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Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1876 (2009), by which the Council established the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), and resolution 1949 (2010), renewing the mandate of UNIOGBIS and requesting me to report every four months on the situation in Guinea-Bissau and on progress made in the implementation of the mandate. The present report covers major developments since my report of 25 October 2010 (S/2010/550).

II. Major developments in Guinea-Bissau

A. Political developments

2. During the reporting period, the political leadership of Guinea-Bissau and major Government institutions made significant efforts to improve the political and security environment, as well as the country's relationship with regional and international partners. The end of October 2010 was dominated, however, by renewed indications of the continuing rift between President Malam Bacai Sanhá and Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior. Some pressure groups from the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde reinforced their support for the Prime Minister as the leader of the party in a well-attended rally that took place on 30 October in Gabú, in eastern Guinea-Bissau. Subsequently, representatives of traditional leaders met separately with the President and Prime Minister, on 2 and 3 November, and urged them to reconcile, while criticizing their advisers for fomenting discord within the leadership of the country.

3. On 8 November, another party pressure group, the "Movement of Young Patriots in Solidarity with the Government of Carlos Gomes Júnior", warned against any attempt to bring down the Government. It also cautioned that the expectations of the people could not be jeopardized by small groups and dissidents within the party. In an attempt to promote rapprochement between the President and the Prime Minister, the Minister for Commerce, Botché Candé, and the President's Diplomatic and Political Adviser, Soares Sambú, toured Bafatá and Gabú on 13 and



14 November to sensitize the party's supporters on the need to refrain from speculation and partisanship and to respect the country's institutions. Civil society groups also undertook various initiatives to impress on the President and the Prime Minister the need for more genuine institutional collaboration.

4. In his address to the National Assembly on 19 November, at the opening of the new parliamentary year, President Sanhá acknowledged that a lack of dialogue persisted and was hampering institutional relations. Concern that relations between the President and the Prime Minister might deteriorate further continued during the reporting period, in particular on 26 October, when the Prime Minister suspended the Interior Minister, Satú Camará Pinto, a personal appointee of President Sanhá. The Prime Minister blamed Ms. Pinto for having contravened cabinet instructions to freeze promotions in the defence and security forces. However, she continued to carry out her ministerial duties. The stand-off continued until 18 December, when the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of Parliament and the President of the Supreme Court reached a compromise, which resulted in the resignation of Ms. Pinto on 20 December. She was replaced by a presidential adviser, Dinis Na Fantchama, and was subsequently appointed as head of the Presidential Staff Office on 23 December.

5. On 27 December, the President denied the existence of personal tensions with the Prime Minister and gave the assurance that the Government would stay in place until the end of the legislative session in 2012. Speculation over the survival of the Government ended when the 2011 State budget was approved by the National Assembly on 20 December 2010, with the support of the opposition Republican Party for Independence and Development, the Democratic Alliance and the Party for New Democracy. My Special Representative continued his efforts to promote permanent dialogue between the President and the Prime Minister, following the joint meeting on 14 October between the two leaders and ambassadors resident in Bissau, during which the urgency of establishing constructive and inclusive political dialogue at all levels was stressed.

6. During the reporting period, UNIOGBIS and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to provide technical support to the organizing committee of the national conference. As part of efforts to enhance political dialogue, the organizing committee met with national stakeholders, including parliamentarians, civil society organizations and military and security leaders, to explain the aims of the national conference process and methodology and to lobby for their support. With the financial assistance of the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, the organizing committee launched the national conference process on 14 December with a series of eight regional conferences for defence and security personnel, which were completed on 16 January 2011. A total of 50 participants attended each conference, with the exception of the one held in Bissau, where 100 participants were in attendance. During the opening session of the parliamentary year, on 19 November, the President and the Speaker of Parliament called for support for the national conference and referred to the need to advance the revision of the Constitution.

7. On 3 and 4 December, UNIOGBIS and the Bissau Faculty of Law organized a debate on the constitutional framework of Guinea-Bissau, attended by 40 participants, including members of the Parliamentary Commission for the Review of the Constitution and representatives of State institutions, the military,

political parties and civil society organizations. The support for the Parliamentary Commission provided by UNIOGBIS and the Faculty of Law included four thematic workshops, the first of which was held on 13 and 14 January 2011. For their part, UNDP and the Inter-Parliamentary Union organized a workshop for 100 parliamentarians on 9 and 10 December 2010 to better define the duties and responsibilities of the National Assembly, and to subsequently publish a manual on oversight mechanisms and a manual on administrative and financial procedures.

