

**Summary of the informal meeting
of the Guinea Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission
with the participation of H.E. Domingos Simões Pereira, Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau,
SRSG Trovoada and Mr. Christopher Coleman, Department of Political Affairs.
21 January 2015.**

On 21 January, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) configuration for Guinea Bissau held an informal meeting with briefings from the Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau, H.E. Mr. Domingos Simões Pereira and the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) and Head of UNIOGBIS, Mr. Miguel Trovoada. The two briefings provided updates on the significant developments in the country since the last meeting of the configuration and on the preparations for the donor round table scheduled for March 2015 in Brussels. The briefings were followed by a presentation of the outcome of the Strategic Assessment Mission (SAM) to Guinea Bissau from 3 to 14 November 2014 by Mr. Christopher Coleman, Deputy Director of the Africa II Division at the Department of Political Affairs (DPA).

The Chair of the Guinea Bissau Configuration, Mr. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, commended the Prime Minister and the SRSG for the significant progress achieved and their strong commitment to bring stability, prosperity and lasting peace to the country. SRSG Trovoada exhorted Member States and stakeholders to support the Government's priorities and underlined the positive relationship between UNIOGBIS and the Peacebuilding Commission. In order to put the country on the path to sustainable peace and progress, the SRSG asked for patience and perseverance by all stakeholders. The SRSG noted that the donor round-table will provide an opportunity for the government to advance its reform agenda and urged Member States to support it. He informed the meeting on the progress achieved by the Consultative Group, comprised of Government, UNIOGBIS, WB, EU, AfDB, AU, ECOWAS and CPLP representatives, tasked to prepare the donor meeting in Brussels.

The Prime Minister expressed his deep appreciation to the Peacebuilding Commission and its members for their dynamism and solidarity with his country, and the commitment to support his administration's objectives. The Prime Minister announced that the Organizing Commission of the National Conference on Peace and Reconciliation had resumed its work after being suspended following the coup d'état of April 2012. In his view, consensus and constructive dialogue would enable the Commission to make progress in tackling issues on its agenda. The Prime Minister also highlighted recent achievements in security sector reform, for which he asserted the positive role of ECOMIB. He expressed hope that the Security Council would endorse the extension of ECOMIB's mandate so that it can continue its support. He also emphasised his government's determination to swiftly introduce judicial reforms, aimed at ending impunity and promoting human rights.

The Prime Minister alluded to Guinea-Bissau's economic growth at an annual rate of 2,5% in 2014, according to a recent International Monetary Fund study. He said however that social indicators need urgent improvement as well. He asked the international community and donors in particular to rally behind his Government's reform agenda, and provide the necessary resources. The Prime Minister informed that ECOWAS would host a preparatory meeting for the donor round table in Ghana on 9 February, and that the first draft of the Government's presentation for the Brussels meeting would be ready within a week's time. Prime Minister Simões Pereira thanked the CPLP and the EU for their respective missions to the country to appraise the conditions for imminent resumption of cooperation with the country, as well as the latter for hosting the donor round table.

Mr. Coleman briefed the meeting on the findings of the SAM conducted last November which highlighted four conflict factors as the main sources of instability: Political-military dynamics; ineffective state institutions and lack of rule of law; poverty and lack of access to basic services; and impunity and human rights violations. Based on the SAM, the Secretary-General will present recommendations to the Security Council in his upcoming report on the situation in Guinea-Bissau. The recommendations will include continued support to ECOMIB, strengthened coordination and mobilization of international assistance, an expanded role for the good offices role of the SRSG as well as support for national dialogue and reconciliation process. The Prime Minister noted that the SAM provided an opportunity to have a fruitful dialogue with key partners, and expressed his agreement with the SAM's assessment of the situation in the country.

The Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Peacebuilding Support, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco thanked the speakers for their presentations and Ambassador Patriota for his leadership of the Guinea Bissau configuration. Mr. Fernandez-Taranco stressed the vital role of countries from the region to ensure the accompaniment required to achieve stability and progress, and urged stakeholders to play an active role in the upcoming round table. He pointed out that the review of the peacebuilding architecture this year would greatly benefit from the example of Guinea Bissau's determination to rebuild itself and the nature of the international support provided by the PBC and other actors. The ASG pledged support from the Peacebuilding Support Office, including through the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) which is currently working with the Government, UNIOGBIS and the UNCT to develop a new Priority Plan for Peacebuilding for the next three years (2015-18).

Several Member States noted that Guinea Bissau is at a turning point of its history as was emphasised by the speakers. There was unanimous agreement that the progress to date is a source of confidence for all stakeholders to support the priorities to be presented at the round table. Equatorial Guinea highlighted the agricultural potential of the country as the base of its sustainable development, while Luxembourg recommended the good use of the country's natural resources. Portugal pledged to remain a strong supporter of the government's priorities, including the conduct of a national dialogue, the revitalisation of the economy, and the improvement of public administration as well as the Ebola preparedness efforts. The EU, the International Organization for the Francophonie and Angola joined Portugal in highlighting their strong desire to see further progress in key reforms such as the security sector, justice and the rule of law.
