

## **Report of the mission to Guinea 11 to 15 March 2012**

### **I. Objectives and summary of the visit**

1. The Guinea Configuration of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) has visited Guinea from 11 to 15 March 2012 in the context of the periodic review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments, concluded with the Government of Guinea on 23 September 2011 in New York, in the presence of the President of the Republic, Professor Alpha Condé. The main objectives of the visit were the following:
  - (a) Pursue and deepen exchanges with the Government and the other stakeholders in the context of the first periodic review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments. The aim of this first review is to assess progress of either party in the achievement of mutual commitments for peacebuilding, underlining progress made. The review should also allow to examine continued relevance of the commitments of the Government of Guinea and the PBC and should the need arise, to adjust them to respond to the evolving context. The conclusions and recommendations of the review will help to focus further cooperation between Guinea and the PBC;
  - (b) Discuss with the Government any questions related to peacebuilding in Guinea which require immediate attention; identify with the Government and the other stakeholders possible obstacles hindering the peacebuilding process and discuss means to overcome them.
2. The delegation comprised Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, Chairperson of the Guinea Configuration and Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations, Ambassador Mamadi Touré, Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations, Ambassador Oumar Daou, Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations, Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, as well as Mr Jorge Tagle, Mr Pedro Courela and Mr Yuri Vitrenko, Counsellors of the Missions of Chile, Portugal, and Ukraine to the United Nations. Mr Saïdou Kane, a specialist from the Peace and Security Division of the International Organisation of the Francophonie was also a member of the delegation.
3. The delegation met with the main national and international, state and non-state actors

engaged in peacebuilding in Guinea, among which figured the President of the Republic, the President of the National Transitional Council, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad, the Minister of Economic and Financial Control in his capacity as Political Focal Point for the PBC, as well as Ministers in charge of the sectors supported by the Peacebuilding Commission, namely national reconciliation, security sector reform and youth and women's employment. The delegation also met with the leaders of the main political parties, united under the "presidential movement", the opposition and the "centre". The delegation further met with Mgr. Gomez, facilitator of the framework for inclusive political dialogue for the legislative elections; Mgr. Coulibaly, one of the two co-Chairs of the Provisional Commission for reflection on national reconciliation<sup>1</sup>; Mr Lousény Camara, President of the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI); one of the three judges of the Panel investigating the violence of 28 September 2009, as well as representatives of civil society (umbrella organisations, human rights organisations and associations of the victims of State violence).

## **II. Main points and results of the visit**

4. The socio-political situation in Guinea is stabilising but remains fragile. Important reforms are underway, notably in the macroeconomic field, but the population still has difficulties to see the dividends of democracy. The Guinean authorities hope to reach the HIPC [Highly Indebted Poor Countries] initiative completion point before the end of the summer, notably in order to be able to invest the resources which currently go to debt service into the social sectors. Some have however warned that potential socio-political deteriorations could jeopardise an early achievement of the HIPC completion point.

### *National reconciliation*

5. The main Guinean actors and international partners met by the delegation agreed that holding early legislative elections is critical for completing the democratic transition. The establishment of certain institutions critical for peacebuilding and democracy, such as the National Independent Commission for Human Rights, can only happen after the establishment of the National Assembly. The delegation understands the legislative elections as an opportunity for national reconciliation: indeed, all interlocutors of the mission underlined that for this to be the case, the elections should be free, transparent, credible on both the political and technical levels, peaceful, acceptable and accepted by all.
6. The members of the delegation were informed about the results of the framework for

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<sup>1</sup> Imam El Hadj Mamadou Saliou Camara was away from Conakry at the time of the visit of the delegation.

inclusive political dialogue by Mgr. Gomez, which allowed to make progress on a number of issues, notably: free access for political opposition parties to the public media; the reconstitution of the subsidiary branches of CENI; the amendment of article 162 of the Electoral law (which had given the President of CENI the power to annul the minutes of individual voting stations); the audit of the electoral register and the revision of the electoral rolls. Among the points of contention remained the following: linking the revision of the electoral rolls to the establishment of biometric identity cards; the service provider for the audit of the electoral register; the joint management of the electoral register; the restructuring of CENI; the reinstatement of disbanded local councils and the chronogram for the elections.

