

At the same meeting, the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:¹⁹

The Security Council reaffirms its resolutions 1177 (1998) of 26 June 1998, 1226 (1999) of 29 January 1999 and 1227 (1999) of 10 February 1999, which called upon Ethiopia and Eritrea to refrain from armed conflict and to accept and implement the Framework Agreement as approved on 17 December 1998 by the Summit of the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution of the Organization of African Unity.

The Council demands an immediate halt to all hostilities and calls upon the parties to refrain from the further use of force.

¹⁹ S/PRST.1999/9.

The Council welcomes the acceptance by Eritrea, at the level of head of State, of the Framework Agreement and recalls the prior acceptance of the Agreement by Ethiopia. The Framework Agreement remains a viable and sound basis for a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The Council reaffirms the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ethiopia and Eritrea.

The Council expresses its willingness to consider all appropriate support to implement a peace agreement between the two parties.

The Council expresses its continuing support for the efforts of the Organization of African Unity, the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy, Mr. Mohammed Sahnoun and concerned Member States to find a peaceful resolution of the border dispute.

The Council remains actively seized of the matter.

16. The situation in Guinea-Bissau

Initial proceedings

Decision of 6 November 1998 (3940th meeting): statement by the President

By a letter dated 3 November 1998 addressed to the President of the Security Council,¹ the representative of Nigeria transmitted the text of the peace agreement signed by the President of Guinea-Bissau and the head of the self-proclaimed military junta at the end of the twenty-first Summit of the Authority of the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States held at Abuja on 31 October and 1 November 1998. The parties to the conflict thereby agreed to reaffirm the ceasefire agreement signed in Praia on 26 August 1998, and agreed to the total withdrawal from Guinea-Bissau of all foreign troops and the deployment of an ECOWAS Military Observer Group (ECOMOG) interposition force that would guarantee security along the Guinea-Bissau/Senegal border and keep the warring parties apart and guarantee free access to humanitarian organizations and agencies. They would immediately put in place a government of national unity, which would include among other things, representatives of the self-proclaimed junta, and

general and presidential elections would be held not later than the end of March 1999.

At the 3940th meeting of the Security Council, held on 6 January 1998, in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Council included in its agenda without objection the above letter and the item entitled "The situation in Guinea-Bissau". Following the adoption of the agenda, the President (United States), with the consent of the Council, invited the representative from Guinea-Bissau, at his request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

At the same meeting, the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:²

The Security Council welcomes the agreement reached on 1 November 1998, in Abuja, between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-Proclaimed Military Junta during the Twenty-first Summit of the Authority of the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States. In this context, the Council commends the mediation efforts of the Economic Community of West African States and of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, and their respective Chairmen, and recognizes the role of other leaders, in

¹ S/1998/1028.

² S/PRST/1998/31.

particular the preponderant role of the President of the Gambia, in the negotiations that led to that agreement.

The Council affirms its firm commitment to preserve the unity, sovereignty, constitutional order and territorial integrity of Guinea-Bissau.

The Council considers the agreement to be a positive step towards national reconciliation and lasting peace in Guinea-Bissau. The Council calls upon the Government and the Self-Proclaimed Military Junta to respect fully their obligations under the Abuja Agreement and the Praia Agreement of 26 August 1998. The Council welcomes, in particular, the decision to put in place immediately a government of national unity and to hold general and presidential elections no later than the end of March 1999.

The Council takes note of the agreement regarding the withdrawal from Guinea-Bissau of all foreign troops and of the simultaneous deployment of the interposition force from the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States, which will take over from the withdrawn forces. The Council calls upon all States to provide voluntarily technical, financial and logistical support to assist the Monitoring Group to carry out its mission.

The Council appeals to States and organizations concerned to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to displaced persons and refugees. It calls upon the Government and the Self-Proclaimed Military Junta to continue to respect relevant provisions of international law, including humanitarian law, and to ensure safe and unimpeded access by international humanitarian organizations to persons in need of assistance as a result of the conflict. In this regard, it welcomes the decision to open the international airport and the seaport at Bissau.

The Council will remain actively seized of the matter.

