

Peacebuilding Commission
Informal meeting of the Guinea-Bissau Country Specific Configuration
12 May 2014

Chair's Summary

Background

On 12 May 2014, the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau Country Specific Configuration, H.E. Mr. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, held an informal meeting of the Configuration to discuss the electoral process in Guinea-Bissau, preparations for the post-election period including a possible donors' conference, and the upcoming renewal of UNIOGBIS' mandate by the Security Council. Mr. José Ramos-Horta, UNSG Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), briefed the Configuration via VTC. Assistant Secretary-General Judy Cheng-Hopkins of the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), also took part.

Elections in Guinea-Bissau

new had to be tabled. She added that GEAP was a good model for promoting transparency and efficiency in the budget. She expressed interest in seeing the details on GEAP, suggesting south-south cooperation might be useful for the programme.

Configuration to consider some key peacebuilding objectives, which still needed further consultation with legitimate authorities. The Chair also emphasized that the meetings in

Comments from Member States

Member States congratulated the people of Guinea-Bissau and UNIOGBIS on the successful outcome of the first round of voting on 13 April. The high voters' rate was a sign of commitment by the political actors towards the peace and stability of the country. Support from the electoral observers also played an important role.

Member States expressed their strong hope that the second round on 18 May would also conclude in a peaceful and transparent manner. It was a crucial moment for Guinea-Bissau now and the electoral campaign must be conducted in a civil manner, and the results must be respected by all political parties. Successful elections would open new windows of opportunities for Guinea-Bissau.

Member States underlined the need to continue paying close attention to the political situation in Guinea-Bissau. Restoration of constitutional order is key to the peace and stability of Guinea-Bissau which would lead to the country's economic growth. The PBC played an important role in this regard and would be a useful platform for resource mobilization. There was also support expressed for GEAP, in particular, for public administration. Close coordination among countries and organizations such as the AU, CPLP, ECOWAS, EU and UN should be maintained, and support to Guinea-Bissau should be overlapped.

Member States said that the donor's conference would be a useful way to discuss ways to promote dialogue and should be held soon after the new government was in place.

Member States underlined that it was crucial that the mandate of UNIOGBIS was renewed at this important period of time for Guinea-Bissau. The Chair's suggestion to PBC role in the mandate is important.

Member States overall supported the Chair's proposal to release a press statement and indicated they would send their comments on the text to PBSO by the given due date.

A Member State expressed support for the EU debate on lifting sanctions against Guinea-Bissau.

A Member State noted that the teacher strikes had been disrupting the school year in Guinea-Bissau; social peace was important for Guinea-Bissau.

Other areas of support for the new government which Member States recommended included: 1) the safety of the democratic authorities as domestic capacity was limited, 2) technical and financial support, 3) rule of law and the fight against impunity, 4) rebuilding capacity and institutions, 5) security and justice reform, 6) economic planning, 7) poverty eradication, 8) development work, 9) food security. Member States also indicated the need for renewed commitment by the new government for wide-ranging reforms and that the local realities must be taken into account.

Other points raised by Member States included 1) the need for full national ownership of the post-electoral transition process, 2) the need for the international community to call on all political parties to engage in dialogue, 3) ensure proper UN mandate where appropriate, 4) build and share best practices and lessons-learned.

The SRSG responded that UNIOGBIS was continuing its efforts for the success of the second round of votes. UNIOGBIS had been listening to all political parties including the military and anticipated that there would be no negative consequences after the second round of votes.

The SRSG pointed out that the installation of a new government was usually a difficult process. A wide range of consultations was ongoing with various stakeholders, and no major obstacles were expected in discussions to form the new government. The PRS was also engaged in dialogue to seek ways in which the party could also contribute to the new government. There was engagement by the military in the security sector reform process so that it would be carried out in an inclusive manner.

The SRSG emphasized that it was crucial that the international community deliver its support to Guinea-Bissau after the new government was installed as the new authorities would not find the financial resources they need. Salaries needed to be paid for public servants and food needed to be provided. The SRSG commended WFP for its efforts and expressed his hope that donor countries continue to assist WFP, in particular, for nutritional supplements for children. He also praised UNDP for providing equipment for the elections.

The SRSG also expressed his hope that by June or July the immediate necessities for the next six months are provided for Guinea-Bissau. At the same time, a strategy for the possible donor's conference in the fall would be prepared. He also underlined the important role of regional organizations in resource mobilization.

Conclusion

The Chair thanked all participants for attending the Configuration meeting and also to SRSG Ramos-Horta for his very informative briefing

