

AFRICAN UNION
الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE
UNIÃO AFRICANA

P.O. Box: 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel.:(251-11) 551 38 22 Fax: (251-11) 551 93 21
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
361st MEETING
22 MARCH 2013
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.(CCCLXI)

COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMUNIQUÉ

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 361st meeting held on 22 March 2013, adopted the following decision on the situation in Guinea-Bissau:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the joint AU/Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)/Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP)/European Union (EU)/United Nations (UN) to Guinea-Bissau, undertaken from 16 to 21 December 2012. Council **also takes note** of the briefing made by the Commissioner for Peace and Security and the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Guinea-Bissau, as well as of the statements by the representatives of ECOWAS Commission, Mozambique (Chair of the CPLP), the EU and the UN on the situation in Guinea-Bissau;
2. **Recalls** its previous communiqués and press statements on the situation in Guinea-Bissau;
3. **Welcomes** the progress made in Guinea-Bissau, in particular the participation of the main political parties in the Transition, as well as the spirit of consensus and the principle of inclusiveness that guide the Guinea-Bissau actors;
4. **Urges** the Bissau-Guinean stakeholders to persevere in their efforts, and **encourages** the President of the Transition to accelerate the elaboration of the Roadmap for the Transition for adoption by the National People's Assembly as soon as possible, bearing in mind the need to hold the elections that will mark the full restoration of constitutional order by 31 December 2013, when the Transition ends, as decided by the 42nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, held in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, on 27 and 28 February 2013. Council **also encourages** the Parliamentary Committee to expedite the finalization of the *Pacte de régime* aimed at making the Transition process as inclusive as possible;
5. **Welcomes** the findings of the joint AU/ECOWAS/CPLP/EU/UN assessment mission, under AU's coordination, and **calls for** continued efforts to build an international consensus and promote collective action in support of the efforts of the Bissau-Guinean stakeholders towards the restoration of constitutional order and the resolution of multidimensional challenges facing Guinea-Bissau. Council **urges** the five concerned organizations to continue coordination in the efforts to facilitate the resolution of the crisis in Guinea-Bissau;
6. **Welcomes** the support provided by ECOWAS and its Member States to Guinea-Bissau, including the imminent start of the reform of the defense and security sector within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between Guinea-Bissau and ECOWAS, as well as the extension of the mandate of the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB) by the ECOWAS leaders for a further period of six months. Council **notes with satisfaction** the continued involvement of the UN, the EU, the CPLP and other members of the international community in the efforts to consolidate the progress made in Guinea-Bissau;

7. **Appeals** to the international community to extend the necessary support to facilitate the completion of the process of restoring constitutional order through the organization of transparent and credible elections and the implementation of the envisaged comprehensive reforms;
8. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the situation.