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GUINEA-BISSAU STATE REPORT:

**African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
(1988-2025)**

**Protocol to the African Charter on Human and
Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
(2010 – 2025)**

FEBRUARY - 2026

Acronyms and abbreviations

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

AMAE - Association of Women in Economic Activities

ANP - National People's Assembly

B.O. - Official Gazette

ACHPR - African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

CAT - Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

ECOWAS - Economic Community of West African States

CILSS - Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel

C.P. - Penal Code

C.P.P. - Code of Criminal Procedure

CRGB - Constitution of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau

ESAN - CPLP - Food and Nutrition Security Strategy of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

FCFA - African Financial Community Franc

GAO - Office of Lawyers of the Judiciary

IMC - Institute for Women and Children

MFI - Microfinance Institution

INE - National Institute of Statistics

INEC - National Institute of Statistics and Census

LGDH - Guinean Human Rights League

ICPO - International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL)

NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation

OPCs - Criminal Police Bodies

OAU - Organisation of African Unity

PARMEC - Support Programme for the Reform of Savings and Credit Institutions

GDP - Gross Domestic Product

ICCPR - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

ICESCR - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

PNIEG - National Plan for Gender Equality and Equity

UNDP - United Nations Development Programme

RDDH - Network of Human Rights Defenders

RGPH - General Census of Population and Housing

RENAJ - National Network of Youth Associations

RENLUV - National Network for the Fight against Violence

SEN - National Statistical System

SFD - Decentralized Financial System

SNIE - National Statistical Information System

AU - African Union

WAEMU - West African Economic and Monetary Union

UNIOGBIS - United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau

EEZ - Exclusive Economic Zone

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COUNTRY	



1. The Republic of Guinea-Bissau is a Portuguese-speaking country on the west coast of Africa, between latitudes 11° and 13° N and longitudes 13° and 17° W. Its total area is 36,125 km², extending from Cabo Roxo in the north to Ponta Cajete in the south, of which 27,700 km² is land. Owing to the country's low elevation above mean sea level, tides penetrate up to approximately 150 km inland, leaving some areas partially or entirely inaccessible during part of the year. The country borders Senegal to the north and east, Guinea to the south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. The terrain is predominantly flat, with elevations in the east not exceeding 400 m.
2. The territory comprises a mainland area and the Bijagós Archipelago¹, which consists of approximately eighty-eight islands and islets, only about twenty of which are inhabited. The topography and availability of surface water give two areas particularly high productive potential: tidal zones and the areas surrounding the Geba and Corubal river basins. Numerous rivers cross the country, notably the Cacheu, Mansoa, Corubal and Geba, and provide important routes to the interior.
3. Guinea-Bissau is a former Portuguese colony, previously known as Portuguese Guinea. Following an eleven-year armed struggle against Portuguese colonial rule, it unilaterally declared independence on 24 September 1973. In October and November of that year, it received a declaration of recognition from the United Nations and was admitted to the OAU. Portugal recognised its independence on 10 September 1974. In October 1974, liberation fighters entered the capital, Bissau, for the first time since the outbreak of the liberation war.
4. Guinea-Bissau comprises eight administrative regions—Oio, Gabú, Bafatá, Cacheu, Biombo, Quinara, Tombali and Bolama—and the Autonomous Sector of Bissau, which contains more than a quarter of the population. Regional governors operate under the supervision of the Ministry of Territorial Administration. The regions comprise 37 sectors, subdivided into sections and then into villages known as tabancas. Chapter VI of the Constitution, beginning with Article 105, provides for

¹ Dossier da candidatura ao Património Mundial Natural, aprovado na 47^a session (Paris, 2025) du Comité du patrimoine mondial- <https://whc.unesco.org/fr/sessions/47COM/>

local authorities with administrative and financial autonomy. Although the relevant laws have been adopted, decentralisation remains dependent on the holding of local elections. The report records that² Guinea-Bissau joined WAEMU in 1994 and adopted the CFA franc (FCFA) in May 1997.

5. Guinea-Bissau has experienced political and institutional fragility since independence from Portugal in 1974. It has been particularly vulnerable to coups d'état and political instability. Since independence, there have been four successful coups and a further 17 attempted, planned or suspected³ coups. Frequent changes of government have compounded this instability.

Demographic indicators⁴

6. According to projections by the National Institute of Statistics (INE), the population was expected to rise from 1,497,859 in 2009 to 1,852,784 in 2025, comprising 872,084 men and 980,699 women⁵. Men were projected to account for 47.06% of the population and women for 52.9%.

Breakdown of population by regions, sex, population density and surface area (2009 census)

Region	Total		Men		Women		Population Density	Surface /km2
	Staff	%	Staff	%	Population	%	Inhabitants/k m ²	
Guinea-Bissau	1.497.859	100	725.956	48,6	771.903	51,4	40,1	36.125
SAB	365.097	25,2	181.208	49,6	183.889	50,4	4.710,9	78
Oio	215.259	14,9	103.194	47,9	112.065	52,1	40	5.403
Gabu	205.608	14,2	99.591	48,4	106.017	51,6	22.5	9.150
Bafatá	200.884	13,9	97.231	48,4	103.653	51,6	34	5.981
Cacheu	185.053	12,8	8.8132	47,6	96.921	52,4	36	5.175
Screen	93.039	6,4	43.747	47	49.292	53	111	839
Tombali	91.089	6,3	44.099	48,4	46.990	51,6	24.4	3.737
Quinara	60.777	4,2	29.854	49,1	30.923	50,9	19.4	3.138
Bolama/Bijagós	32.424	2,2	15.770	48,6	16.654	51,4	12	2.624

7. Guinea-Bissau has a substantial diaspora that has not yet been enumerated. Emigration has been driven by the colonial war, subsequent conflict and recurring deterioration in living conditions. It has reduced the country's human capital, particularly through migration to neighbouring Senegal, The Gambia and Guinea, and to Portugal and France. Although the number of nationals living abroad is unknown, their remittances are an important source of foreign exchange.

Age Structure

² Lei-quadro da criação de Municípios (Lei nº6/1997 publicado no Suplemento ao B.O.nº48, de 2de dezembro de 1997); Lei Base das Autarquias Locais (Lei nº5/96, B.O. nº38, de 16 de setembro); Tutela do Estado sobre as Autarquias Locais (Lei nº3/97, de 7 de abril).

³ <http://www.worldbank.org/pt/country/guineabissau/overview>. Consultado última vez, 20/10/2025.

⁴ Nota: o país não teve recenseamento populacional após 2009 pelo que, vários indicadores, tais como os demográficos, sociais e culturais ainda são baseados na sua maioria nos dados do RGPH-2009.

⁵ Dados do relatório de apresentação das projeções da população da Guiné-Bissau 2014-2023, nov. 2022, pág.20

8. Mean and median ages indicate that Guinea-Bissau has a young population. The mean age is 21.7 years: 21.2 for men and 22.3 for women. It is slightly higher in urban areas (21.8 years) than in rural areas (21.7 years). Urban mean ages show no difference between the sexes; in rural areas, the mean age is 20.8 years for men and 22.6 for women. The national median age is 18.2 years, with medians of 17.5 for men and 18.8 for women. The urban median is 19.9 years, with no difference between the sexes, compared with 17.1 years in rural areas (15.6 for men and 18.5 for women). These differences may reflect higher rural fertility and migration from rural areas, particularly among adults.
9. About 42.6% of the people are between 0-14 years old, and 21.9% are between 15-24 years old. The percentage of the population aged 35-64 is 17.6%, and only 3.2% corresponds to the population aged 65 and over.
10. Data from the 1991 and 2009 population and housing censuses (RGPH) indicate a broadly linear population growth trend. The number of households rose from 131,924 to 176,500, an increase of 33.8%, equivalent to average annual household growth of 1.6%, compared with population growth of 2.2%. The population increased by 470,027 people. The report attributes 169,708 of this increase to the Autonomous Sector of Bissau (36.1%), 69,507 to Gabú (reported as 50.8%), and 5,533 to Bolama/Bijagós (1.2%). Quinara's share of the population declined from 4.4% in 1991 to 4.2% in 2009.

Population Structure by Ethnicity, Region, and Religion

11. The census describes Guinea-Bissau as a multicultural and multiethnic society comprising Muslims, Christians and adherents of traditional religions. It records 1,933 foreign residents, representing 0.1% of the population: 1,378 men (71.3%) and 555 women (28.7%). The largest groups are nationals of Guinea (27.7%), Mauritania (18.7%) and Senegal (18.3%). Portuguese nationals account for 5.6%, while other nationalities represent smaller proportions.

Main ethnic groups of Guinea-Bissau

Ethnic group	Percentage
Fulas	28,5%
Balantas	22,5%
Mandingas	14,7%
Papel	9,1%
Manjaco	8,3%
Beafadas	3,5%
Mancanhas	3,1%
No declared ethnicity	2,2%
Bijagós	2,1%
Felupes	1,7%

Mansoancas	1,4%
Balanta Mané	1,0%
Nalus	0,9%
Saracules	0,5%
Sossos	0,4%

12. Bissau is the only geographical area in which the largest ethnic group differs from the group traditionally associated with the land, or *tchon*. Although Bissau lies within Papel territory, Balanta people form the largest group (20.5%), followed by Fula (18.0%) and Papel (15.7%). In Gabú, Fula account for 79.6% and Mandinga for 14.2%; in Bafatá, the corresponding figures are 60.0% and 22.9%. In Oio, Balanta and Mandinga account for 43.6% and 32.9%, respectively. In Cacheu, the main groups are Manjaco (36.8%), Balanta (28.8%) and Felupe (9.1%). In Biombo, Papel account for 64.7% and Balanta for 19.4%; in Tombali, Balanta account for 46.9% and Fula for 20.9%. In Quinara, Beafada and Balanta account for 36.7% and 35.2%, respectively. In Bolama/Bijagós, Bijagós people constitute almost two-thirds of the population (64.3%).
13. Muslims constitute the largest religious group in Guinea-Bissau (45.1%), followed by Christians (22.1%) and animists (14.9%). Those who did not state their religious affiliation account for 15.9%, while atheists represent 2.0%..
14. By regions, the statistics point to Bissau with a Christian majority (40.2%). Muslims correspond to 34.2% and animists to 7.9%. The regions of Gabu and Bafatá are mostly Muslim (77.1% and 86.5% respectively). In the region of Oio, Muslims correspond to 47.1%, animists to 20.8% and Christians to 15.8%. In the region of Cacheu the majority of the population is animist (34.0%), followed by Christians (30.7%) and Muslims (14.8%). In the region of Biombo, animists correspond to the majority (40.1%), Christians correspond to 30.2% and Muslims to 6.3%. The region of Tombali is 43.0% Muslim, 24.1% is animist, and 14.7% is Christian. In the region of Kinara, Muslims correspond to 45.8%, against 19.4% of Christians and 6.2% animists; about 7.1% of the population of this region has no religion. In the region of Bolama/Bijagós, Christians are the majority (30.7%), followed by animists (24.6%) and Muslims (14.9%).

Disaggregation by Mother Tongue

15. Portuguese has been the official and working language since shortly after independence in 1973. It is spoken by 60.5% of Mancanha people and 45.2% of those reporting no ethnic affiliation. The proportion is approximately 38% among Manjaco, Papel and Felupe people; 29% among Beafada and Mansonca; 34% among Bijagós; and 32% among Saracolé. The corresponding figures are 18% among Balanta Mané and Mandinga, 24% among Balanta and 20% among Fula.
16. Creole is spoken by 92.4% of urban residents and approximately 89% of rural residents.

17. Each ethnic group has its own language, generally spoken by a majority of its members. Reported use of these languages is highest among Fula (86.9%), followed by Felupe (85.8%), Balanta (84.7%), Manjaco (83.1%), Mandinga (81.4%), Papel (78.8%), Beafada (77.8%), Balanta Mané (76.8%), Sosso (74.8%), Bijagó (73.4%), people reporting no ethnic affiliation (72.5%), Saracolé (72.3%), Mansonca (69.3%), Mancanha (69.2%) and Nalu (55.8%).
18. Use of ethnic languages is generally more prevalent in rural than in urban areas. The rural and urban proportions, respectively, are: Felupe, 88.9% and 81.7%; Balanta, 87.8% and 78.3%; Fula, 87.6% and 85.5%; Manjaco, 87.4% and 76.4%; Papel, 85.8% and 73.0%; Beafada, 80.3% and 72.9%; Mandinga, 83.4% and 77.7%; Balanta Mané, 80.0% and 64.0%; Sosso, 77.8% and 62.8%; Bijagó, 75.0% and 70.3%; Saracolé, 70.7% and 72.1%; Mansonca, 70.3% and 67.5%; Mancanha, 69.2% and 68.9%; people reporting no ethnic affiliation or dialect, 63.6% and 71.3%; and Nalu, 54.0% and 59.1%.
19. The dependency rates among the population under 15 years of age are in the order of 42.5% with a total of 615,599 people and that of the population over 59 years of age, in the order of 3.11% with a population of 67,694 people. The population of economically active age (15-64 years) represents more than half of the total population (54.1%), most of them living in the urban environment and especially in the SAB and in the region of Bolama/Bijagós. The overall dependency rate of the country is 84.8%. This indicator corresponds to 60.7% in the SAB (lowest value) and 101% in the Gabu region (highest value).
20. Its breakdown by ethnicity is as follows: from 0 to 14 years old, it corresponds to 45.7% in the Fula ethnic group, 45.1% in the Mandinga ethnic group, 42.8% in the Beafada ethnic group, 42.7% in the Sussu ethnic group, and 42.3% in the Balanta Mane ethnic group. The population, aged 15-24 years, corresponds to 25.3% in the Felupe ethnic group, 24.4% in the Mancanha ethnic group and 23% in the Saracolé ethnic group. The percentage of the population aged 25-34 years varies between 13.9% (Mandinka ethnic group) and 17.3% (Mancanha ethnic group). This percentage corresponds to 19% among the population without ethnic group. It is also noted that the percentage of the population aged 35-64 corresponds to 22.8% among the population without ethnicity, followed by the Mancanha ethnic group (20.1%), Bijagós and Manjaco and Sosso (19.9%). The population aged 65 and over corresponds to 4.9% among the Manjacos and about 4% among the Bijagós and Felupes.
21. The census records 573,533 urban residents and 875,697 rural ⁶residents, representing 39.6% and 60.4% of the population, respectively. Projections⁷ for 2023 placed the urban population at 800,698 (44.95%) and the rural population at 980,610 (55.05%).

⁶RPGH-2009, *Estrutura da População*, pág.25

⁷Projeções de INE, 2022. pág. 26.

Social and Cultural Indicators

Standard of Living of the Population

22. Guinea-Bissau is among the world's poorest countries, with persistent poverty and food insecurity documented by the World Bank⁸. Income per *capita* remains low: GDP per capita was \$832.70 in 2022, reflecting only marginal growth over a forty-year period (World Bank 2021b).
23. In September 2019, 30.7% of households in Guinea-Bissau were food insecure, i.e. about 368,458 people⁹. This proportion was 19.2% in urban households and 34.2% in rural households. From September 2016 to September 2019, food insecurity increased by 3.6% in rural households.
24. The regions of Gabu, Cacheu, Biombo, and Oio were the most affected by food insecurity, with rates ranging from around 36 to 39 percent. On the other hand, the lowest rates were found in the regions of Bafatá, Quinara, and Bolama-Bijagós, where rates were below 20 percent. Indicators indicate that 61.4 percent of households were forced to use strategies based on consumption and/or livelihoods to cope with difficulties.
25. Only 9.3% of children aged 6 to 23 months had adequate nutrition and received a minimum acceptable diet. The proportion was 8.9% in rural areas and 13.3% in urban areas. This proportion increases with age, being 3.2% for children aged 6 to 11 months and 13.5% for children aged 18 to 23 months. The evolution of this proportion is due to the gradual introduction of new foods into the children's diet.
26. According to the minimum dietary diversity indicator, only 17.9% of women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years) had adequate nutrition in September 2019, including 16% in rural areas and 24.5% in urban areas. 8.4% of the women surveyed were pregnant at the time of the survey and 77.3% of them did not have an adequate diet, with all the possible consequences that this could have for the health of the woman and her future children.
27. Food expenditure¹⁰ varies by household. Households that spend more than 65% of their income on food purchases can be considered to be economically vulnerable. The average total expenditure of households was 125,125 FCFA, i.e. 120,445 FCFA for rural households and 141,100 FCFA for urban households. In September 2019, 46% of households spent more than 65% of their expenditure on food. In food-insecure households, an average of 68% of their expenditure was spent on food purchases, while this rate was 60% for food-secure households.
28. Based on data from the 2018-2019 Harmonised Survey of Household Living Conditions (EHCVM),¹¹ a national definition of cash poverty in RGB was given for households. Thus, a household is considered poor if its average annual consumption per person is below the poverty line, set at 271,072 CFA francs per month (743 CFA

⁸ Guiné-Bissau, *Análise do capital humano, Banco Mundial, 2024*,

⁹ *Inquérito SISSAN, Boletim N° 6 Março 2020, INE pág.1*

¹⁰ *Inquérito SISSAN sobre a insegurança alimentar, setembro de 2019, Boletim N° 6 março 2020.*

¹¹ *Exame Nacional Voluntário*

francs per day), corresponding to the minimum amount to guarantee basic food and non-food goods and services. As a result, it was estimated that 47.7% of the population lived in poverty in 2019. This indicates a considerable improvement in the situation compared to 2010, the last year for which estimates were available, with a poverty incidence of 69.3%. In addition, poverty remains more pronounced in rural areas, with a poverty rate of 62.9% in 2019 after the rate of 75.6% in 2010, with approximately 75 to 80% of the active population being rural. Data show that 79.5% of the rural population is poor against a poverty rate of 31.8% in urban areas. Severe multidimensional poverty is more prevalent in rural areas than in urban areas (24.2% versus 3.5% respectively).

29. The incidence of poverty in households headed by women (50.3%) is lower than in households headed by men (66.9%), and poverty is less prevalent in households headed by those who have completed at least secondary education (25.6%) against 61.5% for primary education and 78.2% for persons without schooling.
30. Health expenditure¹² varies according to the type of disease. According to the 2011 accounts, data show that expenditure related to the main diseases is: Malaria represents 53% of current health expenditure and 62% of expenditure on infectious and parasitic diseases. HIV and AIDS account for 13% of current health expenditure and 9% of expenditure on infectious and parasitic diseases. Tuberculosis represents 7% of current health expenditure and 0.048% of expenditure on infectious and parasitic diseases. Reproductive health (RH) represents 11% of current health expenditure. Diarrhoeal diseases account for 11% of current health expenditure. In 2012, it was estimated that private household expenditure constituted 43% of health expenditure in Guinea-Bissau¹³.
31. The 2010 Light Poverty Assessment Survey (ILAP) found that absolute poverty¹⁴ affected 69.3% of households nationally. Extreme poverty affected 33% and had particularly serious implications for schooling and young children's nutrition. Schools therefore operate in a difficult social and economic environment characterised by widespread vulnerability.
32. The Harmonised Consumer Price Index, compiled in line with WAEMU methodology, covers Bissau, Gabú, Bafatá and Cacheu/Canchungo, using a basket of 655 products and more than 1,200 points of sale. In March 2023, the index increased by 0.1% compared with February. Year-on-year inflation reached 10.2%, exceeding the WAEMU convergence threshold.
33. The function of "food and non-alcoholic beverages" recorded a negative monthly change rate of -0.1%. This change is mainly due to the reduction in the prices of food products such as: fish (-3.1%), fruits (-1.0%) and fresh vegetables (-1.1%). The

¹²Conta Saúde 2011, INE

¹³Relatório de UNIOGBIS-Secção de Direitos Humanos/ACNUDH abril de 2017

¹⁴Limiar de pobreza absoluta definido pelo Banco Mundial: pobreza absoluta – vivendo com menos de 2US\$ por dia em PPA; pobreza extrema vivendo com menos de 1US\$ por dia). Ambos os limiares de pobreza estão explicados no ILAP 2010.

¹⁵Índice Harmonizado de Preços no Consumidor. Índice Harmonizado de preços no Consumidor-IHPC, é um indicador de inflação mais apropriado para comparações entre os diferentes Países da União Económica Monetária Oeste Africana "UEMOA". O atual IHPC - (base 2014=100) é produzido e publicado em cada Estado Membro, de acordo com a metodologia desenvolvida por especialistas no domínio dos preços, no âmbito do grupo de trabalho da UEMOA e Observatório Económico e Estatístico da África Subsaariana (AFRISTAT).

decrease in the prices of food products and non-alcoholic beverages is justified by the reduction in the prices of live chicken (-0.6%), fresh fish (-2.8%), sardines (-3.1%), butters (-2.1%), fresh vegetables in leaves (-5.8%), sugar (-3.4%) and dried vegetables and oilseeds (-7.3%).

34. The function of "Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotic Drugs" and "Clothing and footwear" recorded a positive change of 0.1%. This change is justified by the increase in the price of tobacco and narcotic drugs and children's clothing by 1.0% and children's footwear, by 1.7%. The function "Housing, water, electricity and other fuel" increased by 1.3%, this increase is justified by the increase of solid fuel and other (coal) by 4.4%.
35. The function of "health service" increased by 0.1%. This change is mainly driven by the increase in the prices of traditional medicines by 4.7%. With regard to the secondary nomenclature, the index of fresh products decreased by -1.2%. The index of energy products increased by 2.4%, justified by the increase in the price of coal. The core inflation index decreased by -0.1%.
36. The indices for local products and the tertiary sector were unchanged during the month. Imported products, the secondary sector, non-durable goods and semi-durable goods recorded increases of 0.3%, 0.6%, 0.1 and 0.7%, respectively.
37. The ILAP-10 survey shows that poverty rose from 64.7% in 2002 to 69% in 2010, while extreme poverty increased from 20.8% to 33%. Extreme poverty therefore grew more rapidly during this period.
38. The study informed the second National Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (DENARP II), which seeks to ensure that the population benefits from the wealth generated in the country. Its measures include support for informal-sector workers and small rural producers, whose livelihoods depend largely on agriculture. It promotes year-round agricultural production and financing for sustainable informal-sector activities.
39. In education, proposed support for vulnerable groups includes cash transfers and participatory community management to improve support for the children concerned. In health, plans envisaged extending social security coverage beyond families employed in public administration or the formal sector¹⁶.
40. Following setbacks caused by political crises, the Government adopted the Terra Ranka Programme for 2015–2025. Its human development pillar seeks to develop the population's potential and meet basic needs through four areas of action:
 - i) Education and employment: alongside ongoing projects, the Education Master Plan 2015–2025 will provide an operational programme of reforms and investment aligned with the 2025 Strategy. A National Employment Office will strengthen public action on employment;
 - ii) Health: a master plan, an effective monitoring and oversight system, and projects addressing infrastructure, medicines and major endemic diseases;

¹⁶INE 2010, *Avaliação da Pobreza*,

- iii) Social protection: large-scale poverty reduction through a safety net and opportunities for the poorest people to improve their livelihoods; and
- iv) Culture, youth and sports that will be especially bearers of a great cultural renewal. A national social development plan will be implemented, on the one hand with a Social Protection component based on the Bolsa Família model in Brazil and, on the other hand, an Empowerment component that will support the most destitute Guinean populations ("the base of the pyramid") through the creation of an ecosystem of innovative and entrepreneurial projects in fields such as education, access to sewage, drinking water, energy or housing.

Economic Aspects

- 41. Guinea-Bissau's economy is predominantly agricultural, with a small industrial sector affected by unreliable electricity supply. Housing and road infrastructure remain inadequate; the report cites a figure of 89.1% in this connection. Major revenue sources include fishing fees, customs duties, taxation, and exports of cashew nuts and timber, but these often fall short of financing the State budget.
- 42. Local food and drink are diverse. Rice and maize are dietary staples, supplemented by vegetables, tubers and tropical fruit. Palm and cashew wines are widely consumed, particularly in communities practising traditional religions and in Christian communities. Fish is accessible to many households, although its quality varies. This availability reflects the country's Atlantic coastline and extensive waterways, including the Geba, Cacheu and Corubal rivers and numerous streams.
- 43. Guinea-Bissau has, as its economic and social base, the market economy and that implies the existence of state, private and cooperative property, all subordinated to political power, aiming at the continuous promotion of well-being and the suppression of any form of social exploitation of one group by another. The state promotes the investment of foreign capital as long as it is useful to the economic and social development of the country.
- 44. Guinea-Bissau presents projections that indicated economic growth in 2022 of around 4.7%, driven by the agricultural sector, especially the cashew sector, and public investments. In the primary sector, real growth of 6.1% was expected in 2022, an increase of 0.7 percentage points compared to 2021. The new control system in the process of transporting cashew nuts from production areas to Bissau reinforces the evidence that national cashew production has so far been underestimated. The records of tax offices in all regions pointed to a declaration of 256 thousand tons of cashew nuts in the country. Also in this sector, food production continues with consistent growth, whose structuring factors are public agricultural projects. For 2022, a growth of 4.1% in subsistence production and 11.1% in cashew production was expected.
- 45. In the secondary sector, growth of 4.8% was expected in 2022, 0.8 percentage points below the rate recorded in 2021, whose reduction compared to last year is due to the poor performance of the construction sector. The increase in prices at the international level, associated with the fiscal adjustments that have taken place in the country, has

limited the growth of this sector in Guinea-Bissau, despite the existence of several road construction projects and electricity distribution infrastructure still under execution. Construction is expected to grow by 0.7% and the water, energy and sanitation subsector is expected to grow by 10.0%, the latter registering a drop of 2.7 percentage points compared to 2021.

46. The tertiary sector shifted from the fastest-growing to the slowest-growing sector, although it retained the largest share of GDP. Growth was projected at 3.7% in 2022, 3.6 percentage points below the 2021 rate. Communications were expected to grow by 4.0%, while transport, projected to grow by 4.5%, was a key driver. Public administration recorded growth of 8.1%, but was not a decisive contributor to the sector's overall performance.
47. In line with GDP growth, the general price level (Inflation) was estimated to grow at 6.9% in 2022, 3.9 percentage points above the target of the WAEMU convergence criterion. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has accentuated the increase in prices that had been occurring since the end of 2020. This fact is affecting the purchasing power and standard of living of the populations in Guinea-Bissau. The prices of imported products have increased considerably. To make matters worse, national products have also followed these increases, especially food products.
48. In 2022, total public revenue and grants were projected to fall by 6.8% compared with 2021, largely because of a 29.8% decline in grants. These estimates reflected heightened geopolitical tensions and their effects on food and oil prices, including potential revenue losses from State measures to cushion households. Current expenditure was projected at 15.6% of GDP, down from 16.1% in 2021, reflecting efforts to contain spending.
49. Government debt was projected at 73.9% of GDP in 2022. The balance of payments was expected to record a surplus of FCFA 31.0 billion, compared with FCFA 60.4 billion in 2021. Higher capital transfers to central government were expected to support the surplus, partly offset by the goods and services deficit and declining net foreign assets. The current account deficit was projected at FCFA 36.9 billion, compared with FCFA 5.5 billion in 2021. The goods and services deficit was expected to rise by FCFA 21.3 billion to FCFA 116.0 billion.
50. The money supply was projected at FCFA 491.3 billion in 2022 (44.1% of GDP), compared with FCFA 473.1 billion in 2021 (47.8% of GDP), reflecting increases in net foreign assets and domestic credit. Credit availability was expected to improve with the opening of a new commercial bank and the resumption of normal economic activity.
51. Overall, the macroeconomic outlook indicates progress despite a difficult international environment. More efficient maritime transport for cashew exports could improve these results. The projected performance reflects efforts to control expenditure, increase revenue and gradually expand investment¹⁷.

¹⁷ Vide Orçamento Geral do Estado do ano económico 2022 e 2023, Ministério das finanças.

II. INFORMATION ON THE STATE

Constitutional, Political and Legal Framework

52. The Constitution defines Guinea-Bissau as a Sovereign, democratic, secular and unitary Republic, which guarantees respect for the dignity of the human person and recognises the inviolability and inalienability of human rights, as the foundation of the entire human community, peace and justice. The first Constitution of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau was adopted on September 24, 1973, with the unilateral proclamation of independence in the eastern part of the country, specifically in the Boé Hills. The first revision came into force in 1984, with the adoption of a presidential regime within the framework of a reinforced one-party regime, replacement of the Council of Commissioners by a government and elimination of the post of prime minister.
53. With the political opening towards multi-party politics in the early 1990s, the CRGB underwent several important revisions. The country's democratization process forced an adaptation of the constitutional text¹⁸, which previously reflected a one-party system, the PAIGC as a political force and leader of Guinean society. These revisions carried out between 1991 and 1996 were fundamental for the opening to multi-party politics, the creation of the position of prime minister, the establishment of a semi-presidential regime and the adoption of the Framework Law on Political Parties¹⁹.
54. A Commission for the Revision of the Constitution was created by the National People's Assembly in 2014, consisting of about 40 members, representatives of the Parties with parliamentary seats, the organs of sovereignty and different institutions and civil society organisations. On 26 June 2023, the parliamentary majority (54 Deputies) approved the extension of the term of office of the Commission, which has since been suspended from its activities as a result of the dissolution of parliament in December 2023.
55. The organs of sovereignty of Guinea-Bissau are: the President of the Republic, the National People's Assembly, the Government and the Courts. The organisation of political power is based on the separation and interdependence of the organs of sovereignty and the subordination of all of them to the Constitution.

Organs of Sovereignty

President of the Republic (PR)

56. Eligible presidential candidates must be registered voters of Guinean origin, born to parents of Guinean origin, over 35 years of age and in full enjoyment of their civil and political rights. The President is elected by free, universal, equal, direct, secret

¹⁸ Constituição aprovada a 16 de Maio de 1984 (alterada pela Lei Constitucional n.º 1/91, de 9 de Maio, Suplemento ao Boletim Oficial n.º 18, de 9 de Maio de 1991, pela Lei Constitucional n.º 2/91, de 4 de Dezembro de 1991, Suplemento ao B.O. n.º 48, de 4 de Dezembro de 1991 e 3.º Suplemento ao B.O. n.º 48, de 6 de Dezembro de 1991, pela Lei Constitucional 1/93, de 21 de Fevereiro, 2.º Suplemento ao B.O. n.º 8 de 21 de Fevereiro de 1993, pela Lei Constitucional n.º 1/95, de 1 de Dezembro, Suplemento ao B.O. n.º 49 de 4 de Dezembro de 1995 e pela Lei Constitucional n.º 1/96, B.O. n.º 50 de 16 de Dezembro de 1996)

¹⁹ Lei n. 2/91 de 9 de maio, Lei-Quadro de Partidos Políticos

and periodic suffrage under a two-round majority system²⁰. If no candidate obtains an absolute majority of valid votes in the first round, the two candidates with the most votes proceed to a second round.²¹

57. The PR is the Head of State, symbol of unity, guarantor of national independence, of the Constitution and supreme commander of the Armed Forces. The presidential term lasts for five years, and reelection is possible for another term. The PR grants honorary titles and decorations of the State: "Amílcar Cabral Medal, Law No. 4/73; " National Order of Colinas de Boé, Law No. 2/1980; "National Order of Merit for Cooperation and Development, Decree-Law No. 6/1989; Decree No. 2/93, published in the Supplement to B.O. No. 34, of August 25, institutes an award called "Diploma de Mérito", with degrees of honour, 1st, 2nd and 3rd class; and "Medal of the Freedom Fighters of the Fatherland."
58. Law No. 10/2013 amended the Electoral Law for the President of the Republic and ANP, and Law No. 11/2013 revised the Voter Registration Law, both published in the Supplement to B.O. No. 38, of September 25, 2013.

National People's Assembly

59. The National People's Assembly (ANP) comprises 102 members who represent the nation as a whole, rather than only the constituencies in which they are elected. Elections cover 27 national constituencies and constituencies in Europe and Africa. Members are elected from multi-member party or coalition lists under the d'Hondt proportional representation system, with each voter casting one vote. Guinean citizens over 21 years of age who fully enjoy their civil and political rights are eligible for election. Members serve four-year terms (Article 79 of the CRGB).
60. The Constitution recognises the right of democratic opposition to political parties represented in the National Assembly and which are not part of the Government, which includes the right to be informed, regularly and directly by the Government, about the progress of key issues of public interest and the right to broadcast time, the right of reply and the right to political response.

Government

61. The Government is the supreme executive and administrative body of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. It comprises the Prime Minister, ministers and secretaries of state, and directs national policy in accordance with its programme as approved by the National People's Assembly.
62. The Government is politically accountable to the President and to the ANP. It functions as a collegiate body through the Council of Ministers, which meets weekly, and the Prime Minister is responsible for directing and coordinating its action and ensuring the execution of laws. It is also the responsibility of the Prime Minister, without prejudice to other powers conferred on him by the Constitution and the law,

²⁰ Artigo 64º CRGB

²¹ N.º 4 do artigo 101º da Legislação eleitoral 11/2013

to inform the President on matters relating to the conduct of the country's domestic and foreign policy. The Government, meeting in the Council of Ministers, exercises its legislative competence by means of decree-laws and decrees.

63. It is incumbent upon the Government: to direct the Public Administration, coordinating and controlling the activity of the ministries and other central bodies of the administration and those of local government; to organise and direct the execution of political, economic, cultural, scientific, social, defence and security activities, in accordance with its Programme; to prepare the national development plan and the general budget of the State and to ensure its implementation; to legislate by decree-laws and decrees on matters relating to its organisation and functioning and on matters not reserved to the ANP; to approve draft laws and submit them to the ANP; to negotiate and conclude international agreements and conventions; to appoint and propose the appointment of civil and military positions;

Courts

64. The courts are sovereign bodies with the power to administer justice on behalf of the people. The Supreme Court of Justice is the supreme judicial body of the Republic. Its judges are appointed by the Supreme Council of Magistracy. The judges of the Supreme Court of Justice are sworn in by the President of the Republic.
65. The justice system comprises the judiciary, which administers justice on behalf of the people, and the Public Prosecutor's Office, which oversees legality, conducts criminal prosecutions and represents the public interest.
66. It is incumbent upon the Supreme Court of Justice and other courts established by law to exercise the judicial function with total independence and exclusive subjection to the law.
67. The Constitution prohibits the existence of courts exclusively dedicated to the trial of certain categories of crimes, except for military courts, administrative, tax and accounting courts.
68. The Public Prosecutor's Office is organised as a hierarchical structure under the direction of the Attorney General of the Republic, who is appointed by the President of the Republic, after consulting the Government.
69. Two specialised courts are particularly relevant. The Court of Auditors oversees the use of public funds by the Government, other State bodies and entities receiving public grants or support. The Tax Court operates within the Ministry of Finance and adjudicates tax evasion cases.
70. The court system has three levels. Regional Courts form the first instance and are intended to serve the eight administrative regions and the Autonomous Sector of Bissau. Financial and logistical constraints have limited their establishment to five locations: Bafatá, Gabú, Buba, Oio and Cacheu. The second-instance court is located in Bissau and comprises several chambers. The Supreme Court of Justice is the highest court, with 11 judges and jurisdiction over administrative, electoral, constitutional, civil, criminal and family matters.

