



29 June, 2011

To : Members of the PBC – Guinea Configuration

**Informal meeting of the Guinea Specific Configuration of the PBC
on the Security Sector Reform, New York, 13 June 2011**

Chair's Summary

On Monday, 13 June 2011, from 10.00 am to 1.00 p.m., a meeting of the Guinea Configuration on the Security Sector Reform process in Guinea was held. The Government of Guinea was represented by Dr. Maramany Cissé, Deputy Minister of Security in charge of the Security Sector Reform. Other panellists included General Georges Chedid Sy, member of the National Steering Committee on SSR; Mr Anthony Ohemeng-Boamah, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system in Guinea, and General Lamine Cissé who led the joint ECOWAS – African Union – UN evaluation mission in Guinea in 2010, and is currently advising the SSR process. A video link was created with bilateral and multilateral actors involved in SSR in Conakry.

The purpose of the meeting was to enable representatives of Guinea and of the UN system to debrief members of the Configuration on the status of the SSR process in Guinea, provide members of the Configuration with an opportunity to further engage with the SSR process, share information on their current and future involvement with the SSR process. The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss the challenges ahead and possible entry points for PBC engagement and PBF support.

In her opening remarks, the Chair, H.E. Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, suggested the meeting to explore the two potential priority areas for PBC and UN support, i.e. the issues related to architecture of the SSR, including a national SSR strategy for sustainable development of security institutions, as well as governance and civilian oversight of the security sector.

Minister Cissé made introductory remarks in which he highlighted the key steps taken by the Government in leading the SSR process. He mentioned the evaluation conducted in 2010, the national seminar that followed in March 2011, and the establishment of the SSR Steering Committee. He assured members of the Guinea Configuration of the political will of the Government to undertake a thorough reform of the security sector and to use the support of the International Community in providing quality security services to the population and in building security institutions respectful of human rights.

General Sy then presented the national vision of the SSR in Guinea and the process so far.

General Sy provided a comprehensive update on the SSR process in Guinea (the statement of General Sy is attached to the present summary for easy reference). From the outset, he recalled the overall context of the SSR and some key principles and goals of the SSR process in Guinea. The SSR is being initiated in the context of a restored democracy, with a vision of a multi-ethnic society, the respect for human rights and the rule of law. The main principles underpinning the SSR process are a justice system that is accessible to the population, civilian oversight, and an army that can participate to the development of the country and to peacekeeping operations in the region.

He then reported on the work done so far, highlighting the establishment of the evaluation report, (which remained however largely unimplemented during the transition period), the commitment of the new President to SSR as one of his main priorities, the establishment of the Technical Committee that organised the National Seminar of March 2011, the steps taken to implement the recommendations of the National Seminar, including the establishment of the Steering Committee, the creation of the “Service Civique d’Action pour le Développement, SCAD”, and the different decrees adopted in support of the SSR process.

General Sy then proceeded to describe the opportunities and challenges related to the SSR in Guinea with a particular focus on the levels of qualification of the chain of command within the defence forces, the structure and human resources management, the relocation of soldiers until recently stationed in Conakry to the countryside, the role of the gendarmerie, the police and civilian protection, the customs, justice, the environment, and the civilian control of the defence and security forces.

Challenges include resource mobilisation, transparency in resource management, the establishment of the legal framework for the reformed security sector, support to the newly established Steering Committee and regional cooperation on issues of common concern such as transnational crime and small arms and light weapons trafficking. Guinea is most interested in experiences in SSR of countries in the region, e.g. Sierra Leone or Liberia, who sent representatives to the National Seminar in March 2011.

General Sy outlined the next steps which include completion and release of the report of the National Seminar on the SSR; operationalization of the National Steering Committee including the establishment of related technical committees; completion of the key documents and tools supporting the reform; development of a communication strategy; finalization of sectorial action plans and their respective budgets; development of a monitoring and

evaluation mechanism; finalization of the national defence policy; conduct of a biometric census of the security forces, and establishment of a downsizing plan.

Finally, General Sy proposed some entry points for the PBC and UN support: 1) support to the conduct of the census of the armed forces, 2) support for the relocation and housing of soldiers outside of Conakry and in other cities through a new map of settlement, 3) accompaniment of the Steering Committee, 4) resource mobilisation, and 5) strong coordination of partners. (See full presentation in Annexe I.)

General Lamine Cissé provided some more background concerning the evaluation exercise. He praised the Transitional Government for its political will to conduct this evaluation and for opening up the political will to have an evaluation owned by the people of Guinea: the evaluation had been conducted with the participation of all key actors in Guinea, including representatives of civil society on how Guineans perceive security in the country and how they wish to transform it. The report was presented to the then Transitional Government on 4 May 2010 but its implementation was delayed because of the presidential elections. As important next steps, he highlighted the development of the SSR road map, annexed to the report of the National Seminar, and getting the various technical sectorial committees up and working. He also insisted on the importance of ensuring that justice is an integral component of the SSR process.

The Resident Coordinator, Mr. Ohemeng-Boamah, presented the UN perspective and coordination efforts undertaken. He noted that the UN and Members States have accompanied the SSR process throughout the transition and afterwards, in support of the new Government's efforts. He stressed that the UN support to SSR goes beyond rightsizing the army; it includes the legal architecture, the institutional structures/set-up, the governance, the institutional reform, the civilian control and oversight as well as providing experience from SSR processes conducted in other countries. It is important to identify the technical support needed in these areas of SSR and provide the right expertise.

