



## Civil Society Dialogue Network Geographic Meeting

### Guinea-Bissau: Peacebuilding responses to impunity and exclusiveness

Martin's Central Park, Boulevard Charlemagne 80, 1000 Brussels

Day 1: Thursday 6 June 2013

**09.00 – 09.30 Introduction and Welcome**

*European External Action Service and European Peacebuilding Liaison Office*

**09.30 – 11.00 Session 1 – Structural and root causes of armed violence in Guinea-Bissau**

- What are the underlying, root causes of violence in Guinea-Bissau?
  1. Historical legacies
  2. Ethnic, cultural and identity issues
  3. Political factors (e.g. institutions, parties, governance)
  4. Economic factors (e.g. development, infrastructure, inequalities)

*Format: Interactive plenary session*

*Moderator: Claudia Caldeirinha – Director, Freedom House - Brussels*

*Moderation Language: Portuguese*

*Interpretation: Portuguese-English*

**11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break**

**11.30 – 13.30 Session 2 – Perspectives on impunity and exclusiveness in Guinea-Bissau: Causes, impacts and responses**

- **EU and CSO perspectives on the problems of impunity and exclusiveness in Guinea-Bissau**
  - What are the dimensions of impunity and exclusiveness?
  - What are the causes of impunity and exclusiveness in Guinea-Bissau?
  - To what extent are impunity and exclusiveness driven by external factors?
  - What are the impacts of impunity and exclusiveness on the population?
  - Which groups benefit from impunity and exclusiveness? Who are the victims?

*Format: Interactive plenary session*

*Moderator: Alain Délétréz – Vice-President (Europe), International Crisis Group*

*Moderation Language: Portuguese*

*Interpretation: Portuguese-English*

**13.30 – 14.30 Lunch Break**

**14.30 – 17.00 Session 3 – Local capacities for peace, justice and development**

**Overview**

- What are the sources of resilience in Guinea-Bissau?
- Which (formal or informal) institutions and social and economic networks continue to function?
- What are the sources of justice, security or dispute resolution outside the state system?
- Which institutions have the trust of the people?

**Role of CSOs in the current political context**

- What are the alternatives to the dysfunctional politico-military system in Guinea-Bissau?
- What is the current role and potential role of CSOs in this context? Can they really make a difference?
- Which actors can contribute to building an alternative future? What do they need in order to be effective?

*Moderator: Alain Déléroz – Vice-President (Europe), International Crisis Group*

**14.30 – 14.45: Introduction (in plenary)**

**14.45 – 15.45: Small group discussions**

**1. Local capacities for peace**

*Group Leader: Fernanda Faria, Independent Consultant*

*Discussion Language: Portuguese*

**2. Local capacities for justice and tackling impunity and exclusiveness**

*Group Leader: Pedro Rosa Mendes, Independent Consultant*

*Discussion Language: English, French or Portuguese (depending on participants)*

**3. Local capacities for development**

*Group Leader: Joseph Martin, International Crisis Group*

*Discussion Language: English, French or Portuguese (depending on participants)*

**15.45 – 16.15 Coffee Break**

**16.15 – 17.00: Reports from small group discussions (in plenary)**

## Day 2: Friday 7 June 2013

### 09.30 – 12.30 Session 1 – Current situation/dynamics and possible scenarios in Guinea-Bissau

- **EU and CSO perspectives on the current political and security situation in Guinea-Bissau, immediate prospects and opportunities** (*in plenary*)
  - Election preparations
  - Levels of violence
  - Reform efforts
  - Prospects and opportunities for dialogue during the transition
  - Prospects for transitional justice
  - The role of external actors in the transition (Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), EU, Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), African Union (AU), UN and bilateral actors)

### 10.45 – 11.15 Coffee Break

- **Scenarios**
  - What are the possible futures for Guinea Bissau in three, five or ten years? What is the worst case, the best case, a most likely case?
  - What are the key drivers of these different scenarios?

*Format: Interactive plenary session*

*Moderator: Sofia Moreira de Sousa, Adviser to Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs, European External Action Service*

*Moderation Language: Portuguese*

*Interpretation: Portuguese-English*

### 12.30 – 13.30 Lunch Break

### 13.30 – 17.00 Session 2 – External political strategies and assistance to Guinea-Bissau

*Moderator: São Silva, Independent Consultant*

**13.30 – 13.45: Introduction** (*in plenary*)

**13.45 – 14.45: Small group discussions**

#### 1. Impact and lessons from past external action

- What impact has external action had in Guinea-Bissau? Are there examples of good and bad practice by external actors?
- How could external assistance have been more effective? Has external assistance addressed the root causes of armed violence and injustice in Guinea-Bissau, including impunity and exclusiveness?

*Group 1 Leader: Fernanda Faria, Independent Consultant*

*Discussion Language: Portuguese*

*Group 2 Leader: Sao Silva, Independent Consultant*  
*Discussion Language: English, French or Portuguese (depending on participants)*

*Group 3 Leader: Roberto Rensi, Division for West Africa, European External Action Service*

*Discussion Language: English, French or Portuguese (depending on participants)*

**14.45 – 15.15 Coffee Break**

**15.15 – 16.00: Reports from small group discussions (in plenary)**

**2. Strategies for external actors in Guinea-Bissau (in plenary)**

- What should be their objectives and the scale of their ambition for Guinea-Bissau?
- How will positive change come about over the next 2-3 years? What can external donors do? Are there incentives to promote peace and justice?
- What can be done to change the culture of impunity and exclusiveness?
- Are more radical solutions necessary?
- What can external actors do to prevent the worst scenarios?

**3. What should the EU do? (in plenary)**

- What is the EU's comparative advantage in Guinea Bissau?
- What is the scale of the EU's ambition and commitment in Guinea-Bissau? Does it have sufficiently significant interests in the country to act?
- What should the EU's priorities be?
- How can it engage with the various actors inside Guinea-Bissau?
- How can it support and encourage positive action by ECOWAS and other regional players?

**17.00 – 17.15 Close of meeting**

*European External Action Service and European Peacebuilding Liaison Office*

**Civil Society Dialogue Network**

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a three-year project funded by the European Commission (Instrument for Stability) aimed at facilitating dialogue on peacebuilding issues between civil society and EU policy-makers.

The CSDN contributes to strengthening international and regional capacity for conflict prevention and post-conflict co-operation.

The CSDN is managed by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), in co-operation with the European Commission and the European External Action Service.

For more information about the CSDN, please visit the [EPLO website](#).