

Model Cease-Fire Template

MODEL PREAMBLE:

We the Parties to this Agreement:

Determined to ensure the respect, by all Parties signatory to this Agreement, of all applicable international and hereby agreed upon charters, resolutions, or protocols. [e.g. UN Charter, Geneva Conventions]

Determined to put an immediate halt to any assistance, collaboration or giving of sanctuary to negative forces bent on destabilizing our or neighboring countries;

Emphasizing the need to ensure the principles of good neighborliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries are respected;

Ensure security of Parties and the international community enlisted to help find a negotiated solution to conflict.

Concerns for the security of not only the signatory Parties but groups and nations not directly party to the Agreement;

Recognize the importance of bringing an end to the hostilities and improving the conditions of the Parties affected by the conflict.

Establish a positive atmosphere in which further steps towards negotiations and lasting solutions can be taken.

With reference to all provisions above, the Parties agree to enter into a cease-fire, refrain from conduct that could undermine the good intentions and violate the cooperative spirit of this Agreement and implement confidence-building measures as indicated in the following articles.

MODEL DEFINITION OF CESSATION::

Parties agree to cessation and a continuation of cessation defined as refrain from all offensive operations of any type against each other.

An offensive operation defined as an action that includes projecting forces or fire forward of a Party's own lines.

The parties shall scrupulously observe the cease-fire on land, at sea and in the air and shall refrain from all military movements and reinforcements.

The Parties agree to a cessation of hostilities, effective 24 hours after the signing of the Cease-fire Agreement. The agreement to a cease-fire shall be disseminated to the Parties

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through command channels and to the civil population via print and electronic media if available.

Monitoring the cease-fire shall be reported through appropriate international overseeing organization or commission.

A violation of the cease-fire shall be reported to the appointed or defined herein commission who will determine the appropriate investigation and necessary actions to be taken.

MODEL GENERAL PRINCIPLES LANGUAGE:

The Parties shall provide a safe and secure environment for all persons in their respective jurisdictions by maintaining law enforcement agencies operating in accordance with internationally recognized standards and with respect for internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Parties also commit themselves to disarm and disband all necessary groups, except for authorized forces whether local or international, within specified days after signing the Agreement. The Parties shall strictly avoid committing any reprisals, counter-attacks, or any unilateral actions in response to violations of this provision by another Party. The Parties shall respond to alleged violations of the provisions of the cease-fire agreement through the procedures provided by this Agreement.

MODEL DISENGAGEMENT LANGUAGE:

Disengagement shall mean the immediate breaking of contact between the opposing military forces of the Parties to the Agreement at places where they are in direct contact by the effective date and time of the cease-fire.

Disengagement is limited to the effective range of weapons pursuant to this Agreement and where disengagement is impossible or impractical, the appointed Cease-fire Commission shall find an alternative solution to render the weapons safely.

MODEL LANGUAGE FOR SECURITY ZONE PROVISION::

A security zone will be established to specific measurements (insert size) and no military actors from either warring party will be present within this zone. Only the international or regulating neutral commission forces will have access to these zones.

MODEL LANGUAGE FOR TROOPS AND WEAPONS:

The Parties will provide the International Monitoring Body with detailed and updated information on the number of troops and military equipment both in their possession and in storage. Information that will be communicated to this monitoring body will include detailed information regarding the number of troops and inventories of weapons (if

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applicable this includes explosives, mines, munitions, other military equipment and military or armored vehicles).

MODEL LANGUAGE FOR RESTRICTION OF AIRSPACE:

Utilization of airspace shall be restricted in a specialized manner outlined in this provision:

Military flights over the security/ coordination zone or area of prohibited military forces shall be barred save in case of disaster or public emergency in which case advance notice of such flights shall be given to the appropriate verification authority.

MODEL LANGUAGE FOR CONTROL OF ARMAMENTS:

On [insert specified date], weapons, munitions and other military equipment shall be deposited in a specific location designated by the international overseeing commission to this Agreement. Each party agrees to provide the military component of the international overseeing commission all information at its disposal, including marked maps, about known or suspected caches of weapons and military supplies throughout the region. Minefields will be clearly marked and mine-clearing terms will fall under the supervision of the international overseeing commission.

MODEL RELEASE OF HOSTAGES AND EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS OF WAR LANGUAGE

Upon the cease-fire taking effect, all Parties shall provide the mediating body or other Party with relevant information regarding prisoners of war and persons detained or taken hostage because of the war. The Parties shall release these persons and give them latitude to relocate to a place where their security will be guaranteed.

The Parties commit themselves to exchange prisoners of war and other detainees. Parties shall allow immediate and unhindered access to the International Committee or other mediating/ monitoring body for the purpose of arranging the release of prisoners of war and other persons detained as a result of the war as well as the recovery of the dead and the treatment of the wounded.

