

Review of the engagement between Guinea and the United Nations  
Peacebuilding Commission, 2011-2016

*[Unofficial translation]*

**I. Introduction**

1. The Statement of Mutual Commitments for peacebuilding in Guinea, concluded on 23 September 2011 between the Government of Guinea and the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, articulates the commitments made by the two parties within the three peacebuilding priorities, namely: (a) promotion of national reconciliation and unity; (b) reform of the defence and security sector; and (c) youth and women employment policy.
2. From February 2011 to August 2016, the Commission's engagement was led by Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg. The Government of Guinea and the Commission undertook two reviews, in 2012 and in 2014; both reviews assessed progress made in implementing the mutual commitments, and they made recommendations that guided the continued engagement between Guinea and the Commission.
3. The resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture review (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)) adopted respectively by the General Assembly and the Security Council on 27 April 2016, encourage the Peacebuilding Commission to consider diversifying its working methods as a way to enhance its efficiency and flexibility in support of sustaining peace including by providing options for its country-specific meetings and formats, to be applied upon the request of the country concerned, as referred to the Commission in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 60/180.
4. In his address to the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 23 September 2016, the President of the Republic of Guinea, H.E. Alpha Conde indicated that the identical resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture provided an opportunity for a review of the content and the scope of Guinea's engagement with the PBC, with a view to aligning it with the needs of the country.
5. It is against this background that the Government of Guinea and the Commission undertook a review of their engagement from 2011 to 2016.

6. As part of this review, a PBC delegation, composed of H.E. Mr. Mamadi TOURE, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Guinea to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Yemdaogo Eric TIARE, Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Yoshifumi OKAMURA, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, visited Guinea from 20 to 25 November 2016<sup>1</sup>.
7. During this visit, the delegation met the Prime Minister, and the following members of the Government: Minister of Foreign affairs & Guineans abroad; Minister of national unity and citizenship; Minister of State in charge of Justice; Minister of Planning and international cooperation;; Minister of Social Affairs, Minister of Youth; Minister of Human rights & public freedoms; Minister Delegate to National Defence; as well as the Secretary-General and the Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection. The delegation also met with representatives of republican institutions, including the President of the National Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council.
8. During this trip, the delegation undertook a field visit to Fria (prefecture located at 160 km in the North of the capital city Conakry) where it visited project activities supported by the Peacebuilding Fund; the delegation held discussions with local authorities and beneficiaries of those projects.
9. The Delegation also met the UN Country Team, the diplomatic community and civil society organisations.
10. The review looked at progress made by Guinea in its peacebuilding agenda; it assessed the role played by the Guinean configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

---

<sup>1</sup> Below is the composition of the delegation that visited Guinea on 20-25 November 2016:

1. *S.E. M. Mamadi TOURE, Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent de la République de Guinée auprès des Nations Unies ;*
2. *S.E. M. Yemdaogo Eric TIARE, Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent du Burkina Faso auprès des Nations Unies ;*
3. *S.E. M. Yoshifumi OKAMURA, Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent adjoint du Japon auprès des Nations Unies ;*
4. *M. Mohamed DABO, Premier Secrétaire à la Mission permanente de la République de Guinée auprès des Nations Unies ;*
5. *M. Takeshi NARITOMI, Conseiller à la Mission permanente du Japon auprès des Nations Unies ;*
6. *Mme Alice Mungwa, Conseillère Affaires Politiques, Département des Affaires Politiques ;*
7. *M. Patrick Buse, Conseiller Affaires Politiques, Bureau des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et le Sahel, UNOWAS ;*
8. *M. Vincent KAYIJUKA, Conseiller en matière de Consolidation de la Paix, Bureau d'appui à la consolidation de la paix*

11. The review also discussed opportunities for further strengthening the synergies between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund. The review made recommendations on the future engagement between Guinea and the Commission, on content, on the format and on the working methods [terms of engagement].
12. The findings and recommendations of this review will inform the independent evaluation of the second peacebuilding priority plan in Guinea, funded by the Peacebuilding Fund. In the same logic, the recommendations of this independent evaluation will be taken into account by the future engagement between Guinea and the Commission.