71. Sector Courts have also been established to resolve customary-law disputes. Their decisions may be appealed to the first-instance courts.
72. Legislation has also strengthened the promotion and protection of human rights by establishing the following bodies:
- Social Dialogue Council
 - Superior Council of Social Communication
 - National Council for Judicial Coordination
73. Access to justice is guaranteed by Article 32 of the CRGB and by Decree-Law 11/2010, whose objective is to ensure that citizens have effective access to law and justice, that is, mechanisms are created capable of overcoming differences resulting from social or cultural conditions, economic need, information or geographical location that may negatively influence access to the law and the right of each individual citizen to justice.

The National Centre for Judicial Training (CENFOJ)²² was established to provide short training courses for justice professionals.

Guarantee and Revision of the Constitution

The Review of the Constitutionality of Laws

74. Courts may not apply rules that contravene the Constitution or its principles. A question of constitutionality may be raised by the court on its own initiative, by the Public Prosecutor's Office or by a party. Once admitted, the question is referred separately to the Supreme Court of Justice for a plenary decision. Plenary decisions on constitutionality have general binding force and must be published in the Official Gazette.

The Constitutional Revision

75. The National People's Assembly may revise the Constitution at any time. Members of the Assembly have the power to initiate amendments. Proposals must identify the articles to be amended and the nature of the intended changes, and must be submitted by at least one-third of serving members. Adoption requires a two-thirds majority of the Assembly's members.
76. No constitutional amendment may alter:
- a) The unitary structure and republican form of the State;
 - b) The secular status of the State;

²² Decreto-lei n°4/2011, publicado no 2º Suplemento ao B.O. n°5, de 3 de fevereiro de 2011.

- c) The integrity of the national territory;
- d) National Symbols and National Flag and Anthem;
- e) The rights, freedoms and guarantees of citizens;
- f) The fundamental rights of workers;
- g) Universal, direct, equal, secret and periodic suffrage in the designation of holders of elective positions in the organs of sovereignty;
- h) Political pluralism and expression
- i) The separation and interdependence of the organs of sovereignty;
- j) The independence of the courts.

77. No project or proposal for revision may be presented, debated or voted on during a state of siege or a state of emergency.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

78. Guinea-Bissau becomes bound by international instruments, including human rights treaties, through the procedures prescribed by its Constitution. The Government and the National People's Assembly approve the instruments within their respective mandates, and the President of the Republic ratifies them. The Minister of Foreign Affairs completes the external procedure by signing the instrument of ratification for transmission to the competent depositary.

79. Guinea-Bissau is a State Party to the following international instruments:

Universal System

- a) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1992)
- b) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (2010)
- c) The Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (2013)
- d) The Second Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (2013)
- e) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1985);
- f) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (2009);

- g) The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990)
- h) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2010);
- i) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2014)
- j) The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (2013)
- k) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2014).

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (2010);

- l) Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (2018);
- m) International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (2010).

Regional Instruments

- a) The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1986);
- b) The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (2008);
- c) Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) (2008);
- d) African Charter for Democracy, Elections and Governance (2012);
- e) OAU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Issues in Africa (1990);
- f) African Union (AU) Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (2012);
- g) Constitutive Act of the African Union (2003) and Protocol on the Amendment to the Constitutive Act (2012);
- h) African Youth Charter (2008).

Subregional Instruments

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Treaty of Lagos 1975, revised 1993. The organisation is guided by fundamental principles in its relations with other member states, individuals and other external bodies. Some of these principles stand out: International Cooperation, harmonisation of policies and integration of programmes; recognition of the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Banjul Charter; Equality and interdependence of member states; solidarity and collective self-sufficiency; Responsibility, economic and social justice and popular participation in development; Maintenance of regional peace, stability and security through the promotion and strengthening of good neighborliness; Peaceful resolution of disputes between member states, active cooperation between neighbouring countries and promotion of a peaceful environment as a precondition for economic development; Promotion and consolidation of a democratic system of governance and non-aggression between member states.

Protocol on the ECOWAS Court of Justice;

Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance (2012);

Protocol on the Prevention, Management, Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security Mechanism and its Protocol amending Articles 12 and 13. (2012);

- 80.** Article 29(2) of the CRGB provides that constitutional and legal provisions on fundamental rights must be interpreted in harmony with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Constitution's open-ended recognition of fundamental rights permits the incorporation of additional rights without requiring constitutional amendment.
- 81.** The Government of Guinea-Bissau issued an open invitation in January 2011 for the Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council to visit Guinea-Bissau at any time. This action of the Government clearly demonstrates its commitment to cooperate with the universal system. It is in this context that the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council on: Extreme Poverty (2014); the Independence of Magistrates and Lawyers (2015), the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, especially Women and Children (2024) and the Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation (2025) visited the country.
- 82.** In 2017, the Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights carried out a Promotion Visit to Guinea-Bissau.
- 83.** Acceptance of individual complaints procedures: Convention against Torture (2013); ICCPR (2013) but not extended to the Second Protocol to the ICCPR; CEDAW-OP (2009) and Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2018). The Declarations issued by the Government aim to recognise the

competence of Committees of their respective instruments to analyse and examine complaints. The complaints procedure is unknown and not very common.

IV. LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES ADOPTED

84. Guinea-Bissau has adopted a range of legislative and administrative measures, including the following:

The Constitution of the Republic of 1984 was amended several times²³;

Law No. 1/73, September 24;²⁴

Penal Code²⁵;

Law No. 14/97, defines the legal regime of crimes of responsibility of public office holders, Suppl. to B.O. No. 48, December 2;

Civil Code²⁶;

Code of Criminal Procedure²⁷;

Code of Civil Procedure, Ordinance No. 402/70, of 17 August, extends it overseas;

Public Administration Personnel Statute, Decree No. 12-A/94, of February 28, 1994, Supplement to B.O. No. 9, of 1994;

Law No. 4/76, of 3 May, abolishes discrimination between legitimate and illegitimate children; Law No. 3/76, of 3 May, equates de facto unions recognised by the court to civil marriage, both laws published in the Supplement to B.O. No. 18, of May 4, 1976;

Law No. 19/2011, published in Supplement to B.O. No. 44, of 1 November 2011, law on voter registration for all national citizens residing in the country and abroad;

Law No. 4/94, of March 9, Law of International Electoral Observation

Law No. 4/91, of October 3, Freedom of the Press Law, published in Supplement to B.O. No. 39, of October 3, 1991, amended by Law No. 2/2013, of June 25;

²³ *Lei-quadro da criação de Municípios (Leinº6/1997 publicado no Suplemento ao B.O.nº48, de 2de dezembro de 1997); Lei Base das Autarquias Locais (Lei nº5/96, B.O. nº38, de 16 de setembro); Tutela do Estado sobre as Autarquias Locais (Lei nº3/97, de 7 de abril).*

²⁴ *Lei-quadro da criação de Municípios (Leinº6/1997 publicado no Suplemento ao B.O.nº48, de 2de dezembro de 1997); Lei Base das Autarquias Locais (Lei nº5/96, B.O. nº38, de 16 de setembro); Tutela do Estado sobre as Autarquias Locais (Lei nº3/97, de 7 de abril).*

²⁵ *Lei-quadro da criação de Municípios (Leinº6/1997 publicado no Suplemento ao B.O.nº48, de 2de dezembro de 1997); Lei Base das Autarquias Locais (Lei nº5/96, B.O. nº38, de 16 de setembro); Tutela do Estado sobre as Autarquias Locais (Lei nº3/97, de 7 de abril).*

²⁶ *Lei-quadro da criação de Municípios (Leinº6/1997 publicado no Suplemento ao B.O.nº48, de 2de dezembro de 1997); Lei Base das Autarquias Locais (Lei nº5/96, B.O. nº38, de 16 de setembro); Tutela do Estado sobre as Autarquias Locais (Lei nº3/97, de 7 de abril).*

²⁷ *Decreto-Lei nº5/93, Suplemento ao B.O. nº41, de 13 de outubro de 1993. O Código de Processo Penal de 1929 (normas relativas às Contravenções mantidas em vigor pelo artigo 3º do Decreto-Lei nº5/93, de 23 de outubro). O Decreto nº19.271, de 24 de janeiro de 1931, que declara em vigor o Código nas Províncias Ultramarinas, Suplemento ao B.O. nº 13, de 1931;*

Law No. 5/91, of 2 October, on access to Journalistic Activity, amended by Law No. 5/2013, of 25 June;

Law No. 7/91, of 3 October, Right of Broadcasting and Political Reply (amended by Law No. 7/2013, of 25 June on the access of Political Parties to the Media);

Law No. 6/91, Establishing the National Council of Social Communication, Law No. 6/91, of October 3, amended by Law No. 8/2013, of June 25;

Basic Law on Information and Communication Technologies No. 5/2010, 3rd Supplement to B.O. No. 21, of May 27, 2010;

Law No. 3/92, of April 6, guarantees the Right of Assembly and Demonstration;

Law No. 8/91, of October 3, guarantees Freedom of Association;

Law No. 9/91, of October 3, guarantees the Right to Strike;

Law No. 4/2007, Social Protection Framework Law, published in Official Gazette No. 36, of September 3, 2007;

Law No. 6/2008, Refugee Status, published Supplement to B.O. 21, of May 27, 2008;

Decree-Law No. 5-A/2011, Revision of the Framework Law on Protected Areas, published Supplement to B.O. No. 9, of 1 March 2011;

Decree No. 18/2010, establishing the Centre for the Formalization of Companies, published in the 3rd Supplement to B.O. 39, of September 30, 2010;

Order No. 2/2011, Opening of Shelters must be subject to authorisation from the Ministry of Women, Family, Social Cohesion; B.O. No. 12, of March 21, 2011;

Order No. 06, issued by the Minister of National Education, on September 20, 2024, Exempts persons with disabilities who attend public schools in secondary education from the collection of tuition fees;

Decree-Law No. 11/2010, ensures citizens access to Law and Justice;

Decree No. 13-A/89, approves the tenancy law, 2nd Supplement to B.O. No. 23, of June 9, 1989;

Decree-Law No. 4/2010, regulates the Organic Law of the Judicial Courts;

Decree-Law No. 8/2010 regulating court costs;

Decree-Law No. 14/2010, Statute of the Judicial Police;

Decree-Law No. 10/2010, regulates the Detention Centres;

Law No. 3/2011, Prison Guard Statute;

Law No. 7/2011, law on the organisation, functioning and forms of procedure of the Court of Execution of Sentences;

Law No. 6/2011, revision of the Organic Law of the Courts;

Decree No. 20/77, indicates anti-economic and public health offences, published in B.O. No. 20, of May 14, 1977;

Law No. 15/2011, mid-term review of the Code of Criminal Procedure;

Law No. 9/97, Supplement to B.O. No. 48, of December 2, 1997, Disciplinary Statute of Employees and Agents of the Central, Regional and Local Administration;

Law No. 14/2011, a law that aims to prevent, combat and repress female genital mutilation in the national territory;

Law No. 12/2011, law on the prevention, combating of trafficking in persons, in particular women and children;

Law No. 8/2011, Criminal Investigation Law;

Law No. 6/2014, February 4, which criminalises Domestic Violence;

Law No. 12/95, of 18 October, Statute of the Right of Democratic Opposition to political parties represented in the ANP and that are not part of the Government;

Decree-Law No. 4/97, of 26 May, enshrines the medical and medication assistance to be provided to all users of the National Health System, regardless of their economic conditions, according to the Government's availability;

Decree No. 10/97, of 26 May, regulates the reimbursement of users in the amortization of the costs of medical and medication assistance in health centres and the use of the resulting funds;

Law No. 2,030, of June 22, 1948, law relating to the expropriation of real estate on the basis of public utility²⁸; **Decree No. 37,758**, of February 22, 1950; **Law No. 2,063**, of June 3, 1953²⁹;

Decree No. 21/80, of 17 May, approves the hunting regulations, Supplement to B.O. No. 20, of 17 May 1980; **the forestry law approved by Decree-Law No. 5/2011**; **Decree-Law No. 4-A/91**, approves the law on the devastation of forests by means of burnings and fires, published in B.O. No. 43, of October 29, 1991; **Decree-Law No. 5-A/92**, approving the Water Code, Supplement to B.O. No. 37, of 17 September 1992; **Law No. 5/98**, approving the law on Land, Supplement to B.O. No. 17, of 28 April 1998.

Adoption of: Government policies and programmes related to human rights; National Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in Guinea-Bissau 2009; 2019 Reference Education for Citizenship, Human Rights and Peace in Guinea-

²⁸ *Diário do Governo, 1ª Série, n° 143, de 22 de junho de 1948*

²⁹ *Promulga a lei sobre recursos em matéria de expropriações por utilidade pública-Diário do Governo, 1ª Série, n° 117, de 3 de junho 1953;*

Bissau, manual for the training of Teachers, Inspectors and Educators resulting from the collaboration between INDE and the Human Rights Section of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), with technical and financial support from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In 2011, INDE prepared and published in 2017, the Module Document on Education for Citizenship and Human Rights. The document, Competence for the Promotion and Development of Education for the Culture of Peace, Citizenship, Human Rights and Democracy in collaboration with UNICEF and FEC, served as a basis for the elaboration of some themes included in the 2019 Framework.

PART A

V. THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

Periods covered by the Reports.

The initial report covers the period from 5 June 1986 to 4 June 1988. The instrument of ratification was deposited with the competent depositary on 6 March 1986. The report identifies 5 June 1986, three months after deposit, as the date on which the Charter entered into force for Guinea-Bissau, with reference to Article 65 of the Charter. Guinea-Bissau did not submit the required biennial reports and consequently accumulated a reporting backlog.

85. The Combined Reports: II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII and XVIII cover the period from 5 June 1988 to 2025.

VI. METHODOLOGY ADOPTED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE REPORT

86. The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights initiated and coordinated the preparation of this report with the relevant sectoral ministries. Technical assistance was provided under a memorandum of understanding with the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria. The report draws on administrative data, national surveys and sectoral reports, including INE, MICS and ENV data. Civil society organisations participated in a validation meeting, and their contributions were incorporated into the report.

87. During the first phase, the technical assistant worked with an official from the Ministry of Justice to collect INE data from the third General Population and Housing Census (2009), the Multiple Indicator Cluster *Surveys (MICS)* and the Voluntary National Review (ENV). Research covered legislation and primary legal sources, including the Constitution and ordinary laws; the 2009 census; national plans and

strategies; and State reports to human rights mechanisms, notably the fourth-cycle Universal Periodic Review and reports under the ICCPR, ICESCR and CEDAW. It also drew on consultancy reports on the media, health, education, gender and food security, together with publications and online sources cited in footnotes. Consultations in Bissau involved the Ministry of National Education's Office for Studies, Planning and Evaluation of the Education System (GEPASE); the Ministry of Natural Resources' Directorate-General of Geology and Mines and Mining Services Directorate; the Mine Action Centre (CAAMI); the Institute for Women and Children; the National Deputy Directorate of the Judicial Police; the Ministries of Social Communication and Agriculture; the Directorate-General for Road Transport and Traffic; the National Road Safety Regulatory Authority (ANASER); and the Administrative Directorate of the National Elections Commission. Legislation was obtained from the sales services of the National Printing Office (INACEP-ECP).

88. The principal sources include INE data, particularly the third General Population and Housing Census (RGPH-2009); information from INASA, INEP, INDE, INE and GEPASE; MICS data, including the 2018–2019 MICS6 survey; the 2022 Voluntary National Review on SDG implementation; the assessment of the implementation of Option B+ recommendations on mother-to-child HIV transmission and congenital syphilis within the CPLP; and UN sources, including *UNICEF and the April 2017 UNIOGBIS Human Rights Section/OHCHR report on the right to health in Guinea-Bissau*.
89. Some studies were fundamental for data collection, such as: Need for Gender Mainstreaming in the Legal Framework of Guinea-Bissau - Evaluative Study - 2020; National Strategy for the Abandonment of FGM/E 2018-2022; National Health Development Plan 2018-2022 PNDS III; National Report on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - 2025; Guinea-Bissau State Report for the IVth Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review - 2025.
90. Human rights civil society organisations did not participate in the initial drafting stage, but contributed to the discussion and validation of the report. Their input helped strengthen the final text.

VII. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHARTER: ARTICLE BY ARTICLE

ARTICLE 1: Recognition of Rights, Duties and Freedoms in the Charter

91. Guinea-Bissau recognises and protects the rights, honours the duties and guarantees the freedoms enshrined in the African Charter through a legal framework that includes its own Constitution and a series of international treaties to which it is a party. The Constitution enshrines, in its Title II, fundamental rights, freedoms, guarantees and duties. Its constitutional and legal precepts must be interpreted in harmony with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 29 CRGB.

References to the main constitutional norms for the protection of fundamental rights

92. The Constitution of the Republic³⁰ establishes the principle of equality that all citizens are equal before the law, enjoy the same rights and are subject to the same duties, without distinction of race, sex, social, intellectual, cultural level, religious belief or philosophical conviction.

93. The Constitution recognises fundamental rights, including freedom of association, the right to strike, freedom of conscience and religion, freedom of movement, peaceful assembly and demonstration, freedom of the press, education, freedom of expression, access to justice, information and legal protection³¹.

94. The constitutional precepts relating to rights, freedoms and guarantees are directly applicable and binding on public and private entities. The exercise of rights, freedoms and guarantees may only be suspended or limited in the event of a state of siege or state of emergency, declared in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

It is the duty of the State to recognise the rights listed above and others contained in ordinary laws.

95. Laws restricting rights, freedoms and guarantees must be general and abstract in scope and limited to what is necessary to protect other constitutionally recognised rights or interests. They may not have retroactive effect or diminish the essential content of a right.³²

ARTICLES 2 and 3: Right to Non-Discrimination, Equality before the Law and Protection of the Law

96. The State shall adopt laws prohibiting all discrimination and ensuring equal and effective protection for all persons against all forms of discrimination, including on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or any other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or any other status. The CRGB expressly enshrines equal treatment for all persons.

97. The Republic of Guinea-Bissau is a State Party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

98. However, positive discrimination may be permissible to give opportunity to a certain group of people as an incentive to inclusion. For example, at the end of each school quarter, provide only female students with food free of charge and not boys. Exempt students with disabilities attending secondary school from paying school fees³³. Exempt pregnant women, children aged five years or older and older persons aged sixty years or older persons from paying hospital fees.

99. The Constitution also provides that all citizens are equal before the law, enjoy the same rights and are subject to the same duties, without distinction of race, sex, social, intellectual or cultural level, religious belief or philosophical conviction. In addition, the

³⁰ Art.24º CRGB

³¹ Arts.45º,47º,52º53º, 54º 56º, 49º, 51º, 32º e 34º CRGB

³² artigo 30º CRGB

³³ Despacho nº6, proferido pelo Ministro da Educação, a 20 de setembro de 2024

Constitution recognises the importance of the participation of all citizens in the political, economic and cultural life of the country, in accordance with the law, emphasising the importance of active participation in the development process.

100. In short, the Constitution of Guinea-Bissau not only recognises the right to development, but also binds to the creation of progressive conditions and the active participation of all citizens, ensuring that development is a collective and inclusive effort.

101. The First National Conference on Impunity, Justice and Human Rights, held from 10 to 12 July 2012, adopted several recommendations.

ARTICLE 4: Right to Life, Physical and Moral Integrity

102. The Constitution guarantees the right to life and the inviolability of physical and moral integrity. It prohibits the death penalty in all circumstances. Any deprivation of liberty contrary to the Constitution or the law gives rise to a duty on the State to compensate the injured person³⁴.

103. Resolution No. 4/2007 of the ANP ³⁵established the National Commission for National Reconciliation (CRN), with a two-year term of office, from the date of taking office of its members, which may be extended if the evolution of the reconciliation process so requires. The CRN is headed by a collective Presidency (A representative of the Bishops of Guinea-Bissau; President of the National Evangelical Council; President of the National Islamic Council; and representatives of Traditional Chiefs).

104. Resolution No. 12/PL/ANP/2004, of November 26, emerges to rehabilitate the victims of coups d'état, study paragraph 4 of the Preamble of the aforementioned Resolution (No. 4/2007).

105. In turn, the Penal Code dedicates the entire Title II, of articles 107 to 144, to crimes against persons, which includes crimes against life, physical integrity, personal liberty, against honour. It is a constitutional imperative to hold public entities civilly and criminally liable, article 33, and jointly and severally with the holders of their bodies, officials or agents, for actions or omissions practiced in the exercise of their functions, and because of such exercise, which results in violation of rights, freedoms and guarantees, or damage to others.

ARTICLE 5: Prohibition of Torture and ill-treatment

106. The right to respect for human dignity is a fundamental pillar in Guinea-Bissau, being enshrined both in the Constitution and in various international human rights instruments to which the State is a party, namely Article 7 of the ICCPR, Articles 3 and 4 of the African Union Act. The CRGB explicitly enshrines that "No one shall be subjected to torture, ill-treatment or cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment", art.37. Decree No. 12/2011, published in the 3rd Supplement to B.O. No. 5, of 3 February, on minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners

³⁴ Arts. 31, 37, 38 e 39 CRGB

³⁵ Publicada no B.O. n.º33, de 13 de agosto de 2007

107. Article 38(1), (2), (3) and (4) of the Penal Code provides as follows: "2. The execution of criminal sanctions shall be carried out in a manner that respects the human dignity of convicted persons. 3. Criminal sanctions of unlimited duration are prohibited. 4. Criminal sanctions are personal and non-transferable".³⁶

108. Article 6 of the Detention Centre Regulations ³⁷guarantees humane treatment for all prisoners. Law No. 12/2011 of 6 July criminalises trafficking in persons, particularly women and children. Awareness among paramilitary personnel of the Guidelines on the Conditions of Arrest, Police Custody and Pre-Trial Detention in Africa remains limited.

109. Guinea-Bissau is a State Party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Sex-disaggregated judicial statistics on final convictions, ongoing proceedings and pending cases involving assault, ill-treatment and related offences are limited. **The lead institutions are the** Ministry of the Interior and Public Order and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. The latter formulates, proposes, coordinates and implements policies on justice, citizenship and human rights. The former is responsible for internal security, protection and road safety policies.

ARTICLE 6: Right to Liberty and Security of the Person

110. The right to liberty is enshrined in the CRGB and in international human rights instruments to which the State of Guinea-Bissau is a party, as well as in ordinary laws in different areas:

- a) On the political side, the CRGB proclaims the principle of equality, article 24, the freedom to form political parties, article 4/1, freedom of thought by any means, the right to inform, to be informed and to be informed without impediment or discrimination article 51, the right to move freely within national territory article 53, the right to form associations. The right to peacefully assemble and to demonstrate article 55;
- b) Criminal aspect relating to the security of persons, the inviolability of physical and moral integrity Article 37 of the CRGB. The deprivation of liberty without a judicial conviction is not permitted Article 38 of the CRGB. Article 39 of the CRGB, every person deprived of liberty must be immediately informed of the reasons for his or her detention, and this must be communicated to a relative or person of trust of the detainee, indicated by the latter. The deprivation of liberty against the provisions of the Constitution and the law constitutes the State's duty to compensate the injured party, under the terms established by law. Illegal arrest or detention resulting from abuse of power gives the citizen the right to appeal to the Habeas *Corpus* measure before the Supreme Court of Justice (**Judgment No. 1/94-CR**, handed down in the case in which Fernando Jorge Monteiro e Silva Vaz, represented by his representative, requests Habeas *Corpus*);

³⁶ *Código Penal, Dec-Lei n° 4/93, de 13 de outubro.*

³⁷ *Decreto-lei 10/2010, Regulamento dos centros de detenção.*

Detention without charge is subject to a maximum period of 48 hours. Criminal proceedings must guarantee the rights of the defence, and no one may be tried more than once for the same offence. Proceedings follow an accusatorial model, with trial hearings and legally specified investigative acts subject to the adversarial principle. Evidence obtained through torture, coercion, violations of physical or moral integrity, or unlawful interference with privacy, the home, correspondence or telecommunications is invalid.

There are international treaties that must also be taken into account, such as the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the African Union;

- c) On the economic side, the freedom to have rural and agricultural property article 12 CRGB, the freedom and artistic and intellectual creation;
- d) On the religious side, freedom of conscience, religion, worship article 52 CRGB, the principle of secularity of the State;
- e) On the social side, freedom of the press is guaranteed;
- f) In addition to these articles, the greatest guarantee of the right to liberty is enshrined in Article 30 in its different paragraphs, which we quote below: "The constitutional precepts relating to rights, freedoms and guarantees are directly applicable and binding on public and private entities. The exercise of fundamental rights, freedoms and guarantees may only be suspended or limited in the event of a state of emergency, declared in accordance with the Constitution and the law. Laws restricting rights, freedoms and guarantees are general and abstract in nature, must be limited to what is necessary to safeguard other constitutionally protected rights or interests and cannot have retroactive effects, nor diminish the essential content of the rights".

ARTICLE 7: Right to a Fair Trial and Judicial Guarantees

111. Article 32 of the CRGB guarantees the right to challenge before a court any act that violates rights recognised by the Constitution or the law. Justice may not be denied for lack of financial means. Article 34 and implementing legislation provide for legal protection, information, representation³⁸ and legal aid³⁹. Defendants may choose their counsel and receive legal assistance throughout proceedings. Under Article 42(3), counsel must be present at the first interrogation, either retained by the defendant or appointed by the authorities.

112. Article 42/1 and 2 of the CRGB also provides that "The criminal process shall ensure all the guarantees of defence" and "Every defendant shall be presumed innocent until the conviction becomes final, and shall be tried within the shortest time compatible with the guarantees of defence". Article 41 of the CRGB states that no one may be criminally

³⁸ *Lei 3/2002, lei orgânica dos tribunais Judiciais Revista pela lei 6/2011 (esta lei trata no art. 71º da constituição dos mandatários judiciais)*

³⁹ *Decreto-lei 11/2010 assegura aos cidadãos ao acesso ao direito e a Justiça (no art. 7.º tratou das situações em que a pessoa pode ter direito a assistência, neste caso, a insuficiência económica, diz que, o direito à assistência judiciária só pode ser concedido a quem se encontrar em situação económica que lhe não permita suportar, total ou parcialmente, as despesas normais da causa)*

sentenced except by virtue of a previous law declaring the action or omission punishable, nor suffer security measures whose assumptions are not established in a previous law, other constitutional guarantees such as the prohibition of the application of penalties or security measures that are not expressly provided for in a previous law, trial more than once for the commission of the same crime and the non-transferability of criminal responsibility⁴⁰.

113. The Code of Criminal Procedure provides safeguards for a fair trial, including determination by a lawfully designated judge⁴¹, access to retained or appointed counsel⁴², an adversarial process from arrest onwards, public hearings and invalidity of a judgment where defence counsel was absent. It also provides broad access to ordinary and extraordinary appeals. The presumption of innocence must be respected throughout.

Judgment No. 3/99, handed down in the case file of Mr. Joaquim Delgado, who claims the right of preemption in the purchase of a property. Supplement to B.O. No. 38, of September 21, 1999; **Judgment No. 4/00**, handed down in the action brought by Luís Correia, against the State of Guinea-Bissau, B.O. No. 13, of March 27, 2000; **Judgment** of June 3, 1988, handed down in the Provisional Maintenance Action, No. 4/88, on appeal, in which Augusto João de Deus Andreino is the appellant and the defendant, the Honourable Agent of the Public Prosecutor's Office, B.O. No. 31, of August 31, 1988; **Judgment No. 1/94-CR**, handed down in the case in which Fernando Jorge Monteiro e Silva Vaz, represented by his representative, requests "*Habeas Corpus*".

114. United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. The Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

115. Decree-Law No. 4/2009, of October 8, creates the National Council for Judicial Coordination.

ARTICLE 8: Right to Freedom of Conscience and Freedom of Religion

116. Article 52 of the CRGB guarantees the inviolability of freedom of conscience and religion. It affirms the secular nature of the State and recognises freedom of worship and religious teaching within each denomination. Article 54 also guarantees peaceful assembly in places open to the public and the right to demonstrate.

117. The Orders issued by successive members of governments confirm the secularity of the State of Guinea-Bissau and are therefore authorised to function fully in the country: Order No. 8-GM/92, B.O. No. 16, of April 20, 1992 and Order No. 8-GM/92, B.O. No. 26, of June 29, 1992, Association of Seventh-day Adventist Churches; Order No. 11-GSE/91, B.O. No. 34, of 7/29/91, "Biblical Church of Deep Life"; Order No. 01/93, B.O. No. 13, of 3/29/93, "Pentecostal Christian Church "New Life"; Dispatch, B.O. nº27, of 8/7/91, "Assembly of God Evangelical Church"; Dispatch nº 13/GSE/91, B.O. nº30, of 29/7/91 "Pentecostal Church God is Love"; Dispatch nº 17-GM/94, B.O. nº 44, of

⁴⁰ Vide art. 37º/4 CRGB.

⁴¹ Cada Magistrado tem um número e os processos são atribuídos por sorteio

⁴² Vide o art. º 61º al.c), art. 64º/1, art. 74º, art. º 78º, art. º 106º nº1 al.c) todos do CPP.

31/10/94, recognises the Legal Personality of the Philadelphia Church; Order, B.O. n° 21, of 27/5/91, recognises the Legal Personality of the Evangelical Church; Order, B.O. n°30, of 24/7/95, Muslim Religious Association "AHMADIYYA MUSLIM" JAMA AT-Guinea-Bissau; Order B.O. No. 32, of 8/7/95, Association for the Unification of World Christianity (AUCM).

118. A declaration of a state of siege may not affect freedom of conscience or religion (final part of Article 31(2) of the CRGB).

ARTICLE 9: Right to Information and Freedom of Expression

119. The rights to information and freedom of expression are essential to a free and open society and are enshrined in Articles 51 and 56 of the CRGB. The right to information includes the freedom to impart, seek and receive information. Article 51 also provides for a right of reply, rectification and compensation for harm suffered. However, implementing legislation on the right to information has not yet been adopted.

120. Freedom of expression is constitutionally guaranteed and reflected in the following ordinary laws: Law on the Written Press and News Agency (Law No. 1/2013); Freedom of the Press (Law No. 2/2013); Law on Television (Law No. 3/2013); Law on Broadcasting (Law No. 4/2013); Law on the Status of Journalists (Law No. 5/2013); Law on Advertising (Law No. 6/2013); Law on Access of Political Parties to the Media (Law No. 7/2013); and Law on the National Council of Social Communication (Law No. 8/2013). All the aforementioned laws are published in the Supplement to B.O. No. 25, of June 25, 2013. The purpose of making the laws is to regulate the written press, audiovisual, news agencies, journalist statute, freedom of the press, publicity, the right to broadcast and political retort and the National Council of Social Communication.

121. It is also worth mentioning the Basic Law on Information and Communication Technologies (Law No. 5/2010, published in the 3rd Supplement to B.O. No. 21, of May 27, 2010), Decree No. 7/2023 that regulates the public tender for the award of a Broadcasting License, published 2nd Supplement to B.O. No. 18, of May 3, 2023, Decree-Law No. 1/2024, creates the Commission on the Professional Journalism Card, the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure.

122. In the transition period, from the single party to the multi-party system, the following laws were approved, promulgated and published on the official website of the State, Official Gazette: Press Law (Law No. 4/91); Law on the Statute of Journalists (Law No. 5/91); Law on the Right to Broadcast and Political Reply (Law No. 7/91); Law creating the National Council of Social Communication (Law No. 6/91); Law on Freedom of Association (Law No. 8/91).

123. The National Council of Social Communication, an independent body that is attached to the National People's Assembly, aims to guarantee the right to information and the free exercise of the press, independence of the media.

124. The media in Guinea-Bissau are part of public, private and community bodies⁴³.

125. Public bodies – Rádio Difusão Nacional (RDN); Television of Guinea-Bissau (TVGB); Jornal Nô Pintcha (JNP); and Agência de Notícias da Guiné (ANG). Staff who carry out professional activities in public media in percentage terms and according to gender (80% male and 20% female).

126. Sixteen private radio stations operate in the country. They include Rádio *Galaxy de Pindjiquiti*, Rádio *Bombolom*, Rádio *Sol Mansi*, Rádio *Capital FM*, Rádio *Africa FM*, Rádio *Al-Barakah*, Rádio *Nossa*, Rádio *Luz FM*, Rádio *Paz* and Rádio *Evangelical Voice of Hope*. Nine stations belong to Catholic, Evangelical or Islamic institutions, and seven are commercial. Private radio employs approximately 229 professionals, most of whom are men. Four stations—Rádio *Mavegro*, Rádio *Alternag*, Rádio *Phoenix* and Rádio *Tropical*—have suspended broadcasting. **There** is no private television station. Private newspapers include *O Democrata*, *Donos da Bola*, *Última Hora* and *Gazeta de Notícias*. Some newspapers have ceased publication because of low sales and competition from social networks and other digital media.

127. In percentage terms, the staff of private bodies according to gender, 78% are male and 22% female.

128. Community media include Quelelé community television and the newspaper *Dia-Dia de Quelelé*, both operating in the Quelelé neighbourhood of Bissau. Of 31 community radio stations, 21 are operational. Ten—six in the regions and four in Bissau—have suspended broadcasting because of limited revenue, inadequate equipment, electricity constraints and difficulties retaining staff. Men account for 74% of community media personnel and women for 26%.

129. Guinea-Bissau has twenty-two (22) digital media platforms and offices of three (3) international media organisations.

130. Professional media organisations promote and defend the rights of journalists and other media workers. They include the National Network of Community Radios of Guinea-Bissau (RENARC), the Union of Journalists and Media Technicians (SINJOTECS), the Order of Journalists, the Association of Women Media Professionals (AMPROCS), the Forum of Sports Journalists of Guinea-Bissau and the National Press Confederation (CONAI).

131. Eight printing companies support media production in Guinea-Bissau. One is publicly owned and seven are private; all are located in Bissau.

⁴³ in relatório final de consultoria, “O Perfil dos Media na Guiné-Bissau”, 2022, págs 20 e ss

132. There are two private telecommunications companies in the country, MTN and Orange. Those two companies provide internet and telephone communication services throughout the country.