Parties also will accord every assistance to the International mediating commission's representatives to enable them to visit the prisoners and detainees and verify any details and ascertain their condition and status.

MODEL WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS LANGUAGE:

Withdrawal of foreign troops from [insert Party's name] territory:

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The withdrawal of foreign troops from [Party's] territory shall be initiated following the entry into force of the cease-fire.

The Government of all parties in this Agreement undertake to negotiate the complete withdrawal of foreign forces and contingents from the territory with the Governments of the countries are concerned.

The modalities and time frame for the withdrawal shall not contravene any provision of the Cease-fire Agreement.

The Government of the Parties shall submit to the deadlines and plans for implementation of the withdrawal, set forth by either this treaty or by the appointed monitoring commission or international mediating body.

The complete withdrawal of foreign forces and contingents from the territory shall be monitored and verified by the Cease-fire Commission (CCF) referred to in this Protocol. CCF shall inform CSC of the conclusion of the complete withdrawal of foreign forces from the national territory.

In accordance with its mandate CSC, through CCF, will, following the withdrawal of the foreign troops, assume immediate responsibility for verifying and ensuring security of strategic and trading routes, adopting the measures it deems necessary for the purpose.

MODEL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE LANGUAGE

The Parties agree to allow international mediating bodies or other supervising organizations the ability and access to provide and maintain humanitarian assistance to protect displaced persons, refugees and other affected persons. If possible, Parties will also facilitate humanitarian assistance by opening up humanitarian corridors and creating conditions conducive to the success of this provision.

MODEL NATIONAL DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION LANGUAGE:

Parties agree that a designated organization shall assist the Parties in organizing political negotiations under the aegis of a neutral facilitator chosen by the Parties by virtue of his/her moral authority, his/her international credibility, and his/her experience. The facilitator's role is to make necessary contacts relating to the political negotiations, which will lead to security for all. Also, the facilitator is responsible for showing both sides to any debate between the Parties, which may entail inviting opposing organizations or groups to consult with the Parties.

VERIFICATION MODEL LANGUAGE

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Verification shall start on the date when the cease-fire comes into effect as established in this Agreement, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement. In addition, the mandate of the peacekeeping force referred to in [insert provision number] of this Agreement shall be to verify implementation of the provisions contained herein.

REDEPLOYMENT MODEL LANGUAGE

Following disengagement, all forces shall re-deploy to defensive positions. These positions will be identified and recorded by the defined monitoring mission set forth in this cease-fire. All forces will remain in these identified locations until the integration and demobilization process is completed.

MODEL PEACE KEEPING MANDATE LANGUAGE:

Peacekeeping and Peace Enforcement will be the mandate of the [insert monitoring body] and its duties include the operations outlined below:

Work with Parties in the implementation of this Agreement

Observe and monitor the cessation of hostilities

Investigate violations of the Agreement and take necessary measures to ensure compliance

Supervise disengagement, re-deployment, and the compliance by all Parties to any other provision in this Agreement

Choose one of the three:

MODEL CEASE-FIRE COMMISSION LANGUAGE

The Cease-fire Commission shall consist of representatives from (insert what Parties, national, or international organizations will contribute to the commission). The Cease-fire Commission is the decision making body and its decisions are made by consensus.

Responsibilities include the verification and monitoring the Parties and ensuring that the provision set forth in this Agreement are respected and honored by all Parties.

MODEL JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION LANGUAGE

The Joint Military Commission shall be the decision making body composed of two representatives from each Party under a neutral Chairman appointed by [either the Parties or an outside third party that can serve as a liaison and consult with the parties to determine a neutral Chairman].

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The Joint Military Commission shall reach its decisions by consensus.

The mandate of the Joint Military Commission shall be to:

Establish the location of the military units at the time of the Cease-fire; facilitate liaison between the Parties for the purpose of the Cease-fire; assist in the disengagement of forces, investigation of any cease-fire violations, verify all information, data, and activities relating to military forces of the Parties; work out mechanisms for disarming armed groups; verify disarmament; monitor and verify that the Parties comply and adhere to all provisions set forth in this Cease-fire.

MODEL MONITORING MISSION LANGUAGE

The Parties agree to set up an international monitoring mission to enquire into any instance of violation of the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Both Parties shall fully cooperate to rectify any matter of conflict caused by their respective sides. The mission shall conduct international verification through onsite monitoring of the fulfillment entered into in the Agreement as follows:

The name of the monitoring mission shall be the [insert mission name]. The Monitoring Mission shall liaise with the Parties and shall be composed of representatives from [insert representatives from a neutral non-Party country or countries].

The Monitoring Mission shall be responsible for appropriate and protection of all provisions set forth in this Agreement and the Parties agree to ensure the freedom of movement and protection of the Mission members.

