



Roundtable on the Restructuring and Modernisation of the Defence and Security sector in Guinea Bissau

**Praia, Republic of Cape Verde
April 20, 2009**

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. In accordance with the decision of the 26th meeting of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council, held in Guinea Bissau on March 19, 2009, a Roundtable on the restructuring and modernisation of the Defence and Security Sector in Guinea Bissau was organised by the CPLP, ECOWAS, UNOGBIS, and the Governments of Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde in Praia on April 20, 2009.

2. The purpose of the Roundtable was to identify the key constraints to the speedy implementation of the SSR programme, find ways and means of removing them, and propose ways of injecting new life and dynamism into the programme.

3. The Roundtable also sought to identify and agree on a set of “quick wins” and recognised the need of an Action Plan aimed to build confidence within the military hierarchy to support the SSR

programme, as well as address the compelling necessity to provide security protection for the authorities, to enable them take the tough decisions that the success of the programme would require.

4. The following countries participated in the Roundtable: Algeria, Angola, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Cote d'Ivoire, East Timor, France, The Gambia, Germany, Great Britain, Guinea Bissau, Italy, Japan, Libya, Luxembourg, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Portugal, Russia, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Spain, Republic of South Africa and the United States of America.

5. The following organisations also took part in the Roundtable: African Union, Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), ECOWAS, European Union, the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie* (OIF), United Nations, United Nations Office in West Africa (UNOWA), the United Nations Office for Guinea Bissau (UNOGBIS), the United Nations Peace Building Commission, Interpol, and United Nations Office on Drug Control (UNODC). (See attached list of participants).

6. His Excellency Jose Maria Neves, Prime Minister of the Republic of Cape Verde and H.E. Carlos Gomes, Prime Minister of the Republic of Guinea Bissau co-chaired the opening ceremony of the Roundtable.

7. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cape Verde presented the agenda and work methodology for the Roundtable, following which the Minister of defence of the Republic of Guinea Bissau made a

presentation on the situation and perspectives of reform of the SSR in Guinea Bissau.

8. The Presentation session of the Roundtable was chaired by the Chairman of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers and Nigeria's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Bagudu Hirse.

9. The Special Envoy of the President of the African Union Commission in Guinea Bissau, the Vice President of the ECOWAS Commission, the representative of the CPLP Presidency, the Executive Secretary of the CPLP, the Chairperson of the United Nations Peace Building Commission Country Configuration on Guinea Bissau the representatives of the European Union (Council and Commission), the Representative of the UN Secretary General in Guinea-Bissau (ONUGBIS) and United Nations Office on Drug Control (UNODC) made separate statements at this session.

10. The Conference then broke into four working groups constituted as follows:

Group I: Reform of the Defense Sector

Group II: Reform of the Security and Justice Sector (Police and Justice)

Group III: Fight against drug trafficking

Group IV: Institutional Matters and Coordination.

11. The Roundtable considered the recommendations of the various groups and adopted them as follows:

Reform of the defense sector

i. To develop a strategic vision

The Group emphasized the need for this document that will be developed by Government Initiative in partnership with all interested national actors, based among other issues on the threat assessment.

Period: May 2009 to May 2010

ii. Rapid Impact Actions

It agreed on the need to carry out these actions, and singled out the two actions that are considered more important, within the timeframe proposed in the document:

- Pension Fund Creation
- Barracks Rehabilitation

iii. Demobilization/Conscription

- It further pointed out the importance to move forward in the two fields, without the need to bind them to a time frame.
- Both aspects depend, for their respective completion, on the future structure design and deployment of the Armed Forces and should be in accordance with the construction of a national army.

iv. Freedom Fighters

- The group agreed that this was a crosscutting issue that involved all sectors of the society affected by the reform, including the Public Administration.
- The actions presented in the Document should be implemented in parallel with the Security Sector Reform. The budgets, actions,

and timing periods should be reviewed in light of the on going census.

v. General Considerations:

a) Financing

- The group decided that the budgets should be reviewed on the basis of better detailed projects to be submitted at a future Donors Roundtable.

b) Priorities

- The Guinea Bissau Government should be in charge of priorities definition in actions implementation, using the appropriation principles.

