

29
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Human Rights Council

Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Twenty-first session 19-30 January 2015
Statement by the Delegation of Ghana delivered by H.E. Ambassador Sammie P. Eddico
On the Second cycle review of Guinea-Bissau on 23 January 2015

I thank you Mr President,

Ghana welcomes the distinguished delegation of Guinea-Bissau led by the Honourable Minister of Justice and commends the commitment of Guinea Bissau to the UPR process.

Ghana further notes with appreciation, the progress made by Guinea Bissau in the implementation of some of the recommendations accepted during its first cycle review, including the ratification of many key human rights instruments such as the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide. Following Bissau-Guinea's ratification of the Convention against Torture, Ghana, as a member of the core group of the Convention against Torture Initiative wishes to invite Guinea-Bissau to join the Group of Friends of the Convention against Torture Initiative in order to benefit from international assistance in implementing the CAT.

Mr President, it is recalled that Ghana, as the lead country for Guinea Bissau on the Security Council in 2007, was instrumental in getting the Guinea Bissau to be placed on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission in order to facilitate the post-conflict reconstruction of the country. After several years of conflict characterized by military conflict, and following the successful general presidential and legislative elections held in 2014, Ghana wishes to recommend that Guinea Bissau consolidates its justice, security and defence sector reforms to prevent the recurrence of coup d'états in and to ensure a sustainable constitutional order in Guinea Bissau.

Ghana further recommends that urgent steps be taken by Guinea Bissau to adopt all appropriate measures to combat the root causes of political instability in Guinea Bissau including tackling illicit drug-related corruption and money-laundering

Ghana also recommends that Guinea Bissau consider ratifying the following human rights treaties:

The Rome statute of the ICC

The Migrant Workers Convention (ICRMW) and the

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on Persons with Disabilities

Finally, Ghana recommends that Guinea Bissau decriminalizes defamation and guarantee freedom of expression and assembly

I thank you Mr President