<u>Statement of the Peacebuilding Commission Guinea-Bissau Configuration</u> <u>on the situation in Guinea-Bissau</u>

<u>New York – 11 December 2017</u> -- The Peacebuilding Guinea-Bissau Configuration (PBC) met on 6 December 2017 to discuss the situation in Guinea-Bissau, including the legislative elections scheduled for next year, and exchanged views on the on-going political crisis. It also heard a briefing on the new projects for the country, which have been submitted to the Peacebuilding Fund.

The Guinea-Bissau Configuration reiterates its full support for the Bissau Six Point Roadmap and Conakry Agreement, as the framework for the resolution of the crisis.

The PBC calls upon the authorities of Guinea-Bissau and key political actors to demonstrate leadership and determination by engaging in actions that will lead to the swift and effective implementations of the Bissau and Conakry Agreements reached in the ECOWAS-led mediation process.

The PBC welcomes the ECOWAS ministerial high-level mission to Guinea-Bissau on 1-3 December and the Final Communiqué issued on 3 December 2017. The Guinea-Bissau Configuration recognizes the effective, preventive and deterrent role of the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB). The PBC looks forward to the outcome of the ECOWAS Summit, which will be held in Abuja on 16 December.

The PBC stresses the importance of holding free and fair elections in accordance with the Constitution of Guinea-Bissau, and calls upon the support of the international community for this process.

The PBC calls on political actors to show restraint and moderation and invites them to express their views and disagreements peacefully. The Peacebuilding Commission also urges the parties to respect public freedom, including the right to demonstrate peacefully.

The PBC commends the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Modibo Touré for using his good offices in support of all efforts to ensure an enabling political environment.