133. The Ministries of Social Communication and Economy and Finance issued a Joint Order in April 2017, which aims to reintroduce payment for the attribution of a provisional license to the media, whose price list varies between 250,000FCFA and 7,000,000FCFA.

134. In 2018, SINJOTECS and the Order of Journalists approved the proposal for the Code of Ethics to regulate the activities of national media professionals.

135. The Ministry of Social Communication (MCS), the National Council of Social Communication (CNCS) and the National Regulatory Authority and Information and Communication Technologies (ARN) are entities with the competence to regulate media outlets.

136. In the list of 180 countries included in the World Press Freedom Index, in 2018, Guinea-Bissau was ranked by Reporters Without Borders in 83rd position⁴⁴.

The declaration of a state of emergency can only determine the partial suspension of rights, freedoms and guarantees⁴⁵. The lead ministries: Ministry of Social Communication, which is responsible for formulating, proposing, coordinating and implementing the Government's policies on the media, in particular ensuring the impartiality of the public press and the promotion of freedom of the private press, in accordance with the law, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and the Ministry of the Interior and Public Order.

ARTICLE 10: Freedom of Association

137. Article 55 of the CRGB guarantees the right to form associations freely and without prior authorisation, provided that their purposes are lawful and do not promote violence. Public authorities may not interfere with, dissolve or suspend an association except through judicial proceedings prescribed by law.

138. In legal terms, several laws have been adopted that conform to the constitutional provision on the subject of freedom of association, such as:

The Civil Code, in its Chapter II, articles 157 et seq., regulates the creation and operation of legal persons, including associations;

⁴⁴ *in relatório, o direito humano de participar nos assuntos políticos e públicos na Guiné-Bissau, UNIOGBIS, 2019, pág.63*

⁴⁵ *nº3 do artigo 31º CRGB*

Decree No. 23/92, of 23 March, which regulates the creation and exercise of the activities of national non-governmental organisations in Guinea-Bissau, namely-

Regional Football Association, established in each region of the country, a commission to direct the regional football associations of Guinea-Bissau, Order, B.O. No. 53, of December 31, 19977; National Road Transport Association (ASTRA), Order, B.O. No. 40, of October 3, 1988; A special regime for cooperatives contained in the OHADA Uniform Act, relating to Cooperative Societies; Law No. 08/1992, regulates freedom of association.

ARTICLE 11: Right to Freedom of Assembly and Peaceful Demonstration

139. Freedom of assembly and peaceful demonstration is a constitutionally recognised right of all citizens under Article 54 of the CRGB and regulated by Law No. 3/92 on freedom of assembly and demonstration⁴⁶.

This law establishes restrictions on the exercise of such rights, including space and time, article 4, paragraphs 2 and 3, of Law No. 3/92. However, some findings report that "the law was applied differently in comparable situations⁴⁷". Lead Ministry- Ministry of the Interior and Public Order.

ARTICLE 12: Freedom of Movement and the Right to Seek Asylum

140. The right to free movement is guaranteed in the CRGB, in Article 53. This article establishes the right to free movement within the national territory, as a corollary of the right to freedom, provided for in Article 38/2 CRGB. On the other hand, it presupposes and integrates the right of citizens to live in the country, and they cannot "under any circumstances" be expelled or extradited from the national territory, as stated in Article 43/1CRGB. Freedom of movement implies the right not to be prevented from moving within the territory of Guinea-Bissau and not to be forced to confine oneself to a certain place or region.

141. Guinea-Bissau has not signed or ratified the Protocol (2018) to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) on the Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment, but it is on the State's agenda.

142. Obligation of States Parties to the Kampala Convention (2009) to ensure protection and assistance during internal displacement, namely, to assume the primary duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons, within their territory or jurisdiction, without discrimination of any kind; they must cooperate with each other and at the request of the State Party concerned or at the request of the Conference of States Parties, in the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons; States Parties must respect the mandates of the African Union and the United Nations, as well as the role of international humanitarian organisations for the

⁴⁶ *Lei nº 3 /92 de 6 de Abril, Lei de Reunião e de Manifestação*

⁴⁷ *in relatório, o direito humano de participar nos assuntos políticos e públicos na Guiné-Bissau, UNIOGBIS, 2019, pág.58*

protection and assistance of internally displaced persons, in accordance with international law.

143. The National Commission for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (CNRD),⁴⁸ established in 2008. This Commission is composed of the Executive Secretariat, representatives of some Government departments and UNHCR, the latter as an observer. The Commission advises and assists the Government in the application and management of refugees, specifically in the identification of asylum needs, determination and attribution of status, monitoring and ensuring access to health and education for refugees. The Commission is under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior.

144. The Appeals Committee comprises two members of the Judicial Council and a senior member of the Council of the Public Prosecutor's Office, who chairs it. It examines appeals against the Commission's rejection of asylum applications.

145. The State of Guinea-Bissau granted Guinean nationality by naturalisation, refugees, linguistically and culturally assimilated, residing in the country for more than twenty-five years, in as durable solutions (2016 and 2018). A considerable number of these refugees were originally from the Casamance Region, Senegal, as well as minorities from Sierra Leone and Liberia. Lead Ministry- Ministry of the Interior and Public Order.

ARTICLE 13: Right to Political and Public Affairs Participation

146. The right and in equal circumstances for all citizens to participate in politics is established, unless otherwise stipulated by law. The formation of political parties is free. Every citizen has the right and the possibility, without discrimination based on race, religion, sex, ethnic origin and without excessive restrictions: a) To take part in the management of public affairs, directly or through freely elected representatives; b) To vote and be elected in periodic, credible elections, by universal and equal suffrage and by secret ballot, ensuring the free expression of the will of the voters; c) To have access, under general conditions of equality, to the public functions of his country⁴⁹.

147. Electoral campaigns may be financed by State contributions, contributions from affiliated parties, voluntary donations from voters, candidates' and parties' own funds, and income from campaign activities⁵⁰. State funding is subject to compliance with the Parity Law⁵¹, which requires a minimum of 36% female candidates to head party lists in legislative elections.

148. Presidential candidates and parties or coalitions contesting legislative elections have equal access to campaign broadcasting: ten minutes daily on radio and five minutes daily on television.

⁴⁸ *Lei nº6/2008*

⁴⁹ *Art.25º PIDCP*

⁵⁰ *Lei nº10/2013*

⁵¹ *Lei nº4/2018*

149. Electoral campaigning is restricted in military or paramilitary facilities, places of worship, hospitals, public institutions and workplaces during operating hours, and educational institutions during classes. From the start of the campaign until the day after the election, publication of opinion polls concerning candidates is prohibited. Defamation, slander, insults and incitement to disorder, insurrection, hatred, violence or war are also prohibited. Foreign governments and foreign governmental organisations may not directly finance electoral campaigns.

150. Law No. 11/2013 on Voter Registration; Law No. 12/2013 on the National Electoral Commission; Law No. 4/1994 on International Electoral Observation. These laws strengthen the implementation of this provision of the Banjul Charter.

151. Guinea-Bissau is a State Party (2012) to the African Union Convention on Combating Corruption, the principles of which are set out in Article 3: respect for democratic principles and institutions, popular participation, the rule of law and good governance; respect for human and peoples' rights, in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant instruments concerning human rights; transparency and accountability in the management of public affairs; promotion of social justice to ensure balanced socio-economic development; and condemnation and rejection of acts of corruption, assimilated offences and impunity; The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. The State of Guinea-Bissau has been a party since (2012).

152. All nationals are guaranteed equal access to public services on the basis of Articles 24 and 25 of the CRGB.

ARTICLE 14: Right to Property

153. The economic and social organisation of Guinea-Bissau is based on the principles of the market economy, the coexistence of public, cooperative and private property. Therefore, the State recognises the existence of private property as distinct from public goods, under the terms of Articles 11 and 12 of the CRGB.

154. According to the Land Law⁵² and its respective regulations⁵³, in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau land is the property of the State and the common patrimony of all the people. Land as a fundamental physical support of the community is an eminently national value, whatever the form of its use and exploitation. The rights constituted over land and natural resources are subject to equal protection whether they result from custom or law. Improvements made on land may be public or private property.

155. Unoccupied rural or urban State land may be assigned for private use, except for fully protected areas and land used by the State for public purposes. Private use rights may arise through customary use or concession.

156. Except where based on customary use, the allocation of private land use rights must be recorded in a written contract. Within thirty days, the rights holder must deposit a copy

⁵² *Lei n° 5/98, de 2 de abril*

⁵³ *Decreto n° 6/2018, de 27 de novembro.*

with the National Land Commission, arrange publication in the Official Gazette and register the right with the competent Land Registry Office.

157. Holders of the right of private use of land have a duty to respect the principles of adequacy of production systems to the ecological characteristics of the region, of full and rational use of the land, and of maintaining its capacity for regeneration.

158. Holders of private use rights are also subject to supervision by the granting entity, through the Land Commissions, within the exclusive scope of verifying compliance with legal and contractual obligations and duties.

ARTICLE 15 Right to Work

159. The right to work is enshrined in articles 45 to 47 of the CRGB. Workers are guaranteed the right to protection, safety and hygiene at work and a system capable of guaranteeing workers social security in old age, illness or when they are unable to work. The Constitution guarantees workers freedom of association as a way of promoting unity, the right to strike to defend their rights and protect their interests.

160. The Constitution prohibits forced labour, dismissals for political or ideological reasons, lock-outs and imposes as one of the material limits of the constitutional revision the matter of the fundamental rights of workers. The strike law was created to mark the terms of this right.

161. The civil service – covering a range known as the Public Administration Staff Statute and which in 2012 was fragmented into several laws that modernize the functioning of public services, such as: General Principles on Employment in Public Administration, the Management Staff Statute, the Incompatibility Regime, the Professional Reclassification and Reconversion regime, the Career Restructuring regime, the Personnel Recruitment and Selection regime, the Training regime, the Vacation, Absences and Leaves regime, the Performance Evaluation regime, the Retirement Statute and the Surplus Staff Diploma⁵⁴.

162. Another for private law, recently created, condensed in the Labour Code (Law No. 07/2022, Supplement to B.O. No. 29, of 19 July) – which enshrines the rights and duties of labour, as well as the guarantees of the worker. The new Labour Code imposes registration with the National Institute of Social Security on the self-employed as well as on employees. This same law introduces the mechanism for the out-of-court resolution of labour disputes, allowing the parties to resolve disputes more quickly. The new Labour Code now regulates specific modalities and regimes, such as teleworking, dock work, domestic work and recognises the status of the student-worker, also reinforcing the inclusion of persons with disabilities. The National Social Protection Policy was approved in 2024, one of the axes establishes the expansion and reinforcement of coverage in the public as well as in the private sector. This axis proposes the unification of social security systems in a single institution, the extension of coverage to workers in the informal sector and simplification of procedures for granting pensions in the public service.

163. Guinea-Bissau is a State Party to the ILO conventions: Convention No. 17 on compensation for accidents at work; Convention No. 100 on equal pay; Convention No. 26 on the fixing of the minimum wage; Convention No. 81 on labour inspection; Convention No. 138 on the minimum age for admission to employment; Convention No. 111 on the prohibition of discrimination in employment.

ARTICLE 16: Right to Health

164. The national legal framework on the right to health includes: (i) The CRGB does not expressly mention the right to health, Article 29 CRGB reads as follows: "the Constitutional and legal precepts relating to fundamental rights must be interpreted in harmony with the UDHR, which recognises in its Article 25 the right to health. The content is covered by Article 58 CRGB, which provides for the progressive creation of the "conditions necessary for the full realisation of rights of an economic and social nature" that are recognised in the title of fundamental rights, freedoms, guarantees and duties; (ii) Law No. 5/2007 on HIV/AIDS, which prohibits discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS and preserves confidentiality; (iii) Law No. 11/2010, which regulates Reproductive Health and Family Planning activities, which, *inter alia*, increased the minimum age for marriage to 18 years; (iv) Law No. 12/2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, which incorporates most of the provisions of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, complementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; (v) Law No. 14/2011 to Prevent, Combat and Suppress Female Genital Mutilation, which prohibits and criminalises the practice of female genital mutilation. Decree-Law No. 4/97, of 26 May, establishes the medical and drug assistance to be provided to all users of the National Health System, regardless of their economic conditions, according to the Government's availability; Decree No. 11/2010, Legal Regime of Pharmaceutical Activity in Guinea-Bissau and Decree No. 12/2010. Establishes the National Institute of Public Health, both published in the 3rd Supplement to B.O. No. 34, of August 26, 2010.

165. The National Health Development Plan for 2018-2022 (PNDS III) aims to "ensure quality care for all" and integrates other relevant frameworks and policies for the realisation of the right to health in Guinea-Bissau, such as: (i) the National Human Resources Plan for the Health Sector (2008-2017) and (ii) the Operational Plan for the National Transition in Prenatal and Maternal Health (POPEN).

166. Additional national policies and frameworks relevant to the protection of the right to health in the country include the National Malaria Campaign (2010-2024) and the National Malaria Control Programme (2013-2017), as well as several previous policies including: (i) the National Action Plan on Birth Registration (2010-2013); (ii) the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (2011-2013); (iii) the National Action Plan to Combat Female Genital Mutilation (2010-2015); (iv) the National Policy on Gender (2014); (v) Guinea-Bissau's National Plan for Food Security (prepared in 2008); (vi) the National Vaccination Policy (prepared in 2007) and the Injection Safety Policy (prepared in 2003); (vii) the National Policy on Nutrition

(prepared in 2014); and (viii) the Blood Policy (approved by the Council of Ministers in 2014); National Programme to Fight Malaria (Strategy 2018-2022/Updated); National Plan to Combat Tuberculosis (2022); National Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health (Ref.667/1000-Support from FUNUAP)

167. Guinea-Bissau, in terms of the Human Development Index (HDI), in 2016, of the 188 countries, ranked 178 and remains below the averages of 0.523 for sub-Saharan African countries and 0.497 for the group of countries with low human development⁵⁵

168. The Ministry of Public Health, which includes the Secretariat of State for Hospital Management, is responsible for formulating, proposing, coordinating and implementing government policy on health and the control of endemic diseases.

169. The Ministry of Public Health comprises the following central bodies and services: a) Secretary-General; b) General Inspection of Health Activities; c) General Directorate of Prevention and Health Promotion; d) Directorate-General of Health System Administration; e) National Institute of Public Health; f) Regional Directorates of Public Health; g) Directorate-General of Health Establishments h) Central Purchasing of Essential Medicines (CECOME). The Organs and Services listed in paragraphs a), b), c), d), e), f), h) shall be directly dependent on the Minister of Public Health.

170. The Secretary of State for Hospital Management is responsible for:

Regional Hospitals; Motor Rehabilitation Centre, "Dr. Ernesto Moreira"; Management of the "Raoul Follereau" Hospital; Management of the "Simão Mendes" National Hospital; General Directorate of Health Care Establishments⁵⁶.

Administrative Organisation and Healthcare Delivery in Guinea-Bissau⁵⁷

171. Guinea-Bissau comprises eight administrative regions and the Autonomous Sector of Bissau. Health services are organised into 11 health regions and 114 health areas. Bolama-Bijagós and Oio have each been divided into two health regions to improve the response to emergency needs.

172. Health centres provide the first point of contact for primary health care in Guinea-Bissau. The system includes general health centres classified as types A, B and C, as well as specialised centres for HIV outpatient care, tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment, nutritional rehabilitation, and maternal and child health. The A, B and C classifications reflect service capacity; type A centres can perform surgery. In 2022, the country had 3 national hospitals, 4 regional hospitals, 5 type A centres, 19 type B centres, 3 maternal and child centres and 111 type C centres.

⁵⁵ *UNIOGBIS, abril 2017, Direito à saúde na Guiné-Bissau, pág.6.*

⁵⁶ *Decreto-Lei nº1/2015, 3º Suplemento ao B.O. nº1, de 8 de janeiro de 2015, Estrutura Orgânica do Governo.*

⁵⁷ *Anuário Estatístico da Saúde, 2022, pág. xvii*

173. The private sector contributes significantly to the provision of health care, with 39 private establishments, including two hospitals by the end of 2022.

174. The revitalisation of community health activities has been underway for more than 4 years. There is a national coverage of Community Health Agents (CHA) trained in accordance with the National Strategic Plan (PEN) 2016-2020. By 2022, the number of functional CHAs was expected to reach 1,920.

175. Consultant Helena Lima, in the revised report, April 2018, page 8, on the Situational Diagnosis on the Implementation of the Option B+ recommendation for vertical transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis within the CPLP, said that, even with the number of infrastructures available so far, more than 40% of the population lives at a distance of more than 5 km from the nearest primary health care facilities, which restricts their access to health services.

Table 1: Basic indicators of national health accounts⁵⁸

<i>Indicadores</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>
<i>PIB per capita (unidades monetárias locais constantes)</i>	831,900,000	831,900,000	819,000,000	874,000,000
<i>Despesas correntes com saúde</i>	60,989,603,819	60,299,934,923	77,483,459,476	29,142,891,031
<i>Despesas de investimento</i>	99,455,056	148,865,000	742,544,970	603,557,935
<i>Despesas totais com saúde (FCFA)</i>	61,089,058,875	60,448,799,923	78,226,004,446	29,746,448,966
<i>Despesas domésticas (FCFA)</i>	42,105,557,164.00	43,331,932,615.00	44,558,308,067.00	
<i>Despesas públicas com saúde (FCFA)</i>	4,361,715,022.00	3,995,711,860.00	10,506,266,429.00	10,868,203,736
<i>Despesas com saúde per capita (FCFA)</i>	37,616.53	36,518.39	46,062.19	17,351
<i>Despesas com saúde em % do PIB</i>	7.00	7.00	8.00	0.03
<i>Despesas das famílias com saúde em % das despesas correntes com saúde</i>	69	72	58	
<i>Despesas com cuidados preventivos</i>	10,268,682,179	9,504,288,950	16,766,323,857	16,484,994,135
<i>Despesas com cuidados curativos</i>	15,455,406,141	13,676,687,028	19,208,602,467	7,776,100,437
<i>Despesas com medicamentos</i>	17,162,463,494	18,614,236,453	18,471,997,172	1,793,849,953
<i>Despesas com cuidados preventivos como % do despesas total com saúde</i>	15	13	21	55
<i>Despesas com cuidados curativos como % das despesas totais com saúde</i>	25	23	25	26
<i>Despesas com medicamentos como % das despesas correntes com a saúde</i>	28	31	24	6
<i>Despesas com a contracepção</i>	368,966,775	325,816,479	384,367,683	472,557,954
<i>Despesas com contracepção como % das despesas correntes com saúde</i>	1%	1%	0%	2%

Table 2: Health forecasting and execution in the State Budget

⁵⁸ *Tabelas 1, 2 e 3, Anuário Estatístico da Saúde, 2022, págs.39 a 40*

Descrição das Despesas	Itens	1. Despesas Correntes	1.1 Despesas com pessoal	1.2 Aquisição de Bens e Serviços	1.3 Transferências	1.4 Outras Despesas Correntes	2. Investimento (PIP)	a) Financiamento Interno	b) Financiamento Externo	TOTAL GERAL
OGE 2018	Previsão	6,180,935	3,924,787	1,988,648	267,500	0	7,970,455	510,000	7,460,455	14,151,390
	Execução	5,287,319	3,739,740	1,423,974	123,605	0	11,867,856	356,257	11,511,599	17,155,175
	%	85.5	95.3	71.6	46.2	0.0	148.9	69.9	154.3	121.2
OGE 2019	Previsão	5,730,435	4,292,398	1,223,704	214,333	0	5,455,254	635,699	4,819,555	11,185,689
	Execução	4,540,480	4,195,334	306,870	38,276	0	18,037,330	378,013	17,659,317	22,333,126
	%	79.0	97.7	25.1	17.9	0.0	331.0	59.5	366.4	199.7
OGE 2020	Previsão	10,817,789	7,398,020	1,799,783	0	1,619,986	19,214,860	295,545	18,919,315	30,032,649
	Execução	9,348,255	6,821,448	1,046,501	0	1,480,306	22,081,900	160,545	21,921,355	31,430,155
	%	86.4	92.2	58.1	0.0	91.4	114.9	54.3	115.9	104.7
OGE 2021	Previsão	10,670,649	7,796,075	1,981,574	0	893,000	20,307,456	12,574,603	7,732,853	30,978,105
	Execução	7,353,614	5,974,572	1,339,042	0	40,000	2,310,208	813,343	1,496,865	9,663,822
	%	68.9	76.6	67.6		4.5	11.4	6.5	19.4	31.2

Table 3: Health forecasting and execution in the State Budget

Anos	Previsão	Execução	% Execução	PIB	% PIB
2018	11,511,599	17,155,175	67%	831,900,000	2%
2019	17,659,317	22,333,126	79%	831,900,000	3%
2020	21,921,355	31,430,155	70%	819,000,000	4%
2021	1,496,865	9,663,822	15%	874,000,000	1%

176. For more information, see the annex to the Report: Statistical Health Yearbook 2022, compiled by the National Institute of Health (INASA), p.125.

177. Total health expenditure as a percentage of GDP in 2020 is 8%. The probability of dying between 15 and 60 years of age per 1000 inhabitants, 2013: for males 310 and for females 240. Life expectancy at birth: male, 57 and female, 60 years of age respectively⁵⁹. Lead Ministry - Ministry of Public Health, which is responsible for formulating, proposing, coordinating and executing the Government's policy on health and combating endemic diseases and the Ministry of Finance for the allocation of adequate financial resources.

⁵⁹ afro.who.int/pt/countries/guineabissau (último acesso, 26 de outubro de 2025)

ARTICLE 17: Right to Education

178. The Constitution and the Basic Law of the Education System⁶⁰ guarantee the right to education. The State must expand access to education and training to develop informed, capable and autonomous citizens who can contribute to economic growth and address the country's social, political, economic and cultural challenges.

179. The current structure of the education system stems from the reform that came into force during the 2010-2011 school year. This reform subdivides the education system into six (6) subsectors, namely: Pre-school Education; Basic Education; Technical and Vocational Training (CENFI, ENA, INAFOR); Vocational Education (CIFAP - Artisanal and Vocational Instruction and Training Centre; CEFC - Community Training Centre linked to Agriculture and Livestock; ADPP Technical Training Centre); Higher Education; and Literacy⁶¹

180. Pre-primary education is intended for children aged three to five. It is provided mainly by community, private and religious institutions through nurseries, kindergartens and preschools, and is not compulsory.

181. Basic Education 1 (EB1): 1st to 4th year of schooling and covers children from 6 to 9 years of age. The teaching contents are common to all students. Children who reach 6 years of age by October 1 are admitted to enter the 1st year of schooling.

182. Basic Education 2 (EB2); 5th to 6th year of schooling and covers children from 10 to 11 years of age. The contents taught are distinguished from the previous Cycle by the introduction of specialisations. In fact, from the 5th year of schooling, students benefit from a reinforcement of the contents taught both in literary and scientific subjects.

183. Basic Education 3 (EB3) covers years 7 to 9 and children aged 12 to 14. It corresponds broadly to lower secondary education in other systems. The first two cycles of basic education are compulsory and free, including exemption from enrolment, attendance and certification charges and free use of teaching materials.

184. Secondary Education is intended for young people from 15 to 17 years of age. It lasts three years and corresponds to the 10th to the 12th year of schooling. Higher education is governed by Law No. 3/2011, published in the Supplement to B.O. No. 13, of March 29 - law on higher education and scientific research and Decree No. 27/2024, published in B.O. No. 52, of December 30, which creates the Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education (AAAES).

185. Of children of primary school age (6–12 years), 62% attended school and 38% were out of school. Among six-year-olds, 32% started school late.

186. In urban areas, the school attendance rate is 74% and in rural areas, 54%. The level of education of the child's mother and the economic well-being of the household reflect the continuity of children's school attendance.

⁶⁰ Arts. 58º e 49º CRGB e Lei nº4/2011, de 29 de março

⁶¹ Lei nº4/2011, Base do Sistema Educativo

187. The education system is composed of **eleven peripheral levels** that do not coincide with the administrative division of the country. There are eleven regional directorates of education, including the directorate of the capital - the Autonomous Sector of Bissau. Each directorate is responsible for the local management of the education system: *i)* The supervision of schools; *ii)* The collection of statistical data; *iii)* Communication of the need for teachers to be hired; *iv)* The distribution of teaching materials to schools.

Education statistics

TABLE 1: Number of Public Schools, by Region⁶²

Regions	Numbers	%
SAB	43	5 %
BAFATA	161	17%
BIJAGOS	25	3%
SCREEN	42	5%
BOLAMA	5	1%
CACHEU	103	11%
GABU	185	20%
INGORE	85	9%
OIO	109	12%
QUINARA	93	10%
TOMBALI	82	9%
GRAND TOTAL	933	100%

⁶² Fonte:Ministério da Educação/GEPASE,Mapeamento-Escolar 2023-2024(Tabelas,1a 6)

TABLE 2: Number of students in public schools: Preschool to 12th grade

Regions	Sum- Pre-T	Sum- 1	Sum- 2	Sum- 3	Sum- 4	Sum- 5	Sum- 6	Sum- 7	Sum- 8	Sum- 9	Sum- 10	Sum- 11	Sum- 12	Grand Total
S.A.B.	943	1765	2125	2648	3019	3548	3557	3366	3212	2816	2380	2497	2149	34025
Bafatá	1517	9494	7003	5777	4504	2693	1800	914	611	334	91	64	63	34865
Bijagós	95	642	733	633	554	414	314	180	142	31	0	0	0	3738
Screen	766	1473	1487	1575	1770	1864	1446	1306	1164	918	938	841	557	16105
Bolama	124	43	44	50	31	22	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	336
Cacheu	2066	3299	3986	3871	3433	2718	2150	1733	1331	1132	1136	1078	1195	29128
Gabu	3086	11570	9129	6820	5030	2626	1719	973	732	681	900	771	679	44716
Ingore	907	3315	3101	3040	2777	2424	1902	1417	1117	986	913	718	617	23234
Oio	1453	6590	5129	4395	3397	2881	1742	1290	1164	849	844	811	749	31294
Quinara	867	3238	2653	2426	2148	1353	1074	604	443	201	192	122	90	15411
Tombali	1010	4046	3111	2944	2421	1748	1374	263	188	98	0	0	0	17203
Grand total	12834	45475	38501	34179	29084	22291	17100	12046	10104	8046	7394	6902	6099	250055

Table 3: Number of classrooms and physical status, by Region

Regions	Good	Poor	Fair	Grand Total
S.A.B.	395	24	310	729
Bafatá	224	137	472	833
Bijagós	65	18	55	138
Screen	134	14	169	317
Bolama	39	35	14	88
Cacheu	299	159	403	861
Gabu	227	170	269	666
Ingore	212	42	177	431
Oio	247	130	384	761
Quinara	107	70	241	418
Tombali	247	63	151	461
Grand total	2196	862	2645	5703

Table 4: Number of Latrines in public schools and physical status by Region.

Regions	Good	Poor	Fair	Grand Total
SAB	126	63	91	280
Bafatá	51	116	147	314
Bijagós	22	38	30	90
Screen	40	6	48	94
Bolama	58	23	2	83
Cacheu	70	93	122	285
Gabu	85	180	188	453
Ingore	58	35	64	157
Oio	57	104	133	294
Quinara	39	202	110	351
Tombali	54	153	81	288
Grand total	660	1013	1016	2689

Table 5: Number of Teachers in public schools by Region.

Regions	Numbers	%
S.A.B.	1449	5%
Bafatá	1036	17%
Bijagós	173	3%
Screen	728	5%
Bolama	26	1%
Cacheu	1288	11%
Gabu	1209	20%
Ingore	943	9%
Oio	1038	12%
Quinara	616	10%
Tombali	574	9%
Total - overall	9080	100%

Table 6: Number of Public Schools and Types of Buildings by Region

	Outdoor (teaching space)		Tents		Permanent construction		Non- permanent construction		Improvised structures			
Regions	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Total No.	Total %
S.A.B.		0%		0%	1101	9%	46	0%	77	1%	1224	10%
Bafatá	9	0%	97	1%	1141	9%	263	2%	317	3%	1827	15%
Bijagós		0%		0%	255	2%	17	0%	65	1%	337	3%
Biombo	1	0%	7	0%	466	4%	39	0%	75	1%	588	5%
Bolama		0%		0%	199	2%	20	0%		0%	219	2%
Cacheu	18	0%	20	0%	1223	10%	189	2%	393	3%	1843	15%
Gabu	6	0%	114	1%	1104	9%	234	2%	115	1%	1573	13%
Incore	1	0%	12	0%	408	3%	101	1%	314	3%	836	7%
Oio	17	0%	64	1%	1026	8%	331	3%	135	1%	1573	13%
Quinara	4	0%	44	0%	844	7%	188	2%	27	0%	1107	9%
Tombali	24	0%	20	0%	786	6%	191	2%	131	1%	1152	9%
Grand Total	80	1%	378	3%	8553	70%	1619	13%	1649	13%	12279	100%

For further information, see the Statistical Yearbook of Education 2014–2015, p. 125, annexed to the report. The lead institutions are the Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research, and the Ministry of Finance, which is responsible for allocating the necessary funds.

ARTICLE 18: Right to Protection of the Family and Vulnerable Groups

188. As part of the strengthening of human rights protection mechanisms, the Government signed, in 2021, a project financed by the Peacebuilding Fund entitled "Improving the Human Rights Protection System in Guinea-Bissau". With the support of this project, the Government has made significant efforts to create an entity called the National Reporting, Monitoring and Implementation Mechanism. A legislative proposal for the creation of this mechanism has already been prepared.

189. The Guinean State has given special attention to the issue of human rights, assuming a firm commitment to their promotion and respect, to the strengthening of the Democratic Rule of Law and to the strengthening of the fundamental freedoms of citizens. The family is the natural and fundamental element of society and has the right to the protection of society and the State, Article 23(1) of the ICCPR and Article 26(1) of the CRGB "the State recognises the constitution of the family and ensures its protection". In this perspective, the country intends to consolidate the gains obtained in the protection of human rights, through the creation of legislative instruments and the adoption of measures leading to respect for the norms and the protection of the fundamental rights of citizens.

190. The Government of Guinea-Bissau prepared and adopted the National Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities approved on July 7, 2022, also prepared the National Strategy for Inclusive Education and approved it on March 23, 2023, in line with

the implementation of measures for the promotion and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the education sector.

191. A draft Framework Law on the Protection, Promotion and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities has been prepared and awaits scheduling for consideration and possible approval by the Council of Ministers. If approved, it will be submitted to the National People's Assembly.

192. Guinea-Bissau also has a National Policy for the Comprehensive Protection of Children that has an Action Plan on the Comprehensive Protection of Children (2021-2032) that includes specific aspects on the rights of children with disabilities. In addition, the State of Guinea-Bissau has adopted the Education Sector Plan 2017-2025, which includes important measures for the inclusion of children with disabilities in the education sector.

193. Although Guinea-Bissau has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a way of strengthening its action in favour of the defence of the rights of persons with disabilities, the State still encounters obstacles to the incorporation of the rights of persons with disabilities in specific actions in public and macroeconomic policies.

194. The Government of Guinea-Bissau has set up an alert mechanism, called the "National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings", under the supervision of the Ministry of Women, Family and Social Solidarity (Order No. 5/2008). It is coordinated by the Institute for Women and Children and is composed of a multisectoral institution, including the government institution of which the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights is a part, as well as NGOs dedicated to this matter.

195. Guinea-Bissau aims to establish a coherent, comprehensive and up-to-date child protection system centred on the child and supported by the family and community. This commitment was reflected in the Council of Ministers' approval, on 29 August 2023, of the National Policy for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and its Action Plan, and of the Code for the Comprehensive Protection of Children. The Code awaits approval by the National People's Assembly.

196. As part of the strengthening of the child protection system, the Government of Guinea-Bissau created in 2023 a National Commission for the Protection of Children to ensure comprehensive and effective protection of children's rights. It is essential to coordinate the various actors and entities involved in the defence of children's rights, aiming at joint and synergistic action, as well as the need for coordination capable of responding quickly and effectively to children's protection needs.

197. The greatest effort of the State of Guinea-Bissau in the field of children's rights was the drafting of the Code for the Comprehensive Protection of Children, which awaits its approval by the ANP. This document focuses its attention on the idea of the best interests of the child, drawn up in compliance with international rules on this matter.

198. The Institute for Women and Children (IMC), with the support of the United Nations System, has developed a Case Management System for Violence against Children. The system encompasses State and civil society actors covering the areas of health, justice

and security. Cases of violence are reported and processed in a single database with the IMC, where follow-up is carried out. The IMC uses a digital platform (*KoboCollect*) to collect and manage the data.

199. The Government has made efforts to articulate its structures - Ministries of Justice, Education and Public Health - as well as engaging with some international partners, including *UNICEF*, Portuguese cooperation (Gestdoc project), UNDP and Plan Internacional-Guinea-Bissau, to ensure access to the civil registration of children through a set of strategies that strengthen the national system of civil registration and vital statistics. Interoperability with the health and education sectors, the decentralisation of birth registration services to the most vulnerable populations, including through community registration initiatives, including through justice caravans and through initiatives organised in collaboration with traditional authorities, have shown an increase in the number of registered children.

200. Communication and awareness campaigns encourage families and communities to register children, including through the Child-Friendly School Project (EAC). These initiatives have helped register vulnerable children, including refugees, working children and talibé children subjected to exploitation or abuse. In 2024, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and the IMC agreed to waive registration fees for talibé children under seven who had experienced exploitation or abuse.

201. These strategies, particularly cooperation with the health sector, have produced measurable results. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey data show that birth registration among children under five increased from 24% in MICS5 (2014) to 46% in MICS6 (2018–2019). Measures contributing to this increase include:

- a. Extending the exemption from birth registration fees from children aged up to five years to children aged up to seven years;
- b. Decentralization of civil registry services, extending to the Biometric Identity Card Production Centres in the regions to allow everyone to have an Identity Card. Currently, eleven (11) regional registry offices, fifty-four (54) sectoral registration offices, six (6) registry offices in the Autonomous Sector of Bissau and one (1) Central Registry Office in the capital (Bissau) are in operation.
- c. Opening of new mobile registration stations in schools and communities, as well as door-to-door registration campaigns carried out almost everywhere in the country.
- d. Possibility of registering the child's birth in health centres and hospitals and integrating birth registration into vaccination campaigns. There are currently fifty-four (54) operational posts in health structures that allow children to be registered at birth.
- e. Possibility for the mother to register the child's birth alone, in situations where there is a refusal by the father to assume paternity. There is the possibility of including the child's name later. The country faces immense structural constraints for the investigation of paternity, which weakens paternal accountability.