7. On these points of contention, it is expected that the President of the Republic should decide, as foreseen by the terms of reference of the political dialogue. President Condé has however indicated clearly that the Guinean people have waited long enough and cannot accept that leaders who have contributed to the numerous problems of the country would continue to block the organisation of the legislative elections. He also underlined his opposition to all foreign interference in the Guinean electoral process.
8. As concerns the date of 8 July proposed by CENI for the elections, the President of the Republic indicated that he would take the necessary time to appreciate the technical feasibility of the elections at this date before calling them; all the while respecting the delay of 70 days foreseen under article 62 of the Electoral law. The President also expressed his commitment to the organisation of transparent and credible legislative elections.
9. In general, it was stressed that CENI should improve communication with political parties and national and international partners to avoid creating facts on the ground and thus threaten the smooth process of the preparation and holding of the elections.
10. In the context of the fight against impunity, the delegation was able to meet with one of the examining magistrates of the Panel of Judges investigating the violence of 28 September 2009. While the details of the Panel's work are confidential and could not be disclosed, the delegation noted the clear determination of the Panel to complete its mission and commended the recent charges brought in this context. A continued, even strengthened support to the Panel, notably in terms of securing and protecting victims, witnesses, the Panel's personnel and data; mobility and finally computer and office equipment, by the Guinean authorities as well as technical and financial partners, can only be encouraged. A mission of the Team of Experts of the Special Representative of the SG on Sexual Violence in Conflict Margot Wallström was in Conakry at the same time as the PBC-Guinea Configuration delegation and worked on the implementation of the joint communiqué between the SRSG and the Minister of Justice of Guinea. During a short meeting with the Minister of Justice, the latter confirmed the determination of the Government to "go all the

way” with regards to the investigation and the fight against impunity.

11. As concerns the process of national reconciliation, the delegation felt a certain amount of impatience with regards to the materialisation of the next steps of the consultations led by the Provisional Reflexion Commission. Civil society stakeholders notably underlined the fact that the Guinean people are expecting clear signs proving that reconciliation is happening and that it is inclusive. President Condé and other Guinean interlocutors met by the delegation insisted that reconciliation in Guinea should go beyond the violence committed on and around 28 September 2009. It would be necessary to take into account the different waves of violence committed against Guinean citizens, notably those acts committed at Camp Boiro, as well as during the events of 1985, 2006 and 2007. Members of Guinean civil society underscored notably the importance of tackling the phenomenon of “instrumentalising” ethnic identity for political ends and of taking into account the socio-economic challenges confronting the population.
12. The Co-Chair of the Provisional Reflexion Commission insisted on the necessity of being supported by a technical infrastructure in order to fulfil the task that the President of the Republic had given the Co-presidents and which must underpin the commitments of both sides as noted in the Statement of Mutual Commitments. He welcomed the recruitment by UNDP of a United Nations expert to support the process. The need to widen consultations and to involve the general population in the process was emphasised.

### *Security Sector Reform*

13. Security sector reform is off to a good start with important actions such as the biometrical census of the army and the retirement of 3,928 military personnel who had been recruited between 1952 and 1975, who benefitted from a separation package of three months’ salary as an accompanying measure. This operation was co-financed by the Guinean Government and the Peacebuilding Fund and through the latter by certain Member states. The delegation noted the coordination between the three Ministers in charge of the sector, which it met with at the same time. The delegation was also able to visit the Directorate General of Human Resources and Recruitment of the Ministry of Defence, where a demonstration of the IT equipment used for the biometric census, which is indispensable for pursuing SSR and a better management of human resources, was given. After the aforementioned retirement, the army has 22,432 personnel, including some 6,000 gendarmes. A UN SSR experts’ mission visited Guinea at the same time as the PBC delegation and participated in the meetings concerning the sector; its report will give more details about the SSR process.
14. Our interlocutors emphasised the Judiciary as being also a key component of Security sector reform and they recommended that more resources be allocated to it (currently, the part of the overall state budget allocated to the Justice sector was reported to be 0.5%), given the considerable challenges in terms of the fight against impunity and corruption, restoration of

the rule of law and the promotion of human rights.