8. On 22 December 2010, the former Chief of General Staff, Vice-Admiral Zamora Induta, and the former head of military intelligence, Colonel Samba Djaló, were released from the custody of the armed forces. The officers had been detained in connection with the events of 1 April 2010, when the then-Deputy Chief of General Staff, General Antonio Indjai, ordered the arrest of the Chief of General Staff, the brief detention of the Prime Minister and the release of Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchuto from the United Nations premises, where he had sought refuge since 28 December 2009. The release of Vice-Admiral Induta, ordered by the Military High Court in October 2010 owing to a lack of evidence to substantiate charges of embezzlement of funds and abuse of power, had initially been withheld by General Indjai because of security and safety concerns. Major General Melciades Manuel Gomes Fernandes, Captain Bacar Sanó, Lieutenant Malam Candé and Sergeant Djabu Camará were also all released, having spent 19 months in detention in connection with the assassination of former Chief of General Staff Tagme Na Waie in March 2009.

B. Security sector reform and the rule of law

9. On 25 October 2010, my Special Representative met in Luanda with the President of Angola, Eduardo dos Santos, to discuss his country's bilateral efforts within the scope of the partnership between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), especially as Angola was the Chair of the latter. While highlighting bilateral cooperation with Guinea-Bissau in various areas, including defence and security, President dos Santos also stressed the benefit of working within the framework of multilateral partnerships, especially that of ECOWAS and CPLP, under the coordination of the United Nations. Subsequently, the CPLP Chiefs of General Staff held their twelfth ordinary session on 28 and 29 October in Bissau. The session was opened by the Minister for Defence, Aristides Ocante da Silva, who, as Chair of the Security Sector Reform Steering Committee, highlighted joint efforts by the national authorities and the international community for the effective launch of the reforms in the defence and security sectors.

10. On 22 and 23 November, the ECOWAS Chiefs of Defence Staff, the CPLP defence and security chiefs and CPLP representatives held an extraordinary session in Abuja to further discuss the road map developed by the Chiefs of Defence Staff of ECOWAS and CPLP in support of security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau. That road map had envisaged the deployment of training and protection units to enhance the security of State institutions and the demobilization and reinsertion of members of the armed forces and security services. At the end of the meeting, the Chiefs of Defence Staff recommended the swift mobilization of \$95 million to implement a programme of reforms as part of the road map, which included the rehabilitation of

two military barracks and the deployment of police training units, 100 security and close protection personnel and 3 formed police units.

11. The 28th meeting of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council was held in Abuja on 24 November to discuss the recommendations made by the ECOWAS Chiefs of Defence Staff, in particular the road map for the reform of the defence and security sectors in Guinea-Bissau. The Minister for External Relations and the Minister for Defence of Angola, representing CPLP, my Special Representatives for West Africa and for Guinea-Bissau, and the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Guinea-Bissau also attended the meeting. The various statements echoed a call for the enhancement of international support for the ECOWAS-CPLP partnership, the prompt adoption of the road map and the stepping-up of resource mobilization efforts. At the end of the meeting, the recommendations of the Chiefs of Defence Staff were adopted and submitted to the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government for final endorsement and action. Subsequently, on 21 December, my Special Representative wrote to the President of the ECOWAS Commission, James Victor Gbeho, to stress the urgency of convening a summit of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government to consider and formally endorse the road map in order to maintain and build on the momentum in support of security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau.

12. At its meeting on 23 December, the African Union Peace and Security Council welcomed the commitment of the Guinea-Bissau authorities to reform the defence and security sectors on the basis of the recommendations of the 28th meeting of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council. The Council requested the ECOWAS Commission to approach the bilateral and multilateral partners of Guinea-Bissau for the early convening of a donors' conference to facilitate the implementation of the reforms.

