

Country/entity	Georgia Russia Abkhazia
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Protocol of the Seventh Session of the Coordinating Council of the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides
Date	11 Feb 1999
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	Abkhazia peace process
Parties	<p>The Georgian Side was represented by a delegation under the leadership of Mr. Vazha Lordkipanidze.</p> <p>The Abkhaz Side was represented by a delegation under the leadership of Mr. Sergey Bagapsh.</p>
Third parties	<p>under the auspices of the UN and under the chairmanship of Mr. Liviu Botta - the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and with participation of representatives of the Russian Federation as facilitator, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), member States of the Group of Friends of the UN Secretary General on Georgia Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and France in their capacity as observers.</p> <p>Mr. Taric Gazi –Chief UNOMIG Military observer, General-Major Sergey Korobko- Commander of the CIS Peacekeeping forces, Mr. Ekber Memenjiogly – representative of the UNHCR in Georgia, and Mr. Marco Borsotti – UNDP representative in Georgia took part in the discussions as well.</p>
Description	<p>The Council agrees to five actions points; (1) to organise a meeting between antagonists and peacekeeping forces to institute a mechanism of investigating violations; (2) for the antagonists to work out concrete steps at securing non-resumption of hostilities; (3) for law-enforcement bodies to analyse what may lead to a resumption of hostilities; (4) for the continuation of facilitating return of refugees and; (5) to hear during the next meeting the co-chairs of the commission for the search for missing servicemen of the Abkhaz conflict.</p>

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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→Rhetorical
Page 2, The Coordinating Council decided:
... 4. To continue bilateral negotiations on creation of mechanisms for return of refugees and internally displaced persons to the Gali region (within old administrative borders).

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 No specific mention.

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 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 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 No specific mention.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
Page 2, The Coordinating Council decided:
1. Within the framework of two weeks to convene, under the chairmanship of the Chief UNOMIG Military Observer, a meeting between the Parties to the conflict, UNOMIG, CIS Peace Keeping Forces, in order to elaborate instruments for functioning of the Group on investigation and prevention of terrorist acts and other manifestations of violations of provisions of the Moscow Agreement of 14 May 1994.

Page 2, The Coordinating Council decided:
... 2. The Sides, together with representatives of UNOMIG and CIS Peace-keeping forces, shall work out and implement, until the end of February 1999, concrete steps aimed at securing nonresumption of hostilities any elimination of any threat of clashes, and separation of forces along the cease-fire line.

Page 2, The Coordinating Council decided:
... 3. The representatives of law-enforcement bodies will analyze the available to them information on subversive actions that may lead to resumption of hostilities.

Police Page 2, The Coordinating Council decided:
... 3. The representatives of law-enforcement bodies will analyze the available to them information on subversive actions that may lead to resumption of hostilities.

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 2, The Coordinating Council decided: 1. Within the framework of two weeks to convene, under the chairmanship of the Chief UNOMIG Military Observer, a meeting between the Parties to the conflict, UNOMIG, CIS Peace Keeping Forces, in order to elaborate instruments for functioning of the Group on investigation and prevention of terrorist acts and other manifestations of violations of provisions of the Moscow Agreement of 14 May 1994.

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	Page 2, The Coordinating Council decided: ... 5. During the next Session of the Coordination Council, to hear information of Georgian and Abkhaz co-chairs of the Commission on Search for Missing Servicemen of the Abkhaz conflict in 1992-93.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

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 (Abkhaz Issue in Official Documents, Legislative and Executive organs of Georgia, International Organizations, 1989-1999, part II, 1995-1999; authors: Vakhtang Kholbaia, Teimuraz Chakhrakia, Rafiel Gelantia, David Latsuzbaia, Tb., 2000, p. 279-280/in Georgan)
Online Source: http://www.rrc.ge/law/oqm_1999_02_11_e.htm
