



Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council

17th Supplement

2010-2011

Department of Political Affairs - Security Council Affairs Division
Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held nine meetings in connection with the item entitled “The situation in Guinea-Bissau” and adopted two resolutions and one presidential statement. At the meetings, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau and the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission on the political and security situation surrounding the military insurrection of 1 April 2010, as well as on developments regarding efforts undertaken in the areas of security sector reform and the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime.

The Council also renewed the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS)¹ twice, for periods of one year and 14 months, respectively.²

A table lists the meetings held in consideration of this agenda item, as well as related information, including invitees, speakers and decisions adopted.

July 2010: briefing and adoption of presidential statement in connection with the military insurrection of 1 April 2010

¹ For more information on the mandate of UNIOGBIS, see part X, sect. II, with regard to political and peacebuilding missions.

² [Resolutions 1949 \(2010\)](#) and [2030 \(2011\)](#).

On 15 July 2010, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau, who reported on the political and security situation leading up to and following the military insurrection of 1 April 2010. He stated that troops acting under the orders of the former Deputy Chief of General Staff had taken control of the armed forces headquarters, detaining the Chief of the General Staff and the Prime Minister, and had also forced their way into the United Nations premises. Subsequently, the President had appointed one of the leaders of the military insurrection as the new Chief of the General Staff, a decision that had been criticized by the international community, including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union and the African Union.³

The Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission stated that the Commission had expressed its concern to the Government of Guinea-Bissau over the events of 1 April and had called for the release of those detained, as well as called on the civilian and military authorities to work together to strengthen State institutions, promote economic development and uphold the rule of law. She also noted that the Commission was gravely concerned about drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau and stressed the need to better support regional efforts by ECOWAS in this area.⁴

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guinea-Bissau acknowledged that the crisis was a result of factors that the Government was taking steps to address. He emphasized the need for continued support and assistance of the international community in order to make progress in such areas security sector reform and the fight against drug-trafficking.⁵

On 22 July 2010, the Council adopted a presidential statement that, *inter alia*, expressed its concern at the security situation and threats to constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau, and called on the Government to release immediately all those detained during the events of 1 April or prosecute them with full respect for due process.⁶

³ [S/PV.6359](#), pp. 2-4.

⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-6.

⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 6-7.

⁶ [S/PRST/2010/15](#).

March 2010 to November 2011: briefings on developments related to security sector reform and other peacebuilding initiatives

At its 6281st, 6416th, 6489th, 6569th and 6648th meetings on 5 March and 5 November 2010, and on 25 February, 28 June and 3 November 2011, respectively, the Council heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, who outlined the support provided by UNIOGBIS in areas such as defence and security reform, national reconciliation, and combating drug trafficking and organized crime. He stressed that more robust actions from the international community were needed, such as naming involved entities and passing legislation to allow the freeze or confiscation of assets and bank accounts. On security sector reform, he reported that UNIOGBIS had continued to support reform efforts by the Government, with a particular focus on the police, as well as coordinating between international partners, in particular ECOWAS and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP). He also reported that in the first quarter of 2011, a technical mission of Angolan military and police officers had been deployed to Guinea-Bissau to rehabilitate its military infrastructure and organize training, which was subsequently complemented by a military assistance mission from Brazil. On drug trafficking and organized crime, he emphasized the need for a stronger commitment by national authorities to address problems.⁷

At the meetings, representatives of ECOWAS and CPLP briefed the Council on the establishment and subsequent efforts towards implementation of a joint road map on security sector reform, aligned with the Government's own national strategic framework, which provided for the protection of members of key national institutions, as well as training of defence and police personnel. It was also reported that CPLP member states were providing bilateral assistance to Guinea-Bissau, such as the establishment of a training centre and programme for the country's security forces by Brazil.⁸ The representative of the African Union also briefed the Council on its efforts to support the ECOWAS-CPLP initiative.⁹

⁷ [S/PV.6281](#), pp. 2-4; [S/PV.6416](#), pp. 2-5; [S/PV.6489](#), pp. 2-5; [S/PV.6569](#), pp. 2-5; and [S/PV.6648](#), pp. 2-4.

⁸ [S/PV.6569](#), pp. 6-10; and [S/PV.6648](#), pp. 9-11.

⁹ [S/PV.6416](#), pp. 6-7.

The Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission country configuration for Guinea-Bissau reported on the engagement of the Commission with the country, including its visit to Guinea-Bissau encouraging the Government to implement security sector reform and its support for the ECOWAS-CPLP road map. She further stated that the country needed to show a stronger commitment to the principle of civilian control of the military. However, efforts should not focus only on the security sector but also on socio-economic development, with measures aimed at job creation, especially among the youth. Regarding the economic situation in the country, she stated that implementation of public administration and public finance reforms, including efforts to improve fiscal discipline, had yielded positive results.¹⁰

At the meetings, representatives of Guinea-Bissau, including the Prime Minister, emphasized the commitment by the Government towards security sector reform and the specific progress made in this area, including endorsement and subsequent implementation of the ECOWAS-CPLP road map and the establishment of a special pension fund for retirees for the armed forces. However, they emphasized the multiple challenges facing the Government and the need for continued political and financial support by the international community towards the implementation of reforms.¹¹

¹⁰ Ibid., pp. 5-6.

¹¹ See for instance, [S/PV.6648](#), pp. 6-9.

Meetings: the situation in Guinea-Bissau

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against- abstaining)</i>
6281 5 March 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office (UNIOGBIS) in that country (S/2010/106)		Guinea-Bissau	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau and Head of UNIOGBIS, Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)	All invitees	
6359 15 July 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNIOGBIS in that country (S/2010/335)		Guinea-Bissau (Minister for Foreign Affairs)	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau, Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the PBC	All invitees	
6364 22 July 2010						S/PRST/2010/15
6416 5 November 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNIOGBIS in that country (S/2010/550)		Guinea-Bissau	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the PBC, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Guinea-Bissau	All invitees	
6428 23 November 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNIOGBIS in that country (S/2010/550)	Draft resolution submitted by Nigeria (S/2010/591)				Resolution 1949 (2010) 15-0-0
6489 25 February 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNIOGBIS in that country (S/2011/73)		Guinea-Bissau (Prime Minister)	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the PBC	All invitees	
6569 28 June 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNIOGBIS in that country		Guinea-Bissau (Minister of Defence)	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of	All invitees	

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against- abstaining)</i>
	(S/2011/370)			the PBC, Chair of the Community of Portuguese- speaking Countries		
6648 3 November 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNIOGBIS in that country (S/2011/655)		Angola, ^a Guinea- Bissau	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the PBC	All invitees	
6695 21 December 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNIOGBIS in that country (S/2011/655)	Draft resolution submitted by Brazil, Nigeria, Portugal (S/2011/786)				Resolution 2030 (2011) 15-0-0

^a The representative of Angola spoke on behalf of the members of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP).