



## Security Council

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### **Letter dated 30 October 2019 from the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission. Recalling the advisory role of the Commission to the Security Council, I should like to share some observations from my visit to Guinea-Bissau from 22 to 24 October 2019.

The objective of my visit was to explore how the Peacebuilding Commission could support the country in implementing its peacebuilding and development priorities, as well as the reforms outlined in the Conakry Agreement, in the post-electoral period.

During my visit, I met the President of Guinea-Bissau, José Mário Vaz, the Prime Minister, Aristides Gomes, the President of the National Assembly, Cipriano Cassamá, and the Acting President of the Supreme Court, Rui Nené. I also met ministers with responsibilities in the areas of foreign affairs, internal affairs, territorial administration and electoral management, and human rights; representatives of central authorities, such as the National Electoral Commission and the Technical Support Office for the Electoral Process; the declared candidates for the upcoming presidential elections; and representatives of political parties and civil society, including women and youth networks for peace and security, and the Organizing Commission of the National Conference.

In my interactions with the authorities, I encouraged the holding of free, fair, credible, transparent and peaceful presidential elections on 24 November 2019, so that the country can move forward with its peacebuilding agenda, in particular its efforts to consolidate democracy and strengthen its institutions. Government and civil society representatives stressed the need for continuous attention to be paid to the national development agenda and the implementation of the reforms outlined in the Conakry Agreement. They specifically requested continuous support for the implementation of the development programmes identified in the Government's strategic development plan for the period 2015–2025 ("Terra Ranka").

Most interlocutors acknowledged the continuous engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission and the catalytic contributions of the Peacebuilding Fund in Guinea-Bissau, especially in view of the drawdown of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, and expressed appreciation for ongoing initiatives aimed at empowering women and young people, especially in fostering their participation in political advocacy and decision-making, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts.



The discussions occurred against the backdrop of palpable tensions among political stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau. Upon my return, I was informed of the President's dismissal of the Government, less than a month before the elections scheduled to be held on 24 November. In view of those elections, I urge the political actors in Guinea-Bissau to show utmost restraint, to refrain from all forms of violence or incitement to hatred, and to turn to dialogue, which is the only means of resolving their differences and preserving peace and stability in their country, as well as to pursue the preparations for the elections.

The Guinea-Bissau configuration stands ready to continue to serve as a platform for the mobilization of international support for the country's peacebuilding priorities, including for national dialogue, key institutional reforms and the reconciliation agenda. However, this mobilization cannot be successful unless and until there is a peaceful transition of power. The Peacebuilding Commission takes note of the statement of 29 October by the Economic Community of West African States on Guinea-Bissau. In that regard, the Commission wishes to echo regional and international calls upon the political stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau to sustain the commitments assumed at the regional level and to proceed with holding elections on 24 November, as previously agreed.

In conclusion, I should like to reiterate that the Peacebuilding Commission is determined to continue to support the international community, in consultation with the Government, in considering ways to strengthen national institutional capacities to deliver peacebuilding and development objectives in Guinea-Bissau.

*(Signed)* Mauro **Vieira**  
Chair

Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission

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