13. A delegation from the Government of Angola, led by the Secretary of State for External Relations, Manuel Domingos Augusto, arrived in Bissau on 6 January 2011 to discuss the implementation of bilateral agreements in the economic and security sector areas. The delegation met with President Sanhá, Prime Minister Gomes Júnior and the Minister for Defence of Guinea-Bissau, among others, to convey the readiness of Angola to expand the support it provided to Guinea-Bissau and, as a matter of priority, to support the rehabilitation of military installations and training and equipment of the defence and security forces of Guinea-Bissau. The head of the Angola delegation assured my Special Representative of the resolve of his Government to operate under the umbrella of the United Nations in Guinea-Bissau and to maintain close ties to that end with UNIOGBIS. The Government of Angola had previously allocated \$30 million to cover the costs of a bilateral defence and security sector reform agreement signed in 2010, which would be implemented within the framework of the ECOWAS-CPLP road map.

14. On 31 January, the Council of the European Union, on the recommendation of the European Commission, decided to initiate consultations with Guinea-Bissau based on article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement. The decision to hold consultations reflect concerns of the European Union about respect for democratic principles and the rule of law in Guinea-Bissau. The European Commission would temporarily suspend part of its development cooperation assistance, in particular in the areas of budget support and security sector reform, pending the outcome of the consultations. The European Union had continued to call upon Guinea-Bissau to

bring an end to illegal detention and impunity, strengthen civilian authority over the military and advance reforms in the defence and security sectors.

15. From October to December 2010, UNIOGBIS and the Ministry of Defence organized awareness-raising seminars in Bissau, Gabú and Canchungo on the rule of law, human rights, gender, democracy and military justice to enhance the capacity of military officers in the process of consolidating peace and the rule of law; they also recommended the adoption of a code of conduct to prevent impunity and renew public trust in the armed forces.

16. UNIOGBIS and UNDP also continued to provide support to the National Security Sector Reform Steering Committee. UNDP assisted the Steering Committee in developing a strategy and action plan to conduct a sensitization and information campaign on security sector reform and supported the implementation of the action plan, in collaboration with UNIOGBIS. One technical expert was seconded from UNIOGBIS to the permanent secretariat of the Steering Committee, and the mission provided strategic technical advice towards the formulation of the national action plan for security sector reform. The plan was presented to the Steering Committee at its meeting on 10 December, following its approval by the Minister for Defence, as Chair of the Committee.

17. The meeting of the Steering Committee offered a platform for national and international stakeholders to discuss practical ways of expediting the adoption of the proposed ECOWAS-CPLP road map and planning its implementation. In particular, the Minister for Defence insisted on the need to enhance the coordination of all actions planned under the road map so as to avoid the overlapping of plans and activities. My Special Representative impressed upon the leadership of Guinea-Bissau the need to confirm to the ECOWAS Commission its consent with the proposed road map in order to allow the Commission to convene a summit of Heads of State and Government to adopt the document. He also notified the national authorities and regional partners of the availability of UNIOGBIS to assist in the planning and coordination of the joint ECOWAS-CPLP partnership in Guinea-Bissau. It was in that context that UNIOGBIS established close coordination ties with the first team of experts of the Angola military and police, led by Lieutenant-General Gildo Carvalho dos Santos, deployed to Guinea-Bissau on 3 January 2011.

18. On 21 December, at the request of the Government, UNIOGBIS sponsored a meeting between officers of the Guinea-Bissau armed forces and internal security institutions to discuss security sector reform plans, with particular emphasis on the recommendations of the Chiefs of Defence Staff and the security services of ECOWAS and CPLP member States. The meeting enabled the Guinea-Bissau military and security personnel to receive information on the content of the ECOWAS-CPLP road map and to discuss and clarify concerns the Guinea-Bissau military and police had regarding the details of the proposed reforms. At the end of the meeting, a final declaration was issued commending the joint efforts of ECOWAS and CPLP and calling for the implementation of the road map.

19. During the reporting period, progress was also achieved in the vetting and certification process of policing and internal security agencies. The United Nations standing police capacity, which was deployed in Guinea-Bissau until November 2010, assisted the national authorities in developing a comprehensive human resources database in support of the policing and internal security agencies. On

21 January, the Chair of the National Security Sector Reform Steering Committee signed a decree establishing the National Mixed Technical Independent Commission, which would be responsible for carrying out the vetting and certification process under the technical assistance of UNIOGBIS. Completion of the process should ensure individual and institutional integrity and accountability and help to improve the public image of the internal security institutions and armed forces, thus increasing the population's trust and confidence in them.

