



2 December, 2011

To : Members of the PBC – Guinea Configuration

**Informal meeting of the Guinea Specific Configuration of the
PBC, New York, 21 November 2011**

Chair's Summary

An informal meeting of the Guinea Configuration chaired by H.E. Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, Chair of the Guinea Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, was held on Monday, 21 November 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to hear briefings on the state of preparations for the legislative elections, on the Security Sector reform and on recent developments in the area of national reconciliation.

The Government of Guinea was represented by H.E. Ambassador Mamadi Touré, Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations. The meeting was attended by Mr. Saïd Djinnit, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa, UNOWA. Further briefings were provided by Ms. Angela Bargellini, Electoral/Political Desk Officer in DPA/Electoral Assistance Division, who reported on the Electoral Needs Assessment Mission conducted in Guinea from 10 to 18 July and on recent developments, and Mr. Ely Dieng, Senior Policy Advisor, Security Sector Reform Unit, Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, on his

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National Reconciliation and 2) Guiding the Process of National Reconciliation. Copies of these two documents were made available for members of the Configuration.

The process is articulated around five steps: 1) Prayer - role of faith; 2) Listening/nation-wide consultations; 3) Reflection and Analysis of results; 4) Recommendations for National Reconciliation; 5) Creating an institution / organ to guide and oversee the implementation of recommendations, the reconciliation process referred to in the Statement of Mutual Commitments.

The consultation process has started with the National Prayer that was organised on 28 September 2011, followed by an opening ceremony held at the Palais du Peuple in Conakry. The two booklets were distributed widely during that event. The time planned for the consultations is estimated at six months and the two Co-Presidents believe that, given the challenges of the consultations, this would be the minimum time required, as they have to work in several languages, with a majority of the population being illiterate, and with the time required to prepare the teams that will conduct the consultations on the local level.

The two religious leaders are working on establishing a framework and recruiting staff to help conduct the national consultations. It is expected that the President of the Republic will appoint the members of the Interim Commission.

The Imam and the Archbishop felt that it is important to safeguard the independence of the Commission; it would thus be preferable that the Commission receives financial support from the international community, rather than depending on the Government for resources. An initial request has been submitted to UNDP in Conakry to ask for support for the training of staff who will conduct national consultations at the regional, prefectural and local levels. The Chair of the Configuration suggested to coordinate the mobilisation of the international assistance to the work of the Interim Commission in view of the proposal submitted to UNDP.

The two Co-Presidents of the Interim Commission have also approached political parties to ensure they are involved in the process of national consultation (they had sent a letter to leaders of the political parties on 20 October, but hadn't received any answers yet by the time the Chair met them in Kigali).

Concluding remarks

In concluding the meeting, the Chair recalled that the first review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments adopted on 23 September as the instrument of engagement between the Government of Guinea and the PBC would come up in March 2012. For this purpose, the Chair suggested to plan a trip of a PBC delegation to Guinea in early 2012, which would be open to interested members of the Configuration.