## **II. Findings of the Review**

13. The review found that there is a convergence of views on Guinea's progress in peacebuilding in general and specifically in the context of the implementation of the objectives of the Statement of Mutual Commitments and of the second priority plan of the Peacebuilding Fund. The review also found that the main interlocutors agreed on the current and future challenges of peacebuilding in Guinea.
14. With regard to the priority area of security and defence sector reform, the country has made remarkable progress in the reform of the army. The retirement of 4,000 military personnel, the biometric census of the Army personnel, and the reform of the regulatory and legal framework benefited from the support of the PBF. These are perceived as significant progress in the reform of the security sector. The PBF also continues to support the Senior Adviser on Security Sector Reform to the President of the Republic.
15. The regulatory texts and legal framework for Security Sector Reform have been developed. The Security Sector Reform is based on national policy for defence and security, as well as five sectoral reform policies (defence, police, justice, environment, and customs), which have been now developed. The implementation of these sectoral policies required the articulation of a National Strategy on Priority Actions, initially prepared for 2014-2017 and updated for 2016-2019.
16. The Security and Defence Committee of the National Assembly was created and its members received training. The Civil-Military Committee was strengthened and it is functional.
17. Additional work needs to be done, particularly the implementation of the bill on the budgeting process of the Military passed in 2015 and of the strategy for priority actions in the security and justice sectors reform.

18. The security sector continues to face significant challenges, including governance (management and control), the fight against corruption, training and capacity-building for the Police.
19. The Police sector deserves the same level of attention and commitment that was provided to the military. As such, it is important to continue programs aimed at improving relations between the population and the police, including the community policing.
20. With regards to the priority of national reconciliation, the preparatory phase conducted by the Interim Committee on National Reconciliation has been completed. The Committee submitted its report to the President of the Republic on 29 June 2016. The President of the Republic has asked the Prime Minister to lead the implementation of the recommendations of the Interim Committee on National Reconciliation with a view to operationalise the national reconciliation in Guinea.
21. The effective implementation of the 23 recommendations proposed by the report is the main challenge of the process of national reconciliation. Stakeholders stressed the importance of completing this process and the primacy of its ownership by all authorities at the national and local levels.
22. Other progress related to national reconciliation and unity include the establishment of the National Independent Human Rights Commission, the institutionalisation of the national week of citizenship, as well as the conclusion of the last Inter-Guinean political Agreement of 12 October 2016.
23. In this regards, the local and communal elections scheduled for 2017 are an important milestone for the consolidation of democracy and institutions in Guinea.
24. The Government has developed a national program for socio-economic youth integration; this program involves several ministries. Other important initiatives include the updating of the Study and the National Program for Youth and Women's Employment in the Mining and Agricultural Sectors and the development of the National Policy on Corporate Social Responsibility in the Mining Sector.
25. The review noted that the youth and women's employment is the priority for which the Government's expectations vis-à-vis the Commission have not been met, particularly in the area of advocacy for resource mobilization.
26. The review also recalled that the magnitude of the challenges in this sector goes beyond the limited resources of the Peacebuilding Fund, therefore it concluded that there is a need to focus support on specific projects with a preventive, multiplier and catalytic effect.
27. Projects financed by the PBF under the 2nd Priority Action Plan have generated a catalytic effect, in particular in terms of resources invested by other partners: the World Bank, US \$ 25 million [social safety nets], the Japanese Embassy [US \$ 3million ], the European Union [4 million US \$] and Spain.

28. The review underscored the necessity to promote women's entrepreneurship. Discussions are underway for the development of a program on women's entrepreneurship.
29. The review noted that new challenges are emerging, including those related to terrorism and migration, and that these challenges call for both pedagogical and incentive-based measures in view of effective inclusion of women and youth in socio-economic activity of the country. These challenges should also be taken into account in the context of further security sector reform.
30. The review found that 82 Consultative Committees in Mining Localities, CCLM, have been set up throughout the country, with the main function of preventing / resolving conflicts between local communities and mining companies. These CCLM are part of the peace and social infrastructure strengthened or set up throughout the country to address conflicts that would arise at the community level.
31. Through the visit of the prefecture of Friya, the review concluded that these committees are a key tool for conflict prevention and peace consolidation, with a view of sustainable exploitation of mineral resources in Guinea. The country is indeed rich in mineral resources, and conflicts related to mining activities can hinder this economic potential and threaten peace and social cohesion.
32. The review also noted that the challenge of strengthening institutions is constantly referred to both as a priority area and as a peace-building approach. The Government and partners mentioned particularly the reform of the judicial system and the entire criminal chain. The review noted that the Government's request to the United Nations [to support the penal chain], followed by a detailed presentation by the Minister of State for Justice in May 2016, did not receive an adequate response from the Commission and the UN System.
33. The review also found out that the functioning and activities of the Commission [the country configuration format] were rigid and did not take into account the principle of national ownership.
34. The review noted that a sub-regional approach would help to better assess some emerging challenges, such as illegal immigration, organized crime, security and social cohesion within cross-border communities, radicalisation and dormant terrorist cells.

