

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
5838th 15 February 2008		Letter from the representative of Eritrea concerning the relocation of UNMEE (S/2008/100)			S/PRST/2008/7
5883rd 30 April 2008	Special report of the Secretary-General on UNMEE (S/2008/226)				S/PRST/2008/12
5946th 30 July 2008	Special report of the Secretary-General on UNMEE (S/2008/226)	Draft resolution submitted by Belgium (S/2008/491)  Letter from the Secretary-General concerning future United Nations engagement in Ethiopia and Eritrea (S/2008/496)		1 Council member (Belgium)	Resolution 1827 (2008) 15-0-0

## 11. The situation in Guinea-Bissau

### Overview

During 2008 and 2009, the Security Council held 11 meetings in connection with the situation in Guinea-Bissau, adopting one resolution and four presidential statements. The Council focused on developments regarding peacebuilding, security sector reform, organized crime and drug trafficking, the assassinations of the President of Guinea-Bissau and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces as well as on the holding of legislative and presidential elections. The Council heard regular briefings by the Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau and Head of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS), the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, and the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

The Council extended the mandate of UNOGBIS for six months<sup>122</sup> and requested the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) to succeed it for an initial period of 12 months.

### 26 March 2008 to 5 November 2009: peacebuilding activities

On 26 March 2008, the Council heard a briefing by the Representative of the Secretary-General, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General.<sup>123</sup> He highlighted, inter alia, that the first quarter of 2008 had seen strong activity that illustrated the tangible progress made by the Government in engaging the international community. In particular, the arrival of missions from the Peacebuilding Commission and of

<sup>122</sup> Resolution 1876 (2009). For more information, see part X, sect. II, with regard to the mandate of UNOGBIS.

<sup>123</sup> S/2008/181.

teams of technical assistants from the European Union, particularly in connection with security sector reform, was creating expectations among the population of tangible peace dividends.<sup>124</sup> The Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Commission briefed the Council on the Commission's engagement with the country, explaining that the objective of the country-specific configuration's work was to assess the main challenges and priorities for peacebuilding, in close contact with the authorities, and launch a strategic framework to address the most critical peacebuilding issues. She said that the challenges in Guinea-Bissau included the areas identified by the Council, such as building governmental capacity, public sector and security sector reform, strengthening the rule of law and assisting the electoral process.<sup>125</sup>

The representative of Guinea-Bissau, while noting that substantial progress had been made to strengthen democracy, stressed his country's need for help from the international community to move ahead with reforms, including the reform of the security and public administration sectors, and assistance for his country's approach to human rights.<sup>126</sup>

On 15 October 2008, in a statement by the President, the Council noted with satisfaction the adoption of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau by the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission on 1 October 2008, noted the importance of rapid and effective implementation of quick-impact projects and looked forward to the establishment of the monitoring and tracking mechanism of the Strategic Framework.<sup>127</sup>

In a briefing to the Council on 23 June 2009, the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission emphasized that it was crucial to mitigate the serious socioeconomic problems and to ensure the adoption of a long-term development strategy for Guinea-Bissau. She called for an integrated approach by the international community to peacebuilding in the country, as the political and economic sides of the equation were mutually supportive, and said that political instability in Guinea-Bissau had shown the need for the country-specific configuration to redouble its efforts. Furthermore, a

round table on security sector reform in Cape Verde on 20 April 2009 had pointed to the need for a pension fund for the military. She said that the success of peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau required a stronger and more coherent United Nations presence on the ground.<sup>128</sup>

In her briefing to the Council on 5 November 2009, the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission re-emphasized the need to move forward the pension process and other components of security sector reform. In addition, the country needed assistance to build capacity in State institutions, to build a functioning State capable of addressing basic social needs, ensuring security and promoting human rights. She also reiterated the importance of a renewed and strengthened presence of the United Nations on the ground in the country.<sup>129</sup>

#### **25 June 2008 to 5 November 2009: threat of drug trafficking**

On 25 June 2008, the Council heard a briefing by the Executive Director of UNODC on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, who pointed out that on the agenda was not only a serious drug issue in one country, but also the acute threat that transnational organized crime posed to regional security in West Africa.<sup>130</sup>

The representative of Guinea-Bissau underscored that Guinea-Bissau, as a small country, was the weak link in the subregional chain to fight drug trafficking, which needed to be done rapidly and effectively so that drugs did not hinder his country's socioeconomic development.<sup>131</sup>

On 7 October 2008, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, in his briefing to the Council, noted that existing international efforts to help to strengthen the country's national capacity to fight drug traffickers, who had become a major threat to the country and its neighbours, were not sufficient. He pointed out that the Secretary-General, in his report,<sup>132</sup> had recommended that the Council consider establishing a panel of experts to study the problem.<sup>133</sup>

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<sup>124</sup> S/PV.5860, pp. 2-4.

<sup>125</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 5-6.

<sup>126</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 6-7.

