

Country/entity	Bosnia and Herzegovina Yugoslavia (former)
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Programme of Action on Humanitarian Issues agreed between the Co-Chairmen to the Conference and the Parties to the Conflict, International Conference on Yugoslavia (The London Conference)
Date	27 Aug 1992
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

Balkan Conflicts (1991 - 1995) (1998 - 2001)

Former Yugoslavia

The disintegration of former Yugoslavia post cold war saw conflicts which became mediated and produced peace agreements in Slovenia (where the brief independence conflict was mediated by the EC Troika in 1991), Croatia (between Croatian and Serb populations 1991-1995), in Bosnia (between Croatian, Serb and Bosniak populations 1992-1995), in Macedonia (where mediation played a key pre-emptive role in preventing large scale conflict in 2001), in Kosovo (between Kosovar Albanians and Serbian population and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), but also between FRY and NATO, 1998-1999), and a conflict in the Presevo Valley (between Albanians in South Serbia and FRY, 2000-2001). The continued fall-out of the disintegration of former Yugoslavia also saw mediated agreement and ultimate dissolution of the Union between Serbia and Montenegro.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

In 1991, after nationalist parties won the first multi-party elections in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a violent process of disintegration commenced. With its mixed population, Bosnia-Herzegovina became the centre of the following civil war that began in 1992 between the newly formed army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (mostly Muslim Bosniacs), and the parastatal forces of self-declared Bosnian Croat (Herzeg-Bosnia) and Bosnian Serb (Republika Srpska) entities within Bosnia-Herzegovina, supported by Croatia and Serbia, with various, often short-lived, coalitions. The General Framework Agreement (Dayton Peace Agreement), signed in 1995, split the country into two ethno-federal entities, the Bosniak-Croat Federation and the Republika Srpska, and included continued peacekeeping and institutional administration by international actors.

Kosovo

The conflict between Serbs and Kosovar Albanians has a long history and always involved territorial disputes as well as ethno-political, cultural and linguistic factors. The most recent phase of the conflict began in November 1997 when the Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA or UCK) began their campaign for the independence of Kosovo from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY – then Serbia and Montenegro). The subsequent war lasted until the NATO intervention, which undertook bombing campaigns of Belgrade and other places in Serbia during spring 1999. The main agreements solving the conflict were internationally driven and, finally, a UNSC resolution imposed a post-conflict arrangement in the wake of what was essentially a NATO military victory. In February 2008, Kosovo's parliament declared independence, but independence is still internationally disputed.

Close

Balkan Conflicts (1991 - 1995) (1998 - 2001)

Stage

Pre-negotiation/process

Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Bosnia peace process
Parties	Radovan Karadzic; Alija Izetbegovic; Mate Boban
Third parties	UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was the co-chairman of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia
Description	-

Agreement document [BA_920827_Programme of Action on Humanitarian Issues.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→Substantive
Page 1, 2
In order to enhance the development of the system of land convoys to deliver humanitarian assistance on the basis of negotiated safe passage. The following specific steps will be undertaken:
...
d. It was recognised that in addressing the acute problem of the unlawful detention of civilians and the deplorable conditions in which they were held. The primary objective to secure their release and return to their homes. If not immediately feasible, they identified the following possible options in the light of the wishes of those detained and in keeping with the provisions set out at para 3 below.
- repatriation to areas under the control of their respective ethnic authorities;

Page 2, 3
In carrying out the Programme of Action, the parties to the conflict undertook to abide by the following provisions:
...
iv) all practices involving forcible displacement, all forms of harassment, humiliation or intimidation. Confiscation and destruction of property and all acts involved in the practice of ethnic cleansing are abhorrent and should cease forthwith.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive
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d. It was recognised that in addressing the acute problem of the unlawful detention of civilians and the deplorable conditions in which they were held. The primary objective to secure their release and return to their homes. If not immediately feasible, they identified the following possible options in the light of the wishes of those detained and in keeping with the provisions set out at para 3 below.
- repatriation to areas under the control of their respective ethnic authorities;
- choosing to stay temporarily in the area of detention;
- relocation in areas away from the conflict under international supervision;
- temporary refuge in third countries.

