

**Statement by the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission's country-specific  
configuration on Guinea-Bissau**

On behalf of the Peacebuilding Commission's country-specific configuration on Guinea-Bissau, I condemn in the strongest terms the forcible seizure of power from the legitimate Government of Guinea-Bissau that took place on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

I also condemn the arbitrary detentions, armed attacks and intimidation, and demand the full protection of human rights and fundamental freedom of the people of Guinea-Bissau. I urge the Armed Forces leadership to ensure the safety and security of the civilian authorities of Guinea-Bissau, and to abide by the rule of law.

I call on the Armed Forces to return to the barracks and release all those they have detained. I further call on the Armed Forces, the political leaders and people of Guinea-Bissau to remain calm, exercise restraint, maintain stability and respect the constitutional order and the democratic process.

I urge all parties to resolve their disputes through political and peaceful means within the framework of its democratic institutions and oppose any attempt to change the government through unconstitutional means.

I encourage the Government of Guinea-Bissau and all stakeholders to continue to work together to pursue political dialogue so as to preserve stability in the country and promote national reconciliation.

I call on the international community, including regional and subregional organizations, to assist national stakeholders in preserving the constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau and to continue to support peacebuilding efforts in the country.

I reaffirm the commitment of the Peacebuilding Commission's country-specific configuration on Guinea-Bissau to support the efforts of the Government and people of Guinea-Bissau to consolidate democratic institutions, peace and stability in that country.

13 April 2012, New York