

Country/entity	Georgia Abkhazia
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Protocol of the sixth session of the Coordinating Council of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides
Date	18 Dec 1998
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	The Georgian side was represented by the delegation led by Mr. Vazha Lordkipanidze. The Abkhaz side was represented by the delegation led by Mr. Sergei Bagapsh.
Third parties	UN (Chair), Russian Federation (Facilitator), OSCE, Group of Friends of the UNSG (France, Germany, Russian Federation, UK, US) as observers
Description	Meeting taking place against backdrop of rapidly deteriorating security situation (preamble). Adopted agenda of non-resumption of hostilities and security problems, refugees and IDPs, and economic and social problems. Parties commit to decisive measures to implement commitments.

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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 Abkhaz side stated that it is unilaterally starting the process of return of refugees to the Gali district and called on the United Nations, the Russian Federation in its capacity as facilitator, the OSCE, the states belonging to the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General as well as the Georgian side to contribute to this process.

Page 2, The Georgian side noted that the statement by the Abkhaz side on the so called unilateral return of refugees is of a purely declarative nature and in reality does not give an opportunity to implement genuinely the process of return of refugees and displaced persons, since it is well known that the organisation of this process is impossible without creating appropriate required mechanisms and guarantees in which the Georgian side and the international community should take a most active part.

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 1, Opening the Session, the Special Representative noted that following and facilitated by the Athens Meeting of the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides on Confidence-Building Measures , held from 16 to 18 October 1998 , the sides actively engaged in productive bilateral talks on issues related to: 1) security and the non-use of force, ...

Page 1, The Special Representative continued that this Council session takes place against the backdrop of a rapidly deteriorating security situation on the ground in the zone of conflict. The situation is extremely dangerous and there is a real risk that the May events might be repeated.

Page 1, The adopted agenda included the following items:
1. Issues related to the lasting non-resumption of hostilities and to security problems .

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
Page 2, The Council adopted the following decisions:
... 3. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, should the sides ignore protests concerning violations of the Moscow Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces, shall inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as provided for by the Protocol of the Fifth Session of the Council regarding responses to the protests of the representatives of UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force, so that the Secretary-General may put this question for consideration by the Security Council.

Police No specific mention.

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 Council adopted the following decisions: 2. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall continue and complete consultations with the Sides on the establishment of the Joint Group on Investigation and Prevention of Terrorist Acts and Other Offences, in accordance with the Council's decisions contained in the Protocol of the Fourth (Second Extraordinary) Session (para. 2) and the Protocol of the Fifth Session (para. 2).

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	Page 1, ... While not suggesting that either side failed to negotiate in bona tide, the Special Representative noted that it seems that some misunderstandings arose and the talks stalled. Nevertheless, in the opinion of the Special Representative, the positions of the parties on the specific issues dividing them are not irreconcilable, and there is room for the talks to continue.

Implementation

UN signatory	UN chaired talks; 2. SRSG to continue consultations on establishing Joint Group on investigation and Prevention of Terrorist acts and other Offences. 3. If sides don't respond to protests concerning ceasefire violations, matter to be referred to UNSC.
Other international signatory	with the participation of representatives of the Russian Federation in its capacity as facilitator, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe(OSCE), and the States in the group of Friends of the Secretary-General of the United Nations - France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America - as observers
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/similar	Page 2, The Council adopted the following decisions: ... 3. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, should the sides ignore protests concerning violations of the Moscow Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces, shall inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as provided for by the Protocol of the Fifth Session of the Council regarding responses to the protests of the representatives of UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force, so that the Secretary-General may put this question for consideration by the Security Council.
Enforcement mechanism	<p>Page 2, The Council adopted the following decisions: 2. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall continue and complete consultations with the Sides on the establishment of the Joint Group on Investigation and Prevention of Terrorist Acts and Other Offences, in accordance with the Council's decisions contained in the Protocol of the Fourth (Second Extraordinary) Session (para. 2) and the Protocol of the Fifth Session (para. 2).</p> <p>Page 2, The Council adopted the following decisions: ... 3. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, should the sides ignore protests concerning violations of the Moscow Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces, shall inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as provided for by the Protocol of the Fifth Session of the Council regarding responses to the protests of the representatives of UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force, so that the Secretary-General may put this question for consideration by the Security Council.</p> <p>Page 2-3, The Council adopted the following decisions: ... 4. To convene expeditiously, not later than 22 December, in the Gali district, a meeting of authorized representatives of the sides in order to prevent destabilization of the situation in the zone of conflict, to agree on and take effective measures for the implementation of earlier bilateral agreements contained in the Protocol on the Ceasefire and Separation of Armed Units and Guarantees for the Prevention of Acts involving Force of 25 May 1998 and in the Protocol of the Meeting of the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides on the Stabilization of the Situation along the Line of Separation of Sides, signed in Sukhumi 24 September 1998.</p>
Related cases	No specific mention.
Source	on file with author