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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL  
905<sup>th</sup> MEETING

27 JANUARY 2020  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR.(CMV)

**PRESS STATEMENT**

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 905<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 27 January 2020, received a briefing on the situation in the Republic of Guinea Bissau.

Council took note of the briefings made by the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Madam Minata Samate Cessouma, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Guinea-Bissau, Ambassador Ovidio Manuel Barbosa Pequeno, and statements by the Minister of Justice, of the Republic of Guinea Bissau, H.E. Madam Ruth Monteiro, as well as the statement made by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Liaison Office to the AU.

Council, recalled its previous pronouncements on the situation in Guinea Bissau, in particular the Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.(DCCCLV)], adopted at its 855<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 11 June 2019, which, inter alia, decided to dispatch the PSC Troika, which visited Guinea Bissau from 16 to 19 June 2019; further recalled Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.(DCCCXCII)], adopted at its 892<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on 6 November 2019, in which Council reiterated the imperative of all political actors to respect the Constitution of Guinea Bissau Press Statement PSC/PR/BR. (DCIV), adopted at its 604<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 9 June 2017, in Addis Ababa, as well as Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.(DCCCXCVI)] adopted at its 896<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 18 November 2019, in which Council underscored the importance of ensuring conducive environment for the successful organization and holding of the presidential election on 24 November 2019, and in case of a possible run-off, on 29 December 2019, in a transparent, credible and peaceful manner, in order to consolidate constitutional democracy which will pave a way for national reconciliation and sustainable development in Guinea Bissau.

Council welcomed the successful holding of a peaceful first round of presidential elections in Guinea-Bissau on 24 November 2019 and the run-off on 29 December 2019. Council underscored that the elections have been declared free, fair and credible by all international observer missions including the African Union Election Observation Mission in the Republic of Guinea Bissau.

Council also welcomed the statement issued by the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) dated 22 January 2020, on the outcome of the presidential elections.

Council congratulated the Government and the people of Guinea Bissau, as well as all national institutions in the country, including the defence and security forces, National Elections Commission, the Supreme Court and the civil society organizations for the professionalism and neutrality demonstrated during the electoral period and urged them to respect the legality and legitimacy emanating from the elections.

Council expressed appreciation to ECOWAS for its leading role and continued support in peace process in Guinea Bissau, as well as to all bilateral and multilateral partners for their support, including technical and financial support extended to Guinea Bissau during the election period. In this regard, Council appealed to all partners to continue to support Guinea Bissau at this critical juncture, when the country is deploying efforts to ensure stability and development as well as and bring to an end the scourge of drug trafficking and promote democratic governance and rule of law.

Council looked forward to the Supreme Court of Guinea Bissau to fully play its constitutional role in this electoral process, with the required due diligence, as well as with the urgency it deserves given its importance for the maintenance of peace, security and stability in Guinea Bissau, bearing in mind that the elections have been declared free, fair and credible by all African and international election observers.

Council stressed that the holding of the 24 November and 29 December 2019 elections is a significant step towards the peaceful resolution of the political crisis in that country and appealed to all political stakeholders to allow the legal process to be finalized through the normal and existing legal channels of the country.

Council agreed to remain actively seized with the matter.