



Statement by

H. E. Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti

Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

**Chair of the Guinea-Bissau Configuration
of the Peacebuilding Commission**

Security Council – 19 April 2012

(check against delivery)

The Configuration for Guinea-Bissau of the Peacebuilding Commission condemned in the strongest terms the forcible seizure of power from the legitimate Government of Guinea-Bissau and the arbitrary detentions of the interim President, Prime Minister and other senior officials. The Configuration, moreover, called upon all parties to resolve their disputes through political and peaceful means within the framework of the country's democratic institutions, and to oppose any attempt to change the government through unconstitutional means. We encouraged the Government of Guinea-Bissau and all stakeholders to continue to work together to pursue political dialogue so as to preserve stability in the country and promote national reconciliation.

The solution to the current crisis requires the immediate release of all the authorities presently detained by the coup perpetrators, the return of the Armed Forces to the barracks and the resumption of the electoral process.

We welcome the engagement of the regional and sub-regional organizations and key international partners, notably the CPLP, ECOWAS, and the African Union in pursuit of peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau. We must continue to support such efforts towards the restoration of the constitutional order without delay and a lasting and peaceful solution to the current political crisis in the country.

Madam President,

It is not the first time that the Constitutional order is broken in Guinea-Bissau. The recent history of the country has been unfortunately marked by

upheavals and crises. However, the 12 April coup d'état is particularly

in Bissau. The immediate return to constitutional order is crucial to allow those processes to move forward. Grave consequences will ensue if the current situation is not reversed. The military coup will certainly curb confidence and donors support, thus compromising the efforts to address security sector reform and to fight drug trafficking.

Madam President,

The international community must urgently act to avoid the persistence of the current scenario. It is very important that the hard-won socioeconomic gains that stability brought to the country in the recent past be protected and built upon in an environment of respect for the rule of law and democracy. The Council and the international community as a whole must act with resolve to assist Guinea-Bissau in breaking away, once and for all, from the cycle of violence, coup d'états, impunity and instability that has plagued the country for so long.

I thank you.