202. The same partnerships between different ministries have resulted in communication, awareness-raising and information strategies among the local community on the importance of registration, especially in access to public services, in the exercise of citizenship, as well as in the identification of the person and the reduction of threats linked to the exploitation and trafficking of children.

203. In line with its constitutional, international and regional commitments, including the UN Convention against Transnational Crime and the Palermo Protocol, Guinea-Bissau has taken important steps against trafficking in human beings, such as the adoption in March 2024 of the National Strategic Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

204. In addition, through the joint efforts of different entities, including the IMC and United Nations agencies (*UNODC* and *IOM*) in the framework of the collaboration for the implementation of the previous national plan to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, training sessions were conducted for more than one hundred and fifty (150) border authorities and actors on trafficking in persons and the Community Border Surveillance Committees were created. These community committees play a crucial role in the involvement of local communities in the surveillance and early warning processes with the authorities about suspicious situations.

205. Children with Disabilities

- i. Children's rights are not contemplated in the Constitution of Guinea-Bissau. The general constitutional provisions that are applicable to the case are the aforementioned articles 24, 26, and 37 (moral and physical integrity of persons, prohibition of torture and forced labour), all of the CRGB.
- ii. At the legislative level, the draft Code for the Comprehensive Protection of Children is particularly significant. It awaits approval by the National People's Assembly and includes a chapter specifically addressing the rights of children with disabilities.
- iii. Among other important elements, the new Code defines children with disabilities in accordance with the guidelines of the Convention. Article 88(2) provides as follows: "For the purposes of this Code, a child with a disability is understood to be a child with a physical, mental, psychosocial, intellectual, neurological or other sensory impairment which, in interaction with various environmental, behavioural or other obstacles may obstruct his or her full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with other children."
- iv. The Code follows the general lines of the Convention and also guarantees access to public and private institutions through reasonable accommodation and accessibility, the right to education and the right to live in community.
- v. The National Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities was also adopted, which also emphasises the rights of children with disabilities and the obligation of the State to promote and protect their rights.

- vi. The unavailability of resources should not be used as a justification for not carrying out actions for the protection and development of children with disabilities. The entire State should prioritise the protection and care of children with disabilities. Guinea-Bissau is working to adopt legislation in compliance with this standard.
- vii. Although Guinea-Bissau has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a way of strengthening its action in favour of the defence of the rights of persons with disabilities, the State has faced difficulties in translating the content of the norm into specific actions in public and macroeconomic policies.
- viii. In the context of quality and inclusive education, the State, through its international partners, mainly international organisations and members of civil society, has created access facilities such as ramps, accessible classrooms, low boards, latrines, etc., in some schools. Work has been done in 15 schools in the Autonomous Sector of Bissau, 15 schools have been rehabilitated in Oio, and 8 schools have been rehabilitated in Cacheu. In addition, one school in Bafatá, one in Gabu and one in Quinara have been enabled with the support of international partners. Teacher training and the development of accessible teaching material (such as in Braille or sign language) continue to be challenges faced by the State to accommodate the specific needs of children with disabilities. As a result, students with disabilities are excluded from inclusive education, especially in traditional communities.
- ix. Access to medical and medication services is insufficient, as there is a lack of health professionals specialised in sign language to dialogue with children with disabilities, if they are not accompanied by an assistant.
- x. Guinea-Bissau has a National Policy for the Comprehensive Protection of Children that has an Action Plan on the comprehensive protection of children (2021-2032) that includes specific aspects on the rights of children with disabilities.
- xi. Among the priorities of the Policy is the expansion of the comprehensive protection of children in situations of special vulnerability, including children with disabilities, children at risk of statelessness, and talibé children.
- xii. The Institute for Women and Children, as an institution in charge of the protection and promotion of children's rights, has as its main mission to coordinate, supervise and promote the human rights of children in programmes, policies and legislation. Among its competences is the collaboration with national entities and partners for the creation of specialised social centres for the support and promotion of childhood, namely for children with physical disabilities, abandoned, victims of violence and abuse.

206. Women with disabilities

Article 25 of the Constitution recognises equality between women and men, a guarantee that also applies to women with disabilities.

The National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity, approved in December 2017, does not expressly address women with disabilities. It presents a table showing the alignment of PNIEG Objective 4 with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and also highlights the relationship between PNIEG Objective 6 and the SDGs.

207. Policies, strategies and institutional framework

The National Strategy for Human Rights (2022-2026) in its Axis No. 5, Objective 2, recommends that the State adopt a law on persons with disabilities. In addition, in general, it requests the State to develop indicators and monitor them in relation to groups in situations of vulnerability, including persons with disabilities.

On 7 July 2022, the State adopted a National Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities that recognises that the Government does not yet have specific legislation on persons with disabilities and defines the obligations of State institutions, civil society organisations and society in general towards them.

The Strategy is the first document of its kind adopted in the country. Key elements of the Strategy are:

The Strategy recognises that persons with disabilities face multiple forms of exclusion. Social attitudes often deny their equal dignity, while structured public policies addressing their needs remain lacking.

The General objectives of the Strategy: to contribute to the promotion of the rights, participation and effective inclusion of persons with disabilities in Guinea-Bissau.

The specific objectives of the Strategy:

- a) Mobilize and guide national and international efforts through projects that promote and defend the rights of persons with disabilities;
- b) Adopt legal instruments and public policies to improve the living conditions of persons with disabilities in the national territory;
- c) Promote full participation and access to basic services, employment and decent work for the well-being of persons with disabilities;
- d) To raise awareness among the authorities and the general public about respect for the fundamental principles of the human rights of persons with disabilities enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Protocol;
- e) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of national and international legal instruments.

Relevant legislation includes the Social Protection Framework Law (Law No. 4/2007, Official Gazette No. 36 of 3 September 2007) and the Labour Code (Supplement to Official Gazette No. 29 of 19 July 2022). **The lead institutions** are the Ministry of Women, Family and Social Solidarity and the Ministry of Finance.

ARTICLE 19: Peoples' Right to Equality

208. The Republic of Guinea-Bissau participates in the efforts of African States, both regional and continental, to achieve the principle of African unity⁶³.

209. Foreigners, on the basis of reciprocity, and stateless persons, who reside or are in Guinea-Bissau, enjoy the same rights and are subject to the same duties as Guinean citizens, except with regard to political rights, the exercise of public functions and other rights and duties expressly reserved by law to national citizens⁶⁴.

210. Climate change is recognised as an emerging risk in Guinea-Bissau, which is a coastal country facing high risks of sea level rise. As a result, the country has placed climate change at the top of its agenda, requiring urgent policy action.

211. Since the ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (*UNFCCC*) in 1995, and the entry into force of the Paris Agreement on the new climate regime in 2016, the government has been committed to participating in global efforts to build its resilience and capacity to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

212. Guinea-Bissau seeks to use the carbon market mechanisms under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement to facilitate mitigation and adaptation investment. Its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) forms part of a broader vision of climate-resilient development integrating economic, social and environmental objectives. It sets a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2030 relative to the 2020 baseline. This represents increased ambition, as the first NDC did not include a quantified target.

213. This ambitious policy document covers gender aspects as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation components. In addition, it is aligned with SDGs 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 17, and the African Union's Agenda 2063, as well as the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Action Modalities (SAMOA Pathway).

214. The update of the CND 2025 will be based on the needs of:

- Review and increase national climate ambition by 2030;
- Update emissions and vulnerability data;
- Integrate new social and sectoral priorities;
- Comply with the update cycle every five years, in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

Its main objectives are to:

- Integrate the rights of children and adolescents in the formulation of mitigation and adaptation goals;
- Ensure social and environmental protection for children vulnerable to climatic events;

⁶³ *Artigo 18º da Constituição da República.*

⁶⁴ *Ibidem, artigo 28º.*

- Train young people as climate change agents, promoting their active participation in the process;
- Strengthen essential social services (education, health, water, child protection) in the face of climate change.

ARTICLE 20: Right to Existence and Self-Determination

215. The Republic of Guinea-Bissau defends the right of peoples to self-determination and independence, supports the struggle of peoples against colonialism, imperialism, racism and all other forms of oppression and exploitation, advocates the peaceful solution of international conflicts and participates in efforts to ensure peace and justice in relations between States and the establishment of the new international economic order⁶⁵.

ARTICLE 21: Right of Peoples to Freely Dispose of Their Wealth and Natural Resources

216. Article 12 of the Constitution of the RGB states that the soil, subsoil, water, mineral wealth, main sources of energy, forest wealth and social infrastructure are the property of the State⁶⁶.

217. Access to and use of natural resources are governed by several instruments: the Land Law and its implementing regulations (1998 and 2018); the Basic Law on the Environment (2011); the Environmental Assessment Law (2010); the Framework Law on Protected Areas (2011); the GMO Law (2013); the Plastic Bags Law (2013); the Water Code (1992); the Forestry Law (2011); the General Fisheries Law (2011); the Mines and Minerals Law (2014); and the Petroleum Law (2014).

218. The exploitation of natural resources is the basis of the country's economy. The economy of Guinea-Bissau depends heavily on exports of products from agriculture and forestry, such as cashew and timber, and fishery products. In terms of the exploitation of natural resources, these laws are divided into natural resources consisting of biotic or renewable and abiotic or non-renewable natural resources.

219. Although land is the property of the State, the Land Law allows the availability of its exploitation by local customs and traditions, through traditional systems of access to land (managed by the village chief or chief) as a customary right. Modern farmers, called pointers, have concessions of 500. Hectares for holdings by agricultural societies or cooperatives, subject to prior authorisation from the Council of Ministers (Recent case in which the current Government authorised in a Communiqué of the Council of Ministers of March 3, 2026, the Rural Concession of one hundred thousand hectares (100,000 ha) of land for agricultural purposes, under the terms of paragraph 4 of article 15 of Law No. 5/1998, of April 23 (Land Law). Rural communities, tabancas, carry out 80% of total agricultural production (and 90% of production for self-consumption), practice shifting cultivation and use traditional methods in the lowlands (bolanhas), mangroves and forests.

⁶⁵ Vide o artigo 18º da Constituição República.

⁶⁶ Art.12º CRGB

220. Currently, **protected areas** cover 26% of the national territory consisting of environmental protection zones (natural parks), that is, biosphere reserves to better safeguard vulnerable resources and guarantee biological balances in order to guarantee sustainable development for future generations, among which we have: the Tarrafes do Rio Cacheu Natural Park, the Cufada Lagoons Natural Park, the João Vieira-Poilão Marine National Park, the Orango Island National Park, the Cantanhez National Park, the Urok Islands Marine Protected Area and a Bolama Bijagós Archipelago Biosphere Reserve.

221. Guinea-Bissau has abundant **water resources**, reflecting its mainland and island geography and its extensive freshwater and saltwater river networks. **Fisheries resources** are exploited by traditional fishing communities and by larger vessels operating under licence.

222. A biological rest period was decreed between the months of January and March. A **moratorium on felling was created**, although lifted in 2020, the prohibition of monofilament fishing nets, the strengthening of surveillance in the EEZ, in particular, in the coastal zone (inland waters), the maintenance of the annual assessment of the biomass of demersal and pelagic species as an indicator of the state of the *stock*, the adoption of measures for minimum mesh sizes of fishing nets (70 mm for fish fishing; 70 mm for cephalopod fishing; and 50 mm for crustacean fishing), the prohibition of the capture of endangered species (sea turtles; Manatees, Sawfish, Sharks, Rays, Dolphins and Birds).

223. The **Forestry Law (Decree-Law No. 5/2011)** aims — to promote the sustainable management of the resources that make up the forest domain; to optimize their contribution to socio-economic and cultural development and environmental protection; to improve the quality of life of the people. The principles of sustainable development are an integral part of the **country's** forestry policy. **The revenues of the forest fund** must be allocated, among others, to inspection, regeneration, reafforestation and any other interventions aimed at recovering, conserving or expanding the national forest.

224. A **national forestry master plan and regional forestry plans** are envisaged to promote sustainable forest management, but the Land Commission **has not yet been established**. Planning exploitation according to the condition of forest resources is essential to sustainability. Private management arrangements also apply to sacred forests, locally known as *Matu Sagradu* (Article 11(4)(d) of Law No. 5/2011).

225. **Abiotic natural resources** have also been regulated. Guinea-Bissau's mineral inventories list⁶⁷ 85 minerals, 12 of which are of economic interest: sand, gravel, clay, kaolinite, laterite, limestone rock (limestone), quartz, granite, dolorite, bauxite, ilmenite (heavy sand),⁶⁸ phosphate (covered by the regime of Law No. 3/2014, published in the Supplement to B.O. No. 17, of 29 April 2014, excluding liquid or gaseous hydrocarbons, however, this law is not regulated to date).

226. Law No. 4/2014 of 15 April establishes the legal regime for the prospection, research, exploration and transport of liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons in the national

⁶⁷ in *Manual da Estratégia Nacional e Plano de Ação para Conservação da Diversidade Biológica na Guiné-Bissau, março 2009, páginas 54 a 62*

⁶⁸ *Em processo de exploração em Varela, Norte do país. Contudo, a Comunidade local com postura contestatária*

territory. The law defines hydrocarbons as liquid or gaseous mineral resources present in the soil, subsoil, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone of Guinea-Bissau. These resources are considered the exclusive property of the State, as established by the Constitution and Law No. 2/82 of 31 May. The law provides for different contractual regimes for exploration: Association Contract; Service Contract and Production Sharing Contract.

227. PETROGUIN, a public company, supervises hydrocarbon prospecting and exploration. The law requires prospecting licences to be granted through consortia involving PETROGUIN to ensure the technical and financial capacity of the companies concerned.

228. The law establishes a specific tax regime for petroleum operations, including production royalties, income tax and a supplementary tax associated with tax debts, fines and interest, which benefit from general preferential recovery rights.

229. In addition, the law requires the State to publish annually statistics on the hydrocarbon sector, including block licensing, amounts collected as taxes and fees, and State expenditures for the development of the sector.

230. There is a package of environmental legislation that complements Law No. 4/2014, with the purpose of protecting the environment in hydrocarbon exploration activities.⁶⁹

231. Order No. 12/MRN-GM/022, of September 21, 2022, adopts the Guide as a mandatory document that now governs the process of awarding mining titles (Prospecting Authorization; Research License; Small Mining License; Large Mining License; Inert Research Authorization; Industrial Quarry License; and Mineral Purchase/Sale/Transformation License).

232. Mining title **holders must pay applicable charges for applications**, renewal and transfer, together with annual surface fees, production *royalties* and income and capital taxes. Income and capital taxes are paid to the Treasury; other charges are paid to the National Mining Fund. Implementing regulations for Law No. 3/2014 have not yet been adopted, but applicable charges may be specified in a mining agreement⁷⁰.

233. The preservation of the environment must be taken into account, which implies that the holder of a mineral exploration title must prepare environmental impact studies to avoid, mitigate, control, rehabilitate and compensate for the environmental and social effects derived from his activities. The environmental impact study is sent to the Minister responsible for the environment, who will issue the opinion within thirty days from the date of receipt. If the Minister for the environment does not react within the stipulated period, the environmental impact study is considered to be adequate and compliant, that is, tacit approval (Articles 53 and 54 of Law No. 3/2014).

⁶⁹ *Lei nº1/2011, Lei nº10/2010 e regulamentos de: licenciamento, Inspeção, Auditoria Ambiental, de participação pública no processo de avaliação Ambiental e do Estudo de Impacto Ambiental e Social – Decretos nºs 8,9, 10, 5 e 7/2017*

⁷⁰ *Contrato entre titular de um direito mineiro e as autoridades nacionais como regionais que define as relações entre as partes envolvidas, desde a fase de pesquisa até a produção dos produtos finitos), nº2 do artigo 11º da Lei nº3/2014*

234. With regard to social benefits, the holder of a mineral exploration title will provide the local community with social projects, namely construction from scratch/rehabilitation of health centres, schools, roads and others.

235. With regard to the exploitation of aquatic biological resources under the sovereignty and jurisdiction of Guinea-Bissau, the following basic guiding principles must be observed: a) The principle of sustainable and rational development of resources, which implies the definition of appropriate measures for the exploitation, conservation and long-term preservation, management and sustainable use of aquatic biological resources; b) The principle of defending the interests of fishing communities, according to which, in the exploitation of aquatic biological resources, the legitimate interests of populations or fishing communities, both current and future generations, must be taken into account, with emphasis on the most dependent and those living in regions where alternatives are scarce; c) The principle of prevention and precaution, translated into the adoption of precautionary management measures which, taking into account the need to prevent situations that prove to be unacceptable for the continuity of aquatic biological resources, as well as the degree of uncertainty of the scientific knowledge existing at any given time, ensure a high probability for the self-renewal of resources and the consequent sustainability of fishing activities in the future; d) The principle of cooperation in the management of shared resources, which implies the adoption of common measures for the management of shared resources and the harmonisation and coordination of the management systems of these resources by the States concerned, with a view to their preservation and sustainable use (Decree-Law No. 10/2011, published in the Supplement to B.O. No. 23, of 7 June 2011).

236. International agreements or fishing contracts in the waters under the jurisdiction of Guinea-Bissau shall, in particular: **(a)** specify the number and technical characteristics of the fishing vessels operating under the fishing agreement or contract, as well as the type of fishing, the species and the authorised catch; **(b)** define the amount and modalities of payment of licence fees and any other considerations; **(c)** include clauses relating to the obligation to report periodically and regularly to the competent department of the Government department responsible for fisheries data on catches and on the entry and exit of fishing vessels from waters under national jurisdiction; **(d)** Provide for an obligation on the flag State or the shipowner to take appropriate measures to ensure that the vessel(s) comply with the terms and conditions of the agreements or contracts and the relevant provisions of national fisheries legislation. The provisions of the fisheries agreements or contracts in the waters under national jurisdiction shall be compatible with the guidelines contained in the existing Fisheries Management Plan.

237. The granting and renewal of fishing licences shall be subject to the payment of fees and other possible considerations, to be established as follows: **a)** By joint order of the members of the Government responsible for the Fisheries and Finance sectors, in the case of national fishing vessels or foreign fishing vessels under chartering; **b)** By agreement with the shipowners or their representatives, in the case of vessels operating within the framework of international fisheries agreements. The fees shall be set according to, in particular, the status and gross tonnage of the vessel, the type of fishing practised and the duration of the licence.

238. The exercise of subsistence fishing activity is not subject to obtaining a license, without prejudice to compliance with the rules relating to the inspection and preservation of aquatic biological resources.

239. The State of Guinea-Bissau created the Institute for Biodiversity in Protected Areas (IBAP) by Decree No. 2/2005 of 14 February 2005 and adopted the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in Guinea-Bissau, March 2009.

240. Guinea-Bissau is a State Party to the African Union Conventions for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa; on the Conservation of Europe's Wildlife and Natural Habitats (2005); on the Conservation of Wild Migratory Species (CMS), (2005); on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (2005); on Access to Information, Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (2005); Convention on Cooperation in Respect of the Protection and Development of the Maritime and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region and Protocol (2011); and the Cooperation Agreement for the Protection of the Coasts and Waters of the North-East Atlantic against Pollution (Lisbon Agreement, 2005).

241. Prevention of conflicts over natural resources

According to a 2009 study by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), since 1990, at least 18 major violent conflicts have been due to natural resources, and at least 40% of all conflicts since the end of World War II have occurred for the same reason. The moderator also said that the proliferation of conflicts linked to natural resources is linked to two other major developments: the pressure of global population growth and the impacts of climate change⁷¹.

In line with this idea, the Guinean legislator establishes the rules for the following: it requires the State to publish annually statistics on the hydrocarbon sector, including licensing of blocks, amounts collected as taxes and fees, State expenditure for the development of the sector.⁷²

Lead Ministries:

- a) Ministry** of Natural Resources, which is responsible for formulating, proposing, coordinating and implementing the Government's policy in the fields of natural resources, ensuring their rational and sustainable management;
- b) Ministry** of Environment and Climate Action, which is responsible for formulating, proposing, coordinating and implementing the Government's policy on the environment and sustainable development;
- c) Ministry** of Territorial Administration and Local Government, which is responsible for the administration of the territory in matters of decentralisation and regional development, the registration and management of the electoral file,

⁷¹ *in relatório final, Bienal de Luanda, Fórum Pan-Africano para a Cultura de Paz, 18-22 setembro 2019, 1ª edição, pág.50*

⁷² *Lei n°4/2014, de 15 de abril e art,61° da CRGB*

in conjunction with the National Electoral Commission and other relevant departments, and ensuring the relationship with local government;

- d) Ministry of Public Works, Construction and Urbanism**, which is responsible for formulating, proposing, coordinating and executing the Government's policy in the areas of civil construction and public works, namely bridges, roads, ports, airports, housing and urbanism, cartography, topography and cadastre;
- e) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development** with competence to formulate, propose, coordinate and execute Government policies for the agrarian sector, including the forestry, fauna and livestock sectors and food security.

ARTICLE 22: Right to Development

242. The Constitution of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau recognises the right to development, aligning itself with the objective of the Constitutive Act of the African Union - "To promote sustainable development in the economic, social and cultural spheres..."; " To encourage international cooperation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In addition, the documents resulting from numerous international conferences of the United Nations and the African Union reflect important aspects of development, including the 2030 and 2063 Agenda. The State of Guinea-Bissau has adopted several development plans in various sectors, namely, Strategic Plan for the Development of the Education Sector; National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity (PNIEG), National Agrarian Investment Plan (PNIA); National Food Security Plan (PNSA); National Health Development Plan for 2008-2017 (PNDS).

243. Article 58 of the Constitution states that the State shall gradually create the necessary conditions for the achievement of the integral development of rights of an economic and social nature.

ARTICLE 23: Right of Peoples to Peace and Security

244. The right of peoples to peace and security is reaffirmed in the Constitution of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau in article 18/1, which states that "the country shall establish and develop relations with other countries on the basis of international law, the principles of national independence, equality among States, non-interference in internal affairs and reciprocity of advantages, peaceful coexistence and non-alignment."

245. Thus, according to paragraph 3 of article 18 of the CRGB, the country undertakes to participate in the efforts made by African States, on a regional and continental basis, in order to implement the principle of African unity defended by the African Union.

246. The Armed Forces are the primary institution of defence of the nation, they are responsible for defending independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and collaborating closely with specific national services in guaranteeing and maintaining internal security and public order. The security force has the functions of defending democratic legality and guaranteeing internal security and the rights of citizens. The defence and security forces are non-partisan and their active elements cannot carry out any political activity.

247. Resolution 1540 (2004) on Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) adopted by the United Nations Security Council, with the purpose of states joining efforts to prevent these weapons and related materials from falling into the hands of non-State actors. It should be noted that the borders of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau at their official entries lack appropriate measures for proper control of incoming and outgoing goods, however, limitations are recognised. Therefore, international cooperation, through its development partners, can provide support that strengthens the control mechanism.

248. Guinea-Bissau is a State Party to the Protocol on the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (2012); to the African Union Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact (2012); to the African Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Pelindaba Treaty); OAU Convention on Preventing and Combating Terrorism and its Protocol (2008 and 2015 respectively).

249. The African Charter on Maritime Safety and Security and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter), adopted in 2016 and The instrument establishing the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in West Africa (CRESMAO), have not yet been ratified by the State of Guinea-Bissau.

ARTICLE 24: Right of Peoples to a Satisfactory Environment

250. The Basic Law on the Environment⁷³ establishes that all people have the right to a humane and ecologically balanced environment and the duty to defend it, and it is incumbent on the State, through its own body and by appeal to popular and community initiatives, to promote the improvement of the quality of individual and collective life.

251. The existence of an environment conducive to the health and well-being of people and to the social and cultural development of communities, as well as the improvement of the quality of life, presupposes the adoption of measures aimed at, in particular:

- a) Economic, social and sustainable development;
- b) The maintenance and balance between the satisfaction of people's basic needs and nature's capacity to respond;
- (c) Paying the greatest attention to the quality of the urban environment through the effective implementation of local government policy;
- d) The maintenance of terrestrial, marine and transitional ecosystems;
- e) Nature conservation;
- f) The protection of habitats;
- g) The delimitation of the quality levels of the environmental components;
- h) An energy policy promoting clean or renewable sources, sustainable use of natural resources, diversified and decentralised production, and efficient consumption;
- i) The promotion of the participation of the population in decision-making processes;
- j) Environmental education and training;

⁷³Lei n. ° 1/2011.

- k) The sustainability of the forest;
- l) Cooperation with neighbouring countries on environmental protection and the quality of life of border communities;
- m) The prevention of soil erosion, inland and coastal;
- n) Promotion, in agreement with other sectors of national life, of consumer protection;
- (o) the promotion of productive and sustainable agriculture which contributes to the social and economic vitality of rural areas and ensures a balanced development of rural and urban areas;
- p) The revitalisation of fauna and flora;
- (q) the protection of air and climate;
- r) Adequate waste management;
- s) Stronger measures to protect and restore natural and built heritage and rehabilitate degraded areas;
- t) The guarantee of the minimum environmental impact of the activities and the use of the best available technology in minimizing environmental impacts;
- u) Promotion and enhancement of traditional knowledge in the management of natural resources;
- v) Dissemination of culture and environmental management through the three "R's", i.e., reduce, recycle and reuse⁷⁴.

252. Everyone has the right to information and education on environmental management, enabling effective participation in environmental decision-making. Where environmental rights are violated or threatened, individuals may seek judicial orders to stop the harmful activities and obtain compensation⁷⁵ in accordance with the law.

253. The Law on Environmental Assessment (Law No. 10/2010, published in the 4th Supplement to B.O. No. 38, of September 24, 2010). This law (Article 2(1)) "applies in national or foreign territory whose activity has an impact on the national territory, in the situations of the projects and programmes listed in Annexes I and II, as well as the plans and policies of the sectors, contained in Annex III (Agriculture; Livestock; Forestry; Fisheries; Urban Planning; Construction; Energy; Industry; **Mines**; Transport; Basic Sanitation; Water Resources; Regional Development; Telecommunications; Tourism; Spatial Planning; Other plans whose implementation may have **repercussions on the environment and human health**). **In addition, it is also worth mentioning the regulatory decrees - 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 9/2017 which reinforce the supervision and inspection of environmental assessment with regard to the execution of projects, especially listed in Annex III above.**

⁷⁴ Artigo 6.º da Lei de Base do Ambiente (LBA).

⁷⁵ Artigos 40º, 41º e 42º da LBA.

254. Guinea-Bissau is a State Party to the Bamako Convention on the Prohibition of Imports and Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes in Africa. Guinea-Bissau has signed the revised African Charter (2013) on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

255. The Convention on Access to Information, Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. Guinea-Bissau is a State Party to the Convention.

Everyone has the right to live in an environment suitable for his or her health and well-being, and the duty, both individually and in association, to protect and improve the environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

256. To defend this right and fulfil this duty, citizens must have access to information, have the right to participate in the decision-making process and have access to justice in environmental matters. An example that occurred in an anomalous way, in February 2016, is the attempt to build a thermoelectric power plant, by the Government, through the Ministry of Energy and Industry, financed by a foreign company, within a protected area (Lagoas de Cufada Natural Park) without prior environmental study and assessment. The NGOs, TINIGUENA and the Guinean League for Human Rights filed a specified injunction (embargo of new work), the suspension of the construction work of a thermoelectric plant. The Regional Court of the Southern Province, through **Case No. 20/2017**, dismissed the injunction, alleging the lack of legitimacy of the applicants.⁷⁶ Another example that resulted from **Case No. 519/2018**, of the Regional Court of Bissau, in which the Public Prosecutor's Office filed a specified injunction, embargo of the new work, against the construction of a fuel station on the road that connects the neighbourhood of the Freedom Fighters of the Fatherland to the Antula Cemetery, also rejected outright the injunction.⁷⁷ The same happened with the construction of the road connecting Buba – Catió (60 km) without complying with the Environmental Impact Assessment procedure (Welena Silva, 2019, p.82). These failures have allowed the Government to adopt a different stance today, as an example of the rehabilitation of the Safim-M'Pack road (in progress), through the carrying out of a preliminary Environmental and Social Impact Assessment study (*Ministry of Public Works-in Report of the Environmental, Climate and Social Impact Study of the Additional Components Identified in the Framework for the rehabilitation of the Safim-M'Pack Road, October 2024*) duly respecting the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) law.

257. Public participation in the preparation of generally applicable legally binding regulations and/or normative instruments is crucial.

ARTICLE 25: Promotion of Human Rights

258. The Constitution enshrines fundamental rights and freedoms, although some limitations remain in their practical application.

⁷⁶ Welena Silva, *Dissertação de Mestrado, 2019. A Tutela Preventiva do Ambiente na Guiné-Bissau através da Avaliação de Impacte Ambiental: Contributo para (Des) Construção Teórica do seu Regime Jurídico*, pág.46

⁷⁷ *Ibidem*, pág 47

259. Human rights reports from international and national organisations have been criticizing certain situations of disrespect for the dignity of the human person.

260. The political and security instability in Guinea-Bissau over the last decades, including coups d'état, has contributed negatively to the weakening of State institutions and in particular their effects on human rights.

261. The Government, civil society organisations and international partners continue to work to improve the human rights situation. Measures include the National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship (2022–2026) and new legislation, although implementation remains challenging. The National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), established in 2009, is mandated to promote and protect human rights.

262. With support from international partners, national officials have recently received training in human rights reporting.

263. With the creation of the National Network of Human Rights Defenders in Guinea-Bissau (RDDH-GB) in mid-2013, this network has trained human rights defenders and monitored their situation, with a view to creating a "protection ceiling" for them. The National Network for the Fight Against Gender-Based Violence and Children (RENLUV-GB), which combats gender-based violence, including forced and/or early marriage, has also worked to harmonise standards for the protection of women and children.

264. Civil society organisations, including the Guinean Human Rights League (LGDH) and the National Network of Youth Associations (RENAJ) have collaborated to facilitate citizens' access to justice, discouraging "private justice".

265. The State was subjected, under the universal system, to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th cycles of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), 2010, 2015, 2020 and 2025 respectively. From these examinations, several recommendations were formulated, some of which, in recent years, have been reflected in the contents of cooperation agreements with bilateral and multilateral partners.

266. With the support of technical and financial partners, they have funded capacity-building projects and programmes, technical assistance to government institutions, law enforcement authorities and civil society organisations, **including** the prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism, empowerment of women and journalists in contexts of instability, including gender monitoring and press freedom, improving the employability of youth and women through technical and vocational education and training, promoting good governance and the fight against corruption, civic awareness on human rights, citizenship and a culture of peace, through radio programmes and trainings and human rights-based budget analysis to ensure their equitable implementation.

ARTICLE 26: Independence of the Judiciary and National Human Rights Institutions

267. Article 59/2 of the Constitution recognises the principle of the separation of powers of the organs of sovereignty. Articles 120/4 and 123/2 establish the independence of courts and judges in the exercise of their judicial functions. In turn, Article 130/j guarantees the inviolability of this independence by any constitutional revision.

268. The Organic Law on the Courts of Justice strengthens the independence of the courts in Article 3(1) and (2), Law No. 3/2002, revised in 2010.

269. The Statute of Judges, adopted by Law No. 1/99 of 27 September and published in the Supplement to Official Gazette No. 39, safeguards judicial independence. Under Article 5(1) and (2), judges decide cases according to the law and their conscience and are not subject to orders or instructions, except that lower courts must comply with appellate decisions of higher courts. The duty to obey the law includes respect for its underlying legal principles when resolving matters not expressly provided for. Judges are not liable for their judgments and decisions except in circumstances specifically prescribed by law, which may entail civil, criminal or disciplinary liability.

270. To date, the National Human Rights Commission (CND) remains under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. Although its Statutes have been revised to conform to the Paris Principles, this law is still awaiting approval by the National People's Assembly, which was dissolved in December 2023.

271. The CND has prepared the National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship (2022-2026) which includes the following Axes- 1. National Human Rights System; 2. Promotion and Culture of Human Rights; 3. Participation and Access to Justice; 4. Education, Health and Standard of Living; 5. Equality, Non-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion and 6. Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

272. The First National Conference on Impunity, Justice and Human Rights was held from 10 to 12 July 2012.

ARTICLE 27: Limitations on Rights and Freedoms

273. Limits to freedom of the press, paragraph 3 of article 3 of Law no. 4/91, of 3 October, which reads as follows: "The limits to freedom of the press shall result only from the precepts of this law and other legislation aimed at safeguarding national unity, public order, security and health, national sovereignty and independence and the moral integrity of citizens". The consequences of non-compliance or exaggeration in the exercise of the profession in the field of freedom of the press may incur crimes typified, article 39 and following of the same law.

274. Limits to the exercise of the Right of Assembly and Demonstration, **Law No. 3/92, of 6 April**, states the following: Article 4, paragraph 1 (...); paragraph 2. "For security reasons, the competent authorities may prevent meetings or demonstrations from being held in public places located less than 100 metres from the headquarters of sovereign bodies, hospitals, schools and markets;" paragraph 3. It is expressly forbidden to hold meetings or demonstrations in public places located less than 100 metres from military and militarized camps and installations, prison establishments, diplomatic or consular representations and the headquarters of other Political Parties."

275. Limits depending on time, it is also apparent from the above diploma, article 5, paragraph 1 "Meetings and demonstrations may not extend beyond 10 pm, unless they are held indoors, in concert halls, in buildings without residents or, in the case of residents, if they are the promoters or have given their written consent; paragraph 2 (...), there is a prohibition on the carrying of bladed weapons and firearms.

276. Articles 20(4) and 21(1) of the CRGB restrict political activity by serving members of the armed forces (FARP) and security forces, respectively.

277. Military and militarized forces, police and similar institutions are prohibited from striking, Article 5(a) and (b) of the Strike Law (Law No. 9/91 of 3 October)

However, there are critical voices regarding restrictions on the exercise of rights and freedoms. Human rights reports from international and national organisations highlight several areas of concern⁷⁸.

ARTICLE 28: Duty of Respect and Non-Discrimination

278. The Charter of the United Nations is based on one of the principles of the dignity and equality of all human beings, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights follows the same line, as well as other instruments that promote and protect human rights, namely the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities imposes non-discrimination that is based on: race, sex, colour, language, religion, national origin.

279. The CRGB enshrines equality and prohibits discrimination on grounds such as race, sex and religion. Ordinary legislation also protects against discrimination, including the Electoral Law and the Law on the Prevention, Treatment and Control of HIV/AIDS.