20. Several training courses designed by the standing police capacity were held in November and December 2010 as part of the training programme for the personnel of the future model police station in Bissau, which was still under construction. The courses covered human rights and gender perspectives, criminal investigation and leadership and focused on governance and human resources management. UNIOGBIS security sector reform advisers also joined with the permanent secretariat of the National Steering Committee, the Ministry of the Interior, the Public Order Police and the Interpol National Central Bureau, among others, to provide on-the-job training, mentoring, coaching and capacity-building in logistical and administrative areas.

21. UNIOGBIS, with national and international partners, had been assisting national authorities in promoting dialogue and cooperation among and between law enforcement agencies, magistrates and prosecutors in Guinea-Bissau. On 11 November, UNIOGBIS organized a seminar for the Office of the Prosecutor General and for police agencies to promote cooperation and information exchange and to develop an efficient criminal justice system to fight impunity. UNIOGBIS and the standing police capacity also continued to assist national partners in establishing a protection and facilitation programme for witnesses and victims, which is a crucial element in addressing drug trafficking, organized crime, political, sexual and gender-based violence and other serious crimes. The Mission, in close consultation with other international partners, also assisted national stakeholders with the approval and implementation of the required legislative framework, as well as with capacity-building initiatives related to the protection and facilitation of testimonies by witnesses. A national ad hoc committee, with the support of UNIOGBIS, finalized the initial phase of an initiative to develop national legislation that would protect witnesses, victims and key national officers involved in combating impunity. The Prosecutor General and the Minister for Justice were following up on the next steps to have the text approved and subsequently used as the basis for draft legislation.

22. UNIOGBIS and the Portuguese Embassy organized a training seminar for 100 senior law enforcement officers on crime reporting and criminal investigation, held in Bissau from 2 to 6 December. The initiative helped foster cooperation among police institutions and facilitated the implementation of their respective laws. Since its inauguration on 22 July 2010, the computer-based training centre, established with the assistance of the Government of Canada, UNIOGBIS, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the standing police capacity, had helped train a total of 430 officers from various policing institutions in the areas of criminal investigation, public order, protective operations, immigration, border control, customs, money-laundering and criminal intelligence. The centre also fosters cooperation among police institutions.

23. The bidding process for management of the armed forces pension fund resumed in December 2010, and was jointly managed by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Finance. Following the establishment of the association of ex-combatants in November, an estimated 1,000 individuals claiming to be ex-combatants had complained that they had not been taken into account by the 2009 census of liberation war veterans. The issue was being addressed with the assistance of the Ministry of Defence.

24. In November 2010, a multidisciplinary team comprising one international and five national consultants recruited by UNDP initiated in three pilot regions a study on access to justice to identify the most vulnerable groups in terms of access to justice, including their perception of justice, their capacities and the challenges they face in accessing legal support mechanisms and judicial advice, with a view to recommending appropriate responses. In December, UNDP and the Bissau Faculty of Law signed an agreement to complete the second phase of an extensive research project on the traditional justice mechanisms and customary law of six ethnic groups in Guinea-Bissau. The goal of the project was to produce a legal analysis of the customary practices adopted in conflict resolution mechanisms at the community level and to facilitate a better understanding of the informal justice system. UNDP, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and UNODC continued to implement a project under the UNDP/Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund to increase access to justice and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in that area.

C. Illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and human trafficking

25. UNODC and UNIOGBIS continued to provide assistance to national authorities as part of the West Africa Coast Initiative in support of the 2008-2011 ECOWAS regional action plan to address the growing problem of illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa. In response to a letter dated 27 October 2010 from the Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau addressed to me requesting further assistance and funding for the implementation of the 2007-2010 national operational plan for preventing and combating drug trafficking and its extension until 2013, UNODC took the necessary steps to extend the different components of the operational plan in consultation with national and international partners.

26. On 3 December, a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of a transnational crime unit was signed by the Justice, Interior and Finance Ministers. The unit, established within the framework of the West Africa Coast Initiative, would be a specialized national inter-agency mechanism playing a key role in the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking in the country. On 16 December, a joint briefing by West Africa Coast Initiative partners to the Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone and Liberia configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission took place in New York, in parallel to the UNODC high-level briefing session on drug trafficking and organized crime as a security threat to West Africa.

