



UN in Guinea-Bissau Newsletter on its activities for peace and sustainable development



©UNIOGBIS/PIU

## New Year: Peace above all in Guinea-Bissau

Guinea-Bissau entered the New Year with its not so new problems – a political impasse which has blocked institutions and undermined the population's living conditions and hampered development. In spite of the political tension, the Bissau-Guinean people continue committed to non-violence.

2018 brings renewed hope with the upcoming elections, good economic growth outlook and the reiterated commitment of the international community to continue assisting the country and its people.

On 1 February the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) ended another round of consultations with the main political actors to assess the implementation of the Conakry Agreement, which everyone agrees is a good framework to solve the crisis.

However, in face of the lack of progress it decided to impose sanctions. In February 2018 the UN Security Council will meet again in New York to assess the work of UNIOGBIS and decide on the extension of its mandate. In this issue we share with you an overview of the work done last year.

PÁGINA 3



Mamadou Lamine Diop ©UNIOGBIS/PIU

**UNHCR Representative:**  
"Our mandate includes helping those who have no country"

PAGE 5



© UNIOGBIS/PIU

**ECOWAS imposes sanctions on those blocking the Conakry Agreement**

PAGE 6



© UNDP

**Women of Canhabaque produce salt -UNDP**

PAGE 8

## An Alert for the World



*UN SG Antonio Guterres on a visit to the Central African Republic © UN PHOTO*

### SG António Guterres' New Year Message

Dear friends around the world, Happy New Year.

When I took office one year ago, I appealed for 2017 to be a year for peace.

Unfortunately – in fundamental ways, the world has gone in reverse.

On New Year's Day 2018, I am not issuing an appeal. I am issuing an alert -- a red alert for our world. Conflicts have deepened and new dangers have emerged. Global anxieties about nuclear weapons are the highest since the Cold War. Climate change is moving faster than we are.

Inequalities are growing.

We see horrific violations of human rights. Nationalism and xenophobia are on the rise. As we begin 2018, I call for unity. I truly believe we can make our world more safe and secure. We can settle conflicts, overcome hatred and defend shared values. But we can only do that together. I urge leaders everywhere to make this New Year's resolution: Narrow the gaps. Bridge the divides. Rebuild trust by bringing people together around common goals.

Unity is the path.

Our future depends on it. I wish you peace and health in 2018. Thank you. Shokran. Xie Xie. Merci. Spasiba. Gracias. Obrigado.

### I Kuma

**Editorial board:** Modibo Toure, Júlia Galvão Alhinho, Didier Bapidi, \* **Reporters:** Enfamara Cassamá, Juelma Mendes, Isabel Correia, Dionísio da Silva (Buba), Ivanildo Bodjan (Bafatá), Talata Baldé (S. Domingos), \* **Associate writers:** Dan da Costa-Vieira (UNDP), Wilson Gama (UNICEF), Amadu Camará (FAO), Agostinho Mané (OMS), Janaina Galvão (UNHCR), Mario Santos (ONU Mulheres) e Amantijane Candé (Rádio ONU)

**Graphic design:** Noelson Barbosa e Iacuba Sani

**Production and printing:** UNIOGBIS/PIU



## New Year: Peace above all in Guinea-Bissau



*Peaceful demonstration in Bissau in March 2017 ©UNIOGBIS/PIU*

Guinea-Bissau entered the New Year with its not so new problems – a political impasse which has blocked institutions and undermined the population's living conditions and hampered development. In spite of the political tension, the Bissau-Guinean people continue committed to non-violence.

2018 brings renewed hope with the upcoming elections, good economic growth outlook and the reiterated commitment of the international community to continue assisting the country and its people.

On 1 February the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) ended another round of consultations with the main political actors to assess the implementation of the Conakry Agreement, which everyone agrees is a good framework to solve the crisis. However, in face of the lack of progress it decided to impose sanctions. In February 2018 the UN Security Council will meet again in New York to assess the work of UNIOGBIS and decide on the extension of its mandate. In this issue we share with you an overview of the work done last year.

