

Security Council - The situation in Guinea-Bissau

Statement by the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission

H. E. Ambassador Mauro Vieira, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

16 May, 2018

Mr. President,

I would like to thank you for the invitation to address the Security Council in my capacity as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).

Before starting, I would also like to welcome the appointment of Mr. José Viegas Filho of Brazil, as the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS).

Mr. Viegas has more than four decades of experience in public service and in diplomacy and the PBC looks forward to closely working with him.

I would also like to thank former SRSG Modibo Touré for his close collaboration with the PBC and PBSO during his tenure in Guinea-Bissau.

Mr. President,

Since my last briefing to the Security Council, on February 14, there have been positive developments in Guinea-Bissau. I will not dwell long on these points, especially after the excellent briefing we received today from the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Tayé-Brook Zerihoun.

As we have heard, President José Mário Vaz appointed Aristides Gomes as the new consensual Prime Minister and confirmed that legislative elections will be held on November 18. Members of the new Government were sworn in on April 26.

After almost three years of a political impasse, an extraordinary plenary session of the parliament was convened on April 19, when the National People's Assembly elected a new leadership for the N t o

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Let me also add that, on May 3, the president of the organizing committee of the National Conference for Guinea-Bissau Peace Consolidation and Development, Father Domingos da Fonseca, delivered to President José Mário Vaz the

Last Monday, on May 14, I convened a meeting of the Guinea-Bissau Configuration of the PBC to discuss the situation in the country.

On that occasion, we received briefings from Mr. David McLachlan-Karr, the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (DSRSG) in Guinea-Bissau; Mr. Tanou Koné, Permanent Observer of ECOWAS; of Ambassador Anatolio Ndong Mba, Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea and Chair of the Security Council Committee concerning Guinea-Bissau; Ambassador Fernando Delfim da Silva of Guinea-Bissau; and Ms. Barrie Freeman updated us on the most recent work of PBSO.

During that very positive meeting, participants expressed support for developments in the country, including the fact that the constitutional framework for free and fair elections would be respected. Members also underlined the engagement of ECOWAS and recognized the effective, preventive and deterrent role of ECOMIB, as well as the importance of ensuring its continuity until the necessary conditions for its withdrawal are fully met, at least until the 2019 presidential elections.

The PBC therefore would like to congratulate the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the political actors for the constructive spirit which allowed for the consensus appointment of Prime Minister

Aristides Gomes and his cabinet and for the establishment of a date for the legislative elections this year.

stakeholders, including the civil society. This is also where the added value of the PBC comes into play.

Mr. President,

With regard to the electoral process, important challenges ahead include, among others, the financing of the election and the update of the voter's registration list.

The existing financial challenges must be surmounted, in order to allow for the timely preparations of the elections.

A project for the support of the elections has been signed between UNDP and the Government of Guinea-Bissau. The total budget of USD 7.7 million covers technical preparations for cartography, an update of voter registration, and the practical administration of the elections. It is important to underline that the gJTJET@TJ252(ipp)-Q4792 r eu4

Therefore, I once again would like to call for the support of the international community for bridging the existing financial gap for this process.

I would also like to reiterate to the Council my intention to visit Guinea-Bissau in the coming months, probably in July, to consult with a broad range of stakeholders on how the PBC can further support peacebuilding efforts in the country, especially the upcoming elections. The exact date of this visit will be scheduled in consultation with the local authorities.

This visit will allow me to witness first-hand the on-going preparations for the legislative election. On my return, I intend to

be made to encourage the international community to demonstrate renewed confidence in Guinea-Bissau now that the political impasse has been addressed.

Finally, I would like to remind you that Brazil is currently the Chair of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP). As was done in the last times I briel0hfd61eWu25Tm0 g0 G[)JTJET@0.00000912 0 6136