

Peacebuilding Commission Meeting on Guinea-Bissau

22 February 2022

On 22 February, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission's Guinea-Bissau Configuration, H.E. Mr. Ronaldo Costa Filho, convened a virtual Ambassadorial-level meeting to provide an opportunity for Member States to receive an update on the political situation in Guinea-Bissau and to hear from UN representatives about the status of the country's peacebuilding priorities and its related funding needs.

In his opening remarks, the Chair recalled the 1 February events in Guinea-Bissau and condemned the attempted coup against President Umaro Sissoco Embaló and his cabinet. He noted that Guinea-Bissau's political stability remains fragile, and warrants continued international support and UN engagement. He encouraged Member States to renew their commitment to the country and to consider additional support to the country's peacebuilding priorities.

commission of inquiry headed by the Minister of Interior, the Prosecutor-General as requested by the President, and an operational investigation by the armed forces. She recalled that the attack on Capital FM radio on 7 February as a further sign of insecurity and recalled that the assault took place during an on-air debate criticizing ECOWAS' decision to deploy troops. The DSRSG briefed that, as part of ongoing UN good offices efforts to help stabilize the situation, UNOWAS Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Mahamat Saleh Annadif travelled to Bissau on 11 February, where he met with President Embaló and reiterated the UN's condemnation of the attempted coup and stressed the need for the authorities to carry out transparent investigations to ensure accountability and justice with due process. The SRSRSG also virtually met with PAIGC opposition leader, Domingos Simões Pereira to further understand the 1 February events, and to further assist with dialogue efforts. The DSRSG noted the increasing rupture of dialogue between the MADEM-led majority coalition and the PAIGC-led minority in the National Assembly, emphasizing an urgent need to de-escalate tensions through dialogue. She stressed that, in the absence of genuine dialogue, implementing the identified peacebuilding priorities would be difficult to envisage. She concluded by noting the start of the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (2022-2026), which incorporates the eight identified peacebuilding priorities, and encouraged the generous support of Member States to enable the UN Country Team (UNCT) to continue supporting the peacebuilding and development needs of Guinea-Bissau.

UN Resident Coordinator a.i. Mr. Jean Marie Kipela noted that the events of 1 February were a stark reminder of the challenges to peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau and called for the redoubling of efforts and the long-term commitment of partners in promoting peace and supporting peacebuilding and development. Regarding the UN transition, he informed that the UN presence in Guinea-Bissau had commenced working with the Government and development partners since May 2019 to ensure that the UN transition and closure of UNIOGBIS were anchored in the UNSCDF and the country's National Development Plan (NDP), and that the UNCT had achieved all the transition milestones. He noted the strong momentum generated by the identification of the eight peacebuilding priorities and the revival of the PBF Joint Steering Committee and appealed to Member States to support the country in marshalling financial resources for the delivery of the peacebuilding priorities. He further encouraged the organization of a donor pledging conference to support the wider development needs of the country. In closing, the Resident Coordinator a.i. applauded the joint efforts of the UNCT, the PBF and development partners in support of peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau and welcomed greater international support and cooperation.

UNDP Resident Representative Guinea-Bissau, Mr. Tjark Egenhoff briefed that several UN agencies, funds, and programmes in Guinea-Bissau have been implementing peacebuilding programmes which included support to national counterparts, both in government and civil society, in implementing the reforms outlined in the ECOWAS roadmap and Conakry

programmes in support of these priorities. They encouraged the exploration of new avenues for funding and stressed the importance of partnerships with international financial institutions (IFIs).

Several member states highlighted the importance of advancing the Women, Peace, and Security agenda in Guinea-Bissau and encouraged more inclusive policies as well as the

collaboration in this regard. He concluded by noting that Guinea-Bissau had endured another threat to institutional stability and encouraged greater support to the country by the Commission.