MODEL NORMALIZATION LANGUAGE:

Normalization will be restored through the following confidence building measures:

Parties shall in accordance with international law and the provision set forth in this Agreement abstain from hostile acts against the civilian population, including such acts as torture, intimidation, abduction, extortion and harassment.

Upon this Agreement entering into force, school buildings occupied by either Party shall be vacated and returned for their intended use. This applies to all other public buildings unrelated to military advancement (e.g. hospitals).

MODEL FOLLOW UP LANGUAGE:

For the purposes of ensuring a lasting cease-fire agreement, the Parties agree to specifically expand on the provisions of verification set forth in this Agreement by designating officials at different levels to work with the supervising authorities.

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OPTIONS:

MODEL RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE ADMINISTRATION LANGUAGE

With the entry into force of the cease-fire, public administration shall gradually be restored in conflict zones, in accordance with the following principles:

There shall be a consultative mechanism among the Parties to this Agreement to ensure the re-establishment of a state administration throughout the national territory.

This state administration shall be responsible for carrying operations or actions pertaining to the general interest of the national territory. E.g. public health, education, migrations, and movement of persons and goods.

The Government shall take appropriate steps to ensure that the re-establishment of the administration of justice does not impair the effectiveness of the legislative or other measures adopted within the framework of this Agreement and of the peace and reconciliation process to guarantee nationals the full exercise of their civil and political rights.

The restoration of public administration shall not be detrimental to either the existence or the functioning of the non-governmental organizations of a cultural, economic or social nature that have been established in conflict zones. As part of the process of peace and reconciliation, appropriate channels between these organizations and the respective authorities shall be maintained, with the support of the international monitoring body.

MODEL FORMATION OF NATIONAL ARMY LANGUAGE

In accordance with the terms of the Agreement, there shall be a mechanism for taking into account, among others, the formation of a national army. The formation of a national army will assist in the defense and maintenance of stability and peace upon the re-establishment of state administration and other normalization provisions.

MODEL AMNESTY LANGUAGE

The Parties hereby agree that upon the execution of this Agreement there shall be a general amnesty granted to all combatants of the political parties and movements for crimes committed as a result of their involvement in the conflict, but not for acts of genocide, or in the case of suspects of the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, or for their participation in *coups d'état*. Accordingly, acts committed by the

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Parties or by their forces while in actual combat or on authority of any of the Parties in the course of actual combat are hereby granted amnesty.

MODEL WAR CRIMINALS LANGUAGE

The [insert international monitoring body] shall put in place measures and work out mechanisms for handing over to the UN International Tribunal and national courts, mass killers and perpetrators of crimes against humanity; and the handling of other war criminals.

MODEL PROPAGANDA LANGUAGE (For including in definition of cessation of hostilities)

Effective cessation of hostilities includes:

Cessation of military movements and reinforcements, as well as hostile actions, including hostile propaganda, such as propaganda inciting ethnic and tribal hatred

MODEL PROPAGANDA LANGUAGE (For an annex or as a separate provision)

For the purpose of assisting the process of reconciliation once this Agreement is signed, both Parties undertake to:

Promote, through the various mass media at their disposal, a national publicity campaign in favor of the reunification and reconciliation of Salvadorian society.

Refrain from any propaganda or information policy that is inconsistent with this Agreement or with the process of reconciliation.

The appointed international monitoring body to the cease-fire shall monitor the above undertakings and shall transmit to the Parties any recommendations it deems relevant. It may also make suggestions for the participation of the various sectors of civilian society and, in particular, the mass media in the national reconciliation campaign.

DEFINITION OF CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

Parties agree that the following constitute cease-fire violations and a breach of the Cease-fire Agreement:

The use of weapons of any kind in any circumstance including:

Automatic and semi-automatic rifles, pistols, machine guns and any other small arms weapon systems; heavy machine guns and any other heavy weapon systems; grenades and rocket-propelled grenade weapon systems; artillery, rockets, mortars and any other indirect fire weapon systems; all types of mine, explosive devices and improvised booby traps; Air Defense weapon systems of any nature;

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Any other weapon not included in the above paragraph.

Troop movements of any nature outside of the areas recognized as being under the control of respective fighting forces without prior notification to the Cease-fire Monitoring Committee of any movements at least 48 hours in advance.

The movement of arms and ammunition.

Troop movements of any nature;

The construction and/or the improvement of defensive works and positions within respective areas of control.

Reconnaissance of any nature outside of respective areas of control.

Any other offensive or aggressive action, any training or other military activities not provided for in the present Agreement, constitute a cease-fire violation.

In the event of a hostile external force threatening the territorial integrity or sovereignty of the Parties, military action may be undertaken by the respective Party's Government.