

**Summary of the visit to Guinea Bissau by H.E. Mr. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota,
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission Guinea Bissau Configuration;**

***Addendum: Summary of the Secretary-General Advisory Group of the Peacebuilding
Fund Meeting on Guinea Bissau (29 March 2015).***

19-21 April 2015

The Chair of the Guinea-

The main outcomes of the visit could be described under two sub-themes: (1) the ongoing political dynamics and (2) the socio-economic perspectives.

1. Political dynamics:

Despite known factors of remaining institutional fragility, a general sense of opportunity and optimism to overcome differences of the past is felt across the wide spectrum of interlocutors met. The need to consolidate the recent gains by swiftly implementing the government's road map and address the root causes of past conflicts was expressed by all interlocutors.

extended beyond its current mandate expiration in June 2015. Many people believe that it continues to play an essential role of deterrence and assurance to the authorities. The financial implications of its permanence and the regional support required for its functioning is a matter for which the PBC was requested to provide its support.

Fostering national reconciliation efforts was another issue discussed with several interlocutors. In this sense, the Chair was requested to mobilize the PBC to support the holding of a National Reconciliation Conference and a Colloquium on democracy in Guinea Bissau. Both events are being planned at the moment. The Chair was encouraged by the fact that holding these events demonstrate a healthy sign of introspective societal reflexion. This can in turn help the national healing process and raise the confidence of political actors about the country's commitment to advance along the democratic path.

2. Socio-economic perspectives:

In order to achieve socio-economic progress, overcoming chronic underperformance of national institutions to enable the delivery of social services, capacity building and inter-institutional coordination and coherence is required. Guinea Bissau possesses important resources to see significant progress

3. Conclusions

The Bissau Guineans and the international partners are cautiously optimistic about the future of the country following the donor conference. Much remains to be done and vigilance is required to avoid any reversal of the achievements to date. Many observers believe that the success of Guinea Bissau is in the hand of its competent leaders and the population eager to see changes. This can be realized as long as every sector of society continues working hand in hand to strengthen a social contract based on accountability and commitment to advance the reforms. Maximizing the potential of women and youth as drivers of economic growth and progress shows promising potential and should be further supported.

Regarding the constitutional reforms, since not address all the thorniest questions may be addressed in the short term, politicians must show a great deal of personal responsibility to diffuse possible conflicts. There must be above all, respect for the rule of law.

The authorities deserve credit for the historic changes taking place in Guinea Bissau and the ownership they have displayed in carrying forward the agenda for development and reforms. In the new Guinea Bissau, politics should no longer be an instrument to serve narrow interests. The role of sub regional organizations and more generally from the neighbors will continue to be determinant for the foreseeable future.

Addendum: *Secretary-General Advisory Group of the Peacebuilding Fund Meeting on Guinea Bissau (29 March 2015).*

The Prime Minister of Guinea Bissau and SRSG Trovoada of UNIOGBIS were invited to address the members of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) Advisory Group by videoconference on 29 March to discuss the impact of PBF's engagement during the transition period following the relapse into crisis in 2012. From New York the Chair of the Guinea Bissau configuration, Ambassador Patriota, also participated.

Recalling that the PBF has been actively involved in Guinea Bissau together with the PBC, the Prime Minister acknowledged the important role of the peacebuilding architecture during the transition, once a political settlement had been reached to return to constitutional order, at a time when many other partners' programmes remained suspended. The Prime Minister also acknowledged the support from the UN – including small preparatory financing assistance from PBF – to organize the recent donor round table, attended by 90 delegations including President Macky Sall of Senegal. At the

round table PBF committed up to \$10 million for a new Priority Plan. In total an amount of \$1.9 billion was pledged.

The Prime Minister highlighted the important role played by Ambassador Patriota and the PBC in promoting Guinea Bissau on the international arena. Concerning the Peacebuilding Fund, the Prime Minister noted the establishment of a 'lighter' Executive Committee (composed by five members) to improve the efficiency of the management of the PBF-funded Priority Plan. Ambassador Patriota highlighted the high level, quality and inclusiveness of the current Government and noted his support for the areas of focus of PBF (SSR, RoL, access to Justice, dialogue and reconciliation, empowerment of women and youth). Ambassador Patriota committed to mobilize the PBC to monitor the disbursement of the resources pledged at the roundtable.

Members of the Advisory Group underscored the importance of civilian oversight of the security and defense forces, broader reconciliation and dialogue processes, the inclusion of civil society and the support role of regional organizations.