280. In particular, judges have the following duties: To perform their duties with honesty, seriousness, impartiality, zeal and dignity; To maintain professional secrecy in accordance with the law; To behave in public and private life in accordance with the dignity of their function and the prestige of the office they hold (Article 9 of the Statute of the Judicial Magistrate).

281. The duties of workers enshrined in the Labour Code, namely: To comply with all obligations directly or indirectly arising from the employment contract, relating to their job, in accordance with the rules of good faith and diligence; To observe safety and hygiene rules at work established by the employer; To comply with the employer's orders and instructions arising from the exercise of the power of direction and guidance of work; Not to negotiate on one's own account or on behalf of others in competition with the company; To keep the company's professional secrecy; To treat the employer, the hierarchical superior, co-workers and other persons who are or come into contact with the company with loyalty and respect; To contribute to improving the company's productivity and raising the prestige and good name of the company, as well as the duties of employees defined in the Public Administration Staff Statute.

282. Article 6 of Decree-Law No. 1/2024 requires journalists to reject discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, race, ethnicity, language, place of origin,

⁷⁸ in *Relatório, o Direito Humano de Participar nos Assuntos Políticos e Públicos na Guiné-Bissau, UNIOGBIS 2019*, páginas 58 e seguintes.

religion, political or ideological beliefs, education, economic circumstances or social status. Journalists must respect dignity and privacy when collecting statements and images, refrain from unsupported accusations, respect the presumption of innocence and the confidentiality of judicial proceedings, correct errors and take responsibility for their professional conduct.

283. The National People's Assembly and the Government, sovereign bodies with the competence to legislate, cannot produce discriminatory laws. The Judiciary, the Executive, public and private companies cannot discriminate in the application of the law.

284. Therefore, it is incumbent on State agents in the making and application of the law to respect and not discriminate (on grounds – religion, sex, race, national origin, social status, marital status, etc.), except in situations that allow positive discrimination, for example an application for a job in which a female or physically disabled person is encouraged to apply.

ARTICLE 29: Duties and Responsibilities

285. Article 33 of the CRGB establishes the following: "The State and other public entities are civilly liable, jointly and severally with the holders of their organs, employees or agents, for **actions** or **omissions** practiced in the exercise of their functions because of such exercise, which result in violation of rights, freedoms and guarantees, or prejudice to others".

Decree-Law No. 48,051, of November 21, 1967, Extracontractual Civil Liability of the State and other public legal persons in the field of public management acts, is governed by the above decree-law, in everything that is not provided for in specific laws.

286. Article 487(1) of the Civil Code provides as follows: "It is up to the injured party to prove the fault of the perpetrator of the injury, unless there is a legal presumption of guilt."

287. Decree-Law No. 32,171, of July 29, 1942, articles 28 and 29 (civil liability of doctors). Article 28 above applies extensively to medical assistants and to those who, although not having any title or sufficient title, practice it. A doctor has the duty to care for patients and ultimately save life.

288. Under Article 501 of the Civil Code, the State and other public legal persons are liable for harm caused to third parties by their bodies, agents or representatives in private-management activities **on** the same basis as principals are liable for their agents. This is strict liability, which does not require proof of fault.

289. Regarding liability for damage to the environment, Law No. 10/2010, Environmental Assessment, in its article 57, establishes that, "If compensatory measures are not implemented or, if they are executed, do not fully eliminate the damage caused to the environment, the offender is obliged to compensate the State. If it is completely impossible to set the amount of compensation by resorting to the characterization of alternatives to the previously existing situation, the court will fix, using criteria of equity, the amount of compensation. In the event of a concurrence of offenders, liability is joint and several. The claim for compensation is always brought before the ordinary courts.

The provisions of the preceding paragraphs do not prejudice the exercise by individuals of the claim for compensation based on other applicable legislation. "

290. A. The incidence of the tax rate is proportional on profitable activities. Individuals must comply in accordance with the law. The democracy tax, instituted under Law No. 1/2021, 3rd supplement to B.O. No. 4, of January 28, which approves the General State Budget for the year 2021. Article 14 of this law specifies that, for civil servants, the democracy tax is paid together with the professional tax, through the application of indicative rates. The democracy tax covers self-employed and informal sector workers with the respective indicative rates. Retirement, retirement or pension income is taxed according to the indicative rates. The amounts collected from this tax are consigned to finance the electoral process. The legislative elections of the year 2023 were financed by this tax.

VIII. OTHER RIGHTS

1. Right to Adequate Housing

291. RGPB-2009 data show that most housing in Guinea-Bissau is of non-permanent construction. Of the 176,500 households recorded nationally, 89.1% lived in such housing and 10.9% in permanent buildings.

292. Of the total number of dwellings in the urban area, 21.4% are permanent, showing in this sense that the rest do not have quality of life for their inhabitants, and much less in the rural area where only 2.2% of this type of housing can be found.

293. When analysing the distribution of households according to region and type of housing, it is found that it is not homogeneous. The SAB has the highest proportion of households living in permanently constructed housing (67.5%), followed by Gabu (10.5%). The remaining 22% are distributed among other regions, with the Quinara region having the lowest number of households living in permanent housing, corresponding to 0.8%. Also, the highest concentration of precarious housing is found in the SAB with 25.4%, followed by Cacheu (14.6%), Oio (13.9%), Gabu (12.5%) and Bafatá (11.1%).

294. According to the data, in Guinea-Bissau, 73.1% of households live in their own dwellings (owners), and the remaining 13% live in rented accommodation, among which, 2% are public rent, 19.1% private rent and 4% live in rented accommodation.

295. The analysis in the regions of the country shows the same scenario, with dwellings occupied by owners, distributed in an almost uniform way: SAB (17.5%), Oio (16.1%), Cacheu (15.6%), Gabu (14.3%) and Bafatá (12.5%). Except, in SAB, where housing units rented to private entities are 46.4%, followed by owner-occupied, 42.7%.

296. The number of bedrooms reveals the situation of privacy in which the members of the households live. With regard to the distribution of households according to the number of rooms for sleeping by region. At the national level, 73.6% of households live in dwellings composed of 2 to 6 rooms for sleeping. Of these, the largest proportion live in houses with 4 rooms for sleeping (18.5%). Households living in dwellings with 7 or more

rooms for sleeping represent 18.9%. On the other hand, houses with one room for sleeping are allocated to 7.5% of households.

297. Analysing by region, it can be seen that the trend observed at the national level is repeated in almost all regions of the country, except in SAB, Bolama/Bijagós and Biombo.

298. In these regions, most households live in dwellings consisting of between 1 and 4 bedrooms, being in SAB (79%), Biombo (74%) and Bolama/Bijagós (70.8%). SAB, Bolama/Bijagós and Biombo also represent the group of regions where households living in dwellings with a room for sleeping are relatively important, being 19.7%, 11.3% and 10.9% respectively.

299. The relative importance of households living in houses with 7 or more divisions in the regions of Gabu, Bafatá, Cacheu, Oio and Quinara is highlighted, whose proportions exceed the national average.

300. The results also show that, at the national level, households have an average of almost 3.3 bedrooms to sleep in, with the Bafatá region having the highest number (4.5) followed by Oio (4.4), Gabu (3.9), Cacheu (3.8) and Quinara and Tombali both with 3.9 bedrooms. While SAB, has the lowest number (2.4).

301. The 2009 census also provides data on the materials used to build housing in Guinea-Bissau.

302. Most of the wall of the dwellings in the country are built with adobe or rammed earth (76.3%) and reinforced adobe (14.5%), making up a total of 90.8%, as they are cheaper materials, sometimes free of charge and easy to handle. The proportion of other types of materials is almost negligible, excluding cement block (5.4%). Housing built of bricks represents only 2.7%. Stone represents 0.9% in the national territory.

303. As for the precariously constructed dwellings, most of them are built of adobe/rammed earth (85.6%) followed by reinforced adobe (9.4%), with kirintin with mud having a rate of 2.4%.

304. Regarding the distribution of dwellings by region according to the materials used in the wall, the situation varies from one region to another. Thus, it can be seen that the constructions of walls in adobe or rammed earth, although they are more frequent in the SAB (27.3%), also appear in almost equal proportions in the regions of Cacheu (15.2%), Oio (12.4%), Gabu (11.4%) and Bafatá (10.5%). Likewise, reinforced adobe is found in large proportions in the walls of houses in these regions, except for Cacheu where its percentage is not high (7.2%). Concrete block and brick are two construction materials for the walls of the dwellings that are more frequently found in the SAB than in the other regions, that is, 68.3% and 66.1% respectively. The regions of Gabu (44.4%), Bafatá (13.4%) and Tombali (15.8%) concentrate most of the Kirintin constructions with mud on the walls of the dwellings, which together reaches 72.6%.

305. Regarding the roofing of houses, the data indicate that most houses are made of zinc. Zinc (57.6%) and straw (36.9%), which together reach 94.5%, represent the main construction materials used in the roofing of houses. The vast majority of permanent

construction dwellings are covered by zinc (86.3%), with the remaining 13.6% consisting of tile and asbestos cement. While straw (41.4%) and zinc (54.1%) predominate in the coverage of houses of precarious construction.

306. Zinc, although traditionally considered an import material, continues to be extremely important in covering 57.6% of dwellings at the national level, 84.3% of which in urban areas. It is followed, at the national level, by dwellings with straw roofing, which reaches 36.9% of predominantly precarious dwellings. The common use of the latter is generally due to its abundance, low cost and ease of obtainment, particularly in rural areas, where it predominates with 60.3% and zinc with 35.7%.

307. At the regional level, it can be seen that in the SAB, except for straw, the use of modern roofing materials predominates in relation to the other regions. There are 46.3% of the dwellings with zinc roofing, followed by Cacheu (13.6%), Gabu (10.6%) and Bafatá (9.4%). Roofing and asbestos cement roofing are also mostly in the SAB, 61.3% and 63.7% respectively. In terms of dwellings with straw roofing, the region of Oio occupies the first place with 20.4%, followed by Gabu with 15.4%, Cacheu 13.8%, Tombali with 12.9% and Bafatá with 12.3%.

308. In Guinea-Bissau, 59.6% of housing units have dirt floors, 36.0% cement, 2.5% mosaic and 1.9% other materials. Of the 10.9% of permanent dwellings surveyed, 17% have mosaic flooring and 83% cement, thus totaling 100%. While 89.1% of the existing precarious dwellings are covered almost exclusively with rammed earth (66.9%) and cement (30.3%).

309. The report describes homelessness as uncommon, attributing this to strong intergenerational and family solidarity, under which relatives—including parents, children and members of the extended family—provide accommodation.

310. Public policies on access to affordable housing are scarce, perhaps because the country has been facing cyclical institutional instabilities.

1.1. Protection of the Tenant's right

300. Decree No. 13-A/89 of 9 June 1989 governs tenancy relations. Eviction requires judicial proceedings. An eviction action may combine claims for rent arrears and damages, as well as any compensation to which the tenant is entitled by law.

301. With regard to commercial leases, the situation is regulated by the Uniform Act on Commercial Law. The tenant and the landlord must respect the terms and conditions of the lease that concern them, under penalty of termination. The initiation of a termination action must be preceded by a notice for non-compliance with the unfulfilled clause(s) or conditions. The notice is carried out by separate judicial notification or by any means that makes it possible to verify the effective receipt by the addressee. The notice must indicate, under penalty of nullity, either the clauses or conditions that have not been complied with and inform the addressee that, if the breach persists for a period of one month from the date of the notice, an action will be brought before the competent court, deciding by means of summary procedure, for the purpose of resolution and eviction, where appropriate, of the tenant and all the occupants who depend on him.

2. Right to Social Security

302. The right to social security in Guinea-Bissau is recognised as a fundamental right in national legislation. Social protection is guaranteed through contributory and non-contributory schemes, covering aspects such as citizenship social protection, compulsory social protection and complementary social protection.

303. Since the beginning of independence, the government has always taken into account the social protection of its citizens. The Constitution of the Republic is unequivocal proof of this concern when Article 29 enshrines this right to all citizens.

304. The National Social Protection Policy was developed as part of efforts to consolidate the rule of law. It calls for coordinated measures and regulations to improve living conditions.

305. It is necessary to recognise the State's duty to assume the aims and purposes reserved to it, namely, justice, security, culture and well-being.

306. Citizens expect stronger State action in these areas. A social protection policy and its implementing regulations are essential to reducing poverty and meeting the needs of people facing particular forms of vulnerability.

307. The National Social Protection Policy (PNPS) of Guinea-Bissau embodies the government's commitment to strengthen the mechanisms to protect Guineans against the risks that threaten the right to a dignified life, free from the fear of hunger and difficulties in accessing essential health and education services.

308. The Strategy and Action Plan for the implementation of the PNPS of Guinea-Bissau guides its implementation in the medium term, specifically during the five years from 2025 to 2029. It defines the actions to be taken to achieve the objectives of the PNPS in this initial period of implementation, as well as the institutional responsibilities, a budget, and a monitoring and evaluation framework.

309. The study of the cost, cost-effectiveness and financing of social protection in Guinea-Bissau for the implementation of the PNPS has three components, namely:

1) Detailed calculation of the costs of the different programmes, projects and measures included in the PNPS 2025-2029 Implementation Strategy;

2) Analysis of the cost-effectiveness of various options of social monetary transfers;

3) Analysis of the potential fiscal space for financing the PNPS 2025–2029.

310. The PNPS will also contribute to strengthening the implementation of the Social Protection Framework Law, Law No. 4/2007, with regard to procedures, as well as providing the framework and mechanisms necessary for the Contributory and Non-Contributory Social Protection Schemes to be managed and financed in a sustainable manner by the State.

311. The Ministry of Women, Family and Social Solidarity oversaw the development and consolidation of this policy.

312. Guinea-Bissau has neither signed nor ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security, adopted in 2022. It nevertheless recognises the instrument's importance for human rights protection.

3. Right to Food

313. The Constitution of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau does not explicitly provide for the "right to food" as an autonomous fundamental right, but recognises the right to work and social security, which can be interpreted as indirectly related to the right to food. The Constitution emphasises the importance of agricultural production and food security, as well as recognising the right to health care, which can be seen as complementary to the right to food.

3.1. Agricultural Production and Food and Nutritional Security:

314. The Constitution emphasises the importance of agricultural production and food security, recognising that the country must guarantee access to adequate food for its population.

315. Although the Constitution does not explicitly establish a "right to food," the interpretation of these articles and the recognition of the importance of agricultural production and food security demonstrate a commitment to ensuring access to food for the population. However, Guinea-Bissau faces significant challenges in terms of food security, including poverty, dependence on food imports, and a lack of diversification of agricultural production.

316. In Guinea-Bissau, a study shows⁷⁹ that only 9.3% of children aged 6 to 23 months had adequate nutrition and received a minimum acceptable diet. The proportion was 8.9% in rural areas and 13.3% in urban areas. This proportion increases with age, being 3.2% for children aged 6 to 11 months and 13.5% for children aged 18 to 23 months. The evolution of this proportion is due to the gradual introduction of new foods into the children's diet.

317. According to the minimum dietary diversity indicator, only 17.9% of women of reproductive age (15–49) had adequate nutrition in September 2019: 16% in rural areas and 24.5% in urban areas. At the time of the survey, 8.4% of women were pregnant, and 77.3% of pregnant women did not have an adequate diet, with potential consequences for their own health and that of their children.

3.1.1. Dissemination and information on nutrition and healthy diets

318. The country has adopted awareness campaigns on nutrition and healthy diets through awareness-raising programmes promoted by community health workers (CSAs), trained

⁷⁹ *Sistema de seguimento da segurança alimentar e nutricional -SISSAN, Guiné-Bissau, setembro 2019, Boletim nº6, março de 2020*

specifically to provide pre- and postnatal care, based on the National Reproductive Health Programme (PNSR), which is aligned with the Campaign for the Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) of the African Union Commission (AUC) initiative. The campaign was launched in 2009 at the 4th Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Health held in Addis Ababa, whose theme, "Africa Cares: No Woman Should Die Giving Life".

319. The ASC through the Child Health and Nutrition Monitoring and Development Programme, are involved in the provision of various health services, in the mobilisation of families to seek treatment or women to go to antenatal consultations, in raising awareness and informing about healthy behaviour. The ASC are fundamental in raising awareness about hand washing, hygienic practices, vaccines, healthy nutrition and malaria prevention.

320. It is important to note that Guinea-Bissau also participates in international and regional agreements aimed at the realisation of the human right to adequate food and nutrition, such as the Food Security and Nutrition strategy.

321. The Constitution of Guinea-Bissau does not explicitly define the right to food, but establishes mechanisms that can be interpreted as indirectly related to it, such as the right to work, social security and medical care, as well as emphasising the importance of agricultural production and food security.

322. This guarantee is in line with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which also establishes the right to food and nutrition for all Africans.

4. Right to Water and Sanitation

323. The Constitution of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau recognises the right to water and sanitation, aligning with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. This constitutional guarantee, although not explicitly detailed as an autonomous right, is integrated with the right to health and a healthy environment, both of which are protected by the Constitution.

333. The Constitution of Guinea-Bissau recognises the right to health as a fundamental right, and access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation are seen as essential elements for the realisation of this right.

334. The right to a healthy environment is another fundamental right in the Constitution, and access to water and sanitation is crucial for the protection of this right, preventing contamination and environmental degradation.

335. That constitutional guarantee imposes on the State the obligation to adopt measures to ensure universal and equitable access to drinking water and sanitation, as well as the protection of these resources.

336. Despite the constitutional guarantee, Guinea-Bissau faces significant challenges in the effective implementation of the right to water and sanitation, including inadequate

infrastructure, lack of investment, and difficulties in accessing safe drinking water, especially in rural areas.

337. The Constitution of Guinea-Bissau, in recognising the right to health and a healthy environment, and in adhering to the African Charter, implicitly includes the right to water and sanitation, although it does not establish it as an autonomous right.

338. Access to safe drinking water is a fundamental right and a prerequisite for the realisation of many other human rights. The Government, with the support of development partners, is working to enforce this right, with particular emphasis on children, families and vulnerable communities living in humanitarian and development contexts. Universal access to sources of clean, safe, affordable and timely water is at the heart of SDG 6.1.

339. In 2010 and according to the *MICS-4/IDSR-2010*, more than half (two thirds) of the population of Guinea-Bissau used an improved water source with a large difference between rural and urban areas (53% against 84%).

340. Access to clean, safe and potable water and sanitation remains a challenge in Guinea-Bissau and there is a huge disparity between rural and urban areas. According to the *MICS* survey, 2018-2019, the percentage of households using improved water sources for human consumption was 66.8%, with 87.7% in urban areas versus 55.3% in rural areas. Regarding the use of improved and/or adequate sanitation facilities, the total percentage was 14.4% of households using improved sanitation facilities that are not shared, with 6.6% sharing with 5 households or less and 3.5% sharing with five or more households. Regarding the percentage of household members with a washbasin (place) where soap and water are present, the same report indicates that only 16.1% have a specific place to wash their hands in rural areas.

341. Measures to improve water supply and sanitation include formal and informal service-management bodies, such as water and sanitation committees, local associations and caretakers.

342. In the water and sanitation sector, the "Terra Ranka" Strategic Operational Plan aims to promote the guarantee of widespread access to drinking water and sanitation services to the population as one of the main axes of Guinea-Bissau's social development strategy, allowing the creation of a system for controlling, monitoring and evaluating water quality that does not exist to date.

5. Right to Culture

343. The CRGB guarantees as a fundamental right of the State, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of article 17, the creation and promotion of conditions favourable to the preservation of cultural identity, as a support for national awareness and dignity and a stimulating factor for the harmonious development of society. It also mentions that the State preserves and defends the cultural heritage of the people, whose enhancement must serve progress and the safeguarding of human dignity. Therefore, conditions will be created for all citizens to have access to culture and to be encouraged to actively participate in its creation and dissemination.

344. Considers it incumbent on the State to encourage the practice and dissemination of sport and physical culture. It is the responsibility of the Government, through the National Strategic Plan for Inclusive Education for Guinea-Bissau, 2022-2028, p.14, to organise and direct the implementation of political, economic, cultural, scientific, social, defence and security activities, in accordance with its Programme. There is a government department, called the Ministry of Culture, responsible for coordinating public action in this sector. The department undertakes to develop the national culture policy to better structure its intervention and strengthen the economic and social impact and effectiveness of the sector.

345. The studies carried out on the cultural and creative sectors, in particular the mapping of the Guinean cultural sector carried out by the European Union in 2019 and the 2016 study entitled "Creative Tracks: the economy and creativity in Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe" did not allow the contribution of culture to the creation of wealth and employment to be assessed. However, they highlighted the existence of actors involved in all sectors of cultural activities, from cultural heritage to design, performing arts and festivities, plastic arts and crafts, cinema and audiovisual, books and the press. They are making efforts to better understand this reality, in the context of the production of cultural statistics promoted by WAEMU.

346. Guinea-Bissau is a member of UNESCO (1974) and a member of WIPO (1991). It is a State Party to the following conventions: Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, of 1886, as amended in 1979, (in 1991); Convention for the Protection of the Cultural and Underwater Heritage, 2001, (in 2008); Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972, (in 2008); Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2003, (in 2008).

347. The Bangui Agreement (establishing the African Intellectual Property Organisation, 1977) was signed by Guinea-Bissau in 2015. The Statute of the African Intellectual Property Organisation, adopted in 2016, the State of Guinea-Bissau has neither signed nor ratified it.

348. Legislative and Administrative measures adopted internally: Decree No. 28/1987, regarding the obligation to legally deposit in the INEP Library, and Decree No. 17/89, regarding the conservation of national archives. In 2021, the Council of Ministers adopted the Law on Cultural Events, whose object is the cultural spectacle defined as "the artistic activity organised in a defined space, covered or not, open to the public, where the representation or public performance of artistic or literary works is carried out". Covers: Dance, music, theatre, cinema.

349. Although there is a new bill related to Copyright, it is the Copyright Code of the then colonizing power (Decree-Law No. 49,980/1966, published in the Supplement to the B.O. No. 12, of April 27), which is still in force, serves to protect copyright activities. Order No. 39/2017, of March 19, updates the fee table of the Copyright Office.

350. Carnival is the most popular of the festivals, some popular fairs of gastronomy, dance, and exhibition of products and artistic works are frequent, art and culture festivals are organised frequently. Other cultural events take place at the ethnic level such as the kussundé (ethnicity. Balanta), Kunderé (Bijagó ethnicity), traditional wrestling (Greek-Roman wrestling - is culturally encouraged to the point of being the cultural flag bearer of Guinea-Bissau for being one of those that manages to bring medals in the African

games and manages to qualify for the Olympic games) and everywhere the tribes hold initiation parties to adult life known as Circumcision or men's fanado festivals.

5.1. Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage

351. Most movable cultural heritage is held by communities, while museums preserve some of the country's objects and artefacts. Principal institutions include the National Ethnographic Museum in Bissau (1988), the Military Museum of the Liberation Struggle in Amura (1975), the Amílcar Cabral Mausoleum (1976) and the Slave Memorial in Cacheu (2016). Decree No. 1/2003, published in Official Gazette No. 16 of 21 April 2003, established the Centre for Historical Documentation of the Liberation Struggle (CEDOHIL). Article 4 incorporated into CEDOHIL the Museum of the Liberation Struggle, created by Law No. 7/75 of 10 May. Implementation of the decree has not, however, ensured CEDOHIL's effective operation.

352. In addition to these main museums, there are six (6) small museums: Varela Museum; Guiledje Museum; Iemberem Museum; Environment House Museum in Bubaque; Nhoma Museum; and Amílcar Cabral House Museum in Bafatá.

353. The intangible cultural heritage of Guinea-Bissau is based on its ethnic and linguistic diversity. The socio-cultural characteristic comes from the variety of ethnic groups that speak different languages, points out the RGPH, 2009. Cultural diversity is embodied in the practices, representations and knowledge of the communities that make up the country, non-systematic inventories of traditional handicrafts (sculpture, ceramics, weaving, goldsmithing, musical instrument manufacturers) have already been carried out.

354. Cultural heritage inventories were conducted in 1989, 2000 and 2009, but no consolidated record exists. Protection remains limited, and cultural heritage legislation is still being drafted, owing to political instability and insufficient priority given to this area.

355. The holding of musical concert initiatives in the "24 de setembro" stadiums, Lino Correia sports complex, Jomav space and others, supported by the State and youth organisations, are also included in the type of measures aimed at making culture accessible to the population.

356. Television of Guinea-Bissau, the only public channel at the national level, also provides sign language interpretation in many information programmes to allow better access to persons with disabilities.

6. Road Safety

357. Decree No. 23/2016, published in Supplement to B.O. No. 7, of February 16, approves the Highway Code.

358. Decree-Law No. 5/2022, published in the 4th Supplement to B.O. No. 23, of 10 June 2022, creates the National Road Safety Authority (ANASER), which will succeed the duties of the Directorate-General for Road and Land Transport at national level, relating to prevention, road safety and administrative offence processing policies.

359. Guinea-Bissau is a member of the West African Road Safety Organisation (OSRAO), and a member of the Regional Road Safety Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union.

360. A WHO study conducted in 2010 identified Guinea-Bissau as the African country with the highest road traffic death rate, at more than 30 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants. These figures illustrate the seriousness of the problem and the urgency of taking action.

361. Road accidents are most often found on urban and interurban roads in the country and represent a serious current problem both from an economic perspective, due to the high costs and resources involved, and from a social perspective, taking into account the number of fatalities and material damage caused each year⁸⁰.

362. Vehicle imports are not subject to restrictions based on age or year of manufacture. A privately managed inspection service assesses vehicle roadworthiness.

363. Private driving schools offer car and motorcycle training. The Directorate-General for Transport and Road Traffic administers driving tests and issues driving licences. Municipal and local authorities issue permits for mopeds and motorcycles with an engine capacity not exceeding 50 cm³.

364. Guinea-Bissau has not signed or ratified the African Road Safety Charter, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in 2016.

365. The World Bank's Rural Transport Project rehabilitated the road connecting Ingoré-Ponta Caur. The construction of this road increased local communities' access to schools, markets and health services. The Project assisted the Government in the management, maintenance and safety of road projects and supported the development of a national transport and logistics plan for Guinea-Bissau⁸¹.

IX. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

366. Guinea-Bissau is a member state of the following international organisations: UN (Programmes, Funds and Agencies), AU (African Union), ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), CILSS (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel), WAEMU (West African Economic and Monetary Union), CPLP (Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries); Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC);

367. The State of Guinea-Bissau has built a fruitful relationship with the United Nations system, which has allowed the development of cross-cutting projects and programmes to implement different matters inherent to the realisation of human rights.

368. Under the institutional support agreement between the United Nations and the Government, coordination structures were established in each ministry to manage

⁸⁰ *Preâmbulo do DL n.º 5/2022.*

⁸¹ www.worldbank.org/pt/news/press-release/2025/06/28/guineabissau-30-3000-people-in-northern-regions-to-benefit-from-newly-rehabilitated-roads

assistance from UN entities. These structures support activity planning, monitor implementation and prepare reports on the relevant areas of cooperation.

369. The UN framework for sustainable development cooperation for Guinea-Bissau, years 2022-2026, was approved in 2022 to support the country's development around three Strategic Priorities that integrate the eight peacebuilding priorities:

- a) Governance, encompassing democratic governance, justice, defence and security sector reform, human rights, and the fight against trafficking (of drugs and human beings) and transnational organised crime;
- b) Economic development, the environment, climate change and disaster management; and
- c) Human capital development, encompassing human development and social services.

370. Visits by United Nations Human Rights Council Special Rapporteurs and the promotion visit by judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights demonstrate Guinea-Bissau's engagement with international and regional human rights mechanisms.

371. The Convention for Cooperation on the Protection and Development of the Maritime and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region and Protocol, State Party (2011); Agreement on Cooperation for the Protection of the Coasts and Waters of the North-East Atlantic against Pollution (Lisbon Agreement), State Party (2005); and Cooperation Agreement between the Member States of the CPLP on the Fight against HIV/AIDS, (2005).

372. On the bilateral side, Guinea-Bissau establishes cooperation agreements with several States with direct or indirect impact on human rights content.

X. GOOD PRACTICES

373. The following institutions and measures constitute good practices aimed at progressively strengthening human rights protection:

- ANP Specialized Commission for Women and Children's Issues;
- Office for the Protection of Domestic Violence Abuse, established in the Ministry of the Interior;
- Institute for Women and Children;
- Judicial courts, Family and Juvenile Court Curatorship;
- Centre for Access to Justice (CAJ);
- National Committee for the Abandonment of Harmful Traditional Practices (CNAPTN);

- Brigade for the Protection of Women and Minors, established in the Judicial Police;
- Decree-Law No. 8/2010, Regulates Court Costs, article 3/1 al.g) and article 4 als a) and b) of the same law, which exempts all civil proceedings with jurisdiction of minors;
- Ministerial Order (Education) prohibiting the use of corporal punishment of children at school;
- Granting Guinean citizenship by naturalisation to a significant number of linguistically and culturally assimilated refugees, residing in the country for more than twenty-five years;
- Prohibition of Intercountry Adoption made public in a Communiqué of the Council of Ministers on October 15th, 2020, to address concerns of successive mistreatment inflicted on children.
- 1st National Conference on Impunity, Justice and Human Rights, July 10-12, 2012;
- The Gender Unit of the National Elections Commission (CNE) was established on 18 October 2019 and is coordinated by the Deputy Executive Secretary. Its functions include disseminating public and private strategies to remove barriers to women's advancement and promote equal opportunities, treatment and rights.
- In the legislative elections of March 10, as well as in the presidential elections of November 24 and December 29, 2019, the CNE entered into a contract for the provision of advisory services with a journalist from Radio "Nô Pintcha", for the dissemination of informative materials on the activities of the electoral administration with the following weeklies: "Nô Pintcha", "Última Hora", "O Democrata", "Donos da Bola" and "Gazeta de Notícias". The journalist was in charge of providing, during the election period, ten copies of each newspaper, as proof of the services provided by the respective organs.
- The Public Prosecutor's Office, through its Office for Combating Corruption and Economic Crimes (GLCCDE), established the initiative M° P° – Citizen's Eye under Order No. 30/GPGR/02 of 10 September.
- A 2006 Council of Ministers resolution established a 50% quota for girls in scholarship awards.

XI. OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES

374. Implementation of the Banjul Charter is impeded by recurring political and institutional instability, coups and attempted or suspected coups, frequent changes of government before the end of a four-year legislative term, and customary practices that conflict with statutory law.

375. To address these challenges, the Government is progressively adopting laws, policies and administrative measures that place people at the centre of public action and promote sound environmental management. It continues to work with development partners in these efforts.

XII. CONCLUSIONS

376. Guinea-Bissau has pursued the promotion and protection of human rights by ratifying a substantial number of international and regional instruments. The Government has also concluded cooperation agreements, enacted legislation and adopted administrative measures to implement these commitments, as described in this report.

377. These efforts require further development and adaptation to society's evolving needs. The State therefore identifies the following priorities for the coming years:

1. Ratify the Protocol to the ACHPR on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (adopted in 2018); the Protocol to the ACHPR on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security (adopted in 2022); Protocol to the ACHPR on Older Persons (adopted in 2016) and other important human rights instruments.
2. Establish a permanent national intersectoral committee to prepare reports for international and regional human rights mechanisms. Equip the committee to assist the Government in responding to reports by Special Rapporteurs, independent experts and working groups of the United Nations Human Rights Council and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights following country visits.
3. Extend a standing invitation to the Special Mechanisms of the African human rights system, including Special Rapporteurs and working groups, to visit the country.
4. Disseminate the Instruments adopted by the Conferences of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in universities, training colleges and the media before or after their ratification.
5. Revitalise efforts to clear land suspected of containing mines and other explosive remnants of the armed conflicts that affected the country.
6. Ensure Guinea-Bissau's participation in all Ordinary and Extraordinary Sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.
7. Intensify efforts to address customary *practices* that conflict with statutory law.
8. Adopt appropriate legislative and administrative measures to reduce road traffic deaths.
9. With regard to the health sector:

- i. Adopt a basic health care system;
 - ii. Outline a clear policy and plan to achieve health coverage;
 - iii. Develop and make available, throughout the country, a uniform patients' bill of rights;
 - iv. Establish a national grievance mechanism that is functional and accessible to all individuals;
 - v. Regulate the supervision of health professionals and their activities;
 - vi. Carry out regular awareness campaigns on reproductive health;
 - vii. Intensify efforts to further reduce neonatal, infant and maternal mortality;
 - viii. Strengthen concrete measures and mechanisms for effective control of illegal introduction and marketing of medicines in the country.
10. For each legislative term, establish regional targets for constructing type B and type C health centres and adequate classrooms, based on local needs and school populations. Set clear targets for road construction, in kilometres, and for extending drinking water and electricity networks.
11. Improve inter-island transport through small-vessel services to facilitate movement and enable rapid responses to health and other emergencies.
12. Adopt legislation defining resettlement and compensation criteria for people affected by privately financed projects, in accordance with environmental and social impact assessment regulations and other applicable legislation.
13. Adopt specific legislation relating to Persons with Disabilities that defines the obligations of State institutions, civil society organisations and society in general towards Persons with Disabilities.

PART B

PROTOCOL TO THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN AFRICA

" (...) To defend the rights of women, to respect and ensure respect for women, but to convince the women of our land that their liberation must be their own work, through their work, dedication to the Party, self-respect, personality and firmness in the face of everything that may be against their dignity... ⁸²"

AMÍLCAR CABRAL

"Women cannot stay out of politics because that is where decisions are made... Women need to develop self-confidence to fight for their rights. Women must respect tradition and culture, but never allow them to be used as weapons against them. All issues concern women"

SOUTH AFRICAN WOMAN, POLITICIAN AND FORMER COMBATANT, IN "WOMEN BUILDING PEACE-WHAT THE DO, WHY IT MATTERS." SANAM AN DERLINI, 2007⁸³

Period covered by the report

Article 26 of the Maputo Protocol requires States Parties to report on implementation as part of their biennial reports under the African Charter.

Guinea-Bissau completed the constitutional procedures for ratification through ANP Resolution No. 25/PL/ANP/2007 of 19 December, published in the third Supplement to Official Gazette No. 8 of 28 February 2008, and Presidential Decree No. 53/2008 of 19 June 2008. The instrument of ratification was deposited on 14 October 2008.

Under Article 29(2) of the Maputo Protocol, the Protocol entered into force for Guinea-Bissau on the date of deposit of its instrument of ratification.

The **initial reporting** period ran from 14 October 2008 to 14 October 2010. Guinea-Bissau did not submit its initial report when due.

This combined submission is intended to clear the reporting backlog. The report identifies the combined reports as II to VIII and lists the reporting years as 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2024 and 2026. It covers the period from 15 October 2010 to the date of submission.

