

Unofficial translation

**Initial Mission by the Chairperson of the Guinea Configuration of the
Peacebuilding Commission to the Republic of Guinea**

3 - 10 April 2011

Economic and Social Council, representatives of political parties, a wide range of non-state actors, as well as representatives of the international community and the UN system on the ground, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa. The annexed program of the mission provides details on the interlocutors I met during the course of the week.

3. I also went to Kindia, where I met local authorities and communities and the institutions that benefitted from the support of the Peacebuilding Fund, notably the “Special force for a safe electoral process” (FOSSEPEL), the Group which follows-up on the Code of conduct of the political parties, and rural radio stations, as well as the entities that implemented these projects.
4. I noted a clear will of the Government, of the other Guinean actors and of the international community to engage with the PBC. The different actors are ready to support the Government and to work in consultation with the Government. The Government is open to the PBC’s advice.
5. There was large consensus among my interlocutors that the three priority areas that the Government has identified - national reconciliation, the reform of the security sector and the employment of youth and women - are most relevant and urgent. My interlocutors unanimously indicated that although there had not been an open conflict in Guinea, the country was in a very fragile situation following the consecutive authoritarian regimes, the massive human rights violations, the interethnic tensions and the bad governance which had plagued Guinea over the past 58 years and which needed to be urgently addressed.
6. Interlocutors on the ground suggested that priority actions within the three areas be defined taking into account also other factors that can impact on peace and stability, such as the conduct of the electoral process, the expectations of the population or, on the contrary, the perception of being excluded. There should be an integrated approach, given the links between the three priority areas as well as their potential for mutual reinforcement.

National reconciliation

7. National reconciliation was identified as the “priority of priorities” by the majority of the Guinean stakeholders. Reconciliation needs to be multidimensional and aim at re-establishing, on the one hand, the relation between the people and the State/the armed forces and, on the other hand, among Guineans. Dialogue is a fundamental element of this process (« the Guineans need to talk to each other »), which in turn is a pre-condition for sustainable development in Guinea.
8. National reconciliation efforts need to go hand in hand with the fight against impunity if a durable peace is to be established in Guinea.

The Security Sector Reform

18. Among the three priority areas of engagement, it is in the process of reforming the security sector that the preparatory work seems most advanced on the basis of the evaluation of the security sector conducted last year by ECOWAS with the help of the African Union and the United Nations, the national seminar held from 28 to 31 March 2011, and the National Steering Committee on SSR that will be established shortly.
19. A meeting of donors is foreseen to examine funding needs and discuss opportunities and mechanisms to ensure and improve the consistency among various initiatives. I understand that the bilateral partners ar

26. The holding of the “Etats généraux de la Justice” at the same time than the National Seminar on SSR has emphasized the ties between the security sector and the justice sector even further. Both sectors were the topic of the assessment undertaken last year by ECOWAS and their intrinsic links were also pointed out many times during the seminar. It is hence widely accepted that the security sector reform goes hand in hand with that of the justice sector and that this joint process of reform will require the continued assistance of the international community.
27. The link between the SSR and youth employment, which is undeniable, still needs to be explored further. The ongoing efforts aiming at the reintegration of youth that had been associated with the army over the past years, which are financed by the peacebuilding fund, could inspire rehabilitation programs for the workforce originating from a reduction of the size of the army.
28. Some interlocutors have mentioned that the

feel abandoned, and on how to support the political, economic and social empowerment of women.

31. There are a number of initiatives and projects targeting the youth, but they seem to be conducted on an ad hoc basis and without a clear strategic approach. The youth employment sector is currently covered by a number of different ministerial departments.
32. The Government recognizes the need to create an environment of trust conducive to attracting investment, the private sector playing a key role in creating jobs for youth and women.
33. Many interlocutors underlined that the abundant natural resources in the agriculture and mining sectors make them potential key sectors for Guinea's economic growth, and thus also for youth employment. Policies in the area of youth employment and training should therefore take into account the labor market these two sectors can generate. Others suggested energy, transportation and housing as additional sectors within which can trigger large development projects and generate numerous jobs.
34. This will however require an education and vocational training system which is able to produce a skilled workforce. I understand that past education policies had focused rather on academic education. As a result the country counts many graduates who are unemployed while at the same time it lacks skilled workers, technicians and professionals who are needed in main economic growth sectors such as mining and agriculture. The ministers dealing with the issue of youth education underscored the urgent need to review the education and training system in order to adapt it to the needs of the labor market. More emphasis should be put on vocational training, by developing training curricula, rehabilitating technical schools and technical vocational training centers, and by developing non-formal education programs in order to provide opportunities for youth unable to pursue formal education.
35. It is also important to develop training and employment opportunities in rural areas as a way to limit the rural exodus and the concentration of unemployed and disillusioned youth in urban centers. Similarly, some interlocutors suggested the development of training and employment program