Page 2, 3
In carrying out the Programme of Action, the parties to the conflict undertook to abide by the following provisions:
...
iii) that refugees and displaced persons should be allowed to return voluntarily and safely to their places of origin.
iv) all practices involving forcible displacement, all forms of harassment, humiliation or intimidation. Confiscation and destruction of property and all acts involved in the practice of ethnic cleansing are abhorrent and should cease forthwith.

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

Page 1,

Recognising that an effective humanitarian response with the full collaboration of the parties to the conflict would greatly contribute to efforts to find an overall political solution and bring an end to hostilities. The Co-Chairmen of the Conference, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the parties to the Conflict in Bosnia have agreed the following Programme of Action:...

Page 1, 2

In order to enhance the development of the system of land convoys to deliver humanitarian assistance on the basis of negotiated safe passage. The following specific steps will be undertaken:

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b. The parties to the conflict will no later than 3 September identify to UNHCR representatives at Sarajevo (or at Belgrade, Split or Zagreb as appropriate) designated representatives of the local authorities (at the military police and political level) at all relevant locations with whom the practical arrangements for the expansion of the forthcoming relief missions and road convoys for the benefit for all victims in need will be made.

Page 1, 2

In order to enhance the development of the system of land convoys to deliver humanitarian assistance on the basis of negotiated safe passage. The following specific steps will be undertaken:

...

c. UN and UNHCR representatives will meet regularly with designated representatives of the parties to make arrangements for forthcoming relief missions and road convoys from Croatia and from Serbia and from Montenegro to Sarajevo and also to Banja Luka, Bihac, Bileca, Duboj, Foca, Gorazde, Mostar, Tuzla, Vitec, and Vlasenica. This pattern will be extended to all areas within Bosnia-Herzegovina where humanitarian assistance is required.

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e. The international humanitarian agencies will explore urgently with the parties all possible ways to secure the safe release of those detained.

Page 1, 2

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f. In the meantime, the parties undertook to ensure that arrangements are made to ensure that those in detention are cared for and protected, until such time as their safe release is feasible, and accepted that the international community will monitor the situation closely to ensure that the security and well being of those held in detention is assured. To this end, they undertook to give free access to representatives of the international community including the UN, ICRC, EC and CSCE.

Page 1, 2

In order to enhance the development of the system of land convoys to deliver humanitarian assistance on the basis of negotiated safe passage. The following specific steps will be undertaken:

**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

Page 1, 3

In carrying out the Programme of Action, the parties to the conflict undertook to abide by the following provisions:

i) all parties to the conflict are bound to comply with their obligations under International Humanitarian Law and in particular the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto, and that persons who commit or order the commission of grave breaches are individually responsible.

ii) all the parties to the conflict have the responsibility to exercise full authority over undisciplined elements within their areas so as to avoid anarchy, breaches of international humanitarian law and human rights abuse.

Page 2, 3

In carrying out the Programme of Action, the parties to the conflict undertook to abide by the following provisions:

...

vii) that all such action should be in accordance with the agreement with the parties reached in Geneva on 22 May under auspices of the ICRC;

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

Page 1, 1

The parties to the conflict commit themselves to full collaboration in ensuring the delivery of humanitarian relief by road throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Page 1, 2

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b. The parties to the conflict will no later than 3 September identify to UNHCR representatives at Sarajevo (or at Belgrade, Split or Zagreb as appropriate) designated representatives of the local authorities (at the military police and political level) at all relevant locations with whom the practical arrangements for the expansion of the forthcoming relief missions and road convoys for the benefit for all victims in need will be made.

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...

g. In light of the need for the immediate evacuation of critical medical cases under ICRC supervision, the parties agreed to arrange security guarantees to permit the use of Banja Luka airport for this purpose. The evacuation would take place with the shortest delay. The parties undertook to identify the names of local commanders/authorities who would make the arrangements with the ICRC delegate. In close coordination with the UN, and who would be individually responsible for the safe passage and security of those to be evacuated.

