

7 January 2014

To : Members of the PBC-Guinea Configuration

**Informal meeting of the Guinea Country-Specific Configuration of the PBC,
New York, 18 December 2013**

Chair's Summary

An informal meeting of the Guinea Configuration, chaired by H.E. Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, was held on Wednesday, 18 December 2013. The purpose of the meeting was for members to hear a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for West Africa, Said Djinnit, on his activities in support to the electoral process and the legislative elections in Guinea in 2013, as well as on next steps, and to exchange views on the activities of the Configuration in 2014 in the three peacebuilding priority areas in Guinea.

In her introductory remarks, the Chair recalled the focus of the work of the Configuration on the legislative elections throughout 2013. The Configuration had accompanied the electoral process through its support to the facilitation efforts of SRSG Djinnit, in conjunction with the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). The Chair recapitulated the main activities of the Configuration in this regard.

At two informal Configuration meetings on 3 May and 11 July 2013, SRSG Djinnit provided briefings in his capacity as international facilitator of the inter-Guinean dialogue. Mr Tadjouline Ali-Diabacté of DPA/EAD and Mr Babacar Cissé of UNDP provided additional briefings on the technical and logistic preparation of the elections and on funding requirements. The Guinea Configuration issued five statements at key moments of the dialogue and the electoral process, calling all actors and political leaders to assume their responsibilities. In the latest statement, issued on 23 October 2013, the Members of the Configuration congratulated the people of Guinea for having demonstrated a great sense of citizenship and commitment to democracy, and reiterated their readiness to continue to accompany Guinea towards the consolidation of peace and democracy, as well as of sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development.

In his briefing, SRSG Djinnit recalled the robust follow-up mechanism that had been set up for the implementation of the inter-Guinean agreement of 3 July 2013 on the preparation and holding of the legislative elections. The dedication of all parties involved in the follow-up mechanism resulted in polls that were conducted in relatively fair conditions despite the challenges of the Guinean context. SRSG Djinnit stated furthermore that most cases of fraud or of attempted fraud were due to incompetence in the management of the polls. He thought that the

final results of the polls reflected the political landscape, with the presidential camp winning 53 seats, the opposition 51 seats and independent candidates 11 seats. He predicted that such a distribution would encourage the two political camps to engage in dialogue within the National Assembly. This dialogue within the National Assembly will be crucial for the consolidation of democracy in the country.

SRSG Djinnit indicated that the opposition plans to take up its seats within the National Assembly and that President Alpha Condé intended to convene the inaugural meeting of the National Assembly before the end of the year 2013. The SRSG anticipated that there would be negotiations to share responsibilities within the National Assembly.

Concerning main lessons to be learned from the legislative elections, the SRSG thought that the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) had not lived up to its task and he recommended that its capacities and credibility be strengthened. He also thought that the mechanisms to manage election-related disputes had not worked well, both at the level of the CENI and of the Supreme Court.

Now that the legislative elections had been held, the SRSG recommended that the PBC should fully re-engage in the priority areas agreed with the Government, and possibly beyond. He suggested that the National Assembly would be the main interlocutor for all matters pertaining to democracy and reconciliation. He called upon the Members of the Configuration to sustain their support to dialogue as a fundamental tool for democracy, which was still weak in Guinea.

SRSG Djinnit concluded his briefing by thanking the Configuration and PBSO for their support to his task as international facilitator; he particularly expressed appreciation for the rapid disbursement of funds by the PBF that contributed to the security of the elections. He reiterated his readiness to assist the PBC in its engagement with Guinea.

Liberia, the European Union, Canada and Brazil took the floor. They commended the people of Guinea for completing a critical step for the democratization of their country; they took note of the assessment shared by the SRSG; they suggested to further review the lessons learned and the shortcomings, with a view to assist Guineans in addressing those shortcomings and in better preparing the presidential elections of 2015. They also reiterated readiness to accompany the new National Assembly.

The Director and Deputy Head of PBSO, Mr Kenneth Gluck, welcomed the discussion and underlined the importance of conflict prevention. He informed members that PBSO had just approved US\$ 15.3 million to support the second phase of the second Priority Plan for Guinea, in coherence with the Statement of Mutual Commitments. This phase aims at consolidating the

results achieved during the first phase in the three sectors identified by the Government: 1) SSR; 2) National reconciliation; 3) Youth and Women's Employment. Mr Gluck recalled that the PBF is catalytic and that its disbursement aims at laying the groundwork for more sustainable international funding. He suggested that the National Assembly would create a new environment in which the PBC should reassess its support to Guinea and to the UN Country Team.

The Chair then introduced the discussion on the next steps of the PBC engagement with Guinea. Recalling that 2013 had been largely devoted to the support for the parliamentary elections, she suggested that it was now important to reinforce the PBC's efforts in the peacebuilding priority areas identified in the Statement of Mutual Commitments. She also recommended re-launching and completing the second periodic review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments, which had been foreseen for June 2013, but had been postponed, with the agreement of the Members of the Configuration, to give priority to support the legislative elections. She announced that an initial first draft of the report had been prepared and would be shared with the Government of Guinea and Members of the Configuration with a view to completing the review in the first quarter of 2014.

The Chair shared her thoughts on possible areas of focus within the three peacebuilding priority areas for 2014 with the Members of the Configuration.

Under the heading of national reconciliation and unity, the Configuration could continue supporting capacity building of the provisional Committee for National Reconciliation, with a view to develop a methodology that would allow reaching a consensus on the process and the mechanisms for Guinean national reconciliation; the Commission could also strengthen and promote community-based reconciliation initiatives.

Under the heading of Security and Defence Sector Reform, the Configuration could pursue its efforts to support the reform of the justice and penal system, and pursue its advocacy for SSR achievements to be expanded beyond the military.

Under the heading of women's and youth employment policy, the Configuration could re-initiate efforts to support resource mobilisation, including in building on the dynamics created by the Guinean Partners Conference held in November 2013 in cooperation with the World Bank or the African Development Bank; the Configuration could also continue to advocate for a fair and transparent management of mineral and natural resources, with a view to creating sustainable employment opportunities and jobs for women and youth.

In conclusion, the Chair stated her intention to revert to all these issues at the beginning of 2014.