and discuss the most appropriate content of training programs. In case large mining companies are unable to find skilled labor in Guinea, they will most likely recruit from other countries in the sub-region, which could carry risks of social tensions. Dialogue with the mining companies could be launched in the context of the ongoing revision of the mining code, to raise awareness of their potential contribution to peacebuilding, including through social responsibility practices.

(b) labor intensive public works programs that could occupy the youth in the short term already, in the context of urgent reconstruction, rehabilitation and sanitation activities.

(c) conducting a labor market survey in key economic sectors in order to better adapt the vocational training programs to the labor market needs.



**PBC Chair's visit to Guinea
03 – 10 April 2011**

FINAL PROGRAM

Objectives of the visit:

- (a) To familiarize with the political, social and economic situation in Guinea and get acquainted with recent developments.
- (b) To initiate dialogue with the Government of Guinea and exchange views on the nature of the engagement between the PBC and Guinea.
- (c) To initiate dialogue with the UN and other key peacebuilding stakeholders, including member states, regional and sub-regional organizations on the ground, and exchange views on the PBC engagement around the peacebuilding priorities identified by the Government.
- (d) To initiate dialogue with other national stakeholders including political parties, civil society, women organizations, local NGOs, human rights organizations.

Sunday 03 APRIL 2011

- Arrival and check-in - *Novotel*

Monday 04 APRIL 2011

- 09.00-10.00 Meeting with the UN country team - *UN House*
- 10.15-11.00 Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad - *Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad*
- 11.15-12.00 Meeting with the Prime Minister - *Prime Minister's Office*
- 12.15-13.00 Meeting with the Minister of International Cooperation, *Ministry of International Cooperation*
- 13.00-14.30 Lunch with the Coordinator of the expert team on the Security Sector Reform in Guinea, United Nations – General Lamine Cisse - *Novotel*
- 15.00-15.45 Meeting with the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization - *Ministry of Territorial Administration and Political Affairs*
- 16.00-16.45 Meeting with the Minister of State in charge of Social Affairs, the Promotion of Women and Youth and her Deputy Minister - *Ministry for*

- 17.00-17.45 Meeting with the Minister of Pre-University Education and Civic Education - *Ministry of Pre-University Education and Civic Education*

Tuesday 05 APRIL 2011

- 08.30-10.00 Meeting with the Diplomatic Community and International Organizations – *UN House*
- 10:15-11:00 Meeting with the Business Confederation of Guinea – *UN House*
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- Civil and Military Committee and presentation of the activities of the Special Force for a safe electoral process (FOSSEPEL)
- Executive Board monitoring the code of conduct of political parties
- Rural radios (Search for Common Ground)

Friday 08 APRIL 2011

- 09.00-10.00 Meeting with the National Transitional Council (CNT) and the Economic and Social Council (CES) - *National Transitional Council*
- 10.15-11.00 Meeting with the Minister of State, Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic of Guinea - *Petit Palais*
- 11.15-12.00 Meeting with the four main trade union organizations of Guinea (Centrale Nationale des Travailleurs de Guinée-CNTG ; Union Syndicale des Travailleurs de Guinée-USTG ; Organisation Nationale des Syndicats Libres de Guinée - ONSLG ; Union Démocratique des Travailleurs de Guinée – UDTG) - *UN House*
- 12.15-13.00 Meeting with the Deputy Minister of National Defense - *Camp Samory Toure*
- 13.15-14.00 Meeting with the Minister of Youth and the Promotion of Youth Employment - *Ministry of Youth and the Promotion of Youth Employment*
- 14.15-15.00 Meeting with the Minister of Planning - *Ministry of Planning*
- 15.15-16.00 Meeting with the Minister of Justice - *Ministry of Justice*
- 16.15-17.00 Debriefing with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad - *Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad*
- 17.15-18.00 Meeting with the Networks of Guinean Journalists - *Common House*
- 18.00-18.45 Press Conference - *Common House*

Saturday 09 APRIL 2011

- 12.00-13.00 Debriefing with the Resident Coordinator – *Novotel*

Sunday 10 APRIL 2011

- Departure of the mission