**Decision of 21 December 1998 (3958th meeting):
resolution 1216 (1998)**

At its 3958th meeting of the Security Council, held on 21 December 1998 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the President, with the consent of the Council, invited the representatives of Guinea-Bissau and Togo, at their request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

At the same meeting, the President drew the attention of the Council members to a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.³

The President also drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 15 December 1998 from the representative of Togo, which transmitted the text of the final communiqué and the additional protocol to the Abuja Accord of 1 November 1998 concerning the formation of the Government of National Unity of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.⁴

The draft resolution was then put to the vote and adopted unanimously as resolution 1216 (1998), which reads:

The Security Council,

Reaffirming the statements by its President of 6 November and 30 November 1998,

Gravely concerned by the crisis facing Guinea-Bissau and the serious humanitarian situation affecting the civilian population in Guinea-Bissau,

Expressing its firm commitment to preserve the unity, sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Guinea-Bissau,

1. *Welcomes* the agreements between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-Proclaimed Military Junta signed in Praia on 26 August 1998, and in Abuja on 1 November 1998 and the additional protocol signed in Lomé on 15 December 1998;

2. *Calls upon* the Government and the Self-Proclaimed Military Junta to implement fully all the provisions of the agreements, including with regard to respect for the ceasefire, the urgent establishment of a government of national unity, the holding of general and presidential elections no later than the end of March 1999, and the immediate opening of the airport and seaport in Bissau and, in cooperation with all concerned, the withdrawal of all foreign troops in Guinea-Bissau and the simultaneous deployment of the interposition force of the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States;

3. *Commends* the States Members of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries and the Economic Community of West African States on the key role they are playing to restore peace and security throughout Guinea-Bissau, and on their intention to participate with others in the observation of the forthcoming general and presidential elections, and welcomes the role of the Monitoring Group in the implementation of the Abuja Agreement, aimed at guaranteeing security along the Guinea-Bissau/Senegal border, keeping apart the parties in conflict and guaranteeing free access to humanitarian organizations and agencies to reach the affected civilian populations, to be carried out in accordance with, *inter alia*, paragraph 6 below;

³ S/1998/1202.

⁴ S/1998/1178.

4. *Approves* the implementation by the interposition force of the Monitoring Group of its mandate referred to in paragraph 3 above in a neutral and impartial way and in conformity with United Nations peacekeeping standards in order to achieve its objective to facilitate the return to peace and security by monitoring the implementation of the Abuja Agreement;

5. *Calls upon* all concerned, including the Government and the Self-Proclaimed Military Junta, to respect strictly relevant provisions of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and to ensure safe and unimpeded access by international humanitarian organizations to persons in need of assistance as a result of the conflict;

6. *Affirms* that the interposition force of the Monitoring Group may be required to take action to ensure the security and freedom of movement of its personnel in the discharge of its mandate;

7. *Requests* the Monitoring Group to provide periodic reports at least every month through the Secretary-General, the first report to be made one month after the deployment of its troops;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make recommendations to the Council on a possible role of the United Nations in the process of peace and reconciliation in Guinea-Bissau, including the early establishment of arrangements for liaison between the United Nations and the Monitoring Group;

9. *Reiterates its appeal* to States and organizations concerned to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to displaced persons and refugees;

10. *Reiterates its call* on States to provide voluntarily financial, technical and logistical support to assist the Monitoring Group to carry out its peacekeeping role in Guinea-Bissau;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to establish a trust fund for Guinea-Bissau which would assist in supporting the interposition force of the Monitoring Group in providing logistical support to them, and encourages Member States to contribute to the fund;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Council regularly informed of the situation in Guinea-Bissau and to submit a report to it by 17 March 1999 on the implementation of the Abuja Agreement, including the implementation by the interposition force of its mandate;

13. *Decides* to review the situation, including the implementation of the present resolution, before the end of March 1999, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General referred to in paragraph 12 above;

14. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

**Decision of 6 April 1999 (3991st meeting):
resolution 1233 (1999)**

At its 3991st meeting, held on 6 April 1999 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultation, the Security Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General dated 17 March 1999, submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of the Security Council resolution 1216 (1998) of 21 December 1998.⁵ Following the adoption of the agenda, the President (France), with the consent of the Council, invited the representatives of Guinea-Bissau and Togo, at their request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