⁸² *in manual de capacitação das mulheres em matéria de participação política com base em género, UNIOGBIS, 2012, pág. 21*

⁸³ *Ibidem, pág. 64*

VI. METHODOLOGY

VII. LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Legal framework on women's rights

Applicability of the Protocol in Domestic Law

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL: ARTICLE BY ARTICLE

Article 2 Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Article 3 Right to dignity

Article 4 Right to life, integrity and security of person

Article 5 Elimination of harmful practices

Article 6 Rights relating to marriage

Article 7 Separation, divorce and annulment of marriage

Article 8 Access to justice and equal protection before the law

Article 9 Right to political participation and decision-making

Article 10 Right to peace

Article 11 Protection of women in armed conflict

Article 12 Right to education and training

Article 13 Economic rights and social protection

Article 14 Right to health and reproductive rights

Article 14. (1) (a) Women's right to control their fertility and the right to freely choose contraceptive methods

Article 14 (1) (b) Right to decide on maternity, number of children and spacing of births

Article 14 (1) (c) Right to freely choose the contraceptive method

Article 14 (1) (d) Women's right to self-protection and protection from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS

Article 14 (1) (e) The right to be informed of the health status of one's partner, in particular in the case of sexually transmitted diseases

Article 14 (1) (f) Women's rights to family planning education

Article 14 (2) (a) Access to health services

Article 14 (2) (b) Provide women with prenatal and nutritional services during the period of pregnancy

Article 14 (2) (c) Abortion

Article 15 Right to food security

Article 16 Right to decent housing

Article 17 Right to a positive cultural context

Article 18 Right to a healthy and sustainable environment

Article 19 Right to sustainable development, including the right to property, access to land and credit

Article 20 Rights of the widow

Article 21 Right to inheritance

Article 22 Special protection for older women

Article 23 Special protection of women with disabilities

Article 24 Special protection in danger/emergency

IX. CHALLENGES

X. CONCLUSIONS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN THE COMING YEARS

XI. ANNEXES

A. METHODOLOGY

1. The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights coordinated the preparation of this report on the Maputo Protocol with the relevant sectoral ministries. Technical assistance was provided under a memorandum of understanding with the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria. The report draws on administrative data, national surveys and sectoral reports, including information from INE, INASA, MICS and ENV.
2. Sources include INE data, particularly the third General Population and Housing Census (2009); research and administrative information from INASA, INEP, INDE, INE and GEPASE; the 2022 Voluntary National Review on SDG implementation; the 2018–2019 MICS6 survey; the assessment of Option B+ recommendations on mother-to-child HIV transmission and congenital syphilis within the CPLP; and UN sources, including *UNICEF and the April 2017 UNIOGBIS Human Rights Section/OHCHR report on the right to health in Guinea-Bissau*.
3. Civil society organisations did not take part in the report design phase. However, a validation meeting was held with them and contributions were integrated accordingly.

B. LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

4. The State of Guinea-Bissau had as its foundation the socialist system, inspired by Marxist ideology strongly accentuated in the protection of social rights. The 1st CRGB proclaimed with the Independence of Guinea-Bissau in 1973, by Law No. 1/73, published on January 4, 1975, already contained norms that guarantee the protection of women in articles 12 and 16 that we quote below: "citizens are equal before the Law, without distinction of ethnic group, sex, social origin, cultural level, profession, condition of wealth, religious belief or philosophical conviction", and, "Man and woman are equal in rights in the family, at work and in public activities".
5. The Constitution provide⁸⁴s the foundation for protecting women's rights through equality and non-discrimination. Article 29(1) of the CRGB states that the fundamental rights recognised in the Constitution do not exclude rights established by other national laws or applicable rules of international law. Incorporation of treaties into the domestic legal system requires approval and ratification by the competent State bodies: the Government, the ANP and the President of the Republic. The Minister of Foreign Affairs prepares the instrument of ratification for deposit with the depositary designated in the treaty. Following deposit, the applicable period before *entry* into force runs in accordance

with the treaty. Once the treaty takes effect for Guinea-Bissau, its provisions may be invoked before national courts.

6. Article 24 of the CRGB of 1984 establishes that "all citizens are equal before the law and enjoy the same and are subject to the same duties, without distinction of race, sex, social, intellectual or cultural level, religious belief or philosophical conviction." Likewise, article 25 reinforces that "a man and a woman are equal before the law, in all areas of political, economic, social and cultural life". These articles provide the constitutional basis for the protection of women's rights, in line with the general principles of the Maputo protocol.

7. The Constitution of the Republic guarantees equality between men and women and the protection of the physical and mental well-being of all citizens.

8. In addition, Guinea-Bissau has ratified several international conventions protecting women's rights.

9. Guinea-Bissau has demonstrated a significant commitment to the promotion of women's rights, in line with the Maputo Protocol. This commitment is reflected both in government policies and in robust actions by civil society organisations.

Legal framework on women's rights

10. The legal framework on women's rights in Guinea-Bissau consists of national and international instruments that have been incorporated into the Guinean legal system, aiming to ensure gender equality and combat discrimination.

11. The Maputo Protocol addresses a broad range of rights, and Guinea-Bissau has sought to align its legislation with these obligations. Article 4 prohibits violence against women. National measures include laws addressing domestic violence and female genital mutilation (FGM), although implementation continues to face social and cultural barriers.

12. Article 9 of the Protocol also guarantees the participation of women in political life. To comply with this precept, Guinea-Bissau enacted the Parity Law in 2018, aiming to increase the representation of women in decision-making positions, in parliament, government and in other spheres of political decision-making.

13. The Maputo Protocol (Article 13) guarantees women's right to work, equal pay for work of equal value and the right to health and reproductive rights.

14. With regard to marriage issues, including the minimum age to marry, and the rights to inheritance and housing for widows and family, article 6 of the Maputo Protocol, Guinea-Bissau needs to revise the Civil Code and other laws.

15. The government of Guinea-Bissau has been working on the creation of a legal and institutional framework to ensure gender equality and protect women's rights, including some initiatives, such as the National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity (PNIEG),

which is one of the country's strategic instruments. The PNIEG aims to promote women's participation in all spheres of public and private life, combat discrimination and gender-based violence, and ensure women's economic empowerment.

16. Guinea-Bissau has adopted specific legislation to combat domestic violence, sexual assault and female genital mutilation.

17. The Parity Law, adopted in 2018, seeks to increase women's representation in political life and decision-making positions.

18. The Government of Guinea-Bissau, in partnership with civil society and UN agencies, has carried out public awareness campaigns to inform about the existence of laws that protect women and to promote gender equality.

19. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) play a crucial role in implementing, monitoring and advocating for women's rights. They act as important partners of the Government and as critical voices to ensure accountability.

20. Some of the most active of the CSO include the Guinean Association for the Promotion of Women and Children (APROFEM), which works to defend the rights of women and children, providing support to victims of violence and promoting their autonomy; the Women's Network against Violence (REWIAV), which works to prevent and combat gender-based violence, through an awareness campaign and the protection of legal and psychosocial support for victims; the Women's Political Platform of Guinea-Bissau, which brings together various organisations to strengthen women's participation in politics in decision-making spheres. This Platform has played a role of great importance in advocating for the parity law and in training women for leadership positions; the National Network for the Fight against Violence (RENLUV), which coordinates the efforts of the various organisations to combat gender-based violence, including cyber violence.

21. Despite progress, implementation of the Maputo Protocol remains constrained by women's underrepresentation in some sectors, high levels of female illiteracy and insufficient funding for policies.

The Applicability of the Protocol in Domestic Law

22. Guinea-Bissau, upon ratifying the Maputo Protocol, assumes the obligation to incorporate its provisions into the domestic legal order and to take the necessary measures for its implementation. The norms of the Protocol after its entry into force in Guinean domestic law can be invoked directly in the courts and should be given the attention of judges and the Public Prosecutor's Office.

23. Guinea-Bissau undertakes that the rights provided for in the Protocol will be respected and that women will have the same rights as men in all spheres of life, including politics, the economy and society (elimination of discrimination). The rules of the Protocol do not allow all forms of violence directed against women. The implementation of the Protocol

in domestic law reflects the following: the law against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), which aims to prevent, combat and suppress female genital mutilation in Guinea-Bissau; the law on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons, in particular Women and Children, both published in the 2nd Supplement to the Official Gazette No. 27, of June 6, 2011; and the law that criminalises all acts of violence committed in the context of domestic and family relations, published in the Supplement to the Official Gazette No. 5, of February 4, 2014.

24. The Maputo Protocol enshrines the right of women to participate in elections and to hold decision-making positions on an equal footing with men, the right to equal pay for equal work, paid maternity leave and protection from sexual harassment in the workplace.

25. The Maputo Protocol is particularly notable for guaranteeing women's right to reproductive health and to make decisions about their bodies.

26. Article 24 of the Constitution establishes equality before the law. Specific legislation, including the law against FGM, translates the commitments of the Maputo Protocol into enforceable rules and criminal penalties.

Gender mainstreaming in budgets and legislative reforms

27. Gender mainstreaming in budgets and legislative reforms in Guinea-Bissau faces significant challenges, but it also presents opportunities to promote equality and inclusive development.

28. The analysis of gender mainstreaming in these areas should consider both formal (laws and policies) and informal (socio-cultural) aspects.

Regarding the formal aspects (laws and policies)

29. The Constitution recognises women's right to participate in political life. In late 2018, the Parity Law was promulgated to strengthen their representation. Despite its title, it establishes a minimum quota of 36% for women's participation in elections to the ANP and local authorities. Local elections have not yet been held in Guinea-Bissau.

30. For the legislative elections in 2014, 15 political parties competed, and only one party was led by a woman. For the 2014 presidential elections, there were 15 candidates, and no female candidacy was registered after the rejection by the Supreme Court of Justice of the only pre-candidate (Antonieta Rosa Gomes).

31. In the 2014 legislative elections, 13 of the PAIGC's 57 elected members were women, compared with one of the PRS's 41 members. Women therefore held 14 of the ANP's 102 seats (13.7%). This was the highest representation recorded during the democratic period covered by these data, although women's participation remained low overall.

32. Gender distribution of seats in parliament in parliamentary elections: 1994-2014 (PNIEG 2017)⁸⁵

Parliamentary term by date	Women elected	Men elected	Total
1994-1999	9	91	100
1999-2004	7	95	100
2004-2008	13	87	100
2008-2012	10	90	100
2014-2018	14	88	102

33. In 2015 men held 69% of government positions and were overrepresented in the main women-related ministries such as Agriculture, Education and Natural Resources where women occupy only 14%, 26% and 10% of the positions, respectively.⁸⁶

34. In the 2014 legislative elections, women won 14 seats, corresponding to 13.7% of the participation in the ANP; in 2019 they also reached 14 seats. The picture of female representation has not changed, despite the new Parity Law that can be explained by two factors: first, there was not enough time; and second, the political will of male candidates and parties was lacking to increase the number of female candidates.

35. No woman contested the presidential election of 24 November 2019. The March 2019 legislative elections nevertheless recorded high participation by women as voters and candidates. Many female candidates occupied lower positions on lists, stood as alternates or represented small parties that won no seats.

36. In Guinea-Bissau there is a strong appreciation of gender stereotypes by both sexes. Women are relegated to a domestic role, while men are valued in the public and political sphere.

37. The social preference for having men in decision-making bodies is particularly reinforced by women themselves, who accept and contribute to fostering their role away from decision-making.

38. In Guinea-Bissau, many women understand their role in supporting the rise of men to their own detriment. This attitude of submission and self-exclusion is highly valued in society, reflecting all the complexity of gender relations and their transposition in all areas of society, including in the spheres of decision-making.

39. Largely dependent on their family and community circles, Guinean women today rarely risk losing their social capital to seek to enter politics where their guarantees of

⁸⁵ in relatório final, 2020, Birgit Embaló: *Necessidade de Integração de Abordagem de Género no Quadro Legal da Guiné-Bissau, Estudo Avaliativo* (PNIEG 2017), pág.24

⁸⁶ Birgit Embaló, 2020, relatório final : *Necessidade de integração de Abordagem de Género no Quadro Legal da Guiné-Bissau, Estudo Avaliativo* (Gender Profile, 2015, PNIEG), pág. 24

success are limited. Weak female solidarity is explained by feelings of low self-esteem that prevent them from valuing other women.⁸⁷

40. Women's organisations in Guinea-Bissau have campaigned for political, social and economic rights in favour of women, such as PPM (Women's Political Platform), REMPSECAO-GB (ECOWAS Peace and Security Network for Women in Space), Association of Women Journalists, Association of Women Lawyers, Association of Young Women Leaders; National Network for the Fight against Gender-Based Violence and Children (RENLUV); Association of Women in Economic Activities (AMAE); National Committee for the Abandonment of Harmful Practices (CNPN); Association of Agricultural Producers for the Fight against Hunger (APALCOF, Contuboel).

Informal aspects (Social and cultural practices)

41. The cultural and economic fabric in Guinea-Bissau presents structural inequalities between men and women, rooted in specific social and political circumstances.

42. The exclusion and discrimination of women in Guinea-Bissau are based on the logic of patriarchal power, reflected in phenomena such as female genital mutilation, domestic violence, early marriage, limited access to resources, land and credit, poor institutional representation, inequalities in justice, in the economic field, as well as in education. Less literate and less educated, more exposed to health risk factors and with less access to means of production and decision-making, women in Guinea-Bissau are more affected by poverty and are not able to fully participate in the country's development path.⁸⁸

43. Gender inequality and discrimination against women in Guinea-Bissau persist, as women are poorly educated and generally have a lower socioeconomic status, with inadequate access to basic social services and reduced economic opportunities compared to men. Gender inequality is especially pronounced in rural areas, where customary and religious practices tend to outweigh state policies and laws.

44. In certain traditions, the role of women is strongly valued, as is the case of the Bijagó ethnic group, which is governed by a matriarchal system. The Pepel and Manjaca ethnic groups, both located on the coast of Guinea, are another example where women play an important social role, as they are the ones who guarantee the family lineage.

45. The social environment, which is greatly influenced by ethnic practices and where the family and community members play a primary role in valuing and supporting women,

⁸⁷ *Ibidem* (*Voz de Paz*, 2018), pág.25

⁸⁸ *PNIEG 2012/2017, Voz de Paz 2018*

thus represents a key opportunity to influence socio-cultural practices anchored in society⁸⁹.

46. In Guinea-Bissau, gender-based violence is a reflection of the patriarchal model that legitimizes traditional cultural practices, whereby various constituent ethnic groups in the country govern their behaviours and attitudes. These practices include female genital mutilation (FGM), forced and/or early marriage, levirate marriage, gerontophilia, polygamy, and domestic violence.⁹⁰

47. However, in many rural communities in Guinea-Bissau, customs and traditions (customary law) still guide social and family life, so women do not always choose when and whom to marry.

48. Marriages are generally not registered. Although the legal age to marry in Guinea-Bissau is 18 for both women and men, there are no ongoing sanctions to punish those who force minors to marry.

Gender Mainstreaming in Budgets

49. The lack of sex-disaggregated data makes it difficult to assess the impact of policies on women, as well as to identify areas where spending is more or less effective in promoting gender equality.

50. In addition, women's participation in budgeting processes is often limited, which can lead to budgets that do not reflect their needs and priorities.

51. Implementing budget analyses with a gender perspective can help identify inequalities in public spending and reallocate resources to areas that benefit more women and girls.

52. Women's limited involvement in budget decisions makes it difficult to ensure that resource allocation reflects their needs and priorities.

Gender mainstreaming in legislative reforms

53. Despite some legislative advances such as the Domestic Violence Act, there are still laws and practices that discriminate against women, especially in areas such as property rights, access to land, inheritance and reproductive rights.

54. Enforcement of these laws can also be uneven, with women in rural and low-income areas often being more vulnerable to discrimination.

55. Reviewing and reforming discriminatory legislation, based on evidence and in consultation with women, can promote gender equality and the protection of their rights.

⁸⁹ *Ibidem, nota rodapé 74*

⁹⁰ *Balde & Mendes, 2017*

It is crucial to ensure that laws are applied fairly and equitably, with the same accountability mechanisms for those who violate them.

56. Gender mainstreaming in Guinea-Bissau is a complex process that requires political commitment, adequate resources and the active participation of all sectors of society.

C. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL: ARTICLE BY ARTICLE

ARTICLE 2 Elimination of discrimination against women

57. The principle of equality and non-discrimination is enshrined in Article 25 of the Constitution of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and states that: "men and women are equal before the law in all areas of political, economic, social and cultural life".

58. Law No. 4/76 of 4 May, published in the Supplement to Official Gazette No. 18 of 1976, abolished discrimination between children born within and outside marriage, addressing discriminatory provisions in the Civil Code concerning parentage.

59. The Labour Code Law No. 7/2022, of 29 July; the Law on the Participation of Women in Politics⁹¹; the Parity Law⁹², which provides for a minimum representation of 36% of women on the list for elective positions; the National Policy on Gender Equality and Equity (PNIEG II) 2017; the Law against trafficking in persons, especially women and children⁹³, the Law to combat female genital mutilation; the Law against domestic violence; the Charter of educational policy (with a focus on the promotion of Gender Equality and Equity); the Strategic Plan for the Development of the Education Sector; the National Youth Policy; the Canchungo Declaration.⁹⁴

60. A set of international instruments at the regional, continental and international levels have been ratified by the State of Guinea-Bissau to promote gender equality⁹⁵.

61. These international and regional provisions end up being reflected in the legal documents of the State and encourage the creation of important domestic diplomas (National Policy for Gender Equality 2017), as a sign of the commitment of the Guinean State to the issues of Gender Equality and Equity.

62. Representation remains below expectations. In discussing the 2019 and 2023 elections, the report records 11 women and 91 men in the 102-seat Assembly, or 10.7% female representation. The minimum 36% quota was not met. When candidate lists were submitted for the legislative elections of 4 June 2023, the Supreme Court of Justice identified constituency lists that did not comply with the Parity Law but imposed no

⁹¹A Lei n.º 4/2018, de 4 de dezembro, Lei de Paridade para a Participação das mulheres na Política e nas esferas de tomada de decisão Art. 4.º n.º 1.

⁹²Lei de paridade lei n.º 4/2018, de 4 de dezembro.

⁹³Lei n.º 12/2011 de 6 de julho de 2011.

⁹⁴Lei contra o tráfico de pessoas; Lei n.º 14/2011 de 6 de Julho de 2011 – lei de combate à mutilação genital feminina; Lei n.º 06/2013 de 18 de Julho de 2013 – lei contra a violência doméstica; Lei-quadro dos partidos políticos; Estatuto de funcionamento da Função Pública (proposta de alteração das licenças de parto - passar de 2 para 3 meses); Carta de política educativa (com enfoque na promoção de IEG); Plano estratégico para o desenvolvimento do sector da educação; Política nacional de juventude; Declaração de Canchungo;

⁹⁵Ver CEDAW - Convenção sobre a Eliminação de Todas as Formas de Discriminação contra a Mulher; CEDAW-OP - Protocolo Facultativo à Convenção sobre a Eliminação de Todas as Formas de Discriminação contra a Mulher; Protocolo do Maputo; Igualdade de Mulheres e Meninas perante a Lei da ONU Mulher (2019-2030); A Estratégia de Género da União Africana (2009); o documento fundamental do PNUD, As Estratégias de Género 2014-2017.

sanctions. Article 10 nevertheless provides for the withdrawal of benefits from non-compliant parties.

63. In fact, there are situations of a cultural nature in general in which the destiny of women's vote is largely conditioned by community and/or family solidarity.

64. From the point of view of economic life, the inequality between women and men is very pronounced, especially in access to the labour market and land ownership. In the first case, there is a predominance of men occupying 69% of positions in public administration and key ministries – women represent 14% of administrative positions in agriculture and 26% in education⁹⁶.

65. Women's access to land and economic resources is also very limited. Although, they are the main users of land as farmers and producers, and the Land Law (Law No. 5/98, Article 4(1)) confirms gender equality, in practice, women do not have secure land tenure. Instead, they are restricted to secondary land rights, whereby their land use rights are obtained only through their husbands or other male family members⁹⁷.

66. These debates have also prompted calls to replace the Ministry of Women's Affairs with an institution serving both women and men. Supporters of this approach view it as consistent with gender equality. The report links this position to the establishment of the Ministry of Family, Social Solidarity and the Fight against Poverty.

67. The Domestic Violence Law classifies domestic violence⁹⁸ as an offence that can be prosecuted without a complaint *from the victim*. Following consultations with women's organisations, human rights defenders, civil society and UN partners, the Transitional Government also adopted the National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (2014–2016).¹⁰⁰

68. The punitive scope of the domestic violence law ranges from 3 to 9 years of imprisonment for cases of severe physical violence, psychological violence up to 2 years, sexual violence from 3 to 12 years, property crimes up to 2 years, restriction of liberty up to 4 years.

69. In terms of victim support, one of the most important measures under the law is the benefit of medical care and examination or any other free intervention, including legal aid and legal assistance, psychological and psychiatric support and the placement of the victim in a Reception Centre.

70. The new Labour Code, as well as the legal regime of the civil service, presents a much more developed and updated framework on labour issues. It is in this light that the Labour Code dedicates in Section VIII to the work of women.

71. Thus, maternity protection is provided for under the terms of articles 359 to 364 of the Labour Code. In the legal regime of the civil service, articles 22, 23, 24, of Decree-Law No. 13/2012, of 18 December (legal regime of absences, holidays and leaves), the

⁹⁶Exame Nacional Voluntário, 2022, pág. 71.

⁹⁷Relatório da Relatora Especial sobre pobreza extrema e direitos humanos, (Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona), 2014, pág. 13.

⁹⁸Lei n.º 6/2014 de 4 de fevereiro

⁹⁹Art. 7º/1 prevê a intervenção junto a vítima pela sua vontade e prosseguimento da ação pela vontade da mesma desde que a pena for inferior a 4 anos de prisão art. 38º

¹⁰⁰Relatório da Relatora Especial sobre pobreza extrema e direitos humanos, (Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona), 2014, pág.

following absences – due to maternity and paternity, prenatal consultations and breastfeeding and due to birth.

72. Pregnant women must work in conditions that do not harm their pregnancy. During the period of pregnancy and after childbirth, working women are ensured, among others, the following rights:

a) a) Exemption from duties that are unsuitable for their condition, without loss of pay;

b) Not to perform overtime or night work, nor to be moved from the usual place of work.

73. A pregnant woman who is employed must, where required to do so by her employer, provide medical proof of her condition. At the time of childbirth, a woman is entitled to ninety days' maternity leave.

74. A pregnant worker must, whenever necessary, resort to prenatal consultations outside normal working hours. When the consultation is only possible within normal working hours, the employee may be required to present a document proving this circumstance.

75. A pregnant worker whose duties pose a risk to her health or that of her unborn child is entitled to special leave for the period necessary to prevent that risk if suitable alternative duties or a compatible workplace cannot be provided.

76. For the purposes of breastfeeding, the employee is entitled, during the first six months after childbirth, to sixty (60) minutes off each period of work.

77. Guinea-Bissau is a State Party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

ARTICLE 3: Right to dignity

78. After approval of the National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity (PNIEG), an Action Plan with eight axes was adopted. Axis 1 proposes the mainstreaming of the gender equality dimension and seeks to integrate, in a regular, systematic and transversal way, the gender equality dimension in all policies, strategies, projects and cooperation programmes to be developed.

79. Axis 6 of the Plan also makes explicit reference to awareness-raising actions within the framework of the campaign for the elimination of violence against women at the national level, which touches precisely on the need to change awareness about women's rights. Also in Axis 6, the State calls for the participation of men and boys in the promotion of gender equality and the fight against gender-based violence.

The right not to be subjected to torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of one's body in general. All forms of violence and sexual abuse against the human person are prohibited (Law No. 11/2010, regulating reproductive health and family planning activities)

80. Decree-Law No. 10/2010, of 14 June, regulates Detention Centres; Law No. 3/2011, Statute of Prison Guards; Law No. 7/2011, of 2 February, regulates the Organisation, Functioning and its forms of Procedure of the Court for the Execution of Sentences

81. Decree No. 12/2011, published in the third Supplement to Official Gazette No. 35 of 3 March 2011, establishes minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners, including separate accommodation for women and men. These standards protect the dignity of all persons deprived of liberty. Women serving a final sentence remain entitled to humane and dignified treatment.

ARTICLE 4: Right to Life, Integrity and Security of the Person

82. The CRGB provides for the inviolability of physical and moral integrity¹⁰¹. The Penal Code punishes various offences to the physical and mental integrity of persons. Other national and international legislation calls for the criminal accountability of perpetrators for the practice of crimes against persons. Despite everything, the problem of gender-based violence is transversal in the country.

83. The right to life is a fundamental right that can in no case be called into question, even in a situation of declaration of a state of siege, while also safeguarding the rights to personal integrity and personal identity, civil capacity and citizenship, the non-retroactivity of criminal law, the right of defence of defendants and freedom of conscience and religion.

84. In addition to these standards, the country has also acceded to several international conventions on decent treatment, the right to life and the proportionate use of force, such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aimed at the abolition of the death penalty.

85. In 2007, a National Reconciliation Commission (CRN) was established by virtue of Resolution No. 4/2007, approved by the ANP on July 19, 2007, published in B.O. No. 33, of August 13, 2007, with a two-year term of office, from the date of the inauguration of its members and extendable by the entity that established it if the evolution of the reconciliation process so requires.

86. The CRN has the following duties: To supervise and monitor the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding, signed on October 10, 2004, between the Government and the rebel military; To design and implement a process of national reconciliation that takes into account the draft Amnesty Law, its nature, the popular will; To contribute to the creation in the different layers of society, a climate conducive to the effectiveness of national reconciliation; To promote the consolidation of National Unity, Democracy and the Rule of Law, discouraging any practices tending to ethnic division in the country; To establish mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of the reconciliation process, including the recognition of the acts committed and the creation of a memorial dedicated to the victims; To create the conditions for the establishment of a culture of peace and dialogue.

¹⁰¹ *Ibidem* art.37°/1 CRGB.

87. The Composition of the CRN: One representative of the President of the Republic; Representative of the former President of the Republic; Representative of the President of the ANP; Leaders of Parliamentary Benches or their representatives; One representative of political parties with parliamentary seats; Representatives of former Presidents of the Supreme Court of Justice; One representative of the Government, appointed by the Prime Minister; One of the Bishops of Bissau; President of the National Islamic Council; President of the National Evangelical Council; One representative of the Traditional Chiefs; Three representatives of NGOs, two of which must **be women**; One representative of Youth Organisations; and three representatives of the Armed and Security Forces.

88. Decisions of the CRN require a two-thirds majority. A technical committee supports its work.

89. The CRN is led by a collective presidency comprising: One of the Bishops of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau; President of the National Evangelical Council; President of the National Islamic Council; and Representatives of the traditional Chiefs. The CRN was extinguished.

ARTICLE 5: Elimination of harmful practices

90. The State adopted the Parity Law (Law No. 4/2018); the Domestic Violence Law (Law No. 6/2014); the Law on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children (Law 12/2011), and the National Committee for the Abandonment of Harmful Traditional Practices was established (Decree No. 28/2011, 30 August, Supplement to B,O, No. 35)

91. Article 4 of Law 12/2011 defines trafficking in persons as the recruitment, supply, transportation, reception of a person for the purpose of prostitution, forced labour, slavery, involuntary servitude or debt bondage. According to the norm of the Palermo Protocol. The punishment is a prison sentence of 3 to 15 years and if as a result of these facts the illness or death of the victim, the agent is punished with a sentence of 15 to 20 years.

92. Domestic violence is criminalised by Law No 06/2014, which defines a crime as any pattern of conduct by action or omission of a criminal nature, whether repeated or not, which inflicts physical, sexual, psychological, deprivation of liberty and economic suffering, directly or indirectly, practised within the family against any person who habitually resides in the same domestic space or not, and the person with whom the victim has relations.

93. Understanding the importance of working to end the practice of female genital mutilation, Guinea-Bissau adopted the law to combat this practice; Law No. 14/2011 of 6 July 2011.

94. Law No. 14/2011 of 6 July 2011 prevents, punishes and criminalises the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) throughout the national territory. The crime in question is public, as it does not depend on the complaint and aims to punish those who practice this act with a penalty of 2 to 6 years of imprisonment and, in the case of minors between

3 and 9 years of age, with the possibility of aggravation due to the physical sequelae and the death of the victim, to sentences of 4 to 10 years.

95. The National Strategy for the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation, together with its Plan of Action for the period 2018 to 2022, also represents a significant advance in the State's efforts to combat female genital mutilation in Guinea-Bissau.

96. According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018-2019 (MICS6), 27% of girls become pregnant before the age of 18. The prevalence of FGM is 52.1% among women and girls aged 15-49 years and 29.7% among girls aged 0-14 years. These mutilations are particularly practiced in the Gabu region, where 95.8% of women and 73.2% of girls have undergone them.

97. In all rural areas of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, there are harmful cultural practices that affect both boys and girls.

98. Legislative progress has not been matched by implementation. Harmful practices and attitudes towards violence against women remain deeply rooted. Limited access to information and education contributes to the normalisation and acceptance of such violence.

99. Early and/or forced marriages were also one of the most frequent forms of denial of women's rights, with a rate of 25.7% nationally for those under 18 years of age¹⁰².

100. Shelters for survivors of domestic violence provide important services under Articles 42–46, helping prevent and address practices harmful to women and children. They continue to provide a range of support despite not receiving the State funding envisaged by law.

101. The specific cases relating to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) brought to justice and subject to incrimination, occurred on: January 25, 2012, five (5) women were sentenced in the Regional Court of Bafatá to three (3) years in prison for the practice of female genital mutilation; the 2nd case, on May 26, 2015, four suspects, sentenced to three (3) years of effective imprisonment for having been found guilty of the practice of female genital mutilation in January 2015 in Ganadú (Bafatá Region); and the last one on December 17, 2014, with the penalization of six (6) suspects, four of them with an effective prison sentence of three (3) years and the two suspects (including the father of one of the children and the woman, owner of the house where the excision took place) were sentenced to one (1) year in prison, convertible into a fine of 150,000 FCFA.

ARTICLE 6: Right to marriage

102. In Guinea-Bissau, the legal age for marriage is eighteen years old, since Article 1 of Law No. 5/76, published in the Supplement to B.O. No. 18, of 4 May 1976, defines the age of majority and regulates emancipation (it may be consented to at 16 years of age). Article 6(b) of the Maputo Protocol and Law No. 11/2010, which regulates Reproductive Health and Family Planning activities, Article 5(1), set 18 years as the minimum age for marriage. In relation to civil marriage in Guinea-Bissau, the spouses or one of the spouses

¹⁰² *Idem* MICS 6, *pág.* 51

under the age of 18 are never allowed in registry offices and other official bodies to celebrate/formalize a civil marriage.

103. The marital structure by sex varies according to age. Most of the population aged between 12 and 14 years, about 98.3%, is single. In this context, we can say that in Guinea-Bissau, and according to the information of the 3rd RGPH 2009, the phenomenon of early marriage is not yet of significant importance. Among residents in the age group of 15 to 19 years, the proportion of single people is significant, reaching 84.9% of the population residing in this age group. It can also be observed that about 15% of this population aged 15-19 years is married. From this perspective, it can be stated that in Guinea-Bissau, a good part of the population begins to live in a conjugal union (married) from this age (15-19 years). About 36% of the population aged between 20 and 24 years and 57% of the population between 25 and 29 years old are living in a marital union (married).

104. The Guinean nationality law allows dual nationality, paragraph 1 of article 8 of Law No. 6/2010, B.O.No. 25, of June 21, 2010, requires three requirements: the foreign spouse expressly expresses the intention to acquire Guinean nationality and three years of marriage and one (1) year of residence in Guinean territory.

In relation to property in the context of civil marriage, the Civil Code defines the property regime (General community of property; Community of accrued gains, and separation of property).

105. Civil law recognises monogamous marriage between one man and one woman.

In polygamous marriage, two or more women marry a single man. The property ownership regime is governed by customary law and varies from ethnic group to ethnic group, reveals the study developed by the Faculty of Law of Bissau in collaboration with the National Institute of Studies and Research (INEP) "The Customary Law in Force in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau".

ARTICLE 7: Legal separation, divorce and marriage annulment

106. There are civil marriages, traditional marriages (performed on the basis of customary norms) and Catholic marriages. The first two are relevant to this sub-theme.

107. The law gives us the notion that marriage is the contract entered into between two people of different sexes who intend to legitimately constitute the family through a full communion of life¹⁰³

108. Separation, divorce and annulment of marriage are legally enshrined in the Civil Code and Law No. 5/76.

109. In matters of the protection of children¹⁰⁴, spouses have equal rights and duties with regard to civil and political capacity and the maintenance and education of children. Both

¹⁰³ *Art.1577º Código Civil*

¹⁰⁴ *Art. 26º da CRGB*

parents are responsible for the custody and regency of unemancipated minor children in order to defend, educate and feed them¹⁰⁵.

110. Guinean courts apply the principle of the best interests of the child in disputes between spouses.

111. Most citizens marry under customary rules. The coexistence of diverse cultures and traditional practices within the State means that customary norms often prevail in practice over statutory law. Divergences between the two systems can deepen inequalities between women and men.

112. Forced marriage, positive law, as a premise, the validity of marriage, freedom and autonomy of will, any act similar to it without the consent of the parties, or of one of the parties, is irrelevant in terms of producing legal effects. Article 16 of the ICCPR and Article 6 (b) of the Maputo Protocol enshrine that no marriage may be celebrated without the free and full consent of the future spouses or one of them. Forced marriage may involve various acts of violence against women, namely, physical aggression, threats, deprivation of liberty and attack on sexual freedom. Legal enshrinement - Bodily harm, articles 114 to 115 of the Penal Code (CP); Coercion, 123 CP; Restriction of liberty Article 27 of Law No. 6/2014, of 4 February, which is defined as the impediment or deprivation of freedom of movement of the person with whom he or she maintains family, love or intimate relations; Sexual violence, Article 25 of Law No. 6/2014, of 4 February.

113. Early marriage requires a number of factors, including the physical and mental maturity of the bride and groom. It is on the basis of these elements that the law sets minimum thresholds in terms of age for marriage – marriageable age or capacity to marry. Article 23 of the ICCPR reads as follows: "from the age of marriage, a man and a woman have the right to marry and to found a family without restriction". During marriage and at the time of its dissolution, both have equal rights.