15. The Ministers in charge of defence and security formulated a request for specific support to the Special Forces for the Securing of the Electoral Process (FOSSPEL), following the support it had received during the presidential elections of 2010, while underlining the increased needs. The international partners have signalled a certain readiness to accede to this request, but have insisted on the need to have a global and as accurate as possible estimate of the needs in order for them to be able to coordinate their support.
16. The Ministers also stressed the need to take into account new threats to security, notably conflicts and threats facing the countries of the Sahel and Sahara regions, cross-border crimes, such as small arms proliferation and drug trafficking and the threat emanating from terrorist organisations. The need for a sub-regional approach through joint and coordinated responses at the level of the countries of the sub-region and by resorting to existing mechanisms like ECOWAS and the Mano River Union was also underlined.
17. However, as concerns risks identified in the context of SSR, the Ministers emphasised primarily internal risks. Without good coordination of the sectorial committees and the interventions of technical and financial partners, reforms could stagnate. Recruitment, initial training and career development would also need to be overhauled in order not to risk losing the momentum of the reforms. The Ministers also shared their apprehension that international partners might abandon Guinea before the job was done.

### *Youth and Women's Employment*

18. The question of youth and women's employment is seen in a more medium- to long-term perspective and the delegation had discussions on this priority primarily with a view to identifying policies and initiatives which could be entry points for the Peacebuilding Commission, on the understanding that unemployment is both a consequence and a cause of fragility.
19. The delegation was encouraged by on-going efforts for the political, economic and social empowerment of women. It recommended deepening these efforts, notably through improving access for rural women to land, the fight against socio-cultural factors which limit women's participation in political life and the fight against all discriminations and forms of violence which target women. The upcoming legislative elections were presented as a real opportunity to meet the 30% quota reserved for women on the electoral lists, as stipulated by the Electoral Law.
20. As concerns youth employment, the delegation noted the fragmentation of responsibilities between the different ministerial departments in charge of young people, employment and vocational training, as well as their interventions on the ground. It called upon the

Government to continue working on the institutional and strategic challenge in order to ensure coherence between the interventions in favour of youth employment, which remain, for the moment, fragmented and ad hoc.

21. The Government expressed a request for support by high-level expertise to develop a medium- and long-term vision, which would take into account the employment opportunities offered by the mining sector (both direct and indirect employment) and agriculture, as well as the challenges linked to the absence of qualified Guinean workers (with specialised jobs going to foreigners rather than young Guineans).
22. The delegation was informed in this context about the progress of the implementation of the Civic service for development action (SCAD), as well as about a South-South/triangular cooperation project aiming at the establishment of centres of production. Uganda, Mozambique and Cape-Verde are going to be asked to counsel/support young Guineans who wish to establish SMEs.

### **III. Conclusions and next steps**

23. The delegation found a country at a crossroads. On the one hand, much hope is placed in the upcoming legislative elections, the achievement of the point of completion of the HIPC initiative and the positive impact of the revision of the mining law and more generally a reboot of the economy and increase in foreign investments. This hope is reinforced by the first concrete steps made in terms of improving macroeconomic indicators and Security sector reform, as well as by the results of the recent inclusive political dialogue.
24. On the other hand, trust between citizens and the State seems not to have been re-established completely, notably as concerns political life and the relations with security forces and the Judiciary: a clear sense of impatience on behalf of the population in terms of national reconciliation and peace and democracy dividends was palpable.
25. The findings and conclusions of this visit will be taken into account in the draft report of the first periodic review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments between Guinea and the Peacebuilding Commission, to which the Government of Guinea and Members of the Configuration have already made written contributions. The conclusions and recommendations of this first review will be discussed by the stakeholders and then adopted at a formal meeting of the Guinea Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.
26. The delegation would like to seize this occasion to thank the Government of Guinea, the UN Country Team and PBSO for their precious support during the visit.

**Annex 1:**



**Programme of the Mission of the Guinea Configuration of the  
Peacebuilding Commission to the Republic of Guinea**

**11-15 March 2012**

**General objectives:**

- Meet the Government and the other key stakeholders to examine progress in the implementation of the mutual commitments between the Government of Guinea and the PBC
- Encourage the pursuit and deepening of the inclusive dialogue, notably with a view to peaceful elections in Guinea.

