

**RULES**  
**(“POLOZHENIYE”)**  
**governing the work of the Working Groups**

The following rules governing the work of the Working Groups are drawn up by the Coordinating Council:

**1. Status.**

The Working Groups are executive bodies of the Coordinating Council. They are established in accordance with the Concluding Statement on the outcome of the resumed meeting between the Georgian and Abkhaz parties held in Geneva from 17 to 20 November 1997, and the rules governing the work of the Coordinating Council.

Working Groups are established in the following areas:

- Issues related to the lasting non-resumption of hostilities and security problems (Working Group I);
- Refugees and internally displaced persons (Working Group II);
- Economic and social problems (Working Group III).

**2. Membership and participants.**

Members of the Working Groups shall be made up of representatives of the Georgian and Abkhaz parties, two from each side, and meet under the chairmanship of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) or his authorized representatives, with the participation of representatives of the Russian Federation as facilitator and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), as well as the group of Friends of the Secretary-General, under the conditions defined in paragraph 3 of the Concluding Statement. Advisers and consultants may

attend meetings of the Working Groups, if the parties so wish.

### 3. Meetings.

The meetings of the Working Groups shall be convened by the SRSG, and take place as follows:

Working Group I shall meet as necessary, but at least once a week.

Working Groups II and III shall meet as necessary.

The working language at the meetings is Russian.

### 4. Agenda.

The agenda of the Working Groups is decided by the Coordinating Council.

The following are the substantive issues to be discussed by the Working Groups:

Working Group I: (A) Lasting non-resumption of hostilities:

- examination of violations of the Agreement on
- the cease-fire and separation of forces of 14 May 1994, and recommendations of measures to avoid recurrence;

(B) Security problems:

- investigation of reports about acts of violence by armed groups and placement of mines;
- recommendations of measures to be taken to halt any activity by illegal armed formations, terrorists and subversive groups and individuals, including those penetrating the Abkhaz territory from outside.

**Working Group II: Refugees and IDPs:**

- provision of humanitarian assistance to refugees and IDPs;
- demining in the whole zone of conflict to enable the return to normal conditions of life.

**Working Group III: Economic and Social Problems:**

- energy, transport, communications;
- ecology;
- health care.

Other areas, issues and problems pertaining to the settlement of the conflict could be added with the agreement of the parties.

**5. Decisions.**

The decisions of the Working Groups, *are adopted by consensus. They* constitute recommendations, which shall be submitted to the Coordinating Council. When no consensus is reached for a recommendation on an issue discussed, the views of the parties on it are recorded in the report of the Working Group to the Coordinating Council.

**6. Reports.**

The Working Groups shall submit reports on their work to the Coordinating Council. These are signed by the Chairman and initialed by the participants.

**7. Secretariat.**

The secretariat functions for the Working Groups are carried out by the Office of the SRSG.