

13 May, 2014

To : Members of the PBC Guinea Configuration

**Informal meeting of the Guinea Country-Specific Configuration of the PBC
New York, 16 April 2014**

Chair's Summary

An informal meeting of the Guinea Configuration chaired by H.E. Ambassador Sylvie Lucas was held on Wednesday, 16 April 2014. The purpose of the meeting was for Members to hear an update from the relevant UN entities engaged in Justice and Security Sector Reform in Guinea, as well as to exchange views on future activities of the Configuration in 2014. Members were also informed about the efforts deployed by the Guinean authorities in the fight against the Ebola epidemic.

In her introductory remarks, the Chair recalled the reforms under way in the security sector in Guinea. She then introduced the SSR experts of the UN who had undertaken a joint inter-agency mission to Conakry in late January 2014.

Representatives of UNDP and DPKO/ORLSI provided an update on the state of play of SSR and Justice Reform, highlighting the main outcomes of their joint mission. They recalled the successes of the initial phase of the SSR, and recommended that the next phase should focus on strengthening the civilian oversight over the Security and Defence Forces, specifically the capacities of the Parliament. They also suggested supporting the police, who face important challenges that prevent it from fulfilling its role of ensuring public order and security, which is therefore still sometimes taken up by the Army. They recommended that the UN system should strengthen its support to the Justice Sector, helping the Government to send clear signals in areas of fight against impunity and sexual violence, as well as respect for and protection of human rights. UNDP and DPKO experts pointed to the increase of the Justice budget from 0.9% to 2% of the national budget as a positive sign of the Government's commitment; they suggested however that deeper structural reforms are necessary in the Justice Sector. They welcomed the EU's investment in the Justice Sector and noted the need to address the gaps in relation to the strengthening of the capacities of the Ministry of Justice. One expert suggested that while the UN would not be a major investor in SSR, it would continue to provide coordination support; in this regard, the support provided by the UN's high-level SSR Advisory Team was acknowledged as crucial for overall coordination. The UN experts noted that there was an urgent need to improve coordination, both within the UN and between the UN and other partners/donors.

In his statement, the Permanent Representative of Guinea welcomed the briefing and voiced his overall agreement with the recommendations from the joint UN mission. He hoped to receive the final report as soon as possible, and called for a rapid implementation of its recommendations. He welcomed the successful cooperation in the Security and Defence Sector Reform and reiterated his Government's commitment to pursue the reforms, including in the Justice Sector. He recalled the seminal national workshop on the Justice Sector (*Etats Généraux de la Justice*), as well as the recent visit of the new Minister of Justice Cheick Sako to New York. During his visit, the Minister informed that the National Council of Justice (*Conseil Supérieur de la Magistrature*) had now been established and that the process of articulating the Justice Reform Policy for 2014-2020 had been initiated. He indicated that one of the major constraints facing the Minister of Justice and hindering progress in the reforms was the limited budget.

The EU representative outlined the EU support under way or in the pipeline, including € 20 million in support of the Justice Sector, a dedicated support for the development of the Justice Policy, a support programme to the Minister in charge of Human Rights, support for the victims of the violence of 28 September 2009, and an on-going project in support of the police and forest guards, that has already borne initial results. He furthermore indicated that the EU would be providing support to the new Parliament, both in terms of supporting the process of preparing the rules and procedures of the Parliament, and in terms of facilitating inter-parliament exchanges, notably with the French Parliament. The EU was also planning to provide support for the revision of the electoral law, the revision of the voters' register, electoral education, and the security of the elections in 2015. The EU delegate underlined that the national reconciliation process should be given priority.

In his statement, the representative of the PBSO mentioned the meetings with the Guinean Delegate Minister for National Defence, on 19 February 2014, and with the Minister of Justice on 18 March 2014. The Delegate Minister of Defence underscored the success and impact of the initial PBF investment and stressed the civilian oversight of the Security Forces as being among the future top priorities. The meeting with the Minister of Justice highlighted the need to support structural reforms of the Justice Sector, as well as ensuring coherence between international support, using mechanisms such as the PBF Joint Steering Committee in Conakry. He suggested that justice at the community level should be considered among the priorities. The PBSO representative informed the Members about an upcoming technical mission to Conakry, with the objective to identify the capacity-building needs of the new Parliament.

Representatives of Egypt, Senegal, Spain and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie took the floor. They welcomed progress achieved in the area of Security Sector Reform, including the adoption of a national Security and Defence policy. They welcomed initial steps in

the reform of the Justice Sector and expressed concern about the comparatively limited budget dedicated to this sector. They expressed support to the PBF engagement with the Justice Sector. A suggestion was made to learn from the Liberian experience of the Justice & Security Hubs, and to include the rule of law in the business sector in the reform process.

The Chair introduced the next agenda item on the second Review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments. She informed Members that the draft report had been sent to the PBC's Political Focal Point in the Guinean Government, Minister Gassama Diaby, a week earlier. The draft report would be sent to Members after the meeting, and comments were expected until 15 May 2014. The aim was to finalise the second Review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments in June 2014.

Under the final agenda item related to the Ebola outbreak, Ambassador Touré thanked Luxembourg, Senegal, Spain, the EU, MSF and all other partners for the support provided to Guinea in its efforts to combat and stop the epidemic. He reported that 168 cases had been diagnosed so far, with more than 100 fatalities, but also that more than 30 people had made a full recovery. The Chair mentioned the project led by UNICEF, aimed at sensitizing the population about Ebola and about prevention measures, and indicated that further information about the project would be circulated among Members of the Configuration.