**Sunday 11 March 2012**

- 15h50 Welcome at the Airport by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad and Economic and Financial Control
- 17h20-17h50 Security briefing

**Monday 12 March 2012**

- 08h30-09h45 Meeting with the UN Country Team
- 10h00-10h45 Audience with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad and Economic and Financial Control (Political Focal Point for the PBC)
- 11h00-12h00 Audience with the Prime Minister
- 12h00-13h00 Audience with the substitute of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation
- 14h00-15h00 Meeting with the Co-chairs of the Provisional Reflexion Commission on National Reconciliation
- 16h00-17h00 Audience with the Deputy Ministre for Defence, the Minister of State in charge of Security and Civil protection and the Deputy Minister in Charge of Security Sector Reform
- 18h00-19h00 Meeting with the President of the UFDG
- 19h00-21h00 Cocktail offered by the Head of Delegation of the European Union in Guinea

**Tuesday 13 March 2012**

- 08h30-09h50 Meeting with the Friends of Guinea
- 10h00-11h00 Meeting with the CNT and the CES
- 11h10-12h10 Civil society umbrella organisations (CNOSC, CONAG-DCF-PECUD)
- 12h15-13h15 Representatives of opposition political parties (UFDG/UFR/PEDN)
- 15h00-16h00 Meeting with the facilitator of the inclusive political dialogue
- 16h15-17h15 Representative of the political parties of the Presidential Movement
- 17h15-18h30 Representatives of the “centre” political parties

**Mercredi 14 mars 2012**

- 08h30-09h45 Human Rights defence NGOs and associations of the victims of state violence
- 10h15-11h15 Audience with the Minister of State in charge of Social Affairs, Women’s Empowerment and Childhood
- 11h30-12h30 Audience with the Secretaries general of the Ministry of Youth and Young people’s Employment and of the Ministry of Technical Education, Vocational Training and Employment
- 13h00-14h00 Audience with the Minister of Economic and Financial Control
- 15h00-16h30 Visit of the Directorate General of Human Resources and Recruitment of the Ministry of Defence

**Jeudi 15 mars 2012**

- 09h00-10h00 Audience with the Secretary general of the Ministry of Justice
- 11h00-12h00 Meeting with the President of CENI
- 12h45-13h45 Meeting with a representative of the Panel of Judges investigating the violence of 28 September 2009
- 15h00-16h30 Audience with the President of the Republic of Guinea
- 18h00-18h45 Debriefing with the Friends of Guinea

## Annexe 2 :



### **Principal objectives of the Mission of the Guinea Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) to the Republic of Guinea**

**11-15 March 2012**

- Allow a delegation of the Guinea Configuration of the PBC, led by the Chairperson of the Guinea Configuration and including representatives of Members of the Configurations from the different geographical groups of the United Nations to familiarise themselves with recent developments in Guinea and the region relevant to peacebuilding;
- Pursue and deepen exchanges with the Government and the other stakeholders in the context of the first periodic review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments. The aim of this first review is to assess progress of either party in the achievement of mutual commitments for peacebuilding, underlining progress made. The review should also allow to examine continued relevance of the commitments of the Government of Guinea and the PBC and should the need arise, to adjust them to respond to the evolving context. The conclusions and recommendations of the review will help to focus further cooperation between Guinea and the PBC;
- Discuss with the Government any questions related to peacebuilding in Guinea which require immediate attention; identify with the Government and the other stakeholders possible obstacles hindering the peacebuilding process and discuss means to overcome them.
- Discuss with the Government and other stakeholders, notably the Friends of Guinea, ways and means further to reinforce cooperation with the Guinea Configuration and to identify synergies;
- Discuss with the Government and technical and financial partners possible implications of the New Deal for the engagement in Fragile States, endorsed by Guinea and a number of Member states of the Configuration, as well as the possibility to integrate peacebuilding priorities in wider development cooperation frameworks, such as the third generation Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP III) covering the years 2013-2017.