In mid-February the UN Security Council will meet to discuss the situation in Guinea-Bissau and the report of the Secretary-general. UNIOGBIS mandate is likely to be extended, as the priority reforms remain to be implemented. The mission will, therefore, be focusing in support of an inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation process to strengthen democratic governance and work towards consensus on key political issues, particularly the necessary urgent reforms and to an enabling environment for a peaceful, credible and timely electoral process;

UNIOGBIS and the UN country team will also be providing technical assistance to national authorities in expediting and completing key legislation necessary for the maintenance of constitutional order, promotion and protection of human rights and the organization of legislative and presidential elections scheduled for 2018 and 2019;

The UN team in Guinea-Bissau will also continue providing strategic and technical advice and targeted support to national authorities and relevant stakeholders in implementing national security sector reform and rule of law strategies, to develop civilian and military justice systems and the penitentiary system in compliance with international standards, and to combat drug trafficking and transnational organized crime.

In 2018 the UN will also be overseeing the implementation of several projects funded by the Peacebuilding Fund, worth 6 million US dollars to support what the Bissau-Guinean themselves identified as peacebuilding priorities, namely: strengthening an independent media sector; the national conference towards reconciliation; strengthening women and youth participation and reinforcement of the justice sector.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau is realistically optimistic about the new year: "We will continue working side by side with the regional organization and other important partners and engaging with the population and with the leaders and implementing our mandate to the best of our abilities in an impartial way, in the long run I believe it will bear fruit".

## 2017: Year in review



ECOWAS delegation and SRSG with President Vaz in April 2017©UNIOGBIS/PIU

Looking back to the year 2017, despite “the negative effects of the political crisis on the civilian population”, peace remains by far the greatest unifying factor in Guinea-Bissau and without which the work of the UN in general and UNIOGBIS in particular would have been impossible.

Part of this work entailed consulting national stakeholders and international partners to implement the Conakry Agreement. After year-long endeavours, the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), at their 16 December summit in Abuja, Nigeria, “deeply regret the political impasse in Guinea-Bissau despite the decisions taken at the 51st Ordinary Session of Authority of Heads of State and Government held on 4 June 2017 in Monrovia, Liberia,” reads the final communique of Abuja summit.

During that summit, Bissau-Guinean President, José Mario Vaz, presented a roadmap on the full implementation of the Conakry Agreement, in particular the appointment of a consensus Prime Minister.

“To ensure consensual implementation of the proposed roadmap, Authority entrusts Presidents Alpha Conde and Essozimna Gnassingbe with the responsibility of holding talks with all stakeholders within a month. Failing this, individual or collective sanctions would be imposed on all who hamper the implementation of the agreement,” stressed the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government.

As part of the use of his good offices and political supports, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau (SRSG), Modibo Touré, participated in the summit. In Abuja, Lome, Dakar, Conakry, Monrovia, Lisbon, New York as well as in Bissau, he has been tirelessly working with his AU, EU, ECOWAS counterparts and other international partners to unlock the more than two-year long political crisis in Guinea-Bissau.

Through Resolution 2343 (February 2017), the Security Council requested UNIOGBIS, among others, to:

- Support an inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation process to strengthen democratic governance and work towards consensus on key political issues particularly with regards to the implementation of necessary urgent reforms.
- Provide strategic and technical advice and support to national authorities and relevant stakeholders, including in coordination with ECOWAS/ECOMIB and other international partners, in implementing the national security sector reform and rule of law strategies, as well as developing civilian and military justice systems that are compliant with international standards.

In the framework of its 2017 mandate, UNIOGBIS carried out several activities/projects with governmental, civil society, women and youth organizations, the end beneficiary being the people of Guinea-Bissau.

### Politically speaking

The Political Affairs Section (PAS) implemented a joint project

aimed at empowering civil society to promote constructive participation of Bissau-Guineans (especially women and youth) in their country’s democratic process and promote democratic governance, through support for an active and engaged civil society, using Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as watchdogs, mobilizers, bridge-builders, educators, and advocates, as well as peacebuilders and peacemakers.