114. Under the earlier domestic framework, Article 1601, read together with Article 6(b) of Law No. 5/76, permitted marriage from the age of 16 for both sexes. Following the entry into force of the Maputo Protocol and Law No. 11/2010 on reproductive health and family planning, the minimum age was raised to 18. Civil marriage is therefore no longer permitted where either prospective spouse is under 18.

115. The study Customary Law in Force in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau¹⁰⁶, conducted by the Faculty of Law of Bissau with INEP, reports that customary rules commonly regard girls as eligible for marriage from age 14 among the Balanta, Fula, Mandinga, Mancanha, Manjaco and Papel communities.

ARTICLE 8: Access to justice and equal protection before the law

116. All citizens are equal before the law and have the right to seek judicial protection of their rights and legitimate interests. Access to justice may not be denied for lack of financial means.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁵ **Art.1879º Código Civil**

¹⁰⁶ *in Desafios, Ora di diritu, Casa dos Direitos, novembro 2015, pags.321 a 331.*

¹⁰⁷ *Arts: 24, 25, 32, e 34. Art.4º da Lei Orgânica dos Tribunais*

117. The Access to Justice Centres (CAJ), established by Decree No 11/2011 of 3 February, coordinated by the Legal Information and Consultation Office (GICJU) and under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, are free legal advice and assistance centres designed to inform and assist the most vulnerable members of the population, including women, regarding their rights and duties, means of defence and the functioning of justice.

118. The CAJ has partnered with other institutions, namely the Guinea-Bissau Bar Association, through the Office of the Lawyer (GAO) to facilitate access to justice. It has also carried out awareness-raising actions throughout the country to inform the population of their rights and about justice.

119. Between 2017 and 2022, the CAJ received 15,085 complaints of cases related to access to justice. Of these, 12,782 were resolved. Some of these cases (3,806) were resolved by the CAJ's own technicians. Others (2,101) were resolved by mediation.

120. The judiciary, the executive, public capital companies, public institutes, private companies and other public and private entities cannot discriminate in the application of the law, except in situations that the law allows (positive discrimination).

ARTICLE 9: Right to political participation and decision-making processes

121. Article 24 of the Constitution guarantees the equality of men and women before the law in all areas of political, economic, social and cultural life. Article 25 of the ICCPR.

In 2018, the Parity Law (Law 4/2018, of 4 December) was approved, which aims to increase the participation of women in politics and in political decision-making spheres, with a minimum quota of 36% in order to achieve parity in Parliament.

122. The representation of women in the ANP in percentage terms, of the 102 seats: nine women parliamentarians from 1994 to 1999 (8.8%); seven from 1999 to 2004 (6.8%); thirteen from 2004 to 2008 (12.7%); ten from 2008 to 2012 (9.9%); fourteen from 2014 to March 2019 (13.7%); thirteen from 2019 to 2024 (12.7%) ¹⁰⁸ legislative elections in 2024. One of the legislatures, in times of the single party, was led by a woman, that is, she held the position of President of the National People's Assembly.

123. Women have never headed the Government, but have held positions as members of the Government (minister or secretary of state). In 2014, of the 16 ministries, women occupied 5 ministries and of the 15 Secretariats of State, women occupied one (1) Secretariat of State, which corresponded to 30% and 6.6% respectively.

124. A woman has served as President of the Supreme Court of Justice, but no woman has been appointed Attorney General of the Republic.

124-A. In high-ranking military positions, the number is low. Of the 5,064 military officers, women represent 10.32%, these calculations reflect the year 2018.

¹⁰⁸ in relatório “o direito humano de participar nos assuntos políticos e públicos na Guiné - Bissau, UNIOBIS, 2019, pag.42

125. Evident facts that prove the violation of the Law of Parity for the Participation of Women in Politics and in the Sphere of Decision-Making (Law No. 4/2018), promulgated by the President of the Republic on December 3, 2018, defines a minimum of 36% of women candidates for Elections in ANP Seats as well as in Local Authorities. In the March 2019 elections, in a universe of 102 seats, namely: PAIGC indicated 27.4% for women candidates; MADEM-G15 19.6% for women's candidates; FREPASNA 31.37% for women's candidacies and PRS 28.4% for women's candidacies. The parity law was violated by these political parties. One of the provisions of the Law, when in disagreement with the statute, can result in the loss of all tax exemptions and the proportional reduction of public incentives for electoral campaigns¹⁰⁹.

126. Of the 118 registered members of the Bar Association, only 12 are women, representing 10.1%.

127. Although official statements affirm equal access to positions of responsibility and decision-making, progress in practice remains limited.

ARTICLE 10: Right to peace

128. Guinea-Bissau has undertaken peacebuilding efforts with international support, including through the Peacebuilding Fund.

129. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) calls for women's participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, including post-conflict processes. Resolutions 1820 (2008), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and 2242 (2015) further address women's roles and protection in peace and security. These commitments should inform the modernisation and restructuring of the defence and security forces.

130. Guinea-Bissau was devastated by two (2) armed conflicts, 1963 to 1974 and June 1998 to May 1999. Women played a fundamental role in the effort to build peace.

131. The Defence and Security Forces in Guinea-Bissau have a significant number of female personnel. In high-ranking military positions, the number is low. Of the 5,064 military officers, women represent 10.32%, these calculations reflect the year 2018.

132. Several organisations support women's participation in peacebuilding. The Women's Committee for Defence and Security promotes women's roles in the defence and security sector and raises awareness of peacekeeping. OMLEDRUGA promotes women's participation in pan-African efforts for peace and stability. PADIN, the Association for Peace, Development and Inclusion, supports girls' education and training and promotes peace through reading and solidarity.

ARTICLE 11: Protection of women in armed conflict

133. Guinea-Bissau is a State Party to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the respective Additional Protocols (I and II) of 10 June 1977. Mention should also be made of Resolution 1960 (2010) on sexual violence in armed conflict; Resolution 2106 (2013), combating sexual violence in conflict situations and Resolution 1820 (2008),

¹⁰⁹ *Ibidem*, págs. 48 e 49

recognises sexual violence as a tactic of war and a threat to global peace and security (all United Nations Security Council Resolutions).

134. Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 relative to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts, Title II enshrines Humane Treatment, Article 4 (Fundamental Guarantees).

135. Women must be accorded special respect and protected in particular against rape, coercion, prostitution and any form of indecent assault. Cases in which pregnant women, or mothers of young children dependent on them, are arrested, detained or interned for reasons connected with the armed conflict shall be examined as absolute priority. The Parties to the conflict shall, to the extent possible, seek to prevent the death penalty from being pronounced against pregnant women or mothers of young children dependent on them for an offence committed in connection with the armed conflict. A death sentence shall not be imposed on such women for such an offence¹¹⁰.

136. On the humanitarian side, there is always a need to provide special protection and assistance to internally displaced persons with specific needs, including separated and unaccompanied children, female heads of households, pregnant women and mothers of newborns, older persons and those with disabilities or suffering from contagious diseases¹¹¹.

137. The State of Guinea-Bissau emerges in the wake of the war imposed by the then colonizing power. During the war, it always managed and protected the most vulnerable class, in particular women, due to their natural and biological condition.

138. After the proclamation of independence, the Motor Rehabilitation Centre (CRM) was established by order of the then Chief Commissioner, published in B.O. No. 36, of September 4, 1976, with the purpose of assisting the victims of mines and other explosive devices left in the theatre of the National Liberation War (1963 to 1974).

139. The Centre was destroyed during the political-military conflict that devastated the country, from June 1998 to May 1999.

140. ECOWAS supported the rehabilitation of the Physical Rehabilitation Centre (CRM) in 2008. In 2009–2010, the ICRC helped complete the building and provided equipment and materials. In 2012, the Government, through the Ministry of Health, signed a three-year memorandum of understanding with the ICRC defining their respective responsibilities for services to persons with physical disabilities.

141. Guinea-Bissau experienced two armed conflicts: the national liberation war (1963–1974) and the political-military conflict (1998–1999). Mines and other explosive devices left by the parties across much of the country continued to endanger civilians.

¹¹⁰ *Nºs 1, 2 e 3 do art. 76 do Protocolo I às Convenções de Genebra 1949*

¹¹¹ *Alínea c) do nº 2 do art. 9, Convenção de Kampala*

142. After the end of the political-military conflict, the National Council for Humanitarian Demining was created. The Council included representation from the Government, NPA, Armed Forces, NGOs and some United Nations Funds/Programmes and has the following attributions: - to approve the guidelines of the anti-mine action policy; to create coordination mechanisms between all demining agencies as well as to ensure the implementation of the national humanitarian program¹¹²me.

143. In addition, by the same law above, the Mine Action Centre (CAAMI_GB) was established with the purpose of providing a safer environment for people's daily lives, through the removal of all mines and explosive devices on the one hand and, on the other hand, rehabilitating urban and rural infrastructures, access roads in agricultural areas, in order to allow the free movement of people and goods throughout the national territory and consequently relaunch the national economy towards development. Thus, it will be up to the CAAMI_GB to carry out the overall and full implementation of the National Humanitarian Programme for anti-mine action, both in terms of awareness, demining and assistance to victims in an articulated and integrated manner with different government departments, Civil Society and NGOs dedicated to this matter, as well as in terms of managing this complex problem, which is to eradicate mines in Guinea-Bissau.

144. In the demining work, CAAMI-GB has established working partnerships with the following Non-Governmental Organisations:

Norwegian People's Aid APN.

*Cleared Ground Demining;
Humaid; and*

Lutcam.

145. The first two are foreign and the last two are national. All its activities were coordinated by the Guinea-Bissau Anti-Mine Action Centre (CAAMI-GB).

146. In December 2012, the Government declared Guinea-Bissau free of mines and explosive devices. Subsequently, a mine left from the colonial conflict exploded on the route between Bissorã and Encheia in the north of the country. It killed more than two dozen people and injured others who were travelling back to their villages in a mixed-use vehicle. The incident prompted the Government to reassess its declaration and adopt measures to resume clearance of suspected hazardous areas.

147. The Red Cross of Guinea-Bissau was established by Decree No. 35/75, published in the Official Gazette No. 48, of December 1977, which approves the respective Statute. The statute was revised in 1983 and later in 2007.

¹¹² Decreto-Lei n°4/2001, publicado no B.O. n°38, de 17 de setembro,

ARTICLE 12: Right to education and training

148. The Constitution of the Republic¹¹³ guarantees every citizen the right to education and provides that the State will gradually promote free education and equal access at all levels. It elects the elimination of illiteracy as a fundamental task. However, in reality, students face economic, social and traditional factors that hinder access to education, namely the prevalence of pregnancy and early marriage.

149. According to Article 16 of the Constitution, education aims at the formation of man. It must remain closely linked to productive work, provide for the acquisition of qualifications, knowledge and values that will enable citizens to integrate themselves into the community and contribute to its unceasing progress. The State considers the eradication of illiteracy to be a fundamental task.

150. With regard to the right to education, the State of Guinea-Bissau establishes in the CRGB, in its article 49, paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4, that every citizen has the right and duty to education; the State gradually promotes free and equal access for all citizens to the various levels of education; the right to create private and cooperative schools is guaranteed. Public education will not be confessional.

151. Article 12 of the Basic Law of the Education System provides that primary education is universal, free and compulsory. Free basic education includes exemption from enrolment, attendance and certification charges, as well as free use of textbooks and teaching materials.

152. Basic education is developed over the 9 years of schooling and is organised into three **cycles**: 1. **The first cycle** comprises the 1st to the 4th year of schooling, subdivided into two phases, organised as follows: a) The first **phase** includes the 1st and 2nd year of schooling; b) The second **phase** includes the 3rd and 4th years of schooling. 2. The **second cycle**, which forms the third phase of basic education, includes the 5th and 6th years of schooling;

153. The third cycle, which comprises the 7th, 8th and 9th years of schooling. Secondary education is intended for young people between 15 and 17 years of age, with a duration of 3 years of school attendance and corresponding to the 10th, 11th and 12th years of schooling.

154. As for statistical data, the UNICEF statistical yearbook for the years 2014 and 2015 shows an influx of enrolments in relation to the year of schooling and gender:

- a) In the 1st year, the total number of male students is 45,836, while the total number of female students is 43,313 out of a total of 89,149 students;
- b) The total number of students in the 2nd year of basic education is 58,946, divided into 30,151 for males and 28,795 for females;
- c) With regard to the 3rd year of schooling, the total number is 43,145, with 20,245 for male students and 22,900 for female students;

¹¹³ *Art.49°CRGB*

- d) For students in the 4th year of basic education, the total number is 41,090, males 21,462 and females 19,628.

155. There is a National Institute for Technical and Vocational Training (INAFOR) in the country, which is responsible for promoting technical and vocational training. The vocational and technical training sector in Guinea-Bissau takes two forms:

- a) The internship of professional insertion, by competition, to students who have completed basic education 2, that is, who have finished the 6th year of schooling. It lasts from six months to one (1) year and is intended to facilitate the rapid insertion of students into the world of work. It is taught at SENAI-Brasil (National Service for Industrial Learning- of Brazil), at CEFC (Community Training Centre linked to agriculture and livestock and at the Professional Centre created by the NGO-ADPP, **Non-Governmental Organisation-Aid from People to People to Development**).
- b) Technical-vocational education aimed at young people who have completed at least basic education 3, that is, at least the 9th grade. It lasts three years and confers an academic diploma. It is taught in establishments such as CENFI (Industrial Training Centre), CIFAP (Industrial Centre for Training and Professional Learning) and CENFA (Administrative Training Centre), which became ENA – National School of Administration – in the 2010/2011 academic year).

156. Until 2015, no literacy or non-formal education measures specifically addressed out-of-school children aged 9 to 14. Under the Education Sector Plan, the Government aims to develop a national policy on literacy and non-formal education (AENF), informed by a comprehensive assessment of the needs of these children and of young people and adults aged 15 and over who cannot read or write.

157. Only a few literacy sessions are organised for adults. Literacy is part of non-formal education and concerns adults. Literacy training consists of 3 levels of education, each lasting 4 months.

158. Adult literacy courses are delivered in community-run or NGO-run centres; there are no state-run literacy centres.

159. The State does not provide grants or subsidies for these centres, but trains facilitators, develops materials and monitors the subsector through the Directorate-General for Literacy in the Ministry of Education. A dedicated study is needed to assess the services actually provided.

160. The coverage rate in relation to the number of target adults, the cost and effectiveness of the training measures provided, need to be known. It is from the results of this study that a ten-year strategy for this sub-sector can be conceived. It should be noted that, in the absence of an effective literacy policy, the literacy rate remains low: only 57% of the population is literate.

161. Priorities include expanding school networks at all levels, establishing an adequate scholarship system and improving teachers' working conditions. The Government faces funding constraints and has not met the education allocation described in the report as the WAEMU norm of 16% of GDP. Since the 1998–1999 conflict, education provision and teachers' working conditions have remained unstable.

162. The right to set up private and cooperative schools is guaranteed. Private and cooperative education, as an expression of freedom of education, has an important place in the architecture of the educational system¹¹⁴.

163. In 1991, the State officially recognised its inability to meet the country's educational needs, thus ending its monopoly on education by creating the Basic Statute of Private Schools, through **Decree No. 7/91, of 20 May**.

Private and cooperative education is provided by institutions created by natural or legal persons of a private or cooperative nature and does not benefit from any subsidy from the State. Private and cooperative education establishments that are compatible with the general principles, structures and objectives of the education system are part of the school network. Private and cooperative education establishments may adopt curricular plans and syllabus of public education or adopt their own plans and programmes, provided that they comply with the requirements of the preceding paragraph and are approved by the Ministry responsible for education.

164. Schools differ substantially in infrastructure and in human, material and financial resources. These disparities suggest either the absence of rules for equitable resource allocation or serious difficulties in applying them, reflecting weaknesses in State planning and management capacity.

One of the main reasons for the poor monitoring of the education system is the lack of complete data for the sector. The data available relate only to general education levels. They are not available for all school years, do not contain all the useful variables and are generally not exhaustive. As a result, it is not possible to carry out some analyses that could allow a better understanding of the difficulties of the sector. In some cases, it is a whole sub-sector that is without information (Higher Education, Technical Education and Vocational Training, Literacy).

165. The education sector has been underfunded for several years, which is a limiting factor in its development. 97% of the sector's public resources are used to cover the costs of staff salaries, which leaves no room for manoeuvre for spending on the quality or capacity building of administrative structures, let alone schools.

166. Like other developing countries, Guinea-Bissau has committed itself to ensuring quality education for all children. This commitment has been taken up in the basic law of the education system and has made education a right.

167. Education is expected to catalyse the emergence of the country, ensure equal access and success for all, contribute to the development of every citizen, and support efforts towards democracy and social progress. With a view to addressing the dysfunctions

¹¹⁴ N° 3 do artigo 49° da CRGB

found, the government has decided to implement an education sector development programme (2016-2025).

168. This perspective is in line with the desire already expressed in the past, to achieve universal basic schooling by 2025 and thus to place the country in a process of poverty reduction and sustainable economic and social development.

169. The State gradually promotes free and equal access for all citizens to the various levels of education. The State proposes to provide equity in basic education, a central axis of the new policy.

170. The long-term goal is for children in Guinea-Bissau to have a 9-year schooling. This ambitious goal cannot be achieved by 2025, and it is for this reason that it has been defined that 100% of children in an age group enter the 1st cycle of basic education, continue their education in the 2nd cycle of basic education and complete it in 2025, and that the foundations are laid to allow the continuation of studies for a growing number in a reformed 3rd cycle of basic education. There are, however, multiple obstacles to the development of inclusive practices in schools.

171. Education offers significant opportunities for Guinea-Bissau's development, but major problems remain. Despite efforts by successive governments, international partners and civil society, the education system does not yet ensure access for the entire population. In 2021, 48.9% of the population was illiterate. Many children, particularly girls, never enrol or leave school early, and non-completion of compulsory education remains widespread.

172. In fact, it appears that more than 96% of children in the 2nd year are older than the required age (7 years). In fact, the average age of children at this level is 11 years. With these late entries and the high frequency of failures, it can be seen that in the 5th year, almost all students (98%) are older than the required age (10 years). The average age at this level is 15 years.

173. Thus, in the classes of the second cycle of basic education, a double problem arises: on the one hand, students of advanced age live with students who are still very young, a situation that can be difficult for teachers to manage. On the other hand, these students reach an age when opportunity costs are of great importance (work for boys and marriage for girls), leading them to leave education without having had time to acquire the basic skills necessary throughout their lives. (*Guinea-Bissau 2025 Report on the ICESCR, p. 64*)

ARTICLE 13: Economic rights and social protection

174. The Constitution of the Republic and other ordinary laws guarantee equality between men and women in various economic activities, including access to employment.

175. Despite a challenging cashew campaign, Guinea-Bissau's economy remained resilient in 2024, with real GDP growth reaching 4.8%, slightly above the 4.4% rate in 2023. Inflation moderated to an average of 3.8% in 2024 from 7.2% in 2023. The budget

deficit improved to 7.3% of GDP in 2024, driven by expenditure controls and increased donor grants, despite revenue collection being lower than anticipated. Public debt rose to 82.3% of GDP, reflecting high financing needs and worsening financial conditions in the regional market¹¹⁵.

176. The Economic Update highlights that the fiscal pressure in Guinea-Bissau remains low and well below the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) convergence criterion of 20% of GDP. One of the immediate priorities is to rationalise the country's multiple tax expenditures, including broadening the VAT (Value Added Tax) base, strengthening Personal Income Tax and Corporate Income Tax, adjusting fuel and alcohol tax rates, and improving transparency and supervision mechanisms.

177. *"By implementing these reforms, Guinea-Bissau can create fiscal space to meet the growing need for quality public services, especially in the priority areas of health, education and infrastructure."*

178. For 2025-2028, the outlook is favourable, but subject to risks – growth is projected to average 5.1%, assuming favourable cashew production, strong activity in the services sector and continued investment in key infrastructure projects. The report also foresees an improvement in the fiscal position supported by revenue-based fiscal consolidation. The improvement in the debt path depends on a major fiscal consolidation in 2025, which can only be achieved with strong political commitment.

179. *"Strengthening revenue mobilisation is crucial for Guinea-Bissau to achieve sustainable economic growth."*

180. "Guinea-Bissau has demonstrated commitment to the implementation of the programme under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangement. The reform agenda includes an ambitious fiscal consolidation plan to support inclusive growth, along with an effort to preserve debt sustainability and implement structural reforms and governance to strengthen state capacity. While the economic recovery is expected to continue, downside risks remain with constraints stemming from persistent weaknesses, uncertainty in the global economy with potential adverse spillovers to cashew exports, food and energy prices, and climate shocks. In this context, strong ownership of the programme by the authorities and the implementation of reforms will be crucial to catalyse additional donor support. The performance of the programme has been satisfactory.

181. Five of the eight quantitative performance criteria (QDs) for March 2023 have been met. The government has taken corrective measures, including strengthening spending controls, selling 5G licences and rationalising tax expenditures, to meet the end-2023 targets. Progress has been made across the reform agenda and the authorities have proposed four new structural benchmarks to accelerate the professionalisation of tax administration, reintroduce spending controls and improve the governance of state assets. The addition of a quarterly assessment this year will ensure close monitoring for better

¹¹⁵ worldbank.2025, *Guinea-Bissau Economic Update-Análise do Desenpenho das Receitas Fiscais na Guiné-Bissau, Primavera, 2025, pág.vii e ss*

policy management in a context of high uncertainty. The authorities' commitment to fiscal consolidation to meet the regional convergence criteria is commendable.

182. Such efforts, in support of fiscal and debt sustainability, include strengthening governance and management of public resources, mitigating fiscal risks, and relying on highly concessional financing. The successful implementation of reforms to strengthen governance and anti-corruption structures are crucial for the success of the programme.

183. The authorities adopted transparency commitments related to COVID-19 emergency expenditure, including the publication of the audit carried out by a third party and information on the beneficial owners of public procurement, and made progress on the Court of Auditors' priority audits. The authorities also made progress in mitigating the utility company's budgetary risks and remain committed to modernising the asset reporting regime and the framework of Law No. 3/2018 on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism. Additional efforts are also needed to increase economic diversification and ensure the effective management of banking vulnerabilities."

Social Protection:

184. Guinea-Bissau seeks to strengthen social protection, but expenditure and coverage remain limited, particularly beyond retirement pensions. Progress requires greater public investment, stronger non-contributory mechanisms and expanded cash-transfer programmes, given widespread poverty and vulnerability.

185. Social protection¹¹⁶ is virtually non-existent in Guinea-Bissau. The pension scheme consists of three schemes: (i) a compulsory contributory scheme for civil servants; (ii) a non-contributory scheme for former combatants; and (iii) a contributory scheme covering workers in private and public companies. Coverage is very low: only 2.8% of workers participate in contributory schemes. Only 3.9% of older people (over 60) receive a pension. However, total expenditure on the three schemes was in the order of 1.6% of GDP in 2015. Demographic pressure in the public sector is expected to force the state to reform the existing system in the medium term. Over the next fifteen years, more than 13,000 people in the civil service will exceed the statutory retirement age, i.e. double the number of current beneficiaries.

Current Situation and Low Coverage and Expenditure

186. Social protection coverage in Guinea-Bissau is very low, around 2.5%, when compared to the African average of 17.4%. Public expenditure is incipient, representing only 0.8% of GDP in 2023, and financed almost entirely by external partners.

¹¹⁶ Birgit Embalo, 2020, in *relatório final: Necessidade de Integração de Abordagem de Género no Quadro Legal da Guiné-Bissau, Estudo Avaliativo*, pág. 117, rodapé

Limited Focus:

187. The current social protection system is weak and contributory protection is limited to a small minority in the formal sector, not reaching the most vulnerable.

High Poverty:

188. Almost half of the population (47.7%) lives in poverty, with a greater concentration in rural areas.

Challenges and Needs- Funding:

189. The implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy requires a significant increase in public funding for Social Protection expenditure.

Non-contributory mechanisms:

190. It is essential to establish non-contributory mechanisms, such as direct transfers to households, to expand coverage and increase social security for the poorest.

External Threats:

191. The country faces risks such as economic shocks, pandemics, and political crises, which increase the need for a robust social protection system.

The way forward - Strengthening Public Investment:

192. The state should increase its investment in social protection to approach the levels of other African countries.

Implementation of the National Strategy:

193. The Strategy for the Implementation of the National Social Protection Policy (PNPS) is the main roadmap for progress, requiring a commitment to its implementation.

Equity and Access:

194. The aim is to create a system that is transparent, well-managed and accessible to all, and guarantees a minimum level of subsistence and poverty reduction.

195. Law No. 04/2007 establishes the national legal framework for social protection with the aim of reducing poverty, food and nutrition insecurity and the vulnerability of the populations of Guinea-Bissau through Non-Contributory Social Protection, Contributory Social Protection and Complementary Social Protection. It is in this sense that the Government and its development partners intend to provide the country with harmonised

legal instruments to create a National Social Protection System resilient to shocks in the protection of citizens in situations of poverty and vulnerability.

196. In addition, in order to further strengthen the existing legal framework of Law No. 04/2007, the Government of Guinea-Bissau felt the need to develop a National Social Protection Policy (PNPS) and its corresponding Implementation Strategy. As a result, the Government institutions, through the mandated Ministries of Women, Family and Social Solidarity and Public Administration, Employment, Vocational Training and Social Security, worked with the United Nations System in Guinea-Bissau (more specifically with *UNICEF*) to develop the respective Policy that was approved at the Council of Ministers meeting on June 27, 2024.

197. With the drafting and approval of the PNPS, there is an urgent need for its effective implementation. To this end, the newly formed inter-ministerial coordination team, under the leadership of the Prime Minister's Office, has held two South-South experience exchanges with Cabo Verde and Burkina Faso to lay the foundations for the establishment of the National Social Protection Council and its respective Secretariat, which is provided for in Law No. 04/2007 on the Social Protection Framework and in the PNPS, but has never been created. This valuable coordination will support the orientation of the Policy implementation process and ensure the effective participation of all social sectors, sectoral ministries, civil society, the private sector, development partners and key actors in the field of social protection.

198. The South-South exchange of experience allowed the team to acquire knowledge in various aspects of social protection, including social cash transfers to poor and vulnerable children and population, social health protection, productive social protection, free access to basic education, school feeding programme, contributory social protection, social and social work services, monitoring and evaluation aspects of social protection.

ARTICLE 14: Health and Reproductive Rights

199. Article 15 of the Constitution of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau in force states that "public health aims to promote the physical and mental well-being of populations and their balanced integration into the socio-ecological environment in which they live." It also states that public health "must be oriented towards prevention and aim at the progressive socialization of medicine and the medical and drug sectors."

200. Public health refers both to government policy and to the institutions responsible for implementing it. Its purpose is to promote physical and mental well-being. The Constitution therefore envisages a health policy that encompasses both physical treatment and psychological care.

201. Guinean law guarantees equality in the enjoyment of reproductive health rights and prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex or marital status¹¹⁷.

¹¹⁷ Art 3º da Lei n.º11/2010 sobre Saúde Reprodutiva e Planeamento Familiar, publicada em B.O n.º39, de 29 de Setembro de 2010.

202. In some parts of the country, women are prevented from making choices regarding their own reproductive health, almost all Health Centres in the interior of the country have recorded cases of women brought by their husbands for the removal of contraceptive implants or intrauterine devices, because they had been placed without the consent of the husband.

203. Similar phenomena are observed in relation to birth spacing, access to abortion, and sexual interaction, including within marriage. There is a clear need for continued awareness of men, women, and health professionals in this regard.

204. UNFPA has established five "men's clubs" to try to engage men in discussions about reproductive health rights, including family planning, and the eradication of gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation; but to date, these efforts have not been evaluated or implemented at scale.

205. Among women aged 15–49 who had a live birth in the two years preceding the survey, 93% received antenatal care at least once from a qualified health worker, and 70% attended at least four antenatal visits with a provider. Skilled personnel, such as a doctor, nurse or midwife, attended 44% of births, while 42% took place in health facilities.

206. In 2017, UNFPA's Guinea-Bissau office, together with the Ministries of Public Health and National Education, produced a flipchart on sexual and reproductive health, including family planning, FGM and gender-based violence. It provides accessible information on safe sexual and reproductive practices and their contribution to physical, psychological and social well-being.

ARTICLE 14 (1) (a): Women's right to fertility control

207. The right to freely choose contraceptive methods is guaranteed by Law No. 11/2010, the law that regulates reproductive health and family planning activities.

208. Paragraphs 1 and 2 of article 5 of the aforementioned Law tell us that "any person who has reached 18 years of age has the right to choose freely, responsibly and discerningly, between marrying or not marrying and starting a family. Any individual or couple has the right to procreate and is free to do so as he sees fit, except as provided by law".

209. Pursuant to Law No. 11/2010 of 29 September 2010 on Reproductive Health and Family Planning, Article 6 provides that every individual or couple has the right to information and education and the necessary means regarding the advantages, risks and efficiency of all methods of birth regulation.

210. In Guinea-Bissau, fertility, especially female, is an intrinsic cultural value, and childlessness or few children is not well valued by families. Women are reported to use contraception hidden from their partners. For contraception and family planning, the score is 75% due to partial provisions on contraceptive services 80% and on emergency contraception 75%. The score for sex education is 50% due to the lack of legislation on

sex education programmes, although sex education is included in the school curriculum¹¹⁸.

211. The data indicate that a proportion of women of childbearing age (15-49 years) uses modern family planning methods is 60% in 2019. This proportion was 55.7% in 2014 and decreased to 20.6% in 2018-2019. The methods used are - Female sterilisation, IUD, Injections, Implants, Pill, Male condom, Female condom, Diaphragm/foam/gel, coitus interruptus, periodic sexual abstinence and traditional methods to avoid pregnancy, such as the cord ("sitico" piece of wood extracted from the base of the "pestle") and tied at the waist.

212. In 2017, UNFPA's Guinea-Bissau office, in cooperation with the Ministries of Public Health and National Education, produced a flipchart covering sexual and reproductive health, family planning, FGM and gender-based violence. It supports professionals in delivering clear and accessible awareness-raising sessions.

ARTICLE 14 (1) (b): Right to decide on maternity, the number of children and the spacing of births

213. Enforcing constitutional principles, especially that of equality, Law No. 11/2010, which regulates reproductive health and family planning activities, in article 3, guarantees everyone this right without discrimination and in article 4 provides that, "couples and individuals have the right to decide freely and with discernment issues that have to do with reproductive health and the number of children and spacing of the birth of their children and to have access to better reproductive health". The right to information and education regarding the means necessary for the advantages, risks and effectiveness of all methods of birth regulation (Law No. 11/2010).

214. The UNFPA flipchart also provides health professionals with a simple resource for raising awareness of sexual and reproductive health.

215. The law supports health professionals and women of reproductive age, whether married or unmarried, in exercising these rights. NGOs, specialist associations and international partners, particularly UNFPA, play an important role in promoting awareness.

216. See 5.5., on reproductive health (tables 34 and 35) and Map 9, Annex: INASA, 2022, Statistical Yearbook of Health, pages 24 and 25.

Table 34: Contraceptive use in 2022

REGIONS	Family planning: first visit	Family planning: repeat visits	Rate (%) of contraceptive use
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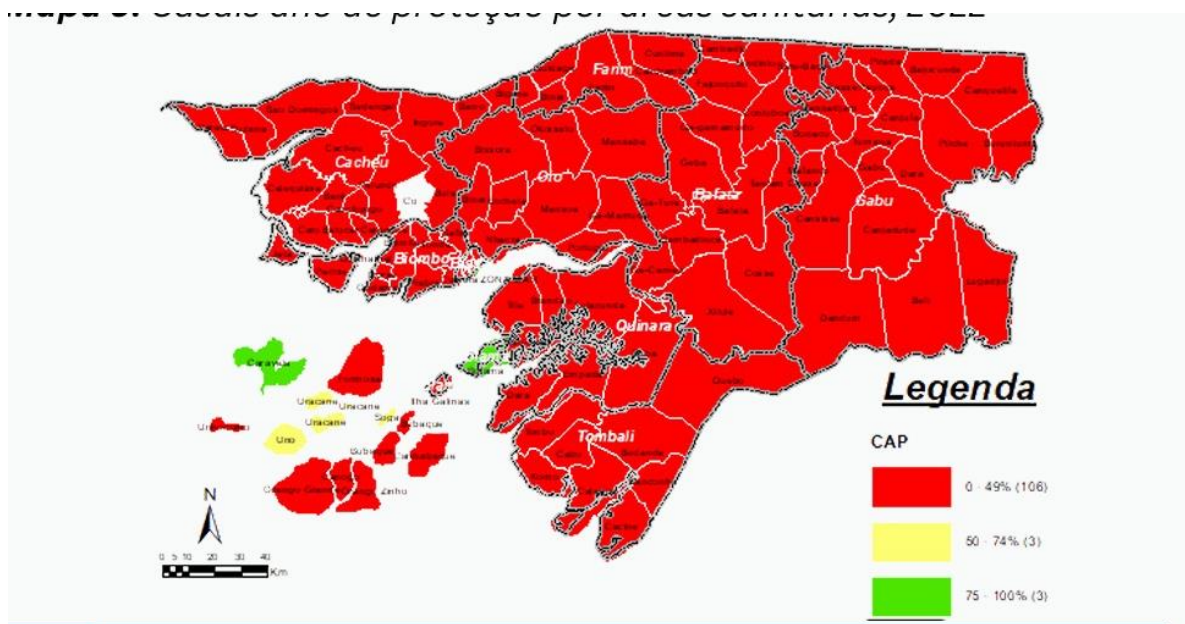
¹¹⁸ Exame Voluntário Nacional, República da Guiné-Bissau, 2022, págs. 77

National	15,542	11,054	5.9
BAFATA	2,423	1,490	5.7
BIJAGOS	605	653	21.5
SCREEN	468	305	3.2
BOLAMA	375	610	31.5
CACHEU	1,766	1,649	6.5
GABU	2,471	1,457	6.0
FARIM	865	546	9.0
OIO	1,140	796	3.6
QUINARA	1,087	750	9.9
SAB	3,461	2,01	4.7
TOMBALI	881	780	5.9

Table 35: Couple-years of protection by method, 2022

REGIONS	Pills: No. of users	Condoms distributed	Depo-Provera	Implants inserted	IUDs inserted	Total CYP	% CYP
National	227	1,299	1,000	49,176	2,309	54,012	12
BAFATA	36	0	138	6,779	262	7,215	11
BIJAGOS	20	210	40	2,303	18	2,591	44
SCREEN	1	28	24	1,307	9	1,370	6
BOLAMA	19	271	23	1,398	23	1,734	55
CACHEU	8	57	145	5,955	262	6,428	12
GABU	27	423	96	7,752	248	8,545	13
FARIM	3	18	16	3,933	32	4,002	26
OIO	13	53	67	3,279	97	3,508	7
QUINARA	25	2	113	2,964	64	3,168	17
SAB	67	215	268	10,659	1,164	12,372	11
TOMBALI	10	22	71	2,846	129	3,077	11

Map 9: Couple-years of protection by health area, 2022



ARTICLE 14 (1) (c): Right to freely choose contraceptive methods

217. Guinea-Bissau law states that all individuals are equal with respect to their right to reproductive health and may not be deprived of their right or discriminated against on grounds of sex or marital status. The right to information and education regarding the means necessary for the advantages, risks and effectiveness of all methods of birth regulation (Law No. 11/2010).

