

PA-X CORPUS Codebook

Version 1, November 2019



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Accessing and downloading the Corpus

The PA-X Corpus is available via the PA-X main search page, at www.peaceagreements.org/search. It is possible to reduce the corpus to only the features one is interested in by using the search tool, for example, if only the agreements from a particular region or conflict type are of interest. Selecting no search criteria produces a list of all documents and a .csv file containing all agreement documents in the PA-X collection. The file is in comma-separated format, which is easily readable into R and similar software. However, we do not recommend using Excel to open the file, due to Excel's limits on the number of characters per cell.

The corpus can be merged with the main PA-X quantitative data via agreement ID, which allows further aggregation and merges with other relevant data sources, relying on the country- and conflict codes.

All texts are in English, translated by professional translators or native speakers with

expertise in the subject matter.

There are some peculiarities about the data that users should be aware of. While it is common to remove English stopwords, we recommend that further removals be done, in particular those words that are very common in peace agreement formats, such as 'shall', 'agreement', names of locales, and a range of Arabic and Roman numerals. We provide a list of words that we tend to remove from the corpus to reveal substantive issues alongside this codebook. Additionally, the documents greatly vary in length, and we suggest that this be considered as a relevant factor in research design. Finally, the corpus includes a non-exhaustive segment of local peace agreements, which do not represent a census of local agreements in the way that the remainder of the database is a census of major formal peace agreement documents. Local negotiation practices differ from national- and international level peace processes, and it may in some cases be useful to remove the local agreements from the corpus before conducting analyses.

Variables

AgreementId

Unique identifier for each document in PA-X, identical to AgtId in the main PA-X quantitative dataset.

Name

Name of agreement.

Region

Global region the agreement refers to. Please note that these regions were defined in a manner relevant to the data, and do not always match the country assignment to regions in other datasets (e.g. World Bank).

Regions listed: Africa (excl. MENA), Americas, Asia and Pacific, Europe and Eurasia, Middle East and North Africa, Cross-regional, Other

Country

List of countries and entities that the agreement refers to.

The country or jurisdiction in which the conflict originated; where the conflict has a territorial element, the entity to which the conflict relates. This is the case for both intrastate agreements in intrastate conflict and for interstate agreements in intrastate conflicts, i.e. 'pure' interstate agreements signed as a result of intrastate negotiations in a conflict.

For 'pure' interstate agreements, the states signing or publicly agreeing the agreement are listed.

Special cases:

- Northern Ireland intrastate agreements are always listed as 'Ireland/UK/Northern Ireland'.
- All agreements related to conflicts in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo have been allocated the entity 'Yugoslavia (former)' in addition to the country names. This is in order to reflect the cross-border cooperation between other Yugoslav successor republics and self-declared autonomous republics or non-state actors within Bosnia, and the complex conflict dyads throughout Yugoslavia's collapse.

The country and entity names do not always match the official country names, for reasons related to the particular conflicts and peace processes.

Please refer to the main PA-X database quantitative output for ISO and GWNO numbers related to agreement location(s).

Peace Process

Peace process number.

Peace Process Name

Name of peace process, also indicating the country that the peace process is relevant for.

Stage

One of key stages of peace process: pre-negotiation/process, implementation, renewal, substantive-comprehensive, substantive-partial, ceasefire, and other.

- Pre: Pre-negotiation/process. Agreements that aim to get parties to the point of negotiating over the incompatibilities at the heart of the conflict. Note that these agreements can happen at any time in a process (even after a comprehensive peace agreement has been signed), if parties have moved back into 'talking about how they are going to talk'. Therefore, this characterization does not imply temporal precedence.
- SubPar: Framework-substantive, Partial. Agreements that concern parties that are engaged in discussion and agreeing to substantive issues to resolve the conflict, but only deal with some of the issues in ways that appear to contemplate future agreements to complete.
- SubComp: Framework-substantive, Comprehensive. Agreements that concern parties that are engaged in discussion and agreeing to substantive issues to resolve the conflict and appear to be set out as a comprehensive attempt to resolve the conflict.
- Imp: Implementation/renegotiation. Aiming to implement an earlier agreement. Note that this category does not include ceasefires.
- Ren: Renewal. These are short agreements (typically of just one page), which do nothing other than 'renew' previous commitments. Note that this category does not include ceasefire renewals which are contained in the ceasefire category (see below).
- Cea: Ceasefire/related. This category contains agreements which provide in their entirety for a ceasefire, or association demobilisation, or an agreement that is purely providing a monitoring arrangement for, or extension, of a ceasefire.
- Other: This is a residual category, capturing all agreements that do not fit the remaining definition. The user is advised to refer to the database for examples of the agreements in this category.