PAS assisted the Organizing Commission of the National Conference established by the National Assembly to prepare the holding of the conference “Paths to peace and development: Causes, consequences and resolution of conflicts in Guinea-Bissau”, which will initiate a national reconciliation process.

UNIOGBIS provided substantive support to the Organizing Commission of National Reconciliation in the organization of an international symposium in Bissau to raise awareness on the importance of dealing with the past for overcoming instability and political and social conflict in Guinea-Bissau. Following the workshop, UNIOGBIS supported the Commission in developing a roadmap and chronogram of activities to be undertaken in 2018 towards the holding of



International Symposium on reconciliation in February 2017©UNIOGBIS/PIU

the National Conference.

In line with strengthening State institutions, the National Institute for Studies and Research, between June and December, engaged 500 participants in Bissau, in a cycle of seven conferences moulded around Guinea-Bissau’s political, social, historical and economic perspectives – an approach crucial to genuine political dialogue and national reconciliation. In parallel, the Lusophone University engaged 109 participants including 41 women from Bissau who deliberated matters on governance whilst an outreach program in December connected the population and their parliamentary representatives, and discussed individual and collective roles gathering more than 100 youths from Bissau including 40 women.

As 2018 elections are looming, PAS provided support to the National Elections Commission (CNE), for skill training of 111 regional election officers in Canchungo, Bafata and Buba, while 100 participants including 20 women from the media, civil society and political parties dialogued in Bissau on “Leadership, Electoral System and Management of Dispute in the Electoral Process.”

### Human Rights

The Human Rights Section (HRS) supported national authorities in undertaking a self-assessment of the government’s own performance on the implementation of recommendations made to Guinea-Bissau by international human rights mechanisms, which was broadly attended by all branches of power, including the office of the President of the Republic, Parliamentarians, the judiciary and the Council of Ministers.

Two major partnerships for the promotion of human rights were established with national authorities. These included the Ministry of Education and its Institute of Educational Development, for the



incorporation of human rights in primary school curricula, and with the National Commission of Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice, for the general promotion of human rights in the country. HRS supported the country's commission in its strategic retreat in November in which it committed to lead in 2018 the development of the national human rights action plan for Guinea-Bissau in 2018 and to play a key role in the effective monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council and those of other human rights bodies, as well as in submitting outstanding pending reports in the area of human rights to international mechanisms. These partnerships will continue to be strengthened in 2018.



©UNIOGBIS/PIU

It also reached out to the local population supporting public debates, including on various aspects of the right to health, and disseminating key human rights messages embedded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through the media, including community radio programmes and a live television debate.

HRS also reached out about 400 Human Rights Defenders around the country during a mapping exercise conducted with civil society organizations, and further supported the formalization of the Human Rights Defenders Network, which was launched during the Celebration of the Human Rights Defenders Day on 9 December.

### Rule of Law and Security

The Rule of Law and Security Institutions (ROLSI) Section thematic workflow focused on institutional strengthening, security system governance and legal/ policy and strategic reviews. In terms of Legal/Policy and Strategic reviews, notable progress was made by the component units of ROLSI (Defense, Police and Justice) with the review of the 2006 SSR strategy document; the national Defense Policy and strategy in collaboration with Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisa (INEP) and Instituto Nacional da Defesa (IDN); the development of the National Maritime Security Strategy and development of the Draft National Strategic plan for the reform of the Guinea penitentiary system.

As part of an ongoing effort to enhance the capacity of the national law enforcement agencies, ROLSI in collaboration with National INTERPOL Bureau, conducted a joint equipment- based training for 27 (including two females) national law enforcement officers at the major border Control entry points in Pirada; north-eastern part of the country, Sao Domingos; in the north and Bubaque, in the south.

