

## *Chair's Summary*

An informal meeting of the Guin3( G)2g rT.GC2Tm( )TjEMC bc8GTTtrrg of hed b H.EMCE m7( )bMC s0

members of the “Mouvance présidentielle” and five representatives of civil society. What then happened is that some of the representatives of the Opposition fell out with their party and the initial parity between political blocs dissolved. According to the law, once nominated, a member of the CENI can only be removed for “just cause” or resign voluntarily. A solution to the problem is therefore not easily found, in particular as it was the Opposition who insisted in the past on a political CENI while the Mouvance had argued for a technical CENI.

On the special delegations at the local level (which replace the municipal counsellors “ since the expiration of their mandate in 2010), the Opposition argues that they work closely with the Government with an aim to exercise an undue influence on the electoral process. The Opposition insists therefore that either the local elections take place before the presidential elections or that all representatives at the local level (in 342 cities – “ ”) are replaced. The Mouvance offered to replace 28 special delegations that have been nominated by decree. Those 28 are incidentally in the major cities of Guinea. This is however not enough for the Opposition, and the situation remains blocked. The SRSG as well as the UN representatives in Guinea (see below) remained however optimistic that the dialogue will continue, be it indirectly.

In conclusion, the SRSG stressed the importance of the international community remaining engaged in the process. In this context, he emphasized the relevance of the technical support provided by the OIF and of the announcement by the EU of substantive financial support for the elections.

The briefing by the SRSG was completed, via VTC from Conakry, by the Resident Coordinator a.i. Louis Marie Bouaka and the UNDP Country Director Eloi Kouadio, who provided additional information on the technical and logistical aspects of the upcoming elections. Following the Needs Assessment Mission (NAM), a “ ” had been elaborated, which covers the following three elements: support for the elections, civic education and communication and technical assistance. The budget amounts to 21.3 million USD. The draft document has been shared with financial partners in Conakry and the EU has already announced a contribution of 10 million € (subject to pre-financing by the UN).

The Permanent Representative of Guinea welcomed the ongoing dialogue. He regretted however that the Opposition did not initial the “ ” taking stock of initial agreements reached. He further noted that the calls from the Opposition to manifest after the end of Ramadan are harmful to the process. He underlined that the good faith of the Government was evident. The changes in the composition of the CENI requested by the Opposition were illegal as, once sworn in, the members of the CENI are supposed to be independent. He noted that every time the Opposition

priorities). All plans cover a period of 24 months. Guinea focuses on establishing infrastructures and building capacities that will allow the country to better respond to similar challenges in the future. The recovery strategy also includes elements of social cohesion. The Ambassador recalled that on 28 June the Heads of State and Government of the Mano River Union met in Conakry and strongly urged the partners to meet the commitments made earlier in Brussels and Washington to support the three worst affected countries in the post-Ebola recovery. The UNDP Country Director added the importance of strengthening the resilience of the three countries and expressed hope that the goal of zero cases will be reached soon if the current levels of vigilance are maintained.

3. The Chair of the Guinea Configuration noted that her recent visit to Guinea had shown that further efforts were needed in the area of SSR, in particular concerning the reform of the police; of the employment of the youth and the empowerment of women. In this context, lessons could be learned from the fight against Ebola.

The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, called on the Guinea Configuration and its members to remain actively engaged in support of SRSG Chambas's efforts, building on the good experience of the 2013 legislative elections, when the PBC played a supportive role to SRSG Djinnit's facilitation of the dialogue.

He provided a detailed update on the activities of the PBF in Guinea. Since 2008, the PBF has invested about 57 million USD in peacebuilding activities through three Priority Plans. This investment has contributed to diffuse tension and violence during the transition of 2009-2010, the presidential elections of 2010 and the legislative elections of 2013. Furthermore, PBF support has provided a critical contribution to the SSR process, notably the peaceful retirement of about 3.800 members of the armed forces, significantly reducing the risk of instability and interference in civilian affairs. More recently, the PBF has been quick and flexible in re-programming 1 million USD for Ebola response activities, focused on sensitisation and communication around conflict-prone areas such as \_\_\_\_\_, where Ebola is now eradicated.

PBSO has been asked to provide additional support to create an environment conducive to the conduct of the elections. This support is critical as Guinea is a non-Mission setting and requires special attention and support. Potential project ideas discussed at the last Steering Committee in Conakry include:

- Electoral Monitoring, including an expanded version of the “\_\_\_\_\_” in selected regions at risk; media support, community mediation,

The Assistant Secretary-General stressed however that in addition to PBF funding, significant funding is needed in support of the electoral basket fund that UNDP is currently setting up and called on all to contribute.

As there were no requests for the floor and no issues under any other business, the Chair concluded the meeting, thanking all for their participation and in particular SRSG Chambas, the Resident Coordinator a.i. Bouaka and the UNDP Country Director Kouadio.