

<b>Country/entity</b>	Moldova Transdniestria
<b>Region</b>	Europe and Eurasia
<b>Agreement name</b>	Memorandum on the Bases for Normalization of Relations between the Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria
<b>Date</b>	8 May 1997
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes
<b>Agreement/conflict level</b>	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

### Transdniestria War (1992)

Towards the end of the 1980s, nationalist movements became a leading force in the Moldovan Soviet Socialist Republic (SSR), which expressed intent on leaving the USSR. In 1988, the Popular Front of Moldova, demanded that the USSR make Moldovan the only official state language, thereby alienating Russian-speaking groups within the Republic. This was particularly the case with Transdniestria region where Russian-speakers (and Ukrainian-speakers) represented 53.8 per cent of the population. Furthermore, events during the Second World War helped define a historical identity for the Transdniestria region. Nonetheless, following the language laws, Slavic-backlash in the form of the Yedinstvo Movement began pressing for equal rights. Following the election of the nationalist Popular Front in the Spring of 1990, the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic was proclaimed by an unelected assembly in September. Wishing to maintain the territorial unity of the Moldavian SSR, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev intervened citing restriction on minority rights by Moldova and annulled the Pridnestrovian proclamation. Armed clashes broke out in March 1992 between Moldovan and Transdniestrian/Pridnestrovian forces. However, due to the slow devolution of Soviet authority (the armed forces had only been divided between the former republics in April 1992), the Russian Federation maintained 9,000 troops of the 14th Guards in Moldova, and they eventually intervened on behalf of Pridnestrovian forces in July 1992. A ceasefire was signed on 21 July, which has remained although the conflict remains unresolved despite attempts by the OSCE during the end of the 1990s.

Close  
Transdniestria War (1992)

<b>Stage</b>	Framework/substantive - partial
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government/territory
<b>Peace process</b>	Moldova Transdniestria process
<b>Parties</b>	For the Republic of Moldova: P. Lucinschi For Transdniestria: I. Smirnov

**Third parties**

For the Guarantor States:  
For the Russian Federation: B. Yeltsin;  
For Ukraine: L. Kuchma  
In the presence of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE: N. Helveg Petersen

**Description**

This short agreement reaffirms commitments not to use or threaten force and to resolve differences through peaceful means with the assistance of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the OSCE and the CIS. It defines these relations and the status of Transdniestria to be based on the principles of mutually agreed decisions, including the division and delegation of competencies and mutually assured guarantees. It also requests that the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the OSCE to continue their mediating efforts and reaffirmed continuance of activities for maintaining peace carried out by the Joint Peace-keeping forces in the Security Zone.

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**Agreement document**

[MD\\_970508\\_Memorandum on the bases for normalization of relations between the Republic of Moldova and Transdneistria.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** Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Anti-discrimination  
Page 1, Untitled Preamble  
...According prime importance to the realization of basic human rights and freedoms of the individual, notwithstanding ethnic origin, religious belief, political tenets, place of residence and other differences;...

**Religious groups** Groups→Religious groups→Anti-discrimination  
Page 1, Untitled Preamble  
...According prime importance to the realization of basic human rights and freedoms of the individual, notwithstanding ethnic origin, religious belief, political tenets, place of residence and other differences;...

**Indigenous people** No specific mention.

**Other groups** No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced  
persons** No specific mention.

**Social class** No specific mention.

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## **Gender**

**Women, girls and  
gender** No specific mention.

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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## State definition

### Nature of state (general)

Page 1, 2.

The Parties shall continue the establishment between them of state-legal relations. The Document, defining these relations, the status of Transdniestria, shall be based on the principles of mutually agreed decisions, including the division and delegation of competencies, and mutually assured guarantees. The Parties will proceed to the elaboration of this document immediately after the signing of this Memorandum, giving consideration to all previously achieved principled agreements, including those achieved on 17 June 1996.

Page 1, 3.

Transdniestria shall participate in the conduct of the foreign policy of the Republic of Moldova - a subject of international law - on questions touching its interests. Decision of such questions shall be taken by agreement of the Parties. Transdniestria has the right to unilaterally establish and maintain international contacts in the economic, scientific-technical and cultural spheres, and in other spheres by agreement of the Parties.

### State configuration

Page 2, 11.

The Parties shall build their relations in the framework of a common state within the borders of the Moldavian SSR as of January of the year 1990.

**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.

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## Governance

**Political  
institutions (new or  
reformed)** No specific mention.

**Elections** No specific mention.

<b>Electoral commission</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Political parties reform</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Civil society</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Traditional/religious leaders</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Public administration</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Constitution</b>	No specific mention.

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#### **Power sharing**

<b>Political power sharing</b>	UN Peacemaker YES Coder NO
<b>Territorial power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Economic power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Military power sharing</b>	No specific mention.

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## Human rights and equality

**Human rights/RoL general** Page 1, Untitled Preamble  
...According prime importance to the realization of basic human rights and freedoms of the individual, notwithstanding ethnic origin, religious belief, political tenets, place of residence and other differences;...

**Bill of rights/similar** No specific mention.

**Treaty incorporation** Page 1, Untitled Preamble  
...Reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the UN, OSCE, and generally recognized norms of international law, and also to the agreements reached previously between the Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria;...

**Civil and political rights** No specific mention.

**Socio-economic rights** No specific mention.

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## 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.

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## **Rights institutions**

**NHRI** No specific mention.

**Regional or international human rights institutions** No specific mention.

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## **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.

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## **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.

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## **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.

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## **Security sector**

**Security  
Guarantees** Page 2, 9.  
The Parties reaffirm that activities for maintaining peace, carried out by the Joint Peace-keeping forces in the Security Zone in accordance with the agreement between the presidents of the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation dated 21 July 1992 “On the Principles of Peaceful Settlement of the Armed Conflict in the Transdniestrian Region of the Republic of Moldova” shall be continued.

**Ceasefire** No specific mention.

**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** No specific mention.

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**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.

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**Implementation**

**UN signatory** No specific mention.

**Other international signatory** For the Guarantor States:  
For the Russian Federation: B. Yeltsin;  
For Ukraine: L. Kuchma  
In the presence of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE: N. Helveg Petersen

**Referendum for agreement** No specific mention.

**International mission/force/similar**

Page 2, 9.

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**Enforcement mechanism**

Page 1, 1.

The Parties reaffirm their commitment not to resort to the use of force or the threat of force in their mutual relations. Any differences shall be resolved exclusively by peaceful means, through negotiations and consultations with the assistance and mediation of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as guarantor States for the fulfillment of agreements achieved; of the OSCE and the assistance of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States].

Page 1, 5.

The Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria will act as mutual guarantors of the full and unconditional fulfillment of the agreements on relations between them.

Page 2, 6.

The Parties welcome the declaration of the Russian Federation and Ukraine about their readiness to act as Guarantor States for the observance of the provisions set forth in the respective documents about the status of Transdniestria and the agreements set forth in the present Memorandum.

Page 2, 7.

The Parties direct a request to the OSCE to continue its assistance for the compliance of the agreements between them.

Page 2, 8.

The Parties declare the necessity to elaborate a mechanism of guarantees by all the participants in the negotiating process.

Page 2, 10.

In the event of a violation of these agreements, the Parties have the right to address themselves to the Guarantors for the carrying out of consultations with the goal of taking measures for normalizing the situation.

**Related cases**

No specific mention.

**Source**

Available at: <https://www.osce.org/moldova/42309>

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