In his report, the Secretary-General observed that the post-conflict situation in Guinea-Bissau remained very fragile, that the economy, basic social services and State institutions all needed to be rebuilt virtually from scratch and that the people of Guinea-Bissau needed a durable peace to attend to their shattered livelihoods. The Secretary-General strongly hoped that the parties would translate into concrete measures the commitments they had undertaken under the Abuja Agreement. He further observed that the significant actions they had taken, so far, towards the implementation of that Agreement were steps in the right direction and in this regard, he wished to commend the efforts both of the regional leaders and of civil society inside Guinea-Bissau for their unstinting support during the crisis. He wanted to particularly commend the Chairman of ECOWAS for his timely actions and leadership. He said he was heartened by the undertaking made by the President of Guinea-Bissau and the head of the self-proclaimed military junta never to resort to arms again and said that the United Nations stood ready to support their efforts. He was confident that the "Group of Friends of Guinea-Bissau", then established in New York under the Chairmanship of the Gambia, would do the same. He expressed his appreciation to those Member States that made possible the deployment of ECOMOG to Guinea-Bissau, and encouraged other Member States to make timely contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund set up the previous month to support ECOMOG.

At the same meeting, the President drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 18 February

⁵ S/1999/294.

1999, from the representative of Togo,⁶ transmitting the text of the final communiqué of a meeting held in Lomé on 17 February 1999 in relation to the implementation of the peace process in Guinea-Bissau and the text of the ceasefire agreement signed on 3 February 1999 by the parties to the conflict; and to a letter dated 2 March 1999 from the representative of Germany,⁷ transmitting a statement on Guinea-Bissau by the Presidency of the European Union welcoming the fact that the Government of National Unity had taken office.

At the same meeting the President also drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.⁸ The draft resolution was then put to the vote and adopted unanimously as resolution 1233 (1999), which reads:

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolution 1216 (1998) of 21 December 1998 and the statements by its President of 6 November, 30 November and 29 December 1998,

Gravely concerned at the security and humanitarian situation in Guinea-Bissau,

Expressing its firm commitment to preserving the unity, sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Guinea-Bissau,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 17 March 1999 and the observations contained therein,

Noting with appreciation the formal undertaking by the President of Guinea-Bissau and the leader of the Self-Proclaimed Military Junta on 17 February 1999 never again to resort to arms,

Welcoming the establishment and swearing-in on 20 February 1999 of the new Government of National Unity in Guinea-Bissau which constitutes a significant step forward in the peace process,

Noting with concern that serious obstacles continue to hamper the effective functioning of the new Government, including, in particular, the failure of civil servants and other professional cadres seeking refuge in other countries to return,

Welcoming the deployment of troops constituting the Interposition Force of the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States by States in the region to implement their peacekeeping mandate and the withdrawal of all

foreign forces from Guinea-Bissau pursuant to the Abuja Agreement of 1 November 1998,

Reiterating the need to conduct general and presidential elections pursuant to the Abuja Agreement and in accordance with national constitutional requirements as soon as possible, and noting the expression by the parties of their firm interest in having elections held as soon as possible,

1. *Reiterates* that the primary responsibility for achieving lasting peace in Guinea-Bissau rests with the parties, and strongly calls upon them to implement fully all the provisions of the Abuja Agreement and subsequent undertakings;

2. *Commends* the parties for the steps taken so far in the implementation of the Abuja Agreement, in particular the establishment of the new Government of National Unity, and strongly urges them to adopt and implement all measures necessary to ensure the smooth functioning of the new Government and all other institutions, including, in particular, confidence-building measures and measures to encourage the early return of refugees and internally displaced persons;

3. *Commends also* the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, States members of the Economic Community of West African States and leaders in and outside the region, in particular the President of the Republic of Togo in his capacity as Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States, for the key role they are playing to bring about national reconciliation and to consolidate peace and security throughout Guinea-Bissau;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to those States which have already provided assistance for the deployment in Guinea-Bissau of the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States in Guinea-Bissau;

