

## **PBC Ambassadorial meeting on Guinea-Bissau**

**08 February 2019**

1. On 08 February 2019, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) held an Ambassadorial-level meeting on Guinea-Bissau. The meeting was chaired by **H.E. Mr. Mauro Vieira**, Chair of the Guinea-Bissau Configuration of the PBC. The purpose was to provide updates on the overall political situation, including on the legislative elections scheduled for 10 March 2019, the socio-economic situation and development-related priorities as well as challenges related to efforts to counter drug trafficking and organized crime.
2. In his introductory remarks, the Chair noted that Guinea-Bissau is at a critical moment, with the Security Council expected to renew the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) that expires on 28 February 2019. In this context, the Chair highlighted the importance of continued engagement by the PBC during the electoral cycle in 2019. The role of partnerships was highlighted, especially with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), whose engagement in the implementation of the Conakry Agreement and via the presence of the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB) is vital in support of the implementation of ongoing reforms and to addressing issues related to counter-narcotics. The Chair also highlighted the need to maintain the current electoral calendar, starting with the legislative elections on 10 March 2019 through the presidential elections later in the year. He strongly appealed to PBC members to explore opportunities to mobilize resources and foster economic development in Guinea-Bissau in response to the continued economic slowdown that has a \_\_\_\_\_, and which serves as a flashpoint for social unrest.
3. **Mr. Abdel-Fatau Musah**, Director for Western Africa Division, DPPA, noted that the electoral process was on track despite various challenges, with 730,000 voters registered by 25 January 2019. He described the publication of the provisional

opportunity to assess the situation on the ground and convey a clear message to Guinea-Bissau to bear responsibility for creating a conducive environment for peaceful elections.

4. **Ms. Awa Dabo**, Head of the Resilience Section in the Crisis Bureau of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), noted that while political stability is critical, the end goal must be sustainable development for the people of Guinea-Bissau. As indicated in the UNDP Human Development Report (2017), the past few years showed a drastic decrease in economic growth, living conditions and equal access to basic services, which has resulted in growing social tensions, including strikes by civil servants. She highlighted recent development

7. **Ms. Barrie Freeman**, Director and Deputy Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), noted that the meeting deliberations will inform the work of the PBC in Guinea-Bissau and the provision of strategic advice to the Security Council, which looks to the PBC as it shapes and adjusts its approach to the evolving situation in Guinea-Bissau, including the eventual reprioritization of tasks and reconfiguration of the UN presence in the country. She noted the advancement towards peaceful elections, including the development of an election Code of Conduct of conduct to ensure the peaceful participation of all registered candidates and their supporters.

in ensuring inclusivity in preparations for elections and reforms, as the Fund promoted an inclusive approach to the constitutional revision process and produced, in collaboration with the Bissau law faculty, an annotated version of the current Constitution that is more accessible to the public; supported the Organizing Commission of the National Conference to draft the Stability Pact and serve as a forum for citizen engagement in the reform process; and helped CSOs build a monitoring system to assess progress in implementing the reforms as noted in the Conakry Agreement. The Deputy Head also expressed regret that political parties have not fully respected the new Gender Parity Law, elections and hoped that the PBC would continue to advocate for implementation of the law and greater participation in politics, in furtherance of the Women, Peace and Security agenda and in support of the PBC gender strategy. The governance, including the , was also highlighted.

8. **Mr. Ernestino Jorge Mango**, Chargé d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Guinea Bissau to the UN, underscored that while the legislative polls are necessary to put an end to the current political crisis, sustainable development cannot be done without consolidating democratic institutions. He informed that on 11 February 2019, the National Assembly would convene a session for the signing of the Stability Pact and the Code of Conduct by forty-nine political parties, civil society representatives and religious leaders, to be presided by the President of Guinea-Bissau. platform to accompany the country through and beyond the election cycle towards stability, peace and development.

9. Member States welcomed the briefing(s) and raised the following points:

Commended the PBC meeting as timely and comprehensive, convened a week before the Security to the country on 15-16 February 2019. The Council visit to Guinea-Bissau was seen as an important opportunity to ensure the holding of upcoming legislative elections. The visit would also help the Security Council make well-informed decisions about the reconfiguration of UNIOGBIS. his visit

future visits of the Security Council to countries engaged with the PBC.

Strongly called on the national authorities and the population to ensure credible, peaceful and free legislative elections on the planned date of 10 March 2019, and the Presidential elections which will follow, both with respect for the Gender Parity Law. Some noted more support from the international community was necessary to ensure successful elections and appealed to the PBC to bring attention to resource and capacity 0009.58 Tmsourc000091912 0 612 792 reW\*nTm0 g0 G(B)8(i)5(ss)5(a)-1

Welcome to Guinea- Some delegations acknowledged that the PBC is the only platform in the UN that can look at issues from multi-dimensional perspectives.

Highlighted the importance of the regional approach and the need to further strengthen partnerships with regional and subregional organizations. In this respect, several delegations commended the eff