27. The new premises of the upgraded Interpol National Central Bureau were inaugurated on 9 December and were expected to be fully operational in the first quarter of 2011. UNODC was continuing its efforts to mobilize partners and had

received important financial contributions for law enforcement activities from the European Union and the United States of America within the framework of the UNODC Law Enforcement Project Portfolio for Guinea-Bissau. UNIOGBIS had co-located a team of experts at the Interpol National Central Bureau on a rotational basis to permanently assist with mentoring activities.

28. From 20 September to 10 November 2010, 80 penitentiary guards and 5 directors of the prisons of Mansoa and Bafata were trained by experts from the prison services of the Portuguese Ministry of Justice in cooperation with UNODC and with support from UNIOGBIS. That training included the delivery of uniforms and equipment. Preliminary activities were ongoing to assess the rehabilitation needs of the Canchungo prison and the Judiciary Police detention centre in Bissau. The legal framework for the prison system in Guinea-Bissau was developed by a working group comprising representatives from the Ministry of Justice and UNODC and had been approved by the National Assembly.

29. UNODC, in partnership with the United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, also conducted a one-week training programme from 13 to 17 December for judges and prosecutors, inspectors of the Judiciary Police and officials from the Ministry of Justice on mutual legal assistance and international judicial cooperation in criminal matters. Representatives from Cape Verde, Portugal, Spain, the European Commission and UNIOGBIS also attended the training.

D. Human rights and gender issues

30. The investigations into the assassinations of March and June 2009 were ongoing. The Guinea-Bissau League of Human Rights had expressed satisfaction with the release of several officers detained without due process in connection with the 2009 political assassinations and the events of 1 April 2010, and with the fact that the national authorities were complying with due process. However, the League had appealed to the authorities to guarantee the security of the released persons and to clarify the circumstances surrounding the 2009 assassinations.

31. On 10 December 2010, to mark Human Rights Day, UNIOGBIS and UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and the National Human Rights Commission, organized several awareness-raising activities involving human rights defenders in Guinea-Bissau, including a sports tournament for disabled persons, radio debates, a lecture at the Bissau Faculty of Law, two workshops in the eastern and northern parts of the country and the dissemination of materials on human rights in the Criolo language.

32. UNIOGBIS, the Ministry of Interior and the Public Order Police also organized sensitization workshops on gender issues, held on 28 October and 7 December, to promote full respect for the principles of equality and gender balance within law enforcement structures. Efforts were also deployed to raise awareness of gender issues within the police forces, in particular on the prevention, signalling and investigation of gender-based violence. The Ministry of Interior had requested further technical assistance to create internal structures to better address gender-based violence.

33. In October and November 2010, UNIOGBIS supported several activities of the National Steering Committee to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption by the Security Council of its resolution 1325 (2000). The aim was to raise military and police commanders' awareness of the role and importance of the effective and equal participation of women in the military and police institutions, within the framework of the security sector reform programme. The activities included seminars and radio programmes in Bissau and the regions, including a march of uniformed women and a workshop to reflect the progress made in implementing the resolution.

34. A workshop on gender-responsive budgeting was organized for parliamentarians from 25 to 28 October 2010, with the active collaboration of five ministries, including the Finance and Economy Ministries. The United Nations Development Fund for Women and other United Nations agencies also supported the parliamentary specialized commission on women and children in drafting a law against domestic violence. That entailed regional consultations with representatives of the Government, civil society organizations and traditional leaders to ensure widespread ownership of the process.

III. Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund

35. In a meeting held in New York on 5 November 2010, my Special Representative and the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Guinea-Bissau briefed the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission on the situation in the country. During the meeting, the Chairperson of the Guinea-Bissau configuration was requested to prepare a strategy paper on the way forward for the engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission. The paper, discussed on 22 November at a meeting of the configuration, considered that the events of 1 April reflected the persistent disregard by the armed forces of Guinea-Bissau of the principle of civilian authority over the military. The paper also acknowledged the progress made in the areas of economic and financial reforms, and took note of the consensus that a disengagement from Guinea-Bissau would have a negative impact on ongoing efforts to build democratic governance and effectively address peace and stability challenges. The paper stressed that, depending on future developments on the ground, the Peacebuilding Commission could help mobilize resources for security sector reform and the military pension fund, and support the organization of a donors' round table with a focus on socio-economic and institutional capacity-building priorities as outlined in the Peacebuilding Commission's strategic framework for peacebuilding.

