



Statement by

H. E. Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti

Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

**Chair of the Guinea-Bissau Configuration
of the Peacebuilding Commission**

Security Council – 26 July 2012

(check against delivery)

Mr. President,

I thank you for convening this meeting and for inviting me to brief the Security Council in my capacity as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

I welcome the Permanent Representative of Mozambique and Chair of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), Ambassador António Gumende; the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire and Chair of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Ambassador Youssoufou Bamba; and the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau, Ambassador João Soares da Gama.

I also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Joseph Mutaboba, for his briefing and for his valuable work as head of UNIOGBIS.

Mr. President,

Since the coup d'état of 12 April, the Guinea-Bissau Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission has been striving to facilitate dialogue among the main stakeholders, in particular ECOWAS and the CPLP to enable concerted action by the international community in addressing the situation in Guinea-Bissau. A number of coordination meetings took place.

Although the international community has shown unity of purpose – the restoration of constitutional order and the return of stability to Guinea-Bissau –, we still lack a common strategy to achieve those goals. Such objective can only be reached if the international partners of Guinea-Bissau speak with one voice, underscoring that the international community will work in a coherent and coordinated manner towards an inclusive and sustainable solution to the current crisis.

Almost four months after the military coup, constitutional order is still to be restored and the humanitarian and economic situation keeps deteriorating on the ground. The derailment of the electoral process has reduced international confidence and donors' support for the country, thus threatening the hard-won socio-economic gains that stability brought to Guinea-Bissau in the recent past, especially as regards institution-building, economic recovery, financial management and the fight against drug trafficking.

The current arrangement for the transition in Guinea-Bissau has not been accepted by key national stakeholders and still does not meet the requirements of legitimacy according to many international partners of the country. It is not conducive to stability and to a sustainable political solution as it excludes the main political force in Guinea-Bissau. The current transitional arrangement also calls into question the country's capacity to pursue efforts related to its most pressing peacebuilding priorities, such as security sector reform and the fight against impunity and transnational organized crime, in particular drug trafficking.

Mr. President,

The restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau should be brought about through dialogue and negotiations, with the participation of all political forces in the country. The United Nations, the African Union, ECOWAS, the CPLP and the European Union should seek convergence of views and mutually reinforce each other's actions in order to support such a process.

To this end, we should consider the holding of a high-level meeting on Guinea-Bissau, to be convened by the Secretary-General, with the aim of articulating a common strategy to bring a lasting and stable solution to the current crisis in Guinea-Bissau. This high-level meeting would need adequate preparation in order to achieve meaningful results. The Configuration is ready to contribute to such an initiative.

I thank you.