



# Security Council

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## Letter dated 11 November 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the letter of the President of the Security Council dated 23 July 2014 ([S/2014/529](#)) in which he requested a written update by 12 November on the situation in Guinea-Bissau for the consideration of the Security Council before the expiration of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) on 30 November. The present letter is submitted in response to that request and contains an update on the political and security situation in Guinea-Bissau since my report of 18 August ([S/2014/603](#)). It also covers significant human rights, humanitarian and socioeconomic developments since then. It highlights the progress made by the Government in determining its national priorities and provides information on the strategic assessment mission that I deployed to Guinea-Bissau to conduct the comprehensive review requested by the Council.

### Political and security developments

During the period under review, the situation in Guinea-Bissau was characterized by intense activities on the part of the newly elected Government to identify its priorities, plan for an international donor round table and put in place measures to ensure stability.

On 22 September, the Government submitted to the National Assembly its programme for the period 2014-2018, containing immediate and long-term priorities. Introducing the programme, the Prime Minister, Domingos Simões Pereira, stated that the Government was implementing its emergency plan and would, among other things, pay salary arrears to civil servants, begin the 2014/15 academic year, increase agricultural production, strengthen cholera and Ebola prevention and preparedness efforts and improve the supply of public utilities.

Underscoring the need for national consensus on structural reforms, the Prime Minister proposed bimonthly debates in the parliament and committed himself to presenting annual expenditure reports to both the National Assembly and the Court of Auditors as a way of ensuring transparency. He also stressed the need to review key legislation, including the Constitution and the electoral code, and to launch an inclusive national dialogue on peace and reconciliation. On 23 September, the National Assembly unanimously adopted the programme and approved the amended budget for 2014, at some 120 billion CFA francs (\$239.5 million).



In his statement to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, delivered on 29 September, the Prime Minister voiced his Government's commitment to consolidating peace and stability. He expressed gratitude to the international community for its support and called for continued assistance. He outlined the Government's plans for an urgent programme, focusing on basic service delivery to the population, a contingency programme, aimed at reviewing natural resource management and contracts, and a medium-term programme, to be presented during a donor round table that the Government would organize early in 2015. He also underscored the importance of reforming the security sector, extending State authority and combating drug trafficking and organized crime.

On 7 October, the Prime Minister wrote to the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Guinea-Bissau to request financial and technical support for the organization of the donor round table. On 18 October, the Government convened a ministerial-level retreat to discuss, among other things, preparations for the round table. At the conclusion of the retreat, the Prime Minister provided a briefing to the international community on his Government's vision for the development of the country and its strategy for the round table. He said that the vision focused on four priorities: governmental stability through structural reforms, including in the defence and security sectors; industrialization of agriculture to enable the transformation of crops into value-added products; investment in energy and transport infrastructure, with an emphasis on clean energy, roads and ports; and preparation of urban centres for migrants from rural areas. He stressed that Guinea-Bissau had a rich biodiversity that should be monetized and protected through sound investment by credible partners. UNIOGBIS and the United Nations country team are supporting the Government in its efforts to organize the round table.

During the reporting period, the security situation remained stable. On 15 September, the President, José Mário Vaz, issued a presidential decree to dismiss the Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces, General António Indjai. According to the decree, the decision was taken in accordance with the power granted to the President and the Government under article 68 of the Constitution. On 17 September, the President promoted Brigadier Biaguê Na N'tan to the rank of General and appointed him as the successor to General Indjai. On 30 September, the President issued a decree to grant pardons to six individuals who had been convicted by the Supreme Military Court of Guinea-Bissau in connection with an incident involving the airborne regiment located at the Bissalanca air force base in Bissau on 21 October 2012. He said that the pardons had been granted in the context of promoting national unity and reconciliation.

On 26 September, a bus struck an anti-tank mine near the town of Bissorã, leaving 23 dead and 17 wounded. An investigation by the local police concluded that the mine dated back to the war of independence. The United Nations supported the efforts of the Ministry of Health and the Embassy of Portugal to medically evacuate a victim. On 14 October, the Minister of Defence wrote to my Special Representative, Miguel Trovoada, to request technical assistance for additional clearance of explosive remnants of war, including landmines. Following that request, the United Nations deployed an expert on 4 November to assess the risks and determine how it could support the Government's efforts.

On 2 October, the President appointed Hermenegildo Pereira as Prosecutor General. Before that appointment, he had been the Deputy Head of the

Anti-Corruption and Economic Unit in the Office of the Prosecutor General. On 9 October, Filomena Lopes was appointed as the new Director of the Judiciary Police. A former prosecutor, she will be responsible for, among other things, combating drug trafficking and organized crime. The Government has also appointed new regional governors and directors general in a number of ministries, while emphasizing the need to ensure competence.

On 15 September, the Steering Committee on Security Sector Reform held its first meeting after more than two years of inactivity. Chaired by the Minister of Defence, the meeting was attended by representatives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union, the European Union, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, UNIOGBIS and other bilateral partners, including Portugal and Spain.