Page 2,

The representatives of the co-Chairmen also noted the following points made by the parties:

...

c. that in granting safe access to the international humanitarian organisations there would be a clear understanding that no party would gain military advantage.

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 Page 1, 2
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Page 2, 3
In carrying out the Programme of Action, the parties to the conflict undertook to abide by the following provisions:
... vi) that the parties to the conflict are responsible for the provision of security and protection for those currently detained until they can be freed under international supervision;

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction

Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Humanitarian assistance

Page 1, 1

The parties to the conflict commit themselves to full collaboration in ensuring the delivery of humanitarian relief by road throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Page 1, 2

In order to enhance the development of the system of land convoys to deliver humanitarian assistance on the basis of negotiated safe passage. The following specific steps will be undertaken:

- a. Priority will be given to repairing the road and railway between Place, Mostar and Sarajevo.
- b. The parties to the conflict will no later than 3 September identify to UNHCR representatives at Sarajevo (or at Belgrade, Split or Zagreb as appropriate) designated representatives of the local authorities (at the military police and political level) at all relevant locations with whom the practical arrangements for the expansion of the forthcoming relief missions and road convoys for the benefit for all victims in need will be made.

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Page 2, 3

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- viii) that the provision of humanitarian assistance should be carried out impartially and on a non-political basis for the benefit of all those affected by the conflict.

Page 2,

The representatives of the co-Chairmen also noted the following points made by the parties:

- a. that humanitarian assistance should be carried out impartially to the benefit of all those in need.

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,
The representatives of the co-Chairmen also noted the following points made by the parties:
...
b. that no party can be expected to give guarantees of security on behalf of the other parties to the conflict.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police

Page 1, 2

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Armed forces

Page 1, 2

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Page 2,

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c. that in granting safe access to the international humanitarian organisations there would be a clear understanding that no party would gain military advantage.

DDR

No specific mention.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel
and opposition
group forces**

Page 1, 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

No specific mention.

Courts

No specific mention.

Mechanism

No specific mention.

Prisoner release	<p>Page 1, 2</p> <p>In order to enhance the development of the system of land convoys to deliver humanitarian assistance on the basis of negotiated safe passage. The following specific steps will be undertaken:</p> <p>... d. It was recognised that in addressing the acute problem of the unlawful detention of civilians and the deplorable conditions in which they were held. The primary objective to secure their release and return to their homes. If not immediately feasible, they identified the following possible options in the light of the wishes of those detained and in keeping with the provisions set out at para 3 below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - repatriation to areas under the control of their respective ethnic authorities; - choosing to stay temporarily in the area of detention; - relocation in areas away from the conflict under international supervision; - temporary refuge in third countries. <p>Page 1, 2</p> <p>In order to enhance the development of the system of land convoys to deliver humanitarian assistance on the basis of negotiated safe passage. The following specific steps will be undertaken:</p> <p>... e. The international humanitarian agencies will explore urgently with the parties all possible ways to secure the safe release of those detained.</p> <p>Page 2, 3</p> <p>In carrying out the Programme of Action, the parties to the conflict undertook to abide by the following provisions:</p> <p>... v) there should be unconditional and unilateral release under international supervision of all civilians currently detained;</p>
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	<p>Page 1, 2</p> <p>In order to enhance the development of the system of land convoys to deliver humanitarian assistance on the basis of negotiated safe passage. The following specific steps will be undertaken:</p> <p>...</p> <p>b. The parties to the conflict will no later than 3 September identify to UNHCR representatives at Sarajevo (or at Belgrade, Split or Zagreb as appropriate) designated representatives of the local authorities (at the military police and political level) at all relevant locations with whom the practical arrangements for the expansion of the forthcoming relief missions and road convoys for the benefit for all victims in need will be made.</p>
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was the co-chairman of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia

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 'International Conference the Former Yugoslavia: Documents Adopted at the London Conference', International Legal Materials, Vol. 31, No. 6 (NOVEMBER 1992), pp. 1543-44
