

Country/entity	Georgia Russia Ossetia
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Protocol of the Eighth Meeting of Expert Groups of Authorized Delegation of Sides Carried out in the Framework of Negotiation Processes on the Full-Scale Settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian Conflict
Date	29 Oct 2002
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Georgian Separatist Conflicts (1989 -)

The Abkhazia-Georgia Conflict (1992 -)

Much like other conflicts that sprung up in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Abkhazia conflict emerged as an ethnic conflict following heightened nationalist awareness among Abkhaz and other minorities residing in the region. In 1978, protests against the Georgianization of Abkhazia emerged from Abkhaz intellectuals. Towards the end of the 1980s, both Georgian and Abkhaz nationalists demanded independence from the Soviet Union. Tensions began following clashes at Sukhumi University between pro-Unity protestors and Abkhaz nationalists in April-July 1989. However, the conflict remained a legal conflict up until August 1992 following the 1991 elections, wherein Abkhazians felt they were under-represented. War broke out between Abkhaz separatists, supported by Russian forces and hired fighters from the North Caucasus. Within Abkhazia, Abkhaz separatists were generally supported by ethnically Armenian and Russian residents. Within Georgia the conflict was exacerbated following conflict in South Ossetia from 1989 onwards in addition to political strife between the supporters of the ousted president, Zviad Gamsakurdia, and the post-coup government led by Eduard Shevardnadze.

Significant human rights abuses occurred, particularly after the capture of Sukhumi in September 1993, after which Georgian residents, which consisted of 45 per cent of the population in 1989, were faced with mass expulsion and ethnic cleansing. Russian Peacekeepers acting under the umbrella of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), were deployed on the Abkhazia-Georgia line following a ceasefire in 1994. Atrocities towards ethnic Georgian's continued with over 1,500 deaths post-conflict. In 1998 fighting re-erupted following a flare up of fighting in South Ossetia. Again it was resolved with a ceasefire agreement. However, as of 2016 the conflict remains unresolved.

The Russo-Georgian War (South Ossetia) (1989 -)

Following heightened nationalist awareness among Ossetians and policies undertaken at the expense of ethnic minorities by the Georgian government led by President Gamsakurdia, calls for Ossetian Independence increased. After clashes broke out in Tskhinvali during a pro-Georgia protest, the conflict began to militarize. When President Gamsakurdia maintained his position after elections in 1990, which were boycotted by South Ossetia, Ossetians organised elections for their own parliament. The central Georgian government reacted by abolishing the autonomous status previously held by South Ossetia. The formation of ethnic militias and increased attacks on civilians escalated on both sides and in December 1990 a state of emergency and an economic blockade were declared. Fighting was haphazard as fighters on both sides were poorly equipped and disciplined. The Georgian National Guard was primarily formed of volunteers due to a lack of resources and as a result fighters often acted out of self-interest. Assaults on Tskhinvali by Georgian forces were repulsed on several occasions, and Georgian forces were also noted to expel Ossetian residents and destroy villages out of revenge and as a means to re-claim territory.

The Sochi agreement (1992) established a ceasefire and security corridor, as well as divided the territory between Georgian and Ossetian administration. Relations deteriorated drastically in April 2008, and following shelling of Georgian villages on August 1, the Georgian military responded in force retaking most of Tskhinvali by August 7. Russian forces intervened on behalf of Ossetian separatists and after retaking Tskhinvali, opened another front in the Kodori Gorge. A ceasefire was brokered on August

Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	South Ossetia peace process
Parties	South Ossetian side Georgian side ²⁸ Russian Federation side North Ossetian side
Third parties	-
Description	Agreement outlines outstanding issues in the Ossetia process, including media concerns, refugee matters, the reconstruction of roads, the restoration of key social services such as hospitals. It also iterates that talks will continue.
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Agreement document	GE_RU_021029_Protocol of the Eighth Meeting of Expert Group on Full-scale Settlement.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, Untitled Preamble,
... Sides elaborated following recommendations:
... 6. Georgian side to speed up elaboration and adoption of the legislation on restoration
and protection rights of refugees, forcibly moved and other persons, suffered from
Georgian- Ossetian conflict on living space and property;

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 3, Untitled Preamble,
... Sides elaborated following recommendations:
... 11. Co-chairman of CKK to organize meetings between residents of settlements within the conflict zone with the aim to reinforce and develop trust between sides involved in the conflict. ...

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration	No specific mention.
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Constitution	No specific mention.
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Power sharing

Political power sharing	No specific mention.
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Territorial power sharing	No specific mention.
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Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
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Military power sharing	No specific mention.
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Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general	No specific mention.
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Bill of rights/similar	No specific mention.
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Treaty incorporation	No specific mention.
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Civil and political rights	No specific mention.
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Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.
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Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
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Democracy	No specific mention.
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Detention procedures	No specific mention.
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Media and communication	Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles Page 2, Untitled Preamble, ... Sides elaborated following recommendations: ... 2. To start publishing CKK bulletin with the aim to keep population informed on the progress being made in the process of peaceful settlement;
	Page 2, Untitled Preamble, ... Sides elaborated following recommendations: ... 3. To hold session of CKK, where issues of CKK's operation, introduction clarities into the mechanism of its operation and appropriateness of recently arranged block-posts of law- enforcement bodies within the conflict zone will be discussed.
	Page 2, Untitled Preamble, ... Sides elaborated following recommendations: ... 4. To consider expedient regular appearance of the political authorities of Georgia and South Ossetia in mass media supporting resolution of Georgian-Ossetian conflict and explanation of importance of steps being taken in the process of settlement.
	Page 2, Untitled Preamble, ... Sides elaborated following recommendations: ... 5. Sides to broadcast new, interactive and other types of programs providing direct contact with representatives of both sides in live with the aim to strengthen trust in the conflict zone.
Mobility/access	No specific mention.
Protection measures	Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of groups Page 2, Untitled Preamble, ... Sides elaborated following recommendations: ... 6. Georgian side to speed up elaboration and adoption of the legislation on restoration and protection tights of refugees, forcedly moved and other persons, suffered from Georgian- Ossetian conflict on living space and property;
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 Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Infrastructure and reconstruction
Page 3, Untitled Preamble,
... Sides elaborated following recommendations:
... 7. Corresponding bodies of both sides to discuss issue of reconstruction of roads within the conflict zone and also in the areas of mixed residence of Georgian and Ossetian population.

Page 3, Untitled Preamble,
... Sides elaborated following recommendations:
... 8. Sides to search possibility for the rehabilitation and reinforcement of resource base of objects of social purpose within the conflict zone (Hospital in Tskhinvali, etc.) in order to increase trust between sides.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds Page 3, Untitled Preamble,
... Sides elaborated following recommendations:
... 9. OSCE missions in Georgia to continue holding meetings with the representatives of donors of specific projects.

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 Page 2, Untitled Preamble,
... Sides elaborated following recommendations:
... 3. To hold session of CKK, where issues of CKK's operation, introduction clarities into
the mechanism of its operation and appropriateness of recently arranged block-posts of
law- enforcement bodies within the conflict zone will be discussed.

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	Page 1, Untitled Preamble, ... Participant of the meeting condemned hostage-taking act in Moscow, which entailed numerous victims. ...

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	Mr. Antoniu Martinsh da Kruje, acting head of OSCE, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal participated in the meeting.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/similar	No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.
Related cases	No specific mention.
Source	Archive of the Georgian Ministry of Affairs; http://www.rrc.ge/law/protos_2002_26_10_E.htm
