





The mission also had the opportunity to discuss civil-military relations, which are seen as a critical element of instability in the country, with several interlocutors. The mission confirmed that simplistic notions as to the role of the military in politics are of limited value when it comes to identifying the right approach to tackle this complex issue. Discussions on how best to tackle the modernization of the security and defence institutions have been going on for eight years, with several internationally supported attempts such as the 2010 Security Sector Reform Roadmap. Brazil, in its role as Chair of the Configuration, has supported reform efforts in the past, including the establishment of a Special Pensions Fund for the Military forces, which also received PBF funding.

Considering developments since April 2012 and the absence of constitutional authorities since then, it is important to support current efforts of SRSG Ramos-Horta and advocate for a more comprehensive approach to improving civil-military relations, as opposed to looking solely at the reform of the Security and Defence Forces. All national and international interlocutors who engaged with the mission repeatedly stressed that the abuse of power by the military, including human rights violations and interference in the economic sphere, cannot be dissociated from the activities of a political class that often colludes with the armed forces for profit or political influence. For this reason, the political and military “problems” have to be addressed simultaneously. Interlocutors also pointed out the importance of addressing the historical context of specific social groups within the military and pay due consideration to broader social needs and expectations associated with the reform process.

The modernization of the security forces in Guinea Bissau requires a thorough.101( )-180.827(g)9.0 £827(g)9.







Apart from the priorities already identified in national plans, including economic revitalization, national dialogue, rule of law, capacity-building, among others, three achievable core medium-term strategic objectives emerged during the visit that can help mobilize international support after elections:

**1- Institutional Development.** It will be essential to encourage and support the completion of a full democratic electoral cycle in the country with a constitutional transfer of power to newly elected officials. In the post-electoral period, apart from the strong political engagement throughout the entire cycle, it will be necessary to encourage support for key public administration sectors to be strengthened by encouraging South-South cooperation schemes and other international programmatic support.

**2-Modernisation of Security Institutions.** PBC can help bring efforts together around the concept of a comprehensive modernization program based on a deep understanding of the civil-military relations in the country, including support for military pension schemes and mechanisms for the reintegration of retired military, along with civil-military dialogue, reform of relevant civilian security structures, and reconciliation.

**3- Economic and social and political empowerment.** It is important to make significant strides in basic social and economic indicators, with a focus on rural development and support to the social and economic needs of women and youth, through the identification with the newly elected Government of priority sectors of the economy in which targeted employment and economic empowerment programs can be promoted. As discussed during the visit, food insecurity in Guinea Bissau is a contradiction and the World Food Program should be able to envisage its departure from the country as soon as possible.

These objectives, which will need to be further explored with the elected authorities, can offer some clear milestones against which progress in peacebuilding can be assessed, and compacts with international partners can be established.

Despite considerable political instability, there is peace in Guinea-Bissau, a country with rich natural resources, human capital, a diversified society, in a region where positive peacebuilding experiences can be found and a constructive cooperative environment seems to be emerging. With relatively small-scale assistance, much can be done to consolidate peace and set the course towards sustainable development.

The Chair remains committed to continue to accompany Guinea Bissau in its path towards stabilization and peace.

