6. The situation in Guinea-Bissau

During the period under review, the Security Council held three meetings and adopted one resolution in connection with the situation in Guinea-Bissau. One meeting was convened for the adoption of a decision, while two meetings took the form of briefings. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. In addition to these meetings, in 2020, Council members also held informal consultations of the whole to discuss the situation in Guinea Bissau.

In February 2020, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea Bissau (UNIOGBIS). She commended Guinea-Bissau for the completion of its electoral cycle despite the challenges facing the outcome of the presidential election. She also commended state institutions resorting to legal means to resolve political disputes in connection with the presidential election results, with no military interference and no major human rights violations. She noted that there was progress in the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime, referring to the national action plan on drug trafficking and transnational organized crime as a roadmap. She referred to the three-phase transition and drawdown of UNIOGBIS in line with resolution 2458 (2019) by 31 December 2020 and mentioned that with the conclusion of the electoral cycle, the Mission had shifted its efforts towards supporting a reform agenda, as envisioned in the Conakry Agreement and the Stability Pact.

At the same meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission. He congratulated Guinea-Bissau on the successful legislative and presidential elections in 2019, while acknowledging the legal challenges of the election results. He discussed the continued drawdown of the Mission, highlighting that the role of the United Nations would be to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach in support of nationally led efforts to take forward policies and programmes to address

143 For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.A.
144 See A/75/2, part II, chap. 15.
146 Ibid., pp. 5-6.
the root causes of instability and promote peace and development. He also stated that it would be important for the international community to continue to help the Government to strengthen democratic and inclusive institutions to assist in internal reforms, support the engagement of women and youth in peacebuilding and promote and protect human rights. He affirmed that the Peacebuilding Commission was prepared to assist UNIOGBIS and the Government of Guinea-Bissau by providing a platform for coherence and coordination among stakeholders, as well as for the promotion of shared analysis and understanding of the multidimensional peacebuilding challenges in the country. During the discussion, most Council members commended the progress achieved and many of them pledged their commitment to future initiatives, including support for the drawdown of UNIOGBIS.\textsuperscript{147} Most Council members cautioned about the risks posed by the lack of political stability which could lead to a deterioration of the security situation, as well as the issue of drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, which continued to pose a serious threat to the stability of the country. Council members also emphasized the importance of bilateral and multilateral partners in implementing the Conakry Agreement and the ECOWAS six-point road map.\textsuperscript{148} In light of the changing circumstances in the country and the drawdown of UNIOGBIS, some Council members also addressed the possible lifting or adjusting of the sanctions against Guinea-Bissau,\textsuperscript{149} while others supported the maintenance of the sanctions.\textsuperscript{150}

The issues outlined above were also addressed by the Council in a decision adopted on the situation in Guinea-Bissau. On 28 February 2020, the Council unanimously adopted resolution \textit{2512 (2020)}, extending the mandate of UNIOGBIS for 10 months, until 31 December 2020.\textsuperscript{151} In the resolution, the Council endorsed the reprioritization of tasks and reconfiguration of UNIOGBIS for its phased drawdown.\textsuperscript{152} The Council requested the Mission to continue to focus on supporting the full implementation of the Conakry Agreement and the ECOWAS

\textsuperscript{147} Ibid., Germany, France, Indonesia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, China, South Africa, Estonia and Viet Nam.
\textsuperscript{148} Ibid., Niger, France, China, South Africa, Viet Nam and United Kingdom.
\textsuperscript{149} Ibid., Russian Federation and Belgium.
\textsuperscript{150} Ibid., Niger.
\textsuperscript{151} Resolution \textit{2512 (2020)}, para. 1. For more information on the mandate of UNIOGBIS, see part X, sect. II.
\textsuperscript{152} Resolution \textit{2512 (2020)}, paras. 2(a), (b).
Roadmap and to facilitate an inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation process.\textsuperscript{153} The Council also requested the Secretary-General to start liquidation of UNIOGBIS immediately following the mandate completion date of 31 December 2020, once all substantive staff had left the Mission, and end the liquidation process no later than 28 February 2021.\textsuperscript{154} Pursuant to resolution \textit{2512 (2020)}, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Security Council within five months of the adoption of the resolution on the implementation of the resolution and the drawdown and transition of UNIOGBIS, as well as to the Committee established pursuant to resolution \textit{2048 (2012)} on the progress made regarding the stabilization of Guinea-Bissau and the restoration of constitutional order and giving recommendations on the sanctions regime, including, but not limited to, its continuation, adjustment or suspension.\textsuperscript{155} The Council also decided to review the sanctions measures established six months from the adoption of the resolution.\textsuperscript{156} Further to the vote on the resolution, certain Council members expressed differing views on the continuation of the sanctions concerning Guinea Bissau.\textsuperscript{157}

