

SECURITY COUNCIL

THE SITUATION IN GUINEA-BISSAU

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR OF THE GUINEA-BISSAU CONFIGURATION OF THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

H. E. Ambassador Mauro Viera

Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

14 February 2017

Mr. President,

I would like to start by thanking you for the invitation extended to me in my capacity as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). As you are aware, Brazil is currently Chair and a Member-State of the Portuguese-Speaking Countries Community (CPLP), an organization that follows closely the situation in Guinea-Bissau. It is our firm belief that increasing synergies and complementarities among the relevant international partners will be beneficial for an effective peacebuilding endeavour in Guinea Bissau.

I take this opportunity to welcome the Secretary-General for his report on developments in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of UNIOGBIS. I also welcome the briefing made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNIOGBIS, Mr. Modibo Touré, on the situation on ground, and wish to commend his good offices in the search for a solution to the political impasse in Guinea Bissau.

Mr. President,

Since the last time the Security Council deliberated on Guinea Bissau, in August 2016, there has been a major positive development: the adoption of the Six Point Agreement and the Conakry Agreement which were endorsed at the 50th AU Conference of Heads of State and Government. There should be no hesitations regarding the implementation of such landmark agreements. In this regard, I wish to commend the engagement of regional actors with Guinea-Bissau with a view to providing a roadmap to achieve political stability. The international community must stay united in supporting the mediation efforts of ECOWAS and in reaffirming that the Conakry Agreement is the only framework for a peaceful resolution of the political and institutional instability in Guinea-Bissau.

The international community must also remain united in providing all support needed for the full and effective implementation of this agreement in close coordination with the authorities of Guinea-Bissau. We welcome, in this regard, the contribution of the Peacebuilding Fund to the ECOWAS-led mediation efforts in September and October. We have to continue identifying concrete measures which can be taken to further facilitate the full implementation of the Six Point road map and the Conakry Agreement. Key actors involved in the stabilization process of Guinea-Bissau (AU, ECOWAS, CPLP, EU and the UN) will have an important role to play. In this regard, I welcome the declaration on the political situation in Guinea-Bissau adopted by the CPLP's Heads of State and Government, at the 11th Summit, in Brasilia. We consider reconvening the International Contact Group. I also plan to visit Guinea-Bissau.

Political will, constructive and consensual dialogue coupled with courageous leadership, as we know Bissau-Guineans are capable of, are needed now more than ever. It is important to highlight that a solution to the current institutional and political situation is in the hands of the Bissau-Guineans themselves.

In 2014 the development of the Terra Ranka programme for the sustainable development of the country marked a high point which provided hope for all citizens of Guinea Bissau. In March 2015, the international community responded positively to the efforts of the Government with strong pledges of support at a donor conference to fund this national peacebuilding programme. We encourage Bissau-Guinean national stakeholders to commit to re-establishing momentum for progress in the areas outlined in the Terra Ranka development programme and invite partners to fulfil their pledges made there. (UNSC language based - SC/12259)

Mr President,

I also would like to take this opportunity to express the Configuration support for the proposed measures recommended with a view to enhance UNIOGBIS operational posture. We welcome that the General Assembly strengthened UNIOGBIS by establishing a position of Political Affairs Officer to improve coordination with UNODC on drug trafficking and another position of Rule of Law Officer. An effective and well integrated presence of the United Nations on the ground is essential to coordinate international initiatives and support national actors in their efforts for stability and development.

We note the recommendation of the strategic review mission deployed to Guinea-Bissau from 4 to 14 December, led by the

Department of Political Affairs, which mentions an exit strategy for the mission. We also acknowledge the challenges posed by transnational organized crime and other emerging threats, as well as the risks posed by the security challenges in the West African sub-region, as underscored by the Secretary-General in his report.

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace are a long-term engagement and a commitment to prevention. As per the 2016 Peacebuilding Architecture Review, the enhanced UN engagement with peacebuilding should aim also at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing its root causes, ensuring national reconciliation and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development. The UN and relevant international partners should remain engaged in their support of Guinea Bissau's peacebuilding efforts to build a common vision of a society and ensure that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account.

Let me reassure you, Mr. President, that the Commission is committed to continuing its assistance towards national reconciliation, recovery and development of Guinea-Bissau. Tomorrow, we will hold a meeting of the PBC country specific configuration to review the outcome of the deliberations of the current meeting of the Security Council and to elaborate on concrete initiatives to support progress in Guinea-Bissau, in close consultation with ECOWAS and UNIOGBIS and the relevant international partners within the "Guinea Bissau P5".

Mr. President,

I would like to reiterate the support of the Configuration to the National Conference and its programme for the consolidation of

national peace (Caminhos para a Consolidação da Paz Nacional). In addition, I commend UNIOGBIS for the support it provided for the Organizing Commission for the National Conference with resources provided by the Peacebuilding Fund. The aim of this dialogue is to provide a platform that will give a voice to all stakeholders on key issues of development and reconciliation.

This inclusive dialogue can be a positive element in a broader process to develop the long-term peacebuilding policies that the country requires. The PBC country configuration could assist these and other efforts. The upcoming legislative and presidential elections scheduled for 2018 and 2019, respectively, will require a consistent preparatory process and the full engagement of all stakeholders. We must also examine possible actions to support security sector reform and institution building. In this context, special attention should be given to the empowerment of youth and women. The Configuration will continue to accompany the implementation of the current Peacebuilding Priority Plan of the PBF in Guinea-Bissau, which already encompasses these priority areas.

Mr. President,

I wish to note with appreciation that the overall security situation in Guinea Bissau remained stable. We should also highlight the position of the Armed Forces. The PBC acknowledges the relevant role of ECOMIB.

Mr. President,

Local authorities need to put the best interest of the nation above all other considerations. The message that we bring today is simple: all parties must swiftly agree on concrete steps that will enable the implementation of the Six Point road map and the Conakry Agreement. I have full confidence that the political actors of Guinea-Bissau will demonstrate the needed leadership and determination to work together and build a true consensus in support of the aspirations of their people and the nation.

Thank you Mr. President.