



Security Council

Fifty-ninth year

Provisional

5069th meeting

Tuesday, 2 November 2004, 12.35 p.m.

New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Danforth	(United States of America)
<i>Members:</i>	Algeria	Mr. Benmehidi
	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Benin	Mr. Adechi
	Brazil	Mr. Valle
	Chile	Mr. Donoso
	China	Mr. Cheng Jingye
	France	Mr. Poirier
	Germany	Mr. Trautwein
	Pakistan	Mr. Khalid
	Philippines	Mr. Mercado
	Romania	Mr. Motoc
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Spain	Mr. Yáñez-Barnuevo
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Howe-Jones

Agenda

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

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The meeting was called to order at 12.35 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of November, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Security Council, to His Excellency Sir Emyr Jones Parry, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, for his service as President for the month of October 2004. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Sir Emyr for the great diplomatic skill with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Guinea-Bissau in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Cabral (Guinea-Bissau) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council.

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern at developments in Guinea-Bissau that led to the killings, on 6 October 2004, of the Armed Forces Chief of Staff, General Verissimo Correia Seabra, and of the Chief of Human Resources, Colonel Domingos de Barros. The Council condemns in the strongest terms such use

of force to settle differences or address grievances and, bearing in mind the position of the African Union on unconstitutional changes of government, as stated in the 1999 Algiers Decision and the 2000 Lomé Declaration, calls upon the Guinean-Bissau parties to refrain from attempting to seize power in Guinea-Bissau by force.

"The Security Council takes note of the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding, in Bissau, on 10 October, 2004, and of the establishment of a commission to monitor its implementation, and underlines that the Government of Guinea-Bissau and national authorities must remain committed to the promotion of the rule of law and to the fight against impunity, including when considering ways of implementing the above mentioned agreement.

"The Security Council urges all political parties to continue working, in good faith, with national authorities to complete the implementation of the Transitional Charter before the holding of presidential elections by April 2005.

"The Security Council reaffirms that peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau are critical for peace and security in the West African subregion. As the Government of Guinea-Bissau tackles the military, political, institutional and economic problems that are responsible for recurrent political turmoil and instability in Guinea-Bissau, the Council underlines the importance of addressing their root causes as well as finding immediate solutions to improve the situation in the short term.

"The Security Council stresses the need for urgent measures by the international community to assist the Government of Guinea-Bissau to overcome the present crisis, in particular to reinforce the capacity of legitimate authorities to maintain political stability and to determine sound solutions to the country's most urgent and fundamental challenges, particularly the restructuring of the Armed Forces, strengthening of the state and its institutions and promotion of social and economic development.

“The Security Council welcomes the timely financial support already provided by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its members to the Government of Guinea-Bissau towards the payment of salary arrears due to military personnel. The Council calls upon international donors to contribute urgently to the Government of Guinea-Bissau’s budget for civil service and military salaries and also encourages them to contribute to the Emergency Economic Management Fund for Guinea-Bissau, managed by the UNDP.

“The Security Council also takes note, with appreciation, of the recent visit of a Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) fact-finding mission to Guinea-Bissau.

“The Security Council reiterates its call on the international community to maintain its confidence in the process of democratic consolidation in Guinea-Bissau and to uphold its commitments to development in that country, particularly through its active preparation and participation in the Round Table Conference scheduled to take place next December, in Brussels.

“The Security Council reaffirms its full support for the Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau and indicates its intention to consider suitable ways of improving the role of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) in the promotion of peace and security, as well as in the coordination of efforts aiming at social and economic development in the country.

“The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to submit to the United Nations, in his next report on UNOGBIS and the situation in Guinea-Bissau, suggestions on what contribution the United Nations could make towards an active and coordinated international effort to assist Guinea-Bissau.”

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2004/41.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.43 p.m.