

Country/entity	Georgia Abkhazia
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Protocol of the fourth (second special) session of the Coordinating Council of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides
Date	22 May 1998
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate conflict

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 consisting of Mr. Vazha Lordkipanidze (signatory), Mr. Revaz Adamia and Mr. Tamaz Khubua.</p> <p>The Abkhaz side was represented by a delegation consisting of Mr. Tamaz Ketsba (signatory), Mr. Viktor Khasbba and Mr. Otar Kakalia.</p>
Third parties	UN (Chair) (signatory), Russian Federation (Facilitator), OSCE, Group of Friends of the UNSG (France, Germany, Russian Federation, UK, US) as observers
Description	Decided to take steps to halt armed confrontation in Gali district and to instruct UN Secretary General to hold consultations on development of mechanism to investigate and prevent incidents in violation of Moscow Agreement. Agreed to refrain from steps that could exacerbate situation and to take measures to promote peace process.
Agreement document	GE_980522_Protocol of the 4th (2nd Special) meeting.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)** 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

Page 2, The Council adopted the following decisions:

... 3. The sides must refrain from steps that could exacerbate the situation in the conflict zone and take practical measures to promote the peace process and ensure safety in the conflict zone.

Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

Page 2, The Council adopted the following decisions:

1. To take steps to halt the armed confrontation in Gali district. To this end, the Georgian side insisted on the immediate withdrawal from Gali district of the additional forces of the Abkhaz side that have been brought there. The Abkhaz side insisted that the Georgian side halt its subversive and terrorist activities in Gali district and withdraw its armed groups that entered the district from outside Abkhazia' s borders;
2. To instruct the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to hold, as soon as possible, consultations with a view to implementing the decisions of the first special session of the Coordinating Council on 22 January 1998 on the development of a mechanism in which the representatives of the sides, UNOMIG and/or the Collective Peacekeeping Forces could take part with a view to investigating and preventing incidents in violation of the Moscow Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces, namely, subversive and terrorist acts in the conflict zone, and to submit information on the outcome of the consultations at the forthcoming Geneva meeting and make appropriate recommendations;

Police

No specific mention.

Armed forces

Page 2, The Council adopted the following decisions:

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DDR

No specific mention.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces

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Withdrawal of foreign forces	<p>Page 2, The Council adopted the following decisions:</p> <p>1. To take steps to halt the armed confrontation in Gali district. To this end, the Georgian side insisted on the immediate withdrawal from Gali district of the additional forces of the Abkhaz side that have been brought there. The Abkhaz side insisted that the Georgian side halt its subversive and terrorist activities in Gali district and withdraw its armed groups that entered the district from outside Abkhazia' s borders;</p>
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	<p>Page 2, The Council adopted the following decisions:</p> <p>1. To take steps to halt the armed confrontation in Gali district. To this end, the Georgian side insisted on the immediate withdrawal from Gali district of the additional forces of the Abkhaz side that have been brought there. The Abkhaz side insisted that the Georgian side halt its subversive and terrorist activities in Gali district and withdraw its armed groups that entered the district from outside Abkhazia' s borders;</p> <p>Page 2, The Council adopted the following decisions:</p> <p>... 2. To instruct the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to hold, as soon as possible, consultations with a view to implementing the decisions of the first special session of the Coordinating Council on 22 January 1998 on the development of a mechanism in which the representatives of the sides, UNOMIG and/or the Collective Peacekeeping Forces could take part with a view to investigating and preventing incidents in violation of the Moscow Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces, namely, subversive and terrorist acts in the conflict zone, and to submit information on the outcome of the consultations at the forthcoming Geneva meeting and make appropriate recommendations;</p>

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	Chaired by Mr. Liviu Bota, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
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Other international signatory	No specific mention.
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Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
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International mission/force/ similar	Page 1, The following agenda was adopted: ... 3. Implementation of the decisions of the first special session of the Coordinating Council on 22 'January 1998 on the development of a mechanism in which the representatives of the sides, the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and/or the Collective Peacekeeping Forces could take part with a view to investigating and preventing incidents in violation of the Moscow Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces (S/1994/583, annex I), namely, subversive and terrorist acts in the conflict zone.
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Enforcement mechanism	Page 1, The following agenda was adopted: ... 3. Implementation of the decisions of the first special session of the Coordinating Council on 22 'January 1998 on the development of a mechanism in which the representatives of the sides, the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and/or the Collective Peacekeeping Forces could take part with a view to investigating and preventing incidents in violation of the Moscow Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces (S/1994/583, annex I), namely, subversive and terrorist acts in the conflict zone.
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Related cases	No specific mention.
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