In fulfilment of its mandate to professionalize the national law enforcement agencies, and enhance their capabilities to effectively address public safety, security and public order management incidents, ROLSI has delivered capacity building training activities in key thematic policing areas, notably; community policing, crime investigations, interrogation and interview techniques, human rights, use of force and management of public demonstrations, police operational planning, command, control and communications, human resources, among others that have impacted positively in police operations.

In terms of the justice sector, technical support was provided to

the substantial preparations of the VII High-level National Justice Forum. The forum, organized by the Ministry of Justice on an annual basis since 2011 plays a pivotal role in paving the direction and guidance for the criminal justice reform.

Mindful of the increasing threat to global security by terrorism, money laundering and other transnational crimes and its impact on Guinea-Bissau, the theme "Criminal Justice: Security and Development" was chosen for the next forum.

In September, following the briefing of SRS Touré, on "The situation in Guinea-Bissau" The President of the Security Council made a statement expressing the Security Council's deep concern about the unresolved political impasse in Guinea-Bissau due to the inability of its political leaders to reach a lasting and consensual solution. The President of the Security Council then recalled that the implementation of the Conakry Agreement, based on the ECOWAS Six-points road map entitled is the primary framework for a peaceful resolution of the political crisis which would notably lead to elections.

Consequently, "The Security Council underlines, the importance of the holding of and preparations for legislative and presidential elections, currently scheduled for 2018 and 2019 respectively, in particular the updating of the voter registration list."

### Development

Throughout 2017, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) considered economic growth, whose 4th National Consultative Report to Guinea-Bissau released in October saw annual growth between five and six percent. The results were mainly due to the cashew harvest, the backbone of the economy largely based on agriculture, saw record prices during the 2017 season.

This positive view, however, was not reflected in the life of the population. There have been strikes in various sectors, including media, health and education that affected essential services. Guinea-Bissau continues to be one of the ten poorest countries in the world and the State faces enormous challenges in providing adequate social services to the population. The annual per capita income is only \$ 1,580 - one of the lowest in the region.

Sector assessments of United Nations agencies, funds and programs show a very high incidence of child and maternal mortality, chronic diseases, including malnutrition in children, HIV, TB and malaria, and widespread illiteracy. A specific challenge is to provide health and education services outside of major urban centres and most rural communities outside Bissau do not have access to basic services, including connection to basic services such as electricity and clean water (4% coverage).

During the week of September 19-25, the World Bank, UNDP and UNIOGBIS held a planning meeting to conduct a Public Expenditure Review (PER) with the Ministry of Finance. PER planning sought ways to increase accountability and monitoring of public expenditures in four critical areas: health, education, security, and infrastructure.

### Gender

The promotion of gender equality and gender mainstreaming permeated all the work of UNIOGBIS and the UN team in general. In conjunction with UN-Women and UNFPA, a number of gender-related activities were developed to support the participation of women as peace activists in resolving the political crisis in Guinea-Bissau, among others. Technical and operational support was also provided to encourage women's mediation efforts and increase their effectiveness as leaders.

In the humanitarian field a number of system agencies such as UNHCR, IOM, WFP, UNICEF and WHO continued to support refugees, migrants, provide food to school canteens and support the national health system.

## Representative of UNHCR: "Our mandate includes helping those who have no country"



©Mamadou Lamine Diop

*The UNHCR Representative in Guinea-Bissau, Mamadou Diop, explained the mandate of this UN agency and said that Guinea-Bissau decision to grant nationality to the refugees was "salutary".*

### **Guinea-Bissau grants nationality to refugees in the country since 2006 crisis**

The Government of Guinea-Bissau finally accepted UNHCR's request to grant nationality to all Senegalese refugees, on the one hand, who constitute the majority, and also for all urban refugees living in Bissau. It is a very important decision that was welcomed by the international community including the regional office of the regional Representative for West Africa as well as the High Commissioner who, in fact, wrote directly to the President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau to thank him for this move.

It is worth saying that UNHCR has always sought a sustainable solution for the refugees who live in Guinean territory, some of them since more than 20 years...

