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		<input type="checkbox"/> Unclassified	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confidential	<input type="checkbox"/> Strictly Confidential
TO/A: <b>Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General</b> <b>Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet</b>				
FROM/DE: <b>Jeffrey Feltman, USG, DPA</b> <i>97</i>				
Date: 4 April 2014	Ext: 3-5055	Room No. – No de bureau: NL-02060		
FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER		
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
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<b>DIVISIONS CONSULTED</b>	
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<b>DEPARTMENTS CONSULTED</b>	
EOSG <input type="checkbox"/> OIOS <input type="checkbox"/> OLA <input type="checkbox"/> ODA <input type="checkbox"/> DPKO <input type="checkbox"/> DFS <input type="checkbox"/> OCHA <input type="checkbox"/> DESA <input type="checkbox"/> DGACM <input type="checkbox"/> DPI <input type="checkbox"/> DSS <input type="checkbox"/> DM <input type="checkbox"/> UNDP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: All Guinea-Bissau ITF members.	

**SUBJECT/MESSAGE: Consolidated update on Guinea-Bissau**

Please find attached, for your approval, the consolidated weekly update on Guinea-Bissau for the period 26 March-1 April 2014, inclusive.

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EOSG/CENTRAL

POL/04/001

**CONSOLIDATED UPDATE ON GUINEA-BISSAU  
(26 March to 01 April 2014)**

**This update is limited to inputs received from the UN system by COB on Tuesday, 1 April 2014. Any relevant information received after the cut-off date and time would be included in the next reporting period.**

**I. THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND**

1. The electoral campaign, which started on 22 March, continued during the reporting period in an overall environment of calm despite concerns by candidates over their security. The 13 presidential candidates and the 15 political parties contesting the legislative elections organized rallies, marches, shows, door-to-door visits and debates throughout the country to mobilize voters. The African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), the Patriotic Union of Guinea-Bissau (UPG), the Republican Party for Independence and Development (PRID) and the Social Renewal Party (PRS), appeared to run the most vigorous campaign. In their interaction with voters, most candidates promised to bring about political stability, peace, security and good governance in the country. All candidates and political parties committed to undertake state institutions reforms, promote economic development, invest in health and education, tackle youth unemployment, and restore the country's international credibility.

2. On 25 March, Transitional President Serifo Nhamadjo convened a meeting of the Supreme National Defence Council to discuss, *inter alia*, election security arrangements and the abduction and beating of Mr. Mário Fambé, a parliamentary candidate of the Social Renewal Party (PRS), in Bissau on 20 March. Following the meeting, the Transitional President stated to the media that the military had justified the beating of Mr. Fambé by arguing that he was considered to be a deserter from the armed forces and that, as a serving military officer, his arrest was intended to prevent him from participating in the electoral process. The Transitional President told the media that the situation did not justify the violence inflicted on Mr. Fambé. He added that the military had reaffirmed their commitment to comply with their "zero tolerance" policy for any disturbance during the elections, and to ensure security during the electoral process. Speaking to the media on 25 March, Mr. Afonso Té, a PRID presidential candidate, called for the reinforcement of security measures for all presidential and parliamentary candidates.

3. During the reporting period, the National Electoral Commission (CNE), with the support of the UNDP electoral team, deployed all non-sensitive material to the regions in preparation for Election Day. Arrangements for the printing of ballot papers and result sheets were also finalized. The CNE, through its Regional Electoral Commissions, completed the mapping of polling stations throughout the country.

**II. EFFORTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM**

4. On 27 March, SRSG Ramos-Horta convened a meeting of Guinea-Bissau's international partners to share information on the electoral process. The SRSG and the AU Special



Representative, Mr. Ovídio Pequeno, provided a briefing on their various consultations with all national stakeholders aimed at promoting a conducive electoral environment. UNDP and ECOWAS provided technical updates on their continuing support to the CNE, including on the status of financial disbursements, and the UNDP-supported civic education and voter awareness programmes. International partners stressed that the international community needed to remain vigilant and to continue to engage with national stakeholders.

### **III. REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS**

5. On 27 March, Transitional President Serifo Nhamadjo travelled to Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, to participate in the 44th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government, which took place from 28 to 29 March. Following the meeting, the ECOWAS leaders decided to extend the operations of the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB) until the end of 2014 and to extend the transition period until the inauguration of the legitimate authorities. In the communiqué issued at the end of the meeting, they exhorted the military and politicians to avoid actions that may jeopardize the electoral process and warned that the perpetrators of such actions would face "severe consequences". The ECOWAS leaders also directed the ECOWAS Commission to take all necessary additional measures to ensure the conduct of "peaceful, free, fair and transparent elections", and appealed to the international community to assist Guinea-Bissau in ensuring successful elections.

6. In a statement issued on 1 April, the Guinea-Bissau Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission expressed concern about "recent episodes of political violence" and condemned any attempt to use fear and intimidation "as political tools." The Configuration reaffirmed "its readiness to serve as a coordinating platform to help devise medium and long-term resources mobilization strategies in support of nationally-led initiatives that advance key peacebuilding objectives." The Configuration also took note of SRSR Ramos-Horta's proposal for a Governance Efficacy Amelioration Programme, and acknowledged the important leading role being played by ECOWAS in support of the modernization of the defence and security sectors in Guinea-Bissau.

### **IV. OBSERVATIONS/ANALYSIS**

7. While presidential and parliamentary candidates remain concerned about their security, especially following the abduction and beating of the PRS parliamentary candidate, the overall political environment has remained calm and free of violent and overt acts of intimidation throughout the reporting period. However, there is a general perception that the military and politicians who supported the coup d'état of 12 April 2012 are desperately seeking to ensure an election outcome in their favour to escape possible prosecution should their opponents win the elections. Continuous and sustained efforts to contribute to peaceful and credible elections by Guinea-Bissau's international partners, including the AU, ECOWAS and the UN, remain critical.