### **III. Conclusions and Recommendations of the Review**

35. Since 2011, Guinea has made significant progress in peace and democracy consolidation. The country has initiated important reforms and key processes in the peacebuilding priority areas, with substantial support from the Peacebuilding Fund and with an accompaniment by the Commission.

In light of the progress achieved, the remaining challenges and the evolution of the peacebuilding architecture, the review makes the following recommendations:

*To the Government of Guinea:*

36. Continue the reforms initiated in relation to security sector, through the consolidation of the work done at the level of the military and an equal focus on other branches such as the police;
37. Reinforce national leadership in the implementation of the 23 recommendations related to the national reconciliation process, consolidate the culture of dialogue and democracy, particularly in the context of political and electoral processes;
38. Finalize national policies related to youth employment and women's entrepreneurship, and use the Commission to mobilize international support for the implementation of the national economic and social development plan (PNDES 2016 – 2020).

*To the Commission and international partners:*

39. Consider institution building both as a priority and a core strategy for sustaining peace. In this regard, the Commission will include in its engagement a special focus on strengthening institutions that have added value for peacebuilding;
40. In 2017, the Commission should intensify its advocacy in support for the Justice Sector reform. In this regard, it is important to ensure that a response is given to the request made by the President of the Republic of Guinea to the Secretary-General concerning support for strengthening the reform of the justice sector and the criminal justice system in Guinea;
41. Sustain support for security sector reform, including through substantial support for the budget planning for the military, and the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for the police reform (training, equipment);
42. Advocate for the mobilization of resources in support for the national economic and social development plan, in particular by engaging international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank;
43. The Commission will serve as a platform for dialogue [at the policy and strategic levels] on challenges affecting the sub region, including cross-border issues [community security, social services for riparian communities], and the risks of radicalization [of youth];
44. The review also recommends that the Commission readjust the format of Guinea's engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission in a way that enables Guinea to use the platform offered by the Commission with flexibility and undertake sustained advocacy to better tackle current challenges and better mobilize resources for peacebuilding activities in the country and in the sub region;

45. In this regard, the review recommends that the Commission put an end to the country configuration for Guinea, and that Guinea keeps the flexibility to seek the Commission's support upon the Government's request, in line with the resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture review (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)) adopted respectively by the General Assembly and the Security Council on 27 April 2016;
46. Under the new format, and depending on the scope of the issues to be discussed, the meetings of the Commission will offer a platform for several countries in the sub region with common peacebuilding challenges (such as illegal immigration, organised crime, security and social cohesion within cross-border communities, terrorism), or countries wishing to share experiences on a particular peacebuilding issue.

*To the Peacebuilding Fund:*

47. Consider additional support through a third phase to consolidate the progress achieved by Guinea, keeping in mind that some activities of the second priority plan could not be implemented during the Ebola crisis. This additional support will take into account the findings of this review, and will build on the more in-depth discussions that will take place in the context of the independent evaluation of the 2nd Priority Plan of the PBF that will be conducted during the first quarter of 2017;
48. Strengthen the synergy between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund, emphasizing more the leadership of national authorities in the implementation of the third priority plan of the Peacebuilding Fund;
49. In light of the development of mining activity and of the agriculture sector in the country, of the important role played by informal mechanisms of conflict prevention and management in Guinea, through the peace and social infrastructures, consider the strengthening of support for consultation committees in mining communities (CCLM) and for other social and peace infrastructures at community level.