### **How many people are we talking about?**

Let's say at the moment, as a base figure in our databases, we speak of 7 thousand. Seven thousand people will be able to benefit from Guinean nationality. It should be pointed out that, in this way, the Guinean Government contributed greatly to the fight against statelessness, in a sense, but it also enabled a definitive solution for a large number of refugees who have always lived in Guinea-Bissau, in harmony with the host communities, but that until now did not have a valid documentation. Following this declaration of local integration of the clause that was signed by seven ministers - the ceremony took place on December 5, 2017, at the Government Palace, - under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. As a result, concrete actions will now be carried out in concert with a technical commission composed of UNHCR, the Government of Guinea-Bissau, including the two key ministries, namely the Interior and Justice, which are responsible for documentation.

Parallel to this, we also have the issue of allocation of land with title deeds that will be discussed with the Government of Guinea-Bissau, for the allocation of space for agricultural purposes for the

new Guinean citizens who have been integrated.

So it was a salutary decision, it must be emphasized, and it is unprecedented in West Africa and I would say even in the world. It is not easy to see a Government that has complied with this request from the international community, even with some conditions, because some material support is needed from UNHCR and donors who will support this integration program. After the production of documents with the projects of local integration, this will allow the installation of the refugees in the host communities.

### **In addition to this support for the integration of refugees, what is your other line of work for 2018 in Guinea-Bissau?**

This year, 2018, we continue with the support to projects, and, speaking of purely agrarian and agricultural areas, there will be support in the agricultural area, in seeds, agricultural implements and also support in what is our main mandate, which is the protection of refugees and our beneficiaries, reorganize the protection commissions to better combat the phenomena of sexual and sexist violence that could occur in the area, that is, in the Cacheu region we cover. Thus, overall, UNHCR's mandate is to continue its traditional mandate until the integration of refugees is effective.

### **Could you explain a bit more of UNHCR's mandate?**

UNHCR is mandated, in accordance with the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Additional Protocols, to protect and support refugees primarily, but also, our mandate has progressively evolved to include so-called internally displaced persons in the countries. The issue of stateless persons, which is one of the very important pillars on which UNHCR works, notably here in Guinea-Bissau.

### **Concerning stateless people, is there any ongoing study on the situation in Guinea-Bissau?**

UNHCR commissioned an expert to conduct a much more in-depth study on the phenomenon and risks of stateless persons in Guinean territory. This concerns not only the areas where our refugees evolve, but also the whole of the territory and the Bijagós islands, where an important foreign community lives, with children born there, with fishermen who come from various horizons to stay in these islands and who are exposed to the risks of statelessness. Therefore, they are equally covered by this study. In the end, the result will be very useful for the international community on the one hand and on the other, colleagues from the agencies and we will be able to share it with the Government of Guinea-Bissau.

### **When does the study end?**

In 4 months, we will have the first version of this work.

### **Finally, for someone who is here in Guinea-Bissau and who does not have the document and who has fled his country for various reasons, such as economic or war, what can he/she do to get your assistance?**

The orientation is to go to the offices of the National Commission for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (CNRDI) that is here in our facilities. They will be received, they will be listened to and they will have the treatment and advice that they need. Until the determination of the status of an



## Women of Canhabaque produce salt- UNDP



© Group of women of Canhabaque

UNDP, under the Small Grants Program of the Global Environment Facility, enabled women from the village of Antchopi on the Island of Canhabaque to increase their sources of income thanks to the mastery of salt production techniques using solar energy and iodination, without destroying the mangrove swamp.

Domingas, one of these women, said she never thought she could produce salt through the sun. But now, thanks to the various training sessions, she dominates the solar technique of salt production, and is able to sell her production in the market of Bubaque or in Bissau. She achieves an income, in a less tiresome and more ecological way to support its family thanks to the project executed by Organization Tarbadju Ki Pecadur.