36. On 15 December, the Peacebuilding Fund Joint Steering Committee approved the 2011-2013 Peacebuilding Priority Plan for Guinea-Bissau, which identified key peacebuilding priorities for those three years, including, in particular, support for the implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue; strengthening the security sector and the rule of law; the revitalization of the economy; and the reactivation of basic social services. The document was formally submitted to the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office on 22 December. I subsequently assessed the proposal and recommended an allocation of up to \$16.8 million. The Peacebuilding Support Office will pursue discussions with UNIOGBIS and the Joint Steering Committee on the practical aspects of the release of those funds and the

implementation of the priority plan. Three projects funded under the first Peacebuilding Fund allocation were expected to be completed during the first quarter of 2011, following the approval of a no-cost extension. The projects were for the rehabilitation of the military barracks in the regions of Gabú and Quebo and the refurbishment of the Amura fortress, the renovation and refurbishment of the regional prisons in Mansoa and Bafatá and vocational training and youth employment. The remaining balance from the first Peacebuilding Fund allocation would be used for two critical activities in line with the priority plan, namely the eight regional preparatory conferences on security and defence to be conducted within the framework of the national dialogue process, and the functioning of the Peacebuilding Fund secretariat.

IV. Economic and social aspects

37. Despite the continuing structural fragility of the economic and fiscal situation, Guinea-Bissau continued to pursue important reforms that enabled it to make significant progress in managing its debt burden, thus opening up opportunities to stabilize the economy and promote economic growth. Key economic and public administration reforms were moving forward as the Government sought to improve fiscal discipline. In December 2010, having reached the completion point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, Guinea-Bissau benefited from a debt relief package of up to \$1.2 billion, which represented an 87 per cent cut in its debt. The Prime Minister pledged that the Government would invest the additional resources in social sectors and infrastructure, and address the priorities of the Guinea-Bissau poverty reduction strategy. On 27 December, commenting on reaching the HIPC initiative completion point, as endorsed on 16 December by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, President Sanhá praised the Prime Minister and his Cabinet and encouraged them to pursue the reform programme.

38. An IMF delegation visited Bissau from 10 to 14 January to stress, among other things, that the announced debt relief was a unique opportunity for the Government to implement reforms and its economic development programme and to encourage the authorities to prevent political instability that could undermine the positive momentum. It was also noted that the remaining debt was still high and would require prudent management. Economic growth was expected to reach 4 per cent in 2010, compared to 3 per cent in 2009. The Government also made progress in increasing tax revenues within the context of fiscal reforms and anticipated that, in 2011, it would have the budgetary resources to cover spending beyond the payment of salaries. While those were encouraging developments, the Government nonetheless remained strongly dependent on international assistance and continued to face difficulties in delivering basic services to the population.

39. Guinea-Bissau was about to finalize its second national poverty reduction strategy paper, for the period from 2011 to 2015. The United Nations country team and UNIOGBIS, under the technical leadership and coordination of UNDP, had provided significant contributions to the drafting process, supported the organization of regional consultations, and assessed the costing studies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in five strategic sectors: health, education, infrastructure, agriculture and energy. The country team and World Bank had also assisted the Government with gender and risk management mainstreaming, a

poverty profile update, and the creation of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and indicators. The 2011 survey on monitoring the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness and the fragile States survey, officially launched during the reporting period, were expected to contribute to assessing progress in the Paris Declaration commitments and to help make tangible improvements in the way aid was delivered in Guinea-Bissau.

40. UNDP had supported the public administration reform and the modernization programme of the Government through the implementation of an integrated human resources and state payroll management system. The system was designed to enable the Government to manage revenue and staffing for better planning and rationalization of budget expenditures, to improve the quality of public services, promote interaction between Government structures and the private sector, to strengthen the participation of citizens through access to information, to achieve good governance in public administration, and to promote transparency and reduce corruption and administrative services costs.

41. The 2010-2011 cereal harvest increased from 137,739 tons in 2009 to 157,223 tons, including a total of 106,273 tons of rice in 2010. Despite that substantial increase, the food situation remained difficult in all regions of the country, owing to the low income of producers and the high food prices. Although markets were sufficiently supplied and prices of foodstuffs were uniform and stable throughout the country in the first half of 2010, they experienced stock shortages in the second half owing to lower imports of food staples and the subsequent price increase, which hampered access to food. The Government had remained up to date with salaries but was faced with strikes over conditions of service and arrears owed to some categories of employees. Although the school year had started on time in October 2010, State schools were disrupted by strike actions led by two teachers' unions from October to December over contractual issues and salary arrears owed to teachers on temporary contracts.

