

Peace Agreement Access Tool PA-X <https://pax.peaceagreements.org/>

Country/ entity	Georgia Abkhazia
Region	Europe and Eurasia Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Istanbul Statement of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides on confidence-building measures
Date	9 Jun 1999
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/ conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict (Georgian Separatist Conflicts (1989 -))
Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Abkhazia peace process
Parties	The delegation of the Georgian side was led by Mr. Vazha Lordkipanidze (Signed, and the delegation of the Abkhaz side was led by Mr. Sergei Bagapsh (signed)
Third parties	UNSRSG Special Representative of the Secretary-General Mr. Liviu Bota (signed); Russian Federation (facilitator), Group of Friends participated;
Description	Agreed to address issue of exchange of hostages and prisoners, to support joint investigations of incidents threatening stability, and to ensure implementation of 24 Sept 1998 Protocol. Provided for the revival of activities of working groups within framework of Coordinating Council, and the development of mechanisms for exchange of information, especially between mass media and law-enforcement organs.

Agreement
document

[GR_990316_Istanbul Statement of the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides on Confidence-Building
Measures.pdf](#) | [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	Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive Page 2, The sides agreed as follows: ... To revive the activities of the working groups within the framework of the Coordinating Council. ... b) To convene within one week Working Group II for the consideration and agreement of urgent measures regarding the issue of the return of refugees and displaced persons, and the establishment of conditions for their safety. The Working Group will also hear information from the parties regarding the situation in the Gali region.
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 1, The delegations comprised prominent individuals from the sides, including representatives of the intelligentsia, directors of major industrial and agricultural enterprises, elders, military who have participated in the armed conflict, and others.

Traditional/religious leaders Page 1, The delegations comprised prominent individuals from the sides, including representatives of the intelligentsia, directors of major industrial and agricultural enterprises, elders, military who have participated in the armed conflict, and others.

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	3.c. working group to develop proposals or range of socio-economic issues (to be financed with support of UNDP)
-----------------------	---

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles
Page 3, To develop and establish mechanisms for the regular exchange of information, including, inter alia:

- a) To exchange information between representatives of the mass media of the sides, including the exchange of television groups to create reports, including interviews with high-level individuals. These materials will be broadcast by the respective local television stations.
- b) The Abkhaz side will be able to receive three hundreds copies of each issue of Svobodnaia Gruzii and the Georgian side will receive an equal number of copies of Respublica Abkhazia, on the basis of funding and logistical support from the United Nations.
- c) Transmission from each side to the other of their respective press service reports will be facilitated by the United Nations.
- d) To hold a meeting of Georgian and Abkhaz journalists in Tbilisi in July 1999, and in Pitsunda in August 1999, to exchange information.
- e) To request the BBC to sponsor training courses for Georgian and Abkhaz journalists in London.

The law-enforcement organs of the two sides will exchange available information on any preparations for illegal acts and will consult on measures to be taken jointly to prevent them. Direct communication links should be utilized for this purpose.

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	<p>Page 2, The sides agreed as follows:</p> <p>... To revive the activities of the working groups within the framework of the Coordinating Council.</p> <p>... c) To convene within one week Working Group III. It will address the question of interaction with the Standing Working Group of the Joint Bilateral Coordination Commission for Practical Questions.</p> <p>This Standing Working Group will promote the establishment of economic ties between economic entities and draw up specific proposals and submit them for discussion by the Coordination Commission. It will also address projects which serve the interests of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, including those designed to ensure uninterrupted functioning of the Inguri dam and power plant, and also the restoration of films with assistance of UNDP and other international and national organizations.</p> <p>Financing of this Working Group will be implemented with support from UNDP. To insure implementation of the commitment of the sides, provided for by the Protocol of 24 September 1998, on questions of stabilization of the situation along the line of separation of forces.</p> <p>Page 3, To develop and establish mechanisms for the regular exchange of information, including, inter alia:</p> <p>... The United Nations will provide logistical support as necessary, in the implementation of these measures. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General will report to the Secretary-General of the UN, who will then inform the Security Council on the outcome of this Meeting.</p>
Business	Page 1, The delegations comprised prominent individuals from the sides, including representatives of the intelligentsia, directors of major industrial and agricultural enterprises, elders, military who have participated in the armed conflict, and others.
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 3, To develop and establish mechanisms for the regular exchange of information, including, inter alia:
... The law-enforcement organs of the two sides will exchange available information on any preparations for illegal acts and will consult on measures to be taken jointly to prevent them. Direct communication links should be utilized for this purpose.

Armed
forces Page 1, The delegations comprised prominent individuals from the sides, including representatives of the intelligentsia, directors of major industrial and agricultural enterprises, elders, military who have participated in the armed conflict, and others.

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

No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional
justice
general

No specific mention.

Amnesty/
pardon

No specific mention.

Courts

No specific mention.

Mechanism

No specific mention.

Prisoner
release

Page 1, The sides agreed as follows:
Within one week to hold a special meeting of plenipotentiary representatives
to address the issue of the exchange of hostages and prisoners.

Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	Page 3, To develop and establish mechanisms for the regular exchange of information, including, inter alia: ... Representatives of the respective Commissions for Missing-in-Action cases of the two sides will meet within one month, to review the situation. They will meet regularly within the framework of the Coordinating Council.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory	UNSRSG Special Representative of the Secretary-General Mr. Liviu Bota (signed)
Other international signatory	OSCE and Russia participated in the meeting.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/similar	Page 1, The sides agreed as follows: To support and cooperate with the Chief Military Observer of UNOMIG in conducting joint investigation of incidents which may represent a threat stability in the conflict zone.
Enforcement mechanism	Page 2, The sides agreed as follows: ... To revive the activities of the working groups within the framework of the Coordinating Council. a) To convene within one week Working Group I. It will consider measures to implement the agreements achieved by the sides regarding ensuring security along the entire line of the separation of forces.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source INCORE: <http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/services/cds/agreements/pdf/geo5.pdf>
