

Country/entity	Tajikistan
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	The Bishkek Memorandum
Date	18 May 1997
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Tajikistani Civil War (1992 - 1997)

Ethnic marginalization formed a key feature in the Tajikistani Civil war when liberal democrat and Islamic groups from the Garm and Gorno-Badakhshan took up arms against the government of President Rahmon Nabiyev. Members of Nabiyev's government were predominantly from the regions of Leninabad and Kulyab. Anti-government protestors took to the street following the 1991 presidential elections, which caused the government to hand out arms to pro-government militias. Following clashes, anti-government factions captured the President and forced him to resign at gun-point. A new government under the Kulyabi native, Emomali Rahmonov, who fended off democratic and Islamist militias. Eventually, with support from Islamist factions in Afghanistan, the opposition united under the United Tajik Opposition umbrella. In 1994, the UN deployed a peacekeeping force to monitor the 1994 ceasefire agreement. A peace agreement was signed in 1997 and completely removed the Leninabad 'old guard' from power.

Close
Tajikistani Civil War (1992 - 1997)

Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Tajikistan peace process
Parties	(Signed) E. RAKHMONOV President of the Republic of Tajikistan (Signed) A. NURI Leader of the United Tajik Opposition
Third parties	(Signed) G. MERREM Special Representative of the Secretary-General
Description	Memorandum between the leaders accompanying Protocol on Political Issues and the Protocol on Military Issues. Agreed that the Commission on National reconciliation would immediately begin its work. Includes Protocol on Political Issues (18/05/1997) which is coded separately.

Agreement document

[TJ_970518_BishekMemorandum.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) Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references
Page 4, Annex II, para 2

In this context, the next serious step forward was taken in solving the problems on the agenda of the inter-Tajik talks - a protocol on political questions was signed, which includes agreements on such basic issues as the adoption of the reciprocal-pardon act and the amnesty act; the inclusion of 25 per cent of the representatives of the United Tajik Opposition as members of the Central Electoral Commission for a transitional period; reforming the Government by including Opposition representatives in it on the basis of a quota; lifting the bans on activities by the political parties and movements of the United Tajik Opposition and the mass information media after the completion of the second phase in the implementation of the Protocol on Military Questions. In the context of the provisions of the Protocol on Military Questions, agreement was also reached on deploying in Dushanbe a contingent of the armed units of the United Tajik Opposition numbering 460 persons and also 40 persons to protect the members of the Commission on National Reconciliation.

Elections No specific mention.

**Electoral
commission**

Page 4, Annex II, para 2

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**Political parties
reform**

Governance→Political parties reform→Other political parties reform
Page 4, Annex II, para 2

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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

Power sharing→Political power sharing→General State level
Page 4, Annex II, para 2

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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→Media roles
Page 4, Annex II, para 2

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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 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 Page 4, ANNEX II, para 2
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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 Transitional justice→Amnesty/pardon→Amnesty/pardon proper
Page 4, Annex II, para 2

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Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release Page 4, Annex II, para 3

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition agreed in subsequent talks held in Tehran and Moscow to solve the problem of exchanging prisoners of war and imprisoned persons in all its aspects and devise an appropriate mechanism for that purpose.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation Page 4, Annex II, para 4

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition agreed that, as a result of the Bishkek meeting, the obstacles that had arisen recently in the negotiation process had been eliminated and the prerequisites for successfully continuing the talks had been met. They agreed that the Commission on National Reconciliation would begin its work immediately after the signing of the general agreement on peace and national accord in Tajikistan.

Implementation

UN signatory (Signed) G. MERREM Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source Conciliation Resources Accord
<http://www.c-r.org/accord-article/key-texts-accord-tajikistan>
