

**MISSION OF SOLIDARITY AND
SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES WITH
ACTORS OF THE TRANSITION PROCESS
IN GUINEA**

PRESS RELEASE

An NDI mission visited Conakry from May 26th to May 30th, 2010. The mission was led by His Excellency Antonio Monteiro, former President of the Republic of Cape Verde.

This mission consisted of the following people:

- Mr. Amidou Diabaté, attorney-at-law, deputy of the Malian National Assembly, former member of Transitional Committee for the Salvation of the people (CTSP), and former minister of justice
- H.E. Marie Madeleine Kalala, attorney-at-law, Minister for Human Rights during the transition in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Major-General Fernand Marcel Amoussou, former chief of staff of the Beninese army, former commander of the UN forces in Cote d'Ivoire
- Dr. Christopher Fomunyoh, NDI's Africa Director in Washington, DC
- Dr. Raphael Ouattara, Resident representative of NDI in Guinea

The objective of the mission was to listen to Guinean political actors, to share their aspirations and hopes as well as their concerns and questions. The mission also wanted to share its knowledge of experiences and successful practices from other countries and mistakes to avoid.

The delegation had several meetings between Wednesday, May 26th and Sunday, May 30th, 2010.

The delegation met with several important actors, namely:

- The Prime Minister
- The Director of the National Transition Council
- The Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI)
- The Presidential candidates
- The Special Force for a Safe Electoral Process (FOSSEPEL)
- The Representative of the Economic Community of West African States (CEDEAO) in Guinea
- Technical and financial partners
- Civil Society
- The National Alliance for Renewal (ANR)
- The executive board of the consultative group on women and girls of political parties

Themes from these meetings

The Mission made the following observations:

- The political situation is relatively calm;
- There is consensus regarding the holding of elections on June 27th, 2010 and the continuation of the electoral process
- The transitional authorities' decision not to enter the presidential race has been apparent and publicly affirmed
- The electoral campaign is being held without clashes and major incidents
- The transitional authorities' desire is to make sure that the electoral process fosters stability and a sense of peace amongst the population
- All actors have pledged to focus on peaceful actions, dialogue and national harmony

The Mission also noted that leaders of political parties took seriously their high level of responsibility by making sure that their activities adhere to legal standards, mutual respect and applying the code of conduct that they signed.

The leaders of political parties desire to see strong institutions rooted in Guinea that will guarantee democracy and a constitutional state.

Despite these moves forward, the mission was made aware of certain difficulties that should be addressed by all actors. Difficulties that need mentioning are:

- The Independent National Electoral Commission's failure to report on essential elements of the electoral process such as the actual number of eligible voters, the number and location of the polling stations, and the provisions designed to operationalize a single ballot system with 24 candidates
- The failure to provide judicial and regulatory texts to parties and candidates during the last phase of the electoral process
- The logistical challenges facing the Special Force for a Safe Electoral Process (FOSSEPEL) and informing the population about their mission.

The Mission has noted that the post-electoral period is a matter of concern for candidates and actors of the transition process. It is agreed that:

- There must be transparency during voting operations and a central mechanism for the management of disputes; and
- Candidates must demonstrate good sportsmanship in conceding defeat, and winners must be modest in their triumph and willing to engage the other political actors

These are the necessary conditions and prerequisites of civil peace for the day following the elections.

The Mission recommends the following during this important phase of the electoral process:

1. Strengthening cooperation between institutional bodies of the transition, especially the National Transition Council (CNT), the Government and the Independent National Electoral Commission; and between the aforementioned actors and the candidates;
2. Better communication by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) on the legal and statutory frameworks for elections with candidates, parties and population.
3. A greater involvement in the planning and management of the campaign from communal authorities.
4. Better communication regarding FOSSEPEL's mission and assignments.

The Mission encourages the transitional authorities,

- To continue to assure and maintain the neutrality of the defense and security forces (FDS) and their commitment to adhere to their mission
- To proceed with discussions about reforming the FDS

The Mission calls on parties that have not yet signed the Code of Conduct to do so and to encourage their members and sympathizers to respect its

clauses. The Mission congratulates and encourages the signatory parties to increase public awareness and education of the Code.

In addition, the Mission urges political parties to ensure better eligibility conditions for women.

The Mission expresses

- Its wishes for a successful election,
- Its solidarity with the generous and dignified People of Guinea and its leaders

And calls upon their determination and sense of responsibility

The Mission thanks the authorities, political actors, civil society, women of the political parties and all the People of Guinea for their warm welcome and fruitful exchanges.

The Mission also thanks the technical partners for their support of the electoral process and particularly USAID and UNDP for supporting the mission.

Conakry, May 30th, 2010

The Mission