42. The Government and teachers' unions reached an agreement to end the strike and to make up for 13 lost teaching days. Magistrates and trade unions representing three State-owned media organizations, namely the national radio, the *Nô Pintcha* newspaper and the Guinean news agency, had also embarked on strike action in December over higher salaries and to demand improved conditions of work and security. Following negotiations with the Government, the media trade unions had agreed to end their three-day action, while strike action by the magistrates resumed in January 2011.

43. The preliminary results of the multiple indicator cluster survey and reproductive health survey, carried out jointly by the United Nations Children's Fund and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States, showed that mortality rates had declined since 2006, with under-5 mortality down from 223 per 1,000 live births to 158 per 1,000 live births. The results also indicated that most major indicators on vaccination, access to education and water and sanitation had also improved. However, some indicators related to child protection, such as birth registration and child labour, may have worsened. Following the endorsement of the education sector plan, Guinea-Bissau had been accepted as a member of the World Bank Education for All Fast-Track Initiative, which would enable it to access the catalytic fund of that initiative in early 2011.

44. Under the second phase of the “Youth Initiative” project, UNDP provided advisory support and grants to 15 youth organizations for the implementation of peacebuilding activities in various regions of Guinea-Bissau. More than 100 young people received training on information and communication techniques for peace, and on volunteerism to raise awareness on peacebuilding. Theatrical performances in the towns of Bissorã and Bissau, touching on communal conflicts, allowed for discussions on peaceful ways of dealing with conflicts and the establishment of conflict-prevention groups.

V. Public information

45. In December 2010, UNIOGBIS organized a seminar on media coverage of human rights and gender issues for 45 journalists from Bissau-based media and community radios, as well as for communication officers from the National Assembly and the Ministry of Justice. The mission also organized a sensitization meeting with journalists on 21 December 2010 to present its mandate as outlined in Security Council resolution 1949 (2010).

46. At the bilateral level, as part of its expanding cooperation with Guinea-Bissau, Angola disbursed \$150,000 in November 2010 to enhance the technical capacities of Guinea-Bissau national television, which had resumed its programmes at the end of 2010. In a second phase, Angola also committed to allocate \$6 million to support State radio and television in the areas of infrastructure, equipment and capacity-building.

VI. Integration of the United Nations system in Guinea-Bissau

47. During the reporting period, the United Nations system continued to make progress towards the integration and implementation of the programmes contained in the United Nations Framework for Peace and Development in Guinea-Bissau. The period under review corresponded to the preparation of the annual progress report on the status of the implementation of the Framework. That annual report highlighted the key achievements under each priority area, as well as the challenges, risks and constraints encountered during its implementation, and the external factors that had influenced the non-achievement of some objectives. It also proposed some policy recommendations on how to improve the implementation of the mandate of UNIOGBIS.

48. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1949 (2010), UNIOGBIS and the country team would organize their annual retreat in the first quarter of 2011 to agree on key benchmarks for the implementation of the Framework and their respective annual workplans. That exercise would be undertaken in line with the 2011-2015 national poverty reduction strategy paper.

VII. Safety and security of personnel

49. During the reporting period, there were no visible direct threats against United Nations staff in Guinea-Bissau. The crime rate remained under normal levels. All security measures applicable to United Nations staff continued to be strictly enforced.

VIII. Observations

50. I am encouraged by the noticeable progress that Guinea-Bissau has made to reverse the negative effects of the civil-military events that took place on 1 April 2010. In that respect, I note the positive steps taken by the leadership of Guinea-Bissau, especially the President and Prime Minister, to demonstrate its renewed commitment to resolve contentious issues through dialogue and consultations and to consolidate State institutions. In that context, I also wish to acknowledge the important role played by regional and international stakeholders to encourage constructive dialogue among the political and military leadership.

51. I welcome the launch on 14 December 2010 of the inclusive preparatory process bringing together Parliament, Government institutions, defence and security institutions and civil society organizations, among others, that should culminate in 2011 in the holding of the long-awaited national conference. I encourage the leadership and population of Guinea-Bissau to make the best use of this crucial process and establish permanent and inclusive mechanisms of dialogue and consultation in order to strengthen governance, democratic institutions, justice and the rule of law, as well as institutional frameworks that are essential for the stability of the country. I appeal to the country's international partners to continue to extend all necessary assistance to the national conference process.