### **Human rights, humanitarian and socioeconomic developments**

UNIOGBIS and the United Nations country team have been supporting efforts by the Government and civil society organizations to prepare for the second universal periodic review of Guinea-Bissau by the Human Rights Council, scheduled for January 2015. The Government's report, which was due to be presented on 24 June, at the twenty-sixth session of the Council, is still being prepared and is expected to be submitted in November. A joint report to the Council by local non-governmental organizations, as part of the civil society contribution to the review, was submitted on 18 September.

From 24 to 27 October, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with the National Assembly and the Government, organized a high-level workshop to discuss efforts to combat drug trafficking, money-laundering, corruption and transnational organized crime. The workshop also considered the role of the parliament and the Government in combating transnational organized crime and strengthening the rule of law. It provided an opportunity for the Government to update the three-year national plan for combating drug trafficking and organized crime, prepared in June 2011, and to define new priority areas accordingly.

The authorities, assisted by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund and other international partners, are working to prevent the spread of Ebola to the country. The Government has launched a public information campaign on national media, including UNIOGBIS radio space. Isolation sites have been identified in the main health-care centres and health workers are receiving training and equipment to diagnose and handle patients. The United Nations system in Guinea-Bissau is monitoring the situation closely and will continue to assist the Government in mobilizing the required resources. The World Bank has announced a pledge of 600,000 euros to support the efforts of the Ministry of Health to prevent Ebola in the country.

### **Engagement and coordination among international partners**

My Special Representative has been actively working to ensure continued and effective coordination among international partners. To that end, he resumed the practice of monthly meetings with all international partners represented in Bissau, the first of which was held on 30 September.

In October, he travelled throughout the subregion to meet key regional partners of Guinea-Bissau, including the Presidents of Benin, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal, in addition to the Deputy President of the ECOWAS Commission. He also travelled to Lisbon and Brussels to meet the Prime Minister and the President of Portugal and several high-ranking representatives of the European Union and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries. His active engagement will assist in harmonizing the respective positions of bilateral and multilateral partners and ensuring maximum coordination and complementarity of international efforts to implement security sector, political and economic reforms, combat drug trafficking and fight impunity. Between 15 and 19 September 2014, a third joint assessment mission, led by the African Union and including representatives of ECOWAS, the International Organization of la Francophonie, the European Union and the United Nations, travelled to Guinea-Bissau. Its objective was to assess the political and security situation and the progress made in concluding the transition process and restoring constitutional order. The mission also provided key international partners with an opportunity to engage with the newly elected Government on its plans and priorities.

On 26 September, the international partners, including the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, took part in a consultative meeting, convened by the African Union and ECOWAS in the margins of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, to discuss the report of the mission. They took note of the recommendation made therein to extend the presence of the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau beyond 31 December 2014 and strongly appealed to all international and bilateral partners to support the Government in the implementation of its security sector reform programme and other reforms. They also called for the relaunching of the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau, which last met in June 2012 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The next meeting of the International Contact Group is scheduled to be held on 18 November in New York.

International partners and financial institutions have increased their pledges in support of the newly elected Government. The European Union has indicated that it will provide 10 million euros in budgetary support in November 2014 and another 8 million euros in the first half of 2015. It is also planning to sign a three-year protocol with Guinea-Bissau on fisheries, with a first instalment of approximately 11.7 million euros to be provided by the end of 2014. In addition, it is providing funding to tackle transnational organized crime, prevent the spread of Ebola and expand health and rural development projects.

On 11 September, the Government of Timor-Leste announced that it would provide \$6 million for the payment of one month's salary to State employees. The Government of China is discussing renewing its agreement with Guinea-Bissau on fisheries, extending its agreement to deploy medical teams to the military hospital in Bissau and the central hospital in Canchungo, providing technology for rice production and building a new justice compound to accommodate all courts in Bissau.

On 25 September, the International Monetary Fund announced that a staff-level agreement had been reached on an emergency programme that would be supported by the Fund's Rapid Credit Facility, valued at 2.7 billion CFA francs (\$5.4 million). The Fund also welcomed the recent progress made by the Government in fiscal management and endorsed its priority programme and its

rectified budget for 2014. It noted that the implementation of security sector reforms remained a key requirement for durable stability.

**Comprehensive review of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau**

In its resolution 2157 (2014), the Security Council requested me to conduct a comprehensive review of the mandate of UNIOGBIS to ensure that it was aligned with the priorities identified by the new Government. To that end, I deployed a multidisciplinary strategic assessment mission to Guinea-Bissau from 3 to 14 November. The findings and recommendations will be included in my report to the Council in January 2015. I should therefore like to recommend that the Council consider technically rolling over the mandate of UNIOGBIS for a period of three months, until 28 February 2015, which would give the Council time to fully consider the recommendations made in my report of January 2015 about any adjustments to the mandate.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* **BAN** Ki-moon

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