## Agreement between Japan and WFP to support school meals in Guinea- Bissau

The Japanese Government and the World Food Programme (WFP) in Guinea-Bissau signed in November 2017 a cooperation agreement budgeted at 1 billion and 300 million CFA francs to support the school meals programme and treatment of malnutrition of child malnutrition in Guinea-Bissau in 2018.

The agreement was signed by Ms. Keiko Egusa, Counselor of the Embassy of Japan, and Ms. Kiyomi Kawaguchi, WFP Representative in Guinea Bissau, in the presence of Jorge Malu, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities, during a ceremony held at the Government Palace.

A portion of the donation will be canned fish from Japan, whose purchase will support fishermen affected by the major Tohoku earthquake in 2011, while another part will be provided for the first time in cash to allow the purchase of food available locally in the country, and a third international purchase of food prepared specifically for the treatment of malnutrition and unavailable in Guinea-Bissau. According to Kiyomi Kawaguchi, "Local purchase of food for schools can have transformational and multidimensional impacts giving the opportunity to provide children with organically produced food from local communities, respecting the local diet, stimulate sales and income of smallholder farmers, particularly women farmers, and enable diversification of agricultural production and fisheries, empowering women and contributing to the local economy. "

An estimated 70,000 people or 10,000 families in 200 communities will be direct beneficiaries in 2018, including 50,000 school-aged children and 200 women's associations of small-scale farmers.

## More than 180 new born babies on first day of 2018 in Guinea-Bissau- UNICEF



About 184 babies were born on 1 January in Guinea-Bissau, UNICEF has said. Overall, 385.793 births worldwide were expected on day one of 2018.

It was probably on the small island of Kiribati in the Pacific that the first baby was born in 2018; and the last in the US. Globally, more than half of these births occurred in nine countries: India – 69.070; China, 44,760; Nigeria, 20,210; Pakistan, 14,910; Indonesia, 13,370; United States of America, 11,280; Democratic Republic of the Congo, 9,400; Ethiopia, 9,020; Bangladesh, 8,370.

Most babies survive and thrive, but many do not live beyond the first day. Globally, in 2016, an estimated 2600 children died within the first 24 hours of life. For nearly 2 million newborns, their first week of life was also the last. During the first month after birth, worldwide, 2.6 million children died. More than 80 percent of these newborn deaths have occurred due to preventable or treatable causes such as premature birth, complications during childbirth, and infections such as septicemia and pneumonia. "UNICEF's New Year's resolution is to help all children live longer than an hour, more than a day, more than a month - more than mere survival," said Christine Jaulmes, UNICEF Representative in Guinea- Bissau. "We call on all governments and our partners to join this struggle to save the lives of millions of children."

Over the past two decades, the world has seen unprecedented progress in child survival, halving the number of children dying before their fifth birthday worldwide to 5.6 million by 2016.

But despite these advances, progress for newborns has been slower. Babies who die in the first month account for 46 percent of all deaths among children under five.

In February, UNICEF will launch the "Every Child Alive" global campaign to bring quality and affordable health care solutions to all mothers and newborns. These include the constant supply of drinking water and electricity to health structures, the presence of skilled health personnel during birth, disinfection of the umbilical cord, and breastfeeding within the first hour after birth and skin-to-skin contact between the mother and the son. "We are now entering the age when every newborn in the world should have the opportunity to see the 22nd century," added Christine Jaulmes. "Unfortunately, almost half of the children who will be born this year probably will not have this opportunity." A child born in Switzerland in January 2018 will likely live till the year 2100, while a child born in Guinea-Bissau is unlikely to live beyond 2076.