A key role of the UN will be to ensure proper support to the Steering Committee and to help mobilise partners' support. He noted that France, Spain, the USA and the EU have been involved in early phases of the reform. ECOWAS has also a key role to play and its assistance can be instrumental as regards sharing experience from countries of the region. The goal of the SSR is to ensure that by 2015, Guinea has a modern and republican army, an effective police and a functioning judiciary system. In concluding, the Resident Coordinator suggested next steps for the involvement of the PBC: 1) provide shelter facilities such as tents in support of the rapid relocation of military personnel; 2) support to the census of military personnel as a basis

for reform; 3) technical expertise to support the different technical committees; 4) expertise in communication; 5) provide advice for the broader aspects of the SSR such as the institutional reform.

Member States then took the floor to provide information on their contributions in the security sector reform in Guinea. Both Turkey and China committed to initiate the discussion with their capitals on the opportunities and possible SSR areas of support by their Governments. Brazil suggested sharing expertise on the SSR and discussing a sub-regional approach such as is the case with the three other PBC configurations in West-Africa on the issue of drug trafficking. Spain informed about an ECOWAS led project that started in 2008 on police training to which it provides US\$ 250 million. The Spanish Interior Minister also sent equipment and Spain stands ready to provide training in Spain. It also worked with the World Bank on a project that includes support to agriculture which could provide an option for the reintegration of demobilized army personnel

The EU representative insisted that Guinean authorities should be in the lead of the reform effort and that the international community should support them. The SSR should be broad and include the fight against impunity and for national reconciliation. Following the evaluation report, the EU reinforced its Delegation in Conakry with an expert on judiciary issues and is now awaiting the report of the National Seminar and the roadmap in order to decide on further steps. In the meantime the EU will consider supporting “quick wins”, visible acts which are not compromising the broader SSR strategy that is still being developed. These include support for the conduct of the biometric census, the establishment of multidisciplinary teams in support of the technical committees, support to the relocation of security forces (tents etc.), creation of decent retirement conditions for the security forces who have reached the age of retirement, supervision of those militia that cannot be integrated into the security forces and need new perspectives in the civilian sector, the integration of the security sector budget into the State’s budgetary cycle Finally the EU representative stressed that the success of the SSR would depend on progress in other peacebuilding areas and insisted that the legislative elections should take place before the end of the year.

The French representative described France’s engagement with Guinea in the area of SSR. Immediate actions that are already financed and have been initiated include training, evaluation and equipment. Long term actions include the establishment of a Service of Civic action and Development (SCAD and the creation of a Police Academy. France suggested clear entry points for the PBC’s intervention in Guinea, namely establishing civilian oversight of the security sector, promoting the demilitarisation of the Guinean administration, re-establishing the police’s role in law enforcement, reinforcing the Force in charge of the security of the electoral process

(FOSSEPEL) in view of the upcoming legislative elections, and ensuring the coherence and coordination of initiatives by the international community in the area of SSR. A more urgent attention should be given to the biometric census, the retirement of military personnel under decent conditions, and the reinsertion of militias and any surplus forces that will result from a downsizing of the security forces, into the civilian life according to the national security strategy.

The representative of Sierra Leone highlighted the common challenges that his country shares with Guinea, namely youth unemployment and trans-national crime, which go hand in hand with the need for judicial reform and require a regional respectively a sub-regional approach. The representative of Nigeria expressed his government's willingness to support Guinea in the area of SSR and advised Guineans to set priorities and develop actionable strategies. Canada welcomed the efforts made on SSR in Guinea and pointed to the great potential for regional cooperation on these issues.

The Chair of the Guinea configuration concluded the discussion by thanking all participants for their input, noting that the discussions had again illustrated the importance of taking a holistic approach to security sector reform, as the links with other peacebuilding priorities such as reconciliation or youth employment are obvious. She noted a clear need for coordination of on-going initiatives on the ground, for which relevant capacities within the UN system in Guinea are crucial. The PBC has a clear role to play to foster this coordination. Ambassador Lucas highlighted the scope for a regional approach and exchanges with regional partners to share information and experience. She appealed to the authorities to finalize the National Seminar report and the action plan urgently, as all assistance to SSR in Guinea will be based on this plan. In the meantime, some quick win actions could be supported by the international community, and possibly the Peacebuilding Fund, in particular support to the biometric census of the armed forces and the relocation, possibly in tents, of the military personnel outside of Conakry.

Before concluding the meeting, Ambassador Lucas informed the members briefly about her visit to Washington the previous week during which she met with representatives of the World Bank and the IMF. While the World Bank has limited possibilities to intervene in SSR in Guinea, it is very engaged for example in the field of youth employment. The representatives of the IMF informed about the staff-monitored programme they were preparing for Guinea as a first step to build a track record of reform implementation towards the HIPC completion point. Both the Bank and the Fund were confident that Guinea could reach the completion point in the second semester of 2012 if reforms progressed.

The Chair furthermore informed members of the configuration that she was

planning a country specific meeting on 6 July with a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa, Mr. Djinnit.

Finally the Chair announced the nomination by the Government of Guinea of focal points for the PBC, namely H.E. Mr. Louceny Fall, Minister of State, Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic, and Ambassador Diallo, Political Adviser of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad.