Reform of the Security and Justice Sector

Security

- i. Complete the census of the security forces, on the basis of the work that is already being done with the help of the EU. This census should be completed by July 2009.
- ii. Speed up the completion of the legal framework for the security forces. Preparatory work has already been done, with the support of the EU. Now, in accordance with the principle of ownership, crucial political decisions must be taken by the Guinean authorities, in order to make this legal framework a reality, by approving the organic laws and

statutes for the different security forces. This should be completed by December 2009.

- iii. Once the census and the legal framework for the security forces are completed, the next step should be demobilization and recruitment, which must be closely and directly interconnected and implemented simultaneously. Demobilization and recruitment should be based on a census of the security forces; to enable the Guinean authorities identify the country's needs, and establish goals and performance indicators. Demobilization and recruitment should also be done once the new legal framework has been created and prepared, and not before.
- iv. Create a Pension fund, on the basis of the information and analysis provided by the census of the security forces.
- v. Rehabilitate/build police stations, with a budget prepared on the basis of a proper analysis of the country's needs.
- vi. Create a Security Academy for the training of civil security forces, including the training of trainers. Its budget should be prepared before the next roundtable on the SSR in Guinea Bissau.
- vii. Acquisition of service and investigation equipment.

- viii. Strengthening of the institutional capacities of Guinea Bissau to provide special security protection for democratic institutions and their representatives.

Justice

- i. Create the legal framework for the justice system. Political decisions must be taken by the Guinean authorities, in order to make this legal framework a reality. This should be completed by December 2009.
- ii. New prisons should be constructed.
- iii. The rehabilitation of old prisons, already being implemented with the help of the UNODC, should be completed.
- iv. A penitentiary system should be set up as soon as possible, including the recruitment and training of the necessary human resources and the acquisition of equipment.
- v. Existing Courts and Tribunals should be rehabilitated, and the strengthening of the capacity of the Office of the Attorney General, already being implemented in the framework of the Programme of the EU, should be completed.

Drug Trafficking

i. On State authority restoration measures:

- The measures should include the creation and/or strengthening of internal control mechanisms.

ii. In the field of law enforcement:

- The police forces' engagement and availability to cooperate with the International Community should be underscored, since the Judiciary Police reform has already shown positive signs and has achieved results.

iii. On the fight against corruption:

- Need to give a regional dimension to the drug trafficking phenomenon and bring national and international response.
- The salaries of security agents should be paid on a regular basis

Institutional reforms

- i. With regard to the permanent Reform Steering Committee Secretariat:

- The existing institutions should be strengthened with the injection of additional national experts qualified to undertake the coordination of the reform with established processes of monitoring and evaluation, as well as of reporting, aimed at the sectors of defense, security, justice and fight against drug trafficking;
 - Where necessary, recourse should be made for institutional technical assistance through international cooperation;
 - The coordination of the dialogue on SSR with the international community should be the responsibility of Guinea Bissau Government and may be supported by UNOGBIS.
- ii. With regard to the creation of a Trust Fund for the Guinea Bissau SSR:
- For that purpose, an International Guinea Bissau SSR Coordination and Management Mechanism should be established.
- iii. With regard to the strengthening the UNOGBIS capacity:
- An SSR coordination capacity building programmed should be put in place for UNOGBIS, with a view to strengthening its management capacity in this matter.
- iv. With regard to civil society and media engagement:

- A national Strategy on information should be developed, with operational training and sensitization programmes targeted at a greater participation and involvement of these stakeholders in the SSR.

v. With regard to the strengthening of the State institutional capacity and of public administration reform facilitation:

- Given the crosscutting nature of State institutional capacity building and public administration reform facilitation, Guinea Bissau's capacity to implement the reforms, particularly the SSR, should be strengthened, so as to ensure that the country derives full benefits from the process.

12. The participants decided to recommend to the Authorities, the implementation of the outcome of the meeting diligently and pledged to mobilize the required resources.

13. To that end, the co-organizers will draft the follow-up action plan to be presented to the countries and organizations represented and to the next International Contact Group on Guinea Bissau (ICG-GB) meeting.

14. The participants expressed their gratitude to the government and people of Cape Verde for the excellent facilities put at their disposal to ensure a smooth and successful meeting.

Praia, April 20th, 2009