## ECOWAS imposes sanctions against those hampering implementation of Conakry Agreement effective from 1 February



Robert Dussey, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Togo reads the ECOWAS mission final statement ©UNIOGBIS/PIU

An ECOWAS mission left Bissau on 1 February, this time with the announcement that sanctions on people or organizations blocking the resolution of the political crisis in Guinea-Bissau will be effective from that same day. The list of sanctioned persons was disclosed on 7 February and includes the following people: Braima Camara, Rui Dia de Sousa, Soares Sambu, Abel da Silva Gomes, Manuel Nascimento Lopes, Eduardo Mamadu Balde, Maria Aurora Abissa Sano, Florentino Mendes Pereira, Orlando Mendes Viegas, Certorio Biote, Domingos Quade, Carlitos Barai, Domingos Malu, Antonio Sedja Man, Bacari Biai, Botche Cande, Herson Gougjabi Vaz, Victor Madinga, Fernando Vaz. The Mission, led by the President of the Council of Ministers of the CEDEAO, Robert Dussey and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Togo, met with the President of the Republic, PAIGC, PRS and the Group of 15 deputies expelled from PAIGC, and the international community represented in Bissau, and noted that "the appointment of the Prime Minister of consensus as prescribed for in the Conakry Agreement was not respected."

In its final communiqué, the mission also says that it "deplores non-respect for the right to assembly as expressed in the Constitution and the human rights instruments of ECOWAS, the African Union and the UN" and "calls on the Guinean authorities to respect the rule of law, human rights, including the right to freedom of assembly." Subsequently it urged the defense and security forces to maintain a republican stance.

The mission remains convinced that "without the full implementation of the Conakry Agreement, namely the appointment of a consensus prime minister and the formation of an inclusive government," the political conditions necessary for the organization of elections credible, "the statement said.

The ECOWAS delegation welcomed the good collaboration with the group of international partners represented in Bissau, including UN, AU, EU and CPLP.

This mission followed another one in mid-January, which report of was discussed at the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State in Addis Ababa on 26 January. At that time President Vaz was invited to appoint a consensual Prime Minister and the Signatory Parties to form a government in accordance with the Conakry Agreement by January 31, 2018, otherwise collective and individual sanctions would be imposed, as of 1 February 2018, "against any person or organization prejudicing the process of ending the crisis in Guinea-Bissau." The Authority immediately instructed the President of the Commission to apply the sanctions and decided to establish a Committee, which includes Togo, Guinea and the ECOWAS Commission, to monitor the

implementation of sanctions.

The Authority also launched a strong appeal to the African Union, the CPLP, the European Union and the United Nations "to support ECOWAS in the effective enforcement of sanctions."

In addition, they decided to extend the mandate of ECOMIB by 31 March.

### How did we get here?

At the end of the Abuja summit last December, the ECOWAS Authority had taken note of the road map presented by President Mario Vaz on the full implementation of the Conakry Agreement, in particular the appointment of a consensus prime minister. To ensure the consensual implementation of the proposed roadmap, ECOWAS leaders entrusted Presidents Alpha Conde and Essosimna Gnassingbe with the responsibility of holding talks with all stakeholders within a month, ending on 16 January.

It was in accordance with this recommendation that the two Heads of State sent Jan. 17-18 to Bissau, the President of the Council of Ministers of ECOWAS, Robert Dussey, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Togo and Naby Youssouf Kiridi Bangoura, Minister of State Secretary General of the Presidency of Guinea. The Conakry Agreement was the result of a round of negotiations on the situation in Guinea-Bissau chaired by the President of Guinea and ECOWAS Mediator, Alpha Conde, from 11 to 14 October 2016 in Conakry. The President of Guinea-Bissau of the National Assembly of the People, the Prime Minister, parties with parliamentary representation, including PAIGC, PRS, PND, PCM, UM, religious leaders and representatives of civil society participated.

The Conakry negotiations are part of the implementation of the six-point roadmap adopted by ECOWAS entitled "Agreement on the Resolution of the Political Crisis in Guinea-Bissau", signed in Bissau on 10 September 2016.

In Conakry, Guinea-Bissau stakeholders agreed, inter alia:

- Appointment of a consensus prime minister with the confidence of the President of the Republic. The prime minister must be in office until the legislative elections of 2018;
- Formation of an inclusive government based on an organization chart agreed upon by all political parties in the National Assembly, in accordance with the principle of proportional representation;
- The inclusive government will implement a program prepared by a national roundtable dialogue within thirty days of the prime minister's appointment.