<sup>127</sup> S/PRST/2008/37. For more information on the discussion regarding the Strategic Framework, see S/PV.5988.

<sup>128</sup> S/PV.6149, pp. 4-5.

<sup>129</sup> S/PV.6212, pp. 6-9.

<sup>130</sup> S/PV.5925, pp. 6-8.

<sup>131</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 10-11.

<sup>132</sup> S/2008/628.

<sup>133</sup> S/PV.5988, pp. 2-4.

Speakers reaffirmed their commitment to supporting peacebuilding efforts in Guinea-Bissau, particularly in view of political and security tensions and the increase in drug trafficking. While sharing their concern about the drug problem, Council members were divided over the idea of establishing a panel of experts, which would investigate the identities and activities of those involved in drug trafficking and organized crime in Guinea-Bissau.

On 15 October 2008, in a presidential statement, the Council stated that it remained seriously concerned by the continued growth in drug trafficking and called upon the international community to cooperate, in particular, in providing support for the capacity-building of national law enforcement and judicial authorities.<sup>134</sup>

On 9 April 2009, in a statement by the President, the Council expressed its serious concern about the growth in illegal drug trafficking as well as transnational organized crime in Guinea-Bissau and in the subregion. It commended the joint actions of UNODC, the Department of Political Affairs/United Nations Office for West Africa, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and INTERPOL to help to implement the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) plan of action against drug trafficking, and called upon the international community to continue to support the implementation of the Guinea-Bissau anti-narcotics operational plan, as well as of the ECOWAS plan of action.<sup>135</sup>

On 5 November 2009, the Council issued a statement by the President in which it, *inter alia*, urged the Government of Guinea-Bissau to take the necessary actions against drug trafficking and organized crime in West Africa.<sup>136</sup>

### **3 March to 5 November 2009: assassinations of the President and the Chief of Staff of the armed forces**

On 3 March 2009, in a statement by the President, the Council condemned in the strongest terms the assassinations of the President of Guinea-Bissau, Joao Bernardo Vieira, and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, Tagme Na Waie, on 1 and 2 March 2009 respectively. It called upon the Government of Guinea-

Bissau to bring to justice those responsible for these violent acts, and called upon the Government, the political leaders, the armed forces and the people of Guinea-Bissau to remain calm, exercise restraint, maintain stability and constitutional order and respect the rule of law and the democratic process. It also urged all parties to resolve their disputes through political and peaceful means within the framework of the democratic institutions and opposed any attempt to change the government through unconstitutional means.<sup>137</sup>

On 8 April 2009, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General introduced the report of the Secretary-General<sup>138</sup> and reported that the commission of inquiry into the double assassinations had started its work.<sup>139</sup> He stated that the Prosecutor General had expressed concerns about the lack of technical and material support and the lack of security for commission members and witnesses against threats and intimidation as well as the lack of cooperation from the military with regard to information exchange on the military inquiry. The Special Representative reported that a parallel inquiry had been set up by the military to investigate the assassination of General Tagme Na Waie and that the military commission had detained a number of military and civilians.<sup>140</sup>

The Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission pointed out that the assassinations and the latest developments, including episodes of violence and intimidation against well-known figures in Guinea-Bissau, among them the President of the Audit Court and the lawyer of a former Navy Chief of Staff, were a reminder of the fragility of Guinea-Bissau and the need for the international community to muster political and financial support for the country.<sup>141</sup>

In a statement by the President dated 5 November 2009, the Council called upon the Government of Guinea-Bissau to expedite the investigation into the political assassinations of March and June 2009.<sup>142</sup>

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<sup>137</sup> S/PRST/2009/2.

<sup>138</sup> S/2009/169.

<sup>139</sup> For more information on the international Commission of Inquiry for Guinea-Bissau, see part VI.

<sup>140</sup> S/PV.6103, pp. 2-5.

<sup>141</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 5-6.

<sup>142</sup> S/PRST/2009/29.

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<sup>134</sup> S/PRST/2008/37.

<sup>135</sup> S/PRST/2009/6.

<sup>136</sup> S/PRST/2009/29.

**15 October 2008 to 5 November 2009: holding  
of legislative and presidential elections**

On 15 October 2008, in a presidential statement, the Council welcomed the Government's commitment to hold legislative elections on 16 November and called on the Government and all actors, including political parties, the security forces and civil society, to ensure an environment conducive to transparent, free and fair elections, and to respect the results of the polls.<sup>143</sup>

The representative of Guinea-Bissau stressed that it was imperative that the people of Guinea-Bissau reconciled with one another and that the international community and the Security Council had a positive and immediate impact, stating that it was essential that the Council and the international community helped to create a favourable atmosphere for the forthcoming elections, to be held on 28 June 2009. He added that it was vital that the international community helped to initiate and complete the reform of his country's defence and security forces, as this was an element essential to peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau.<sup>144</sup>

On 9 April 2009, in a statement by the President, the Council welcomed the swearing-in as interim President of Guinea-Bissau of Raimundo Pereira, and urged the Government and all political actors to create the best conditions for the holding of free, fair, transparent and credible presidential elections, which were scheduled for 28 June 2009. The Council condemned recent cases of arbitrary detentions, armed attacks and intimidation, and demanded the full protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for the people of Guinea-Bissau. It urged the armed forces leadership to fully honour its commitment to abide by the civilian authorities and respect the constitutional order.<sup>145</sup>

On 5 November 2009, in a statement by the President, the Council, *inter alia*, welcomed the peaceful presidential elections of 28 June and 26 July 2009 and underlined the challenges faced by the Government of Guinea-Bissau, in particular to ensure that the security sector was effective, professional and accountable. In this regard, the Council emphasized the necessity of pursuing and implementing an effective

and comprehensive national strategy for security sector reform, to be supported by international partners.<sup>146</sup>

**23 and 26 June 2009: extension of UNOGBIS  
and authorization of UNIOGBIS**

On 23 June 2009, the Special Representative presented the report of the Secretary-General on political, security and electoral developments.<sup>147</sup> He touched upon the Secretary-General's proposals for the creation of an integrated peacebuilding office in Guinea-Bissau, which recognized the need to strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations presence in the country at a critical time of rampant poverty, political tension and instability. The proposed integrated office would support the efforts of the Guinea-Bissau authorities and would focus on the reform of the defence and security sectors, promotion of the rule of law and human rights, enhancing political dialogue and national reconciliation, and strengthening national institutions. It would also support the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and, in particular, coordinate the many security sector reform initiatives currently under way in the country, which was necessary to make a real difference in the reform of the security sector, a condition *sine qua non* for peace consolidation in the country.<sup>148</sup>

The Chair of the Guinea-Bissau Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission pointed out that a number of developments had affected peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau, in particular the assassinations of Baciro Dabó, a candidate in the presidential election, and Helder Proença, a Member of Parliament and former Minister of Defence. She concurred that successful peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau required a stronger and more coherent United Nations presence on the ground. That was why the recommendation concerning the transformation of UNOGBIS into an integrated office deserved support.<sup>149</sup>

On 26 June 2009, in resolution 1876 (2009), the Council decided to extend the mandate of UNOGBIS until 31 December 2009, and requested the Secretary-General to establish UNIOGBIS to succeed UNOGBIS, as recommended by him in his report,<sup>150</sup> for an initial period of 12 months, beginning on 1 January 2010.

<sup>143</sup> S/PRST/2008/37.

<sup>144</sup> S/PV.6103, pp. 6-8.

<sup>145</sup> S/PRST/2009/6.

<sup>146</sup> S/PRST/2009/29.

<sup>147</sup> S/2009/302.

<sup>148</sup> S/PV.6149, pp. 2-4.

<sup>149</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5.

<sup>150</sup> S/2009/302.

Meetings: the situation concerning Guinea-Bissau

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
5860th 26 March 2008	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNOGBIS in that country ( <a href="#">S/2008/181</a> )		<b>Rule 37</b> Guinea-Bissau  <b>Rule 39</b> Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOGBIS	All invitees	
5925th 25 June 2008	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNOGBIS in that country ( <a href="#">S/2008/395</a> )		<b>Rule 37</b> Guinea-Bissau  <b>Rule 39</b> Executive Director of UNODC and Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna, Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Representative of the Secretary-General	All invitees	
5988th 7 October 2008	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNOGBIS in that country ( <a href="#">S/2008/628</a> )		<b>Rule 37</b> Guinea-Bissau  <b>Rule 39</b> Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All Council members and all invitees	

**Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of  
the Security Council for the maintenance of  
international peace and security**

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
5995th 15 October 2008	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNOGBIS in that country (S/2008/628)		<b>Rule 37</b> Guinea-Bissau		<a href="#">S/PRST/2008/37</a>
6089th 3 March 2009					<a href="#">S/PRST/2009/2</a>
6103rd 8 April 2009	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNOGBIS in that country (S/2009/169)		<b>Rule 37</b> Guinea-Bissau  <b>Rule 39</b> Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Representative of the Secretary-General	All invitees	
6105th 9 April 2009	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNOGBIS in that country (S/2009/169)				<a href="#">S/PRST/2009/6</a>
6149th 23 June 2009	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNOGBIS in that country (S/2009/302)		<b>Rule 39</b> Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Representative of the Secretary-General	All invitees	

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<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6152nd 26 June 2009	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNOGBIS in that country (S/2009/302)	Draft resolution submitted by Burkina Faso (S/2009/327)			Resolution 1876 (2009) 15-0-0
6212th 5 November 2009	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNOGBIS in that country (S/2009/552)		<b>Rule 37</b> Guinea-Bissau  <b>Rule 39</b> Executive Director of UNODC and Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna, Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Representative of the Secretary-General, Acting Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations	All invitees	
6213th 5 November 2009	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNOGBIS in that country (S/2009/552)		<b>Rule 39</b> Representative of the Secretary-General		S/PRST/2009/29