Yeltsin;
For Ukraine: L. Kuchma
In the presence of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE: N. Helveg Petersen

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar

Page 2, 9.
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Enforcement mechanism

Page 1, 1.
The Parties reaffirm their commitment not to resort to the use of force or the threat of force in their mutual relations. Any differences shall be resolved exclusively by peaceful means, through negotiations and consultations with the assistance and mediation of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as guarantor States for the fulfillment of agreements achieved; of the OSCE and the assistance of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States].

Page 1, 5.
The Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria will act as mutual guarantors of the full and unconditional fulfillment of the agreements on relations between them.

Page 2, 6.
The Parties welcome the declaration of the Russian Federation and Ukraine about their readiness to act as Guarantor States for the observance of the provisions set forth in the respective documents about the status of Transdniestria and the agreements set forth in the present Memorandum.

Page 2, 7.
The Parties direct a request to the OSCE to continue its assistance for the compliance of the agreements between them.

Page 2, 8.
The Parties declare the necessity to elaborate a mechanism of guarantees by all the participants in the negotiating process.

Page 2, 10.
In the event of a violation of these agreements, the Parties have the right to address themselves to the Guarantors for the carrying out of consultations with the goal of taking measures for normalizing the situation.

Related cases

No specific mention.

Source

Available at: <https://www.osce.org/moldova/42309>