Signed Date

Agreement signature date, in YYYY-MM-DD format.

Agreement/Conflict Level

- Inter: Interstate/interstate conflict. Interstate treaty relating to interstate conflict. E.g. Iraq/Kuwait, or North/ South Korea
- InterIntra: Interstate/mixed or intrastate conflict. These agreements are clearly only inter-state in nature (treaty), but rather than referring to a single inter-state conflict, they refer to intra-state conflict/conflicts, whose major components originate within existing (de-facto or legal) state borders. Parties to these are most often states or international actors e.g. Israel-Jordan Treaty in support of the PLO- Israel Peace Agreements; African Great Lakes agreements; European Union unilateral Action Plan on Former Yugoslavia; communiques, conclusions, and declarations produced by international conferences on Afghanistan. This category enables differentiating such interstate agreements from 'pure interstate agreements', which relate to international conflict.
- Intra: Intrastate agreement relating to intrastate conflict; refers mainly to conflicts within a state's borders, e.g. Northern Ireland. Please note that these may have more than one state party, but if they are not pure inter-state agreements, but have internal parties, then they are coded as 'intrastate agreements'.

Conflict Nature

Type of conflict the agreement is addressing:

- Government
- Territory
- Government/territory
- Inter-group
- Other

'Government' refers to ideological or political disputes, and 'Territory' to purely territorial disputes.

All intrastate disputes over territory are coded 'Government/territory', as they involve an incompatibility over the territory and over the government and are sometimes resolving by dealing with just one of these issues.

Agreements are coded as 'territorial' even beyond secessionist conflicts, where claims contest or are related to governance of specific regions, even if secessionist or irredentist claims are not made.

Inter-group conflicts are between non-state groups; the agreements pertaining often deal with provisional revolutionary interim governments, e.g. in cases when a government is defeated militarily and the non-state groups 'divide the spoils'.

Agreement Status

Character variable, describes the type of agreement.

- Multiparty signed/agreed. Agreement signed or clearly assented to by more than one group of the opposing protagonists (but not necessarily all of the opposed groups). It is irrelevant that a party later recanted, if they previously agreed to the agreement. We also count initial agreement which required further things to happen (e.g. wider referendum etc.) as ‘signed/agreed’ if there is evidence that the parties had agreed to it, albeit with implementation contingent on future processes.

This category includes agreements by political leaders (where these are separate from military actors) where there are clear connections and communications and relationships between political leaders and military protagonists and disputes over who really represents the divided groups. Constitutions and Constitutional Amendments which are part of the database are often included on this basis.

- Unilateral agreement: agreement produced by ‘one side’ but in response to agreement with other side (e.g. as part of an ‘exchange of documents’ or ‘informal choreography’). These also include documents produced by international actors, after talking to both sides, to reflect the ‘agreement’ between them, or inter-state agreements which set the frame for negotiations or provide for their implementation, for example, UN Security Council Resolutions. These ‘agreements’ reflect agreement between the parties, even though they are not parties to the resolution.
- Status unclear: if it is unclear how much of the agreement was signed, or who agreed it, but there is some indication from surrounding documentation that it was signed/agreed, its status is coded as ‘status unclear’. Where entered as status unclear, the database itself includes the reason as part of the description of the agreement. Accessing the database entries for such agreements is required for these clarifications, as they are not part of the database output.
- Agreement with Subsequent Status: a proposed agreement which has been based on talking to the parties and a ‘best guess’ of what they will agree to which, while not accepted by the parties as an agreement, nonetheless became the basis for subsequent developments, for example: because it formed a ‘pre-negotiation exploration’ which set the frame of later negotiations, or because it was later adopted as a framework for government. These are thus coded as ‘agreement with subsequent status’. For these agreements, the “Stage” variable is necessarily coded as “Other”, as they often look comprehensive in nature, but in fact operate as ‘pre-negotiation’ soundings.

[Agreement Text](#)

Full text of the agreement.