218. Regarding the contraception rate, data from 2014 indicate that 84% of the population does not use any contraceptive method; 1.2% affirm "periodic abstinence", and among the modern methods – used by 14.4% of the population surveyed, the following stand out: - Female sterilisation 0.2%; IUD 3.5%; Injections 1.4%; Implants 3.3%; Pill 1.5%; Male condom 1.5%; Female condom 0.2%; Diaphragm/foam/gel 0.5%; Others (LAM) 2.4%.¹¹⁹

219. In terms of behavioural comparisons, see 5.5. (tables 34 and 35) and Map 9, relating to Annex: INASA, 2022, Statistical Yearbook of Health, pages 24 and 25.

ARTICLE 14 (1)(d): Women's right to self-protection and protection from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS

220. The National Council for the Fight Against AIDS (CNLS) is the political body at the national level that defines the main guidelines and decisions, and is carried out by the National Secretariat for the Fight Against AIDS (SNLS), which is the national structure for the coordination, planning and monitoring of the national response to AIDS in Guinea-Bissau. In each region there is a Regional Council for the Fight against AIDS (CRLS). The regional government is the executive body for the fight against *AIDS*. In each sector there is a sectoral coordination cell, an essential component of the structures for the

¹¹⁹ Helena Lima, 2018, *Relatório final cplp Opção B+*, págs 27 e 28.

implementation of activities at the sector level. Management also includes the Coordination of interventions by companies and trade unions, the Forum of civil society organisations and the coordination structures of the Partnerships.

221. At the level of the United Nations System, the United Nations Development Assistance Plan and the Joint United Nations Programme for the Response to HIV are the bodies present in the country, in addition to the National Coordination Body of the Global Fund to fight *AIDS*, tuberculosis and malaria (Multisectoral Coordination Committee - CCM).

222. In response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the country developed a series of strategic plans. The first prevention actions in the country were carried out at the Simão Mendes National Hospital in 1987. The National Strategic Plan to Fight HIV/AIDS III (PEN III, 2015-2020) drew its major guidelines from the country's development vision, the National Strategy Document for Poverty Reduction (DENARP II) and its different sectoral strategies. The basis of this Plan are the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the *New York Declaration* on universal access to quality services in prevention, treatment for HIV-positive people, elimination of mother-to-child transmission, respect for human rights and emphasis on gender-related aspects.

223. UNFPA's Guinea-Bissau office produced a flipchart in 2017 with the Ministries of Public Health and National Education. It covers sexual and reproductive health, family planning, FGM and gender-based violence, explaining how safe practices can support the physical, psychological and social well-being of individuals and families.

224. Consistent condom use helps protect women against HIV transmission and reinfection. Implementation of Law No. 5/2007 of 10 September on the Prevention, Treatment and Control of HIV/AIDS is hindered by high illiteracy and limited schooling among women. The report also discusses polygamy, including religiously recognised unions allowing up to four wives where the husband can support them, and informal polygamous relationships across religious and ethnic groups. Among people aged 15–49, 44.0% of women and 25.8% of men are reported to be in polygamous unions. It further reports that some married men seek casual or other partners, or have relations with another wife, while their wives are breastfeeding.

On the epidemiological level

225. Guinea-Bissau has the highest HIV prevalence rate in West Africa (3% of people aged 15–49 live with HIV), while antiretroviral therapy coverage in the country is one of the lowest. Only 33% of the 44,000 people living with HIV receive antiretroviral treatment.

225a. Young women are almost twice as likely to be HIV-positive as young men, with sex workers and pregnant women recording prevalence rates of 8.9 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively. Adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable, but antiretroviral

treatment coverage among pregnant women living with HIV decreased from 66 per cent in 2016 to 57 per cent in 2020¹²⁰.

225-B. Pregnant women have a high rate of infection. However, of those infected, 83% are recorded as having received antiretrovirals to prevent transmission of HIV from mother to baby in 2014.

225-C. In 2016, it registered 2,392 mothers who need care to prevent mother-to-child transmission. Of these, 1,571 mothers benefited from care in 2015, representing a coverage of 67.8%.¹²¹

225-D. The overall trend in HIV infections is decreasing, but remains a particular concern among women who contract the virus significantly more in every year. In 2020, for every 1,000 HIV-negative people aged 15 to 24, there were 1.03 new infections; among women, there were 1.48 new infections per 1,000 HIV-negative women. For the same year, when we consider the 15-49 age group, we have respectively.

On the behavioral level

226. Most women in Guinea-Bissau have heard of AIDS: 93% of those aged 15–24 and 91% of those aged 15–49. However, only 15% of young women aged 15–24 have comprehensive knowledge of HIV prevention. Of these, only 43% correctly identify all three routes of mother-to-child transmission. Only 8% of young women expressed accepting attitudes towards people living with HIV.

227. The survey found that 80% of young women aged 15–24 had had sexual intercourse. Of these, 61% reported sex with a non-marital, non-cohabiting partner during the preceding twelve months. Among that group, 47% reported using a condom during their most recent sexual encounter with such a partner.¹²²

228. The importance of Traditional Medicine Practitioners (PMT) in the daily health and response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Guinea-Bissau is significant. The population has easy access to and total trust in the Healer, or PMT. There is a large number of Healers (Djambacus) in Guinea-Bissau. They are people who have the trust of the population, and are generally the first to be sought in cases of complex or simple diagnoses that are confirmed in health services. For example, when a (married) woman faces difficulties in getting pregnant, she usually goes to the sacred places (iran, balobeiro and djambacus).

229. The country has laws and regulations that ensure full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health care, information, and education for women and men aged 15 years and older. In the area of maternity care, the score is 85%, due to a total absence of legal provisions on post-abortion care. For contraception and family planning, the score is 75%

¹²⁰Relatório Anual, UNICEF, 2022

¹²¹Secção de Direitos Humanos (UNIOGBIS-SDH) -ACNUDH Relatório sobre o Direito à Saúde na Guiné-Bissau, abril de 2017, págs. 30.

¹²²Saúde reprodutiva, INE, 2022, págs.19

due to partial provisions on contraceptive services (80%) and emergency contraception (75%). The score for sexuality education is 50% due to a lack of sexuality education awareness programmes, although sexuality education is included in the school curriculum. Finally, the score on HIV and HPV is 65% due to partial provisions on HIV counselling and testing services (80%) and HIV treatment and care services (80%), as well as a lack of laws on HPV vaccination. Obstetric complications continue to be high¹²³.

230. By 2030, the country aims to end the preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, seeking to reduce neonatal mortality to no more than 12 per 1,000 live births and mortality of children under 5 years of age to no more than 25 per 1,000 live births, combating diseases such as diarrhoea, pneumonia and malaria, which are still among the leading causes of death in children under 5 years of age¹²⁴.

231. The work of the Cému e Terras Association and the Cumura Hospital is a reference of the Ministry of Health. The Cému e Terras Association, present since 2001 in Guinea-Bissau, started the Prevention Programme for Vertical Transmission in 2002, with the so-called **Option A**: it introduced VT prophylaxis with a single dose of Nevirapine at the beginning of labour and in newborns up to the first 72 hours of life. Also in 2002, it provided counselling, rapid tests, guidance, nutritional and drug support to HIV+ patients in Bissau, the capital of Guinea-Bissau, becoming a national and international reference.

232. In 2008, the NGO launched a home-care project to improve adherence to HIV treatment among women. Women living with HIV who had received antiretroviral treatment were recruited as outreach workers to visit pregnant women starting treatment. The number of children tested was used as an indicator of improved adherence.

233. The Cému e Terras Association extended its area of intervention outside the Bissau Health Centres, to include the Mother and Child Centre of the Cumura Hospital, after having found that several pregnant women from different neighbourhoods of Bissau went to Cumura (14km from the centre of Bissau) for prenatal consultations (ANC). The Cumura Hospital, located 14km from Bissau, is maintained by Caritas Italiana, historically houses seriously ill patients, from leprosy, tuberculosis and AIDS. It serves about 2000 people per month, in particular HIV+ pregnant women. Many women prefer to go to Cumura so as not to be seen in the capital's AIDS services, because of prejudice. It is a reference institution for Guinea-Bissau and neighbouring countries.

234. Civil society organisations partner with the Government in implementing strategic interventions, including the following:

Information, Testing and Support Centre – CIDA/ Alternag: offers ART and voluntary testing services in SAB, Bafatá, Gabu, Oio, Quinara Tombali, Cacheu and Biombo, working preferably with pregnant women.

235. Guinean Association for Family Welfare: offers Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission services, counselling and testing, mobile clinic services, awareness raising and distribution of condoms to the community; ENDA – Offers services to vulnerable groups, sex workers and men who have sex with men, with mobile clinic work. The intervention area includes Bafatá, Gabu, São Domingo, Canchungo, SAB.

236. AGMS – Guinean Association for Social Marketing, to promote the use of condoms throughout the country, preferably operating in SAB, Oio, São Domingos, Tombali and Quinara.

¹²³Vide *Exame Nacional Voluntário, Guiné-Bissau, 2022*, pág. 77

¹²⁴*Ibidem* pág. 285

237. National Network of Infected/Affected People (RENAP+/GB), which brings together 12 associations, 8 regional and 4 in Bissau of People Living with HIV and intervenes in the promotion of communication activities for behaviour change, home visits for PLHIV and psychological support. It operates in the regions of SAB, Bafatá, Gabu, Oio, Quinara, Tombali, Cacheu, Biombo, prioritizing work with pregnant women¹²⁵.

ARTICLE 14(1)(e): A woman's right to be informed of her partner's state of health, in particular in the case of sexually transmitted diseases

238. Under Article 142 of the Guinean Code of Civil Procedure (violation of secrecy), paragraph 1 provides as follows: "Whoever, without consent, reveals the secret of another person of whom he has knowledge by reason of his state, trade, employment, profession or art, shall be punished with up to one (1) year or a fine."

239. Disclosure of a partner's communicable disease depends on consent and good faith. Health professionals are bound by confidentiality and must seek consent before informing a partner; unauthorised disclosure may engage criminal liability under Article 142 of the CP. Law No. 5/2007 of 10 September on the Prevention, Treatment and Control of HIV/AIDS contains more specific confidentiality provisions, including for a spouse informed of the diagnosis.

ARTICLE 14 (1) (f): Women's right to family planning education

240. Every individual and couple has the right to the highest attainable quality of health care and to protection from practices harmful to reproductive health.

241. In support of constitutional norms and Law No. 11/2010, published in the 2nd Supplement to B.O. No. 39, of October 29, 2010, which regulates Reproductive Health and Family Planning activities, it reinforces women's rights to education on family planning, under the terms of article 6, "Any individual or couple has the right to information, education and the necessary means regarding the advantages, risks and effectiveness of all methods of birth regulation."

242. Institutions working on sexual and reproductive health have not fully met their objectives because of social and cultural barriers, high illiteracy and limited schooling, particularly among women. Accounts from different ethnic communities link these barriers to early pregnancy, low use of family planning and antenatal services, and limited attendance at health facilities for childbirth.

243. Data from 2014 indicate that 84% of the surveyed population did not use contraception and 1.2% reported periodic abstinence. Modern methods were used by 14.4%. Reported methods included female sterilisation (0.2%), IUDs (3.5%), injections

¹²⁵Helena Lima, 2018, *Relatório final GBissau, cplp 2018, Opção B+*, págs 27 e 28.

(1.4%), implants (3.3%), pills (1.5%), male condoms (1.5%), female condoms (0.2%), diaphragms, foam or gel (0.5%), and the lactational amenorrhoea method (LAM) (2.4%).

ARTICLE 14 (2) (a): Access to health services

244. Any individual or couple has the right to benefit from the best possible quality health care and not to be exposed to practices that harm reproductive health, as well as to access community-based, safe, effective, accessible and acceptable services (Law No. 11/2010).

245. The establishment of reproductive health structures is mandatory. The conditions for the establishment, approval, operation and control of reproductive health structures will be laid down by regulation. They must therefore pursue a non-profit objective subject to the specific provisions on private service provision structures.

246. The Government has partnered with the United Nations and the European Union to provide free services to pregnant women and children under five years of age, which was implemented by virtue of Order No. 001/SEGH/2014, of 13 August 2014. The reaction to this policy has been positive. However, some difficulties continue to exist and limit access, particularly in terms of costs to access health services.

247. See the Annex: Statistical Yearbook of Health, 2022.

ARTICLE 14(2)(b): Antenatal, Postnatal and Nutritional Services during Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

248. Order No. 001/SEGH/2014 of 13 August exempts children aged zero to five, pregnant women and older persons over sixty from consultation fees.

249. See 5.5. on Reproductive Health (**table 36** - coverage of prenatal consultations in 2022 and **map 10** - coverage of 4 prenatal consultations¹²⁶ by health areas; **table 38** - institutional births; **map 11** regarding the coverage rate of institutional births by health areas and **map 12** regarding the low birth weight rate by health areas), **INASA, 2022, Statistical Health Yearbook**, pages 25 and 26 respectively; **table 57** - identification and referral by Community Health Agents (ASC) of children under 1 year old who are not complying with the vaccination schedule; **table 58** – children from 6 to 59 months of age who are followed with MAUAC tape, by ASC, 2022, page 38; **table 59** – children from 6 to 59 months of age with malnutrition evacuated by ASC, 2022

¹²⁶ A OMS, recomenda oito consultas pré-natais para proteger melhor a saúde das mães e recém-nascidos.

Table 36: Coverage of antenatal visits in 2022

REGIÕES	Total de CPN	N.º Gravidas S. Ferro +Acido Fol	CPN 1. Visita	CPN 4. Visita	Cobertura CPN1 (%)	Cobertura CPN4 (%)	% Gravidas S. Ferro +Acido Fol
Nacional	182,544	173,851	57,714	25,446	63	28	95
BAFATA	32,864	32,399	9,950	5,232	71	38	99
BIJAGOS	2,947	2,608	672	509	56	43	88
BIOMBO	9,175	9,043	3,256	1,356	66	28	99
BOLAMA	1,108	1,108	256	201	40	31	100
CACHEU	22,017	21,452	6,246	3,289	58	31	97
GABU	28,870	28,186	10,119	3,610	76	27	98
FARIM	7,408	7,251	2,422	960	76	30	98
OIO	25,519	24,382	8,894	2,805	81	26	96
QUINARA	6,671	6,671	2,253	933	59	24	100
SAB	34,036	29,050	9,828	4,986	42	21	85
TOMBALI	11,929	11,701	3,818	1,565	66	27	98

Map 10: Coverage of 4 antenatal consultations by health areas, 2022

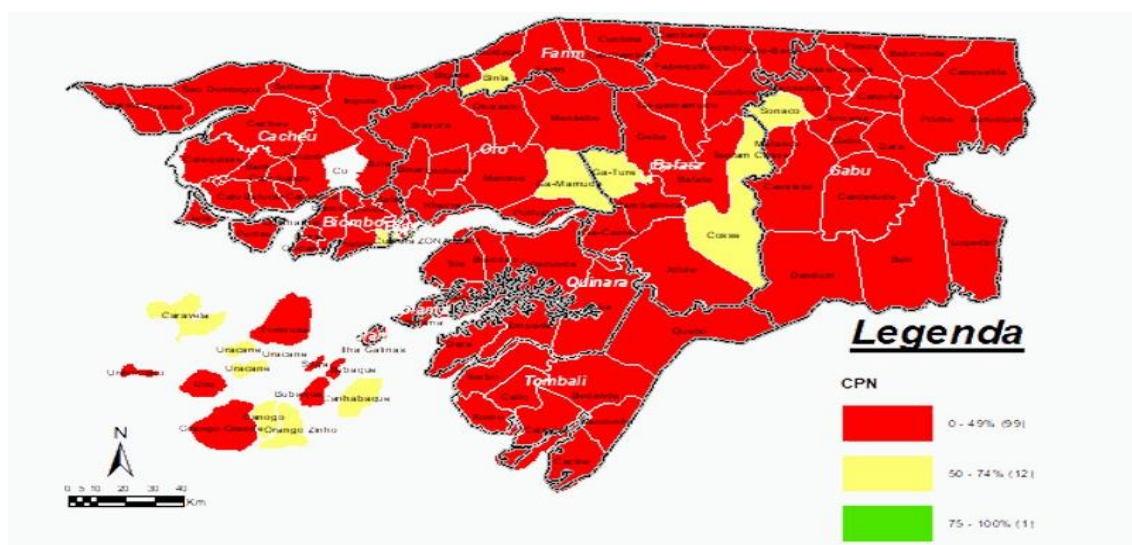
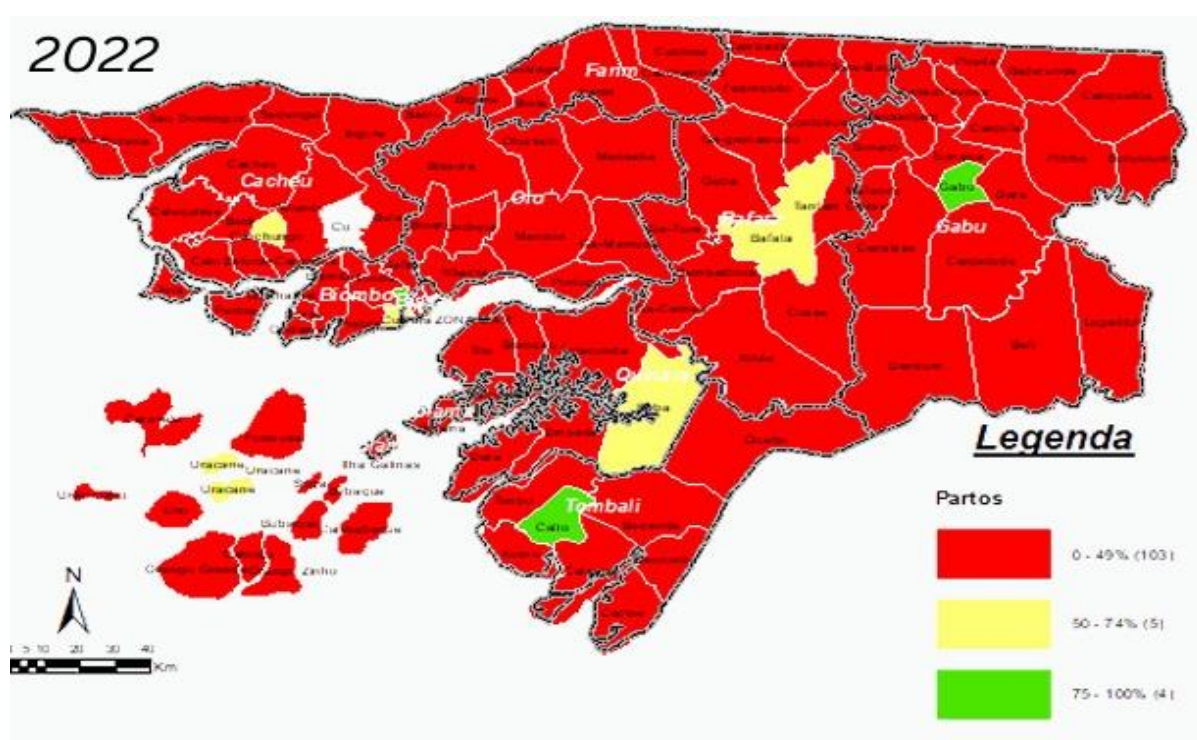


Table 38: Institutional deliveries, 2022

REGIÕES	Total de partos assistidos	Partos com distócias	Nados vivos	Nados mortos	Nados vivos c/ baixo peso (<2,5kg)	Cobertura (%) de partos institucionais	Proporção (%) de recém-nascidos com baixo peso
Nacional	33,428	731	33,220	1,740	3,853	36	12
BAFATA	4,451	352	4,663	316	587	32	13
BIJAGOS	406	0	402	19	5	34	1
BIOMBO	1,853	0	1,827	50	99	38	5
BOLAMA	141	0	137	4	8	22	6
CACHEU	2,920	57	2,921	107	211	27	7
GABU	5,075	149	4,970	350	728	38	15
FARIM	849	0	818	55	89	27	11
OIO	3,283	0	3,183	168	411	30	13
QUINARA	1,080	0	1,054	45	141	28	13
SAB	11,521	55	11,450	530	1,407	49	12
TOMBALI	1,849	118	1,795	96	167	32	9

Map 11: Coverage rate of institutional deliveries by health areas, 2022



Map 12: Low birth weight by health area, 2022

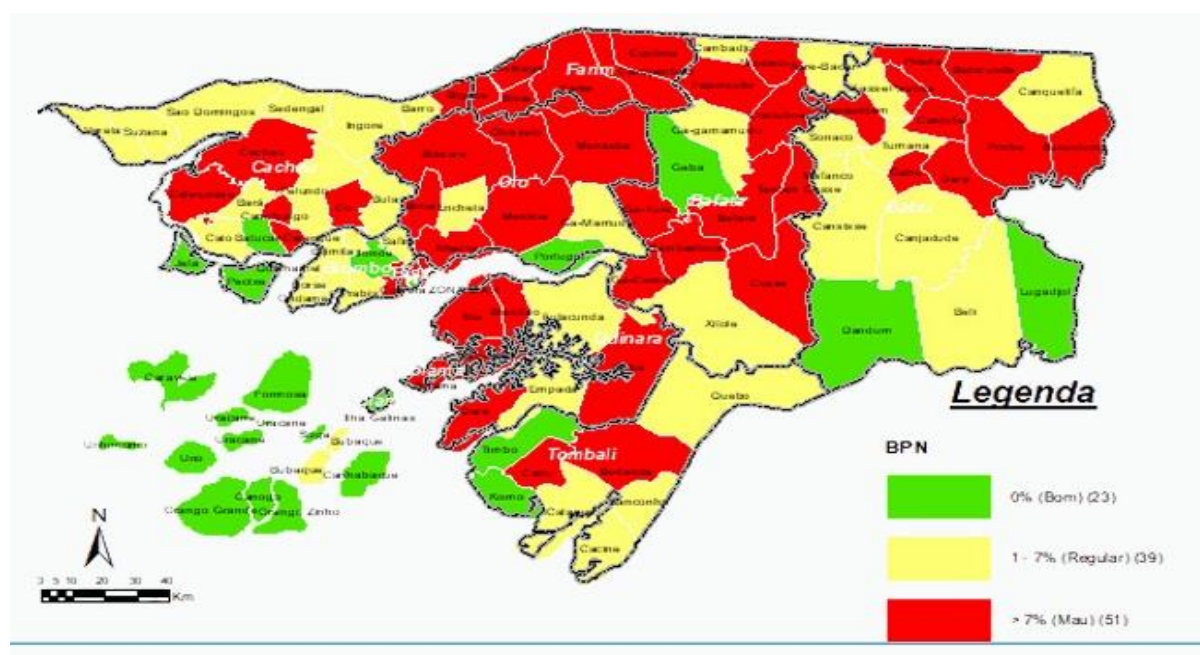


Table 57: Identification and referral by community health workers (ASC) of children under one year who are behind on their vaccination schedule, 2022

REGIÕES	Crianças < 1 ano identificadas pelo ASC que não estão a cumprir o calendário vacinal		Crianças < 1 ano de idade encaminhadas para a vacinação pelo ASC		%
	F	M	F	M	
Total	2,803	2,735	2,342	2,345	84.6
BAFATA	1,282	1,258	1,167	1,162	91.7
BIJAGOS	2	2	2	2	100.0
BIOMBO	15	13	13	11	85.7
BOLAMA	0	1	0	1	100.0
CACHEU	172	147	148	138	89.7
FARIM	60	63	60	62	99.2
GABU	151	150	145	148	97.3
OIO	762	776	659	677	86.9
QUINARA	33	29	31	27	93.5
SAB	134	98	18	17	15.1
TOMBALI	192	198	99	100	51.0

Table 58: Children aged 6–59 months screened using MUAC tapes by community health workers (ASC), 2022

REGIÕES	Crianças F/M dos 6-59 meses de idade recenseadas pelos ASC		Crianças dos 6 aos 59 meses de idade que são seguidas com fita MUAC		%
	F	M	F	M	
Total	25,523	24,929	20,415	20,079	80.3
BAFATA	5,434	5,395	4,189	4,137	76.9
BIJAGOS	294	287	197	200	68.3
BIOMBO	1,104	959	923	838	85.4
BOLAMA	109	116	93	100	85.8
CACHEU	4,452	4,177	3,624	3,462	82.1
FARIM	1,025	959	960	889	93.2
GABU	3,788	3,950	3,719	3,846	97.8
OIO	3,028	3,122	2,887	2,969	95.2
QUINARA	1,576	1,567	963	955	61.0
SAB	1,635	1,464	1,309	1,279	83.5
TOMBALI	3,078	2,933	1,551	1,404	49.2

Table 59: Malnourished children aged 6–59 months referred by community health workers (ASC), 2022

REGIÕES	crianças do sexo dos 6-59 meses de idade desnutridas no trimestre, pelos ASC		Crianças dos 6-59 meses de idade evacuadas com desnutrição		%
	F	M	F	M	
Total	4,880	5,013	3,343	3,564	69.8
BAFATA	2,781	2,603	1,288	1,222	46.6
BIJAGOS	5	6	5	6	100.0
BIOMBO	0	0	0	0	
BOLAMA	0	0	0	0	
CACHEU	93	214	93	214	100.0
FARIM	25	22	25	22	100.0
GABU	993	1,081	990	1,047	98.2
OIO	842	889	842	889	100.0
QUINARA	72	77	72	77	100.0
SAB	60	47	19	19	35.5
TOMBALI	9	74	9	68	92.8

250. See 5.3. Regarding Immunisation (**Table 30** - Vaccination Coverage, by Antigens, 2022; **Table 31** - Vaccination Coverage, by Antigens, 2022: **Map4** - BCG Vaccine Coverage, by Health Areas **Map5** - Coverage of 1st Dose of Pentaval Vaccine, by Health Areas, 2022, **Map 6** - Coverage of fully vaccinated children by Health Areas, page 22;

Table 33 - Polio vaccination campaign, 2022, page 23; **Table 23** - prevention of mother-to-child transmission, 2022, page 17; all, from the Annex, the Statistical Yearbook of Health, 2022, to the Report.

Table 30: Vaccination coverage, by antigen, 2022

REGIÕES	ANTÍGENOS							
	BCG	PCV13 1	PCV13 2	PCV13 3	Penta1	Penta2	Penta3	Rota 1
Nacional	79	80	76	73	80	76	74	79
BAFATA	93	83	75	70	81	75	70	81
BIJAGOS	49	64	60	67	66	63	68	63
BIOMBO	69	74	70	65	74	70	65	74
BOLAMA	37	44	46	45	44	47	45	44
CACHEU	53	77	73	72	76	74	73	75
GABU	96	96	90	85	96	90	85	95
FARIM	95	83	81	83	84	82	81	83
OIO	119	87	87	86	87	87	86	87
QUINARA	42	76	73	82	80	75	84	76
SAB	72	73	68	64	73	68	64	72
TOMBALI	43	79	74	73	79	74	72	79

(0%-49%)

(50%-74%)

(75%-100%)

Lacunas graves

Áreas por melhorar

Bons progressos

Table 31: Vaccination coverage, by antigen, 2022

REGIÕES	ANTÍGENOS							
	Rota 2	VAA	VPO 1	VPO 2	VPO 3	VPI	VAS1/R	C.C. Vac
Nacional	75	71	74	59	50	73	75	33
BAFATA	75	72	87	63	49	69	73	36
BIJAGOS	61	64	53	46	45	63	62	29
BIOMBO	71	53	57	50	47	65	54	24
BOLAMA	44	46	53	44	38	45	46	20
CACHEU	73	64	65	58	54	69	68	62
GABU	88	86	87	66	56	83	91	35
FARIM	80	86	56	55	60	81	84	18
OIO	86	78	85	67	51	85	99	44
QUINARA	74	62	73	59	49	86	62	44
SAB	67	68	65	54	46	64	69	23
TOMBALI	72	58	71	56	43	72	59	1

(0%-49%)

(50%-74%)

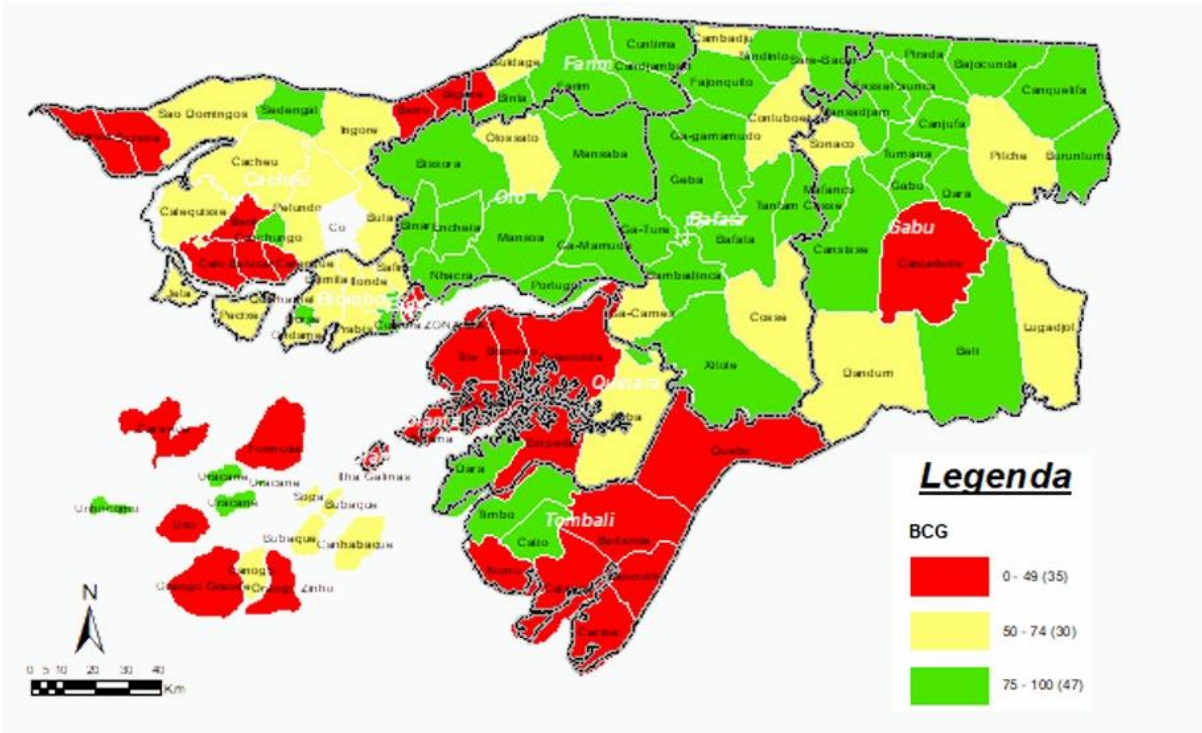
(75%-100%)

Lacunas graves

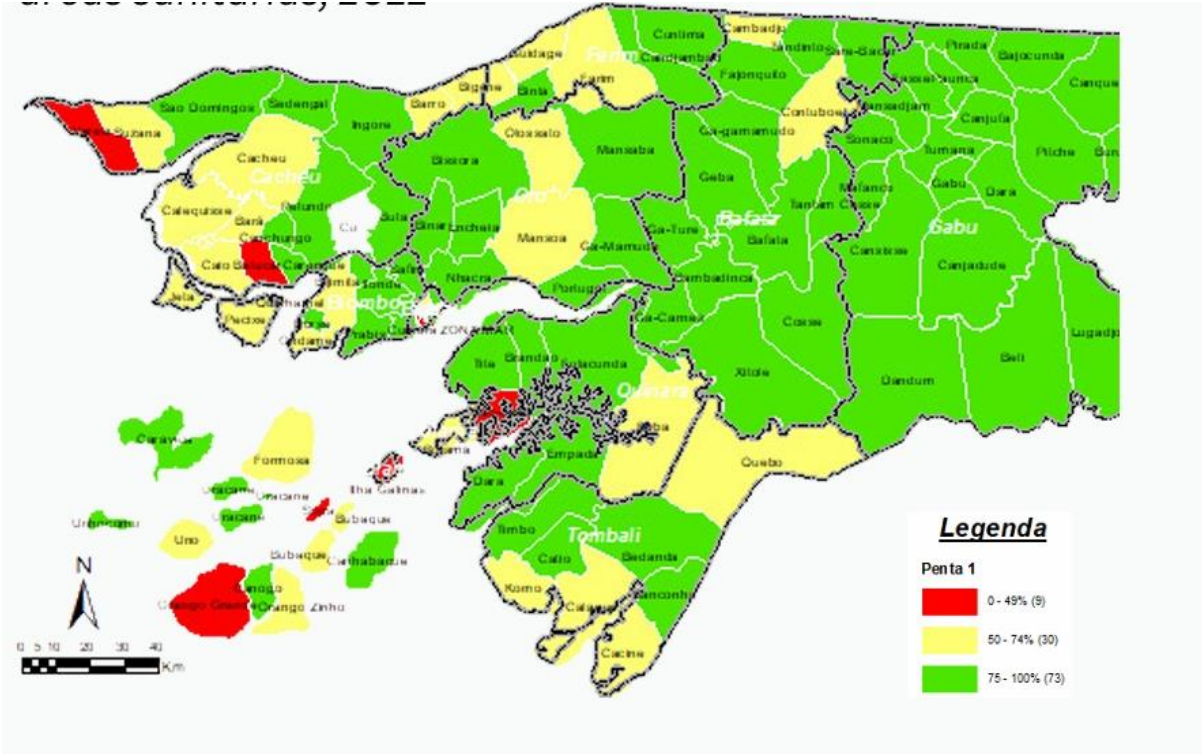
Áreas por melhorar

Bons progressos

Map 4: BCG vaccine coverage, by health areas, 2022



Map 5: Coverage of the first dose of penta 1 vaccine, by health areas, 2022



Map 6: Coverage of fully vaccinated children by health area, 2022

