

Country/entity	Sierra Leone
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Communiqué issued at Conakry on 23 October 1997 at the conclusion of the meeting between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Committee of Five on Sierra Leone of the Economic Community of West African States and the delegation representing Major Johnny Paul Koromah
Date	23 Oct 1997
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

Sierra Leone Civil War (1991 – 2002)

In March 1991, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) launched an armed assault in an attempt to oust the corrupt regime of Joseph Momoh. Grievances were primarily focused on unequal distribution of economic goods. RUF took over large areas by 1992, the poor government response instigating a coup d'état in 1992. After 1993 the RUF gained and lost territory in waves. In 1996, following an intervention on behalf of the government by the private military company, Executive Outcomes, the Abidjan Agreement was signed. Another coup in 1997, however, sparked new fighting and the RUF alongside the new government captured Freetown. Despite declarations that the war had ended, the international community intervened. The Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) recaptured Freetown on behalf of the government. The Lome Peace Accord was signed in 1999, issuing a power-sharing deal, but by 2000 RUF was once again advancing towards Freetown. As the UN mission floundered, the UK government stepped in and by January 2002, the civil war was declared to be over.

Close

Sierra Leone Civil War (1991 – 2002)

Stage	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Sierra Leone peace process

Parties

For the ECOWAS Committee of Five on Sierra Leone:
 (Signed) Tom IKIMI, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Federal Republic of Nigeria;
 (Signed) Lamine KAMARA, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Guinea

For the delegation representing Major Johnny Paul Koromah Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) regime in Sierra Leone:
 (Signed) Abdul Karim SESAY, Secretary-General, AFRC;
 (Signed) Alimamy Pallo BANGURA, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

Third parties	<p>Witnesses</p> <p>For the United Nations: (Signed) Ibrahima FALL, Assistant Secretary-General</p> <p>For the Organization of African Unity: (Signed) Adwoa COLEMAN, OAU Representative</p>
Description	<p>An agreement in which the parties adopt the ECOWAS six-month plan for Sierra Leone, and agree to continue negotiations towards effective and prompt implementation of the peace plan. Areas covered in the agreement include a commitment to continue negotiations, calls for faction leaders to return to Sierra Leone and participate in the peace process, and appeals for international funds.</p>

Agreement document	SL_971023_CommuniqueConakryPeacePlan.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	<p>Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Rhetorical</p> <p>Page 1, 7: The ECOWAS peace plan for Sierra Leone provides for:...(f). Return of refugees and displaced persons;</p> <p>Page 2, 9: The meeting renewed its appeal to the international community to provide appropriate humanitarian assistance to the refugees and displaced persons and to facilitate their return.</p> <p>Page 2, 10: The meeting reiterated its appeal to the international community to provide adequate assistance to the neighbouring countries of Sierra Leone, which have recorded an increased influx of refugees on their territory.</p>
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) Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references
Page 1, 7: The ECOWAS peace plan for Sierra Leone provides for:
(a) The reinstatement of the legitimate Government of President Tejan Kabbah within a period of six months;
...(h) Modalities for broadening the power base in Sierra Leone.

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	Power sharing→Political power sharing→General State level Page 1, 7: The ECOWAS peace plan for Sierra Leone provides for: (a) The reinstatement of the legitimate Government of President Tejan Kabbah within a period of six months... ...(h) Modalities for broadening the power base in Sierra Leone.
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.
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Other	No specific mention.
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Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
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Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.
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Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	No specific mention.
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State of emergency provisions	No specific mention.
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Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
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Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
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Traditional Laws	No specific mention.
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Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction	Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development Page 1, 7: The ECOWAS peace plan for Sierra Leone provides for: ...(e) Provision of humanitarian assistance;
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National economic plan	No specific mention.
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Natural resources	No specific mention.
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International funds Page 2, 9: The meeting renewed its appeal to the international community to provide appropriate humanitarian assistance to the refugees and displaced persons and to facilitate their return.

Page 2, 10: The meeting reiterated its appeal to the international community to provide adequate assistance to the neighbouring countries of Sierra Leone, which have recorded an increased influx of refugees on their territory.

Page 2, 11: The meeting expressed its appreciation to the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity for their cooperation with ECOWAS and appealed to them for material, logistic and financial support to ECOMOG to enable it to carry out the mandate given by the Authority of Heads of State and Government and the Security Council.

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
The agreement provides for an immediate permanent ceasefire (commencing 23/10/1997)

Page 1, 7: The ECOWAS peace plan for Sierra Leone provides for:
...(b) The immediate cessation of hostilities;

Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	Page 1, 7: The ECOWAS peace plan for Sierra Leone provides for: ...(d) Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants;
DDR	Security sector→DDR→DDR programmes Page 1, 7: The ECOWAS peace plan for Sierra Leone provides for: ...(d) Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants;
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	Page 1, 6: It is recognized that Corporal Fodey Sankoh, as a leader of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), could continue to play an active role and participate in the peace process. In the spirit of the Abidjan Accord and in the context of this agreement, Corporal Sankoh is expected to return to his country to make his contribution to the peace process.
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	Transitional justice→Amnesty/pardon→Amnesty/pardon proper Page 1, 7: The ECOWAS peace plan for Sierra Leone provides for: ...(g) Immunities and guarantees to the leaders of the coup d'état of 25 May 1997;
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	For the United Nations: (Signed) Ibrahima FALL, Assistant Secretary-General
Other international signatory	For the Organization of African Unity: (Signed) Adwoa COLEMAN, OAU Representative
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/ similar	<p>Page 1, 3: The meeting reviewed the situation in Sierra Leone since the breakdown of negotiations between the Committee of Five and the representatives of the junta on 30 July 1997. It recalled the ECOWAS decisions concerning the monitoring of the ceasefire, the imposition of sanctions and the embargo, as well as the restoration of peace to Sierra Leone by the ECOWAS Military Observer Group (ECOMOG). It also recalled Security Council resolution 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997 placing an embargo on Sierra Leone.</p> <p>Page 1, 5: To that end, the Committee of Five and the representatives of Major Johnny Paul Koromah adopted an ECOWAS peace plan for Sierra Leone and a timetable for its implementation over a six-month period with effect from 23 October 1997.</p>
Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.
Related cases	No specific mention.
Source	UN Peacemaker (http://peacemaker.un.org) Link to agreement - http://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/SL_971023_ConakryPeacePlan.pdf
