



Security Council

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Letter dated 24 February 2020 from the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

In its resolution [2282 \(2016\)](#), the Security Council expressed its intention to regularly request, deliberate and draw upon the specific, strategic and targeted advice of the Peacebuilding Commission, including to assist with the longer-term perspective required for sustaining peace in the drawdown of special political mission mandates. In that regard, the Commission would like to bring to the attention of the Council the following peacebuilding priorities in Guinea-Bissau, drawing from its engagement since the country was placed on the Commission's formal agenda in 2007.

Since the establishment of the configuration, the primary focus of the Commission's engagement in Guinea-Bissau has been to support the Government in addressing its reform agenda, and to tackle challenges impeding stability and long-term development. More recently, the Commission has focused on the implementation of the Conakry Agreement, of 2016, to help to bring the country out of its long political and institutional crisis.

The peaceful conduct of legislative and presidential elections in 2019 represented a critical step towards the consolidation of democracy in Guinea-Bissau, offering a privileged opportunity for the country to focus on the implementation of its development priorities and key reforms. However, the consolidation of peacebuilding gains continues to face obstacles, which require the continuous attention of the international community.

As the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) is drawing down and transferring tasks to the United Nations country team, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and other partners by the end of December 2020, it will be critical for the Organization's capacity to respond to the country's peacebuilding needs and priorities to remain unimpaired.

In that regard, the Commission reiterates its commitment to supporting UNIOGBIS and the country team during the transition and invites the Security Council to consider the following points:

(a) The mandate of UNIOGBIS for the remainder of the year could allow for enhanced and coordinated engagement with national stakeholders on the transition and ensuring an optimal reconfigured United Nations presence based on national peacebuilding priorities. In that context, the Secretary-General could be invited to provide information, within the existing reporting cycle, on the implementation of the transition plan and on the monitoring of progress towards the completion of the



mission's tasks and the capacity of national and international partners to assume the residual responsibilities;

(b) The mandate of UNIOGBIS could continue to include the peacebuilding components of resolution 2458 (2019), including references to, among others, the importance of nationally owned solutions, the strengthening of democratic institutions, gender mainstreaming in peacebuilding, the continued engagement of women and young people in peacebuilding, and the promotion and protection of human rights;

(c) At this critical time of political transition, UNIOGBIS should continue to have a strong mandate to exercise good offices and to facilitate inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation, supported by UNOWAS, which would assume the good offices and preventive role of the Office following its withdrawal;

(d) UNIOGBIS should continue to play an important role in mobilizing, harmonizing and coordinating international support and resources for the implementation of the key reforms outlined in the Conakry Agreement. The Security Council could consider including language on the importance of sustained international and regional engagement in strengthening national capacity and building inclusive and participatory institutions. In that regard, it would also be advisable for the Council to consider maintaining language underscoring the pivotal role played by the Economic Community of West African States and recognizing the importance of the group of five international partners represented in Guinea-Bissau (the Economic Community of West African States, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the European Union, the African Union and the United Nations) in contributing to stability in Guinea-Bissau;

(e) In that context, the Security Council could also consider including language reflecting the crucial role of the United Nations country team as it takes on additional tasks with the drawdown of UNIOGBIS;

(f) Considering the threat that trafficking in drugs and transnational organized crime pose to stability in Guinea-Bissau, the Security Council could consider emphasizing the need for continued provision of strategic and technical advice and support to the Government, in close coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The Commission could assist UNIOGBIS, in accordance with its mandate, by:

(a) Continuing to work with the Office on its full-scale transition planning and implementation and providing a platform for coherence between UNIOGBIS, UNOWAS, the country team and all relevant international and regional actors;

(b) Helping to mobilize international and regional support for the peacebuilding priorities of Guinea-Bissau, in particular for national development plans and the future United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, in recognition of an anticipated funding shortfall after the closure of the mission;

(c) Serving as a partnership forum to promote shared analysis and understanding of the multidimensional peacebuilding challenges in the country, building on lessons learned and experiences from recently closed United Nations missions in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire;

(d) Promoting the full, effective and meaningful participation and representation of women and young people at all levels, as well as civil society, in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The Commission remains committed to supporting UNIOGBIS in its role of contributing to coordination and coherence efforts to address peacebuilding and sustaining peace priorities in Guinea-Bissau.

(Signed) **Ronaldo Costa Filho**
Chair