52. I take note of the recent efforts to improve the security environment in Guinea-Bissau, especially those of the civilian leadership of the country, to assert its control over defence and security institutions. I welcome the initial steps taken by bilateral partners, in particular Angola, to help Guinea-Bissau restructure its armed forces and to contribute to the rehabilitation of military and police installations. I encourage the political and military leadership of Guinea-Bissau to adhere to ongoing regional mechanisms and processes aimed at assisting them in the establishment of republican and professional defence and security institutions.

53. In that context, I am especially encouraged by the progress made by regional and international partners, in particular by CPLP and ECOWAS, to generate technical and financial support for the implementation of the security sector reform programme. The adoption on 24 November 2010 by the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council of the road map developed to support that programme marked a critically important first step in formalizing the emerging partnership between CPLP and ECOWAS to restructure and modernize the Guinea-Bissau defence and security institutions.

54. I recall the request of the Security Council in its resolution 1949 (2010) to present comprehensive information detailing the proposed modalities, timing and resources relating to the implementation of the road map. The Council also requested me to engage with ECOWAS and CPLP with a view to undertaking a joint assessment of the requirements to support the rapid implementation of the road map

in coordination with the relevant partners. In order not to lose the positive momentum ensuing from the adoption of the road map, I trust that the political and military leadership of Guinea-Bissau will officially confirm its adherence to the ECOWAS plan and that ECOWAS Heads of State and Government will endorse it to enable the implementation process to begin. I intend to deploy a mission to Bissau by the end of the first quarter of 2011 to undertake the requested assessment, following which I will provide a detailed response to the Council's request in my next report.

55. In my previous report, I stressed that the emerging ECOWAS-CPLP partnership had helped to regenerate political momentum in Guinea-Bissau and had reopened a window of opportunity to enhance collaboration between the international community and the people and leadership of Guinea-Bissau following months of impasse. In that regard, it is worth noting that the national authorities of Guinea-Bissau have made noticeable efforts in recent months to reverse the negative trends that had dominated the events of 1 April, in particular by beginning to address issues related to impunity in the armed forces. Despite these positive steps, including the release from detention of Vice-Admiral Induta and other senior officers, the national authorities of Guinea-Bissau should continue to take appropriate measures to ensure full respect for due process in the prosecution of those responsible for criminal acts such as political assassinations and drug trafficking. I call upon the national authorities to complete the investigations into the 2009 political assassinations and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice. Such action would contribute to improving public confidence in national institutions and help end impunity in the country. The United Nations will continue to assist the country in that endeavour.

56. I welcome the signing of the memorandum of understanding for the establishment of a transnational crime unit, which is a key mechanism for enhancing national capacity in the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime. The implementation of the national 2010-2013 action plan to fight drug trafficking and organized crime deserves the support of international partners within the framework of the ECOWAS regional action plan designed to curb that plague at the subregional level. The United Nations stands ready to continue to support the efforts of ECOWAS and the Government of Guinea-Bissau to that end.

57. I would like to congratulate the Government of Guinea-Bissau for the courageous and focused economic reforms that have significantly improved economic performance, and I commend the country's international partners, in particular IMF and the World Bank, for their support in achieving that result. It is now necessary for the Government to pursue its reform process and continue to improve the macroeconomic context. In order to improve the Government's capacity to absorb international support, especially following the attainment of debt relief under the HIPC process, it is crucial that it strengthen its coordination mechanisms in an integrated and synchronized way. The United Nations remains available to provide assistance in that regard. Political stability is essential if the country is to use the window of opportunity presented by the recently announced debt relief arrangement to build on the positive momentum created. It is especially important for the people of Guinea-Bissau, in particular political and military actors, to reflect on the high cost of the wasted years and to focus on working collectively in the national interest towards building a national consensus on the priorities for socio-economic development and long-term stability.

58. I would like to conclude by commending the staff of UNIOGBIS, under the leadership of my Special Representative, Joseph Mutaboba, and the entire United Nations country team led by my new Deputy Special Representative, Gana Fofang, as well as national and international non-governmental organizations and other partners, for the important work they continue to carry out to support sustainable peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau.