5. *Reiterates its urgent appeal* to all States and regional organizations to make financial contributions to the Monitoring Group, including through the United Nations trust fund established to support peacekeeping in Guinea-Bissau, to provide technical and logistical support to assist the Monitoring Group to carry out its peacekeeping mandate and to help to facilitate the full implementation of all the provisions of the Abuja Agreement, and to that end invites the Secretary-General to consider convening a meeting in New York with the participation of the Economic Community of West African States in order to assess the needs of the Monitoring Group and to examine ways in which contributions could be mobilized and channelled;

6. *Calls upon* the parties concerned promptly to agree on a date for the holding of elections as soon as possible, which are all-inclusive, free and fair, and invites the United Nations and others to consider, as appropriate, providing any needed electoral assistance;

7. *Supports* the decision of the Secretary-General to establish the post-conflict United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau under the leadership of a representative

⁶ S/1999/173.

⁷ S/1999/227.

⁸ S/1999/369.

of the Secretary-General, which will provide the political framework and leadership for harmonizing and integrating the activities of the United Nations system in Guinea-Bissau during the transitional period leading up to general and presidential elections and will facilitate, in close cooperation with the parties concerned, the Economic Community of West African States, the Monitoring Group, as well as other national and international partners, the implementation of the Abuja Agreement;

8. *Encourages* all agencies, programmes, offices and funds of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as other international partners, to lend their support to the Support Office and to the Representative of the Secretary-General in order to establish, together with the Government of Guinea-Bissau, a comprehensive, concerted and coordinated approach to peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau;

9. *Reiterates* the need for the simultaneous disarmament and encampment of ex-belligerent troops, welcomes the progress made by the Monitoring Group in that regard, and strongly urges the parties to continue to cooperate through the Special Commission established for that purpose, to conclude expeditiously those tasks and to create conditions for the reunification of the national armed and security forces;

10. *Emphasizes* the need for urgent demining of affected areas to pave the way for the return of refugees and displaced persons and for the resumption of agricultural

activities, encourages the Monitoring Group to continue its demining activities, and calls upon States to provide the necessary assistance for demining;

11. *Calls upon* all concerned to respect strictly the relevant provisions of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, to ensure safe and unimpeded access by humanitarian organizations to those in need and to ensure the protection and freedom of movement of United Nations and international humanitarian personnel;

12. *Reiterates its appeal* to States and organizations concerned to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons and refugees;

13. *Welcomes* the planned round-table conference of donors on Guinea-Bissau to be held in Geneva on 4 and 5 May 1999, under the sponsorship of the United Nations Development Programme, to mobilize assistance for, inter alia, humanitarian needs, consolidation of peace and the socio-economic rehabilitation of Guinea-Bissau;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Security Council regularly informed and to submit a report to it by 30 June 1999 and every ninety days thereafter on developments in Guinea-Bissau, the activities of the Support Office and the implementation of the Abuja Agreement, including the implementation by the Monitoring Group of its mandate;

15. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Americas

17. Central America: efforts towards peace

Decision of 10 January 1997 (3730th meeting): rejection of a draft resolution

On 17 December 1996, pursuant to the request of the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG), the Secretary-General submitted to the Security Council a report on "Central America: efforts towards peace" dealing exclusively with the Agreement on the definite ceasefire in Guatemala, which had been signed by the parties on 4 December 1996 in Oslo, Norway.¹ In his report, the Secretary-General observed that this had been the third agreement on the definitive ceasefire signed that year. The Government and URNG wanted to see the military aspects of the peace settlement implemented as soon as possible, which created a need

for the United Nations to deploy the new military component of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) rapidly. Verification of the definitive ceasefire would also require the deployment of military observers, which would require authorization by the Council. The Secretary-General therefore asked the Council to grant him the contingent authority to attach the military component to MINUGUA. The Secretary-General also informed the Council of the signing of the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace on 29 December 1996,² and requested authorization of the Security Council for the deployment of military observers for a period of three months.

¹ S/1996/1045 and Add.1.

² S/1996/1045, Add.2.