

**Report of the mission to Guinea  
11 to 15 March 2012**

**I. Objectives and summary of the visit**

1. The Guinea Configuration of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) has visited Guinea from 11 to 15 March 2012 in the context of the periodic review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments, concluded with the Government of Guinea on 23 September 2011 in New York, in the presence of the President of the Republic, Professor Alpha Condé. The main objectives of

engaged in peacebuilding in Guinea, among which figured the President of the Republic, the President of the National Transitional Council, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad, the Minister of Economic and Financial Control in his capacity as Political Focal Point for the PBC, as well as Ministers in charge of the sectors supported by the Peacebuilding Commission, namely national reconciliation, security sector reform and youth and women's employment. The delegation also met with the leaders of the main political parties, united under the "presidential movement", the opposition and the "centre"5 sectors s05 -1 also he 0fur 0 r poli1he le9d



-5.tions

way” with regards to the investigation and the fight against impunity.

11. As concerns the process of national reconciliation, the delegation felt a certain amount of impatience with regards to the materialisation of the next steps of the consultations led by the Provisional Reflexion Commission. Civil society stakeholders notably underlined the fact that the Guinean people are expecting clear signs proving that reconciliation is happening and that it is inclusive. President Condé and other Guinean interlocutors met by the delegation insisted that reconciliation in Guinea should go beyond the violence committed on and around 28 September 2009. It would be necessary to take into account the different waves of violence committed against Guinean citizens, notably those acts committed at Camp Boiro, as well as during the events of 1985, 2006 and 2007. Members of Guinean civil society underscored notably the importance of tackling the phenomenon of “instrumentalising” ethnic identity for political ends and of taking into account the socio-economic challenges conf

the rule of law and the promotion of human rights.

15. The Ministers in charge of defence and security formulated a request for specific support to the Special Forces for the Securing of the Electoral Process (FOSSPEL), following the support it had received during the presidential elections of 2010, while underlining the increased needs. The international partners have signalled a certain readiness to accede to this request, but have insisted on the need to have a global and as accurate as possible estimate of the needs in order for them to be able to coordinate their support.
16. The Ministers also stressed the need to take into account new threats to security, notably conflicts and threats facing the countries of the Sahel and Sahara regions, cross-border crimes, such as small arms proliferation and drug trafficking and the threat emanating from terrorist organisations. The need for a sub-regional approach through joint and coordinated responses at the level of the countries of the sub-region and by resorting to existing mechanisms like ECOWAS and the Mano River Union was also underlined.
17. However, as concerns risks identified in the context of SSR, the Ministers emphasised primarily internal risks. Without good coordination of the sectorial committees and the interventions of technical and financial partners, reforms could stagnate. Recruitment, initial training and career development would also need to be overhauled in order not to risk losing the momentum of the reforms. The Ministers also shared their apprehension that international partners might abandon Guinea before the job was done.

### *Youth and Women's Employment*

18. The question of youth and women's employment is seen in a more medium- to long-term perspective and the delegation had discussions on this priority primarily with a view to identifying policies and initiatives which could be entry points for the Peacebuilding Commission, on the understanding that unemployment is both a consequence and a cause of fragility.
19. The delegation was encouraged by on-going efforts for the political, economic and social empowerment of women. It recommended deepening these efforts, notably through improving access for rural women to land, the fight against socio-cultural factors which limit women's participation in political life and the fight against all discriminations and forms of violence which target women. The upcoming legislative elections were presented as a real opportunity to meet the 30% quota reserved for women on the electoral lists, as stipulated by the Electoral Law.
20. As concerns youth employment, the delegation noted the fragmentation of responsibilities between the different ministerial departments in charge of young people, employment and vocational training, as well as their interventions on the ground. It called upon the

Government to continue working on the institutional and strategic challenge in order to ensure coherence between the interventions in favour of youth employment, which remain, for the moment, fragmented and ad hoc.

21. The Government expressed a request for support by high-level expertise to develop a medium- and long-term vision, which would take into account the employment opportunities offered by the mining sector (both direct and indirect employment) and agriculture, as well as the challenges linked to the absence of qualified Guinean workers (with specialised jobs going to foreigners rather than young Guineans).
22. The delegation was informed in this context about the progress of the implementation of the Civic service for development action (SCAD), as well as about a South-South/triangular cooperation project aiming at the establishment of centres of production. Uganda, Mozambique and Cape-Verde are going to be asked to counsel/support young Guineans who wish to establish SMEs.

### **III. Conclusions and next steps**

23. The delegation found a country at a crossroads. On the one hand, much hope is placed in the upcoming legislative elections, the achievement of the point of completion of the HIPC initiative and the positive impact of the revision of the mining law and more generally a reboot of the economy and increase in foreign investments. This hope is reinforced by the first concrete steps made in terms of improving macroeconomic indicators and Security sector reform, as well as by the results of the recent inclusive political dialogue.
24. On the other hand, trust between citizens and the State seems not to have been re-established completely, notably as concerns political life and the relations with security forces and the Judiciary: a clear sense of impatience on behalf of the population in terms of national reconciliation and peace and democracy dividends was palpable.
25. The findings and conclusions of this visit will be taken into account in the draft report of the first periodic review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments between Guinea and the Peacebuilding Commission, to which the Government of Guinea and Members of the

**Annex 1:**



**Programme of the Mission of the Guinea Configuration of the  
Peacebuilding Commission to the Republic of Guinea**

**11-15 March 2012**

**General objectives:**

- Meet the Government and the other key stakeholders to examine progress in the implementation of the mutual commitments between the Government of Guinea and the PBC
- Encourage the pursuit and deepening of the inclusive dialogue, notably with a view to peaceful elections in Guinea.

**Sunday 11 March 2012**

- Ø 15h50 Welcome at the Airport by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad and Economic and Financial Control
- Ø 17h20-17h50 Security briefing

**Monday 12 March 2012**

**Tuesday 13 March 2012**

- Ø 08h30-09h50 Meeting with the Friends of Guinea
- Ø 10h00-11h00 Meeting with the CNT and the CES
- Ø 11h10-12h10 Civil society umbrella organisa



**Annexe 2 :**



**Principal objectives of the Mission of the Guinea Configuration of the  
Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) to the Republic of Guinea**

**11-15 March 2012**

- Allow a delegation of the Guinea Configuration of the PBC, led by the Chairperson of the Guinea Configuration and including representatives of Members of the Configurations from the different geographical groups of the United Nations to familiarise themselves with recent developments in Guinea and the region relevant to peacebuilding;
- Pursue and deepen exchanges with the Government and the other stakeholders in the context of the first periodic review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments. The aim of this first review is to assess progress of either party in the achievement of mutual commitments for peacebuilding, underlining progress made. The review should also allow to examine continued relevance of the commitments of the Government of Guinea and the PBC and should the need arise, to adjust them to respond to the evolving context. The conclusions and recommendations of the review will help to focus further cooperation between Guinea and the PBC;
- Discuss with the Government any questions related to peacebuilding in Guinea which require immediate attention; identify with the Government and the other stakeholders possible obstacles hindering the peacebuilding process and discuss means to overcome them.
- Discuss with the Government and other stakeholders, notably the Friends of Guinea, ways and means further to reinforce cooperation with the Guinea Configuration and to