On 10 August 2020, the Council heard the second briefing by Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNIOGBIS.\textsuperscript{158} She reported that there had been increasing human rights abuses and political instability between the opposing political parties since her previous briefing. She addressed the particular fragility of Guinea-Bissau and the COVID-19 pandemic due to the country’s health infrastructure and limited resources while highlighting the existence of a national response plan to the pandemic, led by the Resident Coordinator, together with the World Health Organization, the World Bank and other United Nations agencies. She also stated that the phased closure for UNIOGBIS, including the transition and the reconfiguration of the United Nations presence were still proceeding. However, the political crisis and parliamentary paralysis that emerged following the presidential election prevented the Mission from supporting the urgent reforms outlined in the Conakry Agreement, including the

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{153} Ibid., para. 4(a).
\item \textsuperscript{154} Ibid., para. 8.
\item \textsuperscript{155} Ibid., para. 25. For further information on the sanctions measures concerning Guinea Bissau, see part VII, sect. III.
\item \textsuperscript{156} Resolution \textit{2512 (2020)}, para. 26.
\item \textsuperscript{157} See \textit{S/PV. 8736}, Niger and Russian Federation.
\item \textsuperscript{158} See \textit{S/PV. 8754}, pp. 3-6.
\end{itemize}

\textit{Repertoire website:} \url{http://www.un.org/en/securitycouncil/repertoire}
review of the Constitution, the electoral law and the law on political parties. She, therefore, stated that regretfully the mandate of UNIOGBIS was unlikely to be fully implemented before the Mission’s departure. She reiterated her plea to Council members for funding as essential to avoid “a financial cliff” and appealed to the Council and to the international community to generously support the Cooperation Framework. She also made reference to the tripartite coordination meetings between UNIOGBIS, ECOWAS and UNOWAS to accompany the transition process and added that the continued role of the Peacebuilding Commission in maintaining the international community’s attention on Guinea-Bissau would be of utmost importance following the departure of UNIOGBIS. The Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission also briefed the Council, noting that despite the progress, the challenges to stability and development had deepened with the arrival of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic during a year of three transitions — first, the drawdown of UNIOGBIS and transfer of tasks to the United Nations country team; secondly, the country’s transition to new political leadership, which had not been uneventful; and, thirdly, the closure of the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau. He affirmed that continued international engagement and sustained focus on the country’s peacebuilding priorities would be critical to ensuring economic recovery and sustainable development in Guinea-Bissau.159 The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) affirmed that urgently coordinated action based on shared responsibility was very much needed. Echoing the report of the Secretary-General,160 he stated that tackling transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking and trafficking in persons, was critical to building peace and working towards lasting political and economic stability in Guinea-Bissau.161 Most Council members agreed that the situation in Guinea-Bissau remained fragile, and some expressed concern over the political crisis,162 the violations of human rights,163 and the possible resurgence of drug trafficking and

159 Ibid.
161 See S/PV. 8754, pp. 6-7.
162 Ibid., Germany, Estonia, France, United Kingdom and Indonesia.
163 Ibid., Germany, Estonia, United States, Dominican Republic, Belgium and United Kingdom.
organized crime. Many Council members called for action towards stability and the implementation of the Conakry Agreement, the six-point ECOWAS road map and a revision of the Constitution. Some Council members questioned the need for the maintenance of sanctions measures, arguing that the situation in the country had changed since the coup d’état that took place in 2012, while others stated that the political and military personnel involvement in drug trafficking and organized crime needed to be followed up and borne in mind when discussing the future of the sanctions measures.

Meetings: The situation in Guinea-Bissau

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164 Ibid., Niger (also on behalf of South Africa, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Viet Nam, and Indonesia.
165 Ibid., Russian Federation, Germany, France, China, Belgium and Viet Nam.
166 Ibid., Russian Federation.
167 Ibid., Germany.
Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (S/2020/755)

Guinea-Bissau Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC), Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations on behalf of the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission

Twelve Council members\(^a\) all invitees\(^c\)

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\(^a\) Niger was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigerians Abroad of the Niger.

\(^b\) The representative of the Niger spoke also on behalf of South Africa, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

\(^c\) The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UNDOC participated in the meeting via video-teleconference from Bissau and Vienna, respectively.