



SECURITY COUNCIL

BRIEFING ON THE UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED

Union to the United Nations, Tété António; and the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau, Ambassador João Soares da Gama.]

I also thank Assistant Secretary-General Tché-Brook Zerihoun for his briefing today. I take this opportunity to convey through him our appreciation for the excellent work carried out by the outgoing Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau, Mr. Joseph Mutaboba. I wish also to express our satisfaction at the nomination of Mr. José Ramos Horta as SRSG for Guinea-Bissau. His wisdom, experience and political stature are invaluable assets for the work of the United Nations on the ground at this critical juncture. We look forward to close cooperation with Mr. José Ramos Horta.

Mr. President,

Almost ten months on from the coup d'état of 12 April, Guinea-Bissau continues to face significant challenges, which need to be addressed in 2013. Although it is the primary responsibility of Guinea-Bissau's political leaders and people to demonstrate the will to overcome the current situation and to move towards a rapid and sustainable return to constitutional order, the country will continue to need the assistance of the United Nations.

the Peacebuilding Commission, in close coordination with Guinea-Bissau international partners, to further those goals. Holding free, fair and transparent presidential and legislative elections in a timely manner and promoting the necessary reforms to sustain stability and spur development are urgent tasks that will require international support.

National ownership and mutual accountability are key principles for any country's engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission. Unfortunately, the 12 April coup d'État in Bissau has affected the work the PBC was carrying out. The progress that had been made on several fronts was interrupted. The absence of consensual national counterparts with whom the Configuration could interact on a regular basis hampers the Commission work.

These difficulties notwithstanding, the Guinea-Bissau Configuration continues to follow closely the situation in the country. I have striven to facilitate dialogue among the main international partners, in particular ECOWAS and the CPLP, to enable concerted action in addressing the challenges in Guinea-Bissau. At the request of the Permanent Mission of Guinea-Bissau, a meeting of the Configuration took place on the margins of

the General Assembly, on 27 September, during which ~~the~~ President Raimundo Pereira and Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior briefed the Configuration on developments in Guinea-Bissau.

A further meeting of the Configuration is being planned for the second half of February in order to receive briefings ~~from~~ the UN-AU-ECOWAS-CPLP-EU joint assessment mission to Bissau in December 2012.

Mr. President,

The continued lack of civilian control over the military, drug trafficking, impunity, economic deterioration, and human rights violations are daunting challenges Guinea-Bissau currently faces. In the past few weeks, steps have been taken by the political parties to revise the Transitional Political Pact and the Political Agreement signed last May, and draft a new transitional regime n(189766(c)-5.1 Tm (-) Tj ET BT 13.8936 0 0 A)13.762(U)215(e)-5.1268s0976

January in Adis Ababa on the margins of the AU Summit to discuss the situation in Guinea-Bissau and the way forward. We hope such meetings will enable Guinea-Bissau's main international partners to get together on a common platform in order to help Guinea-Bissau move swiftly towards the restoration of constitutional order.

We sincerely hope that the recent dialogue among national stakeholders may lead to a more inclusive transitional arrangement. As it has been stated before, this arrangement should be inclusive and acceptable to all parties concerned in order to lead the country back to constitutional order, thus enabling the reengagement of international partners with Guinea-Bissau.

Finally, the appointment of Mr. José Ramos Horta as Special Representative of the Secretary-General augurs well and brings new impetus to our common efforts to help Guinea-Bissau overcome the current crisis. I had the chance to exchange views with Mr. Ramos Horta on the situation in Guinea-Bissau a few weeks ago. The Configuration looks forward to a productive cooperation and close interaction with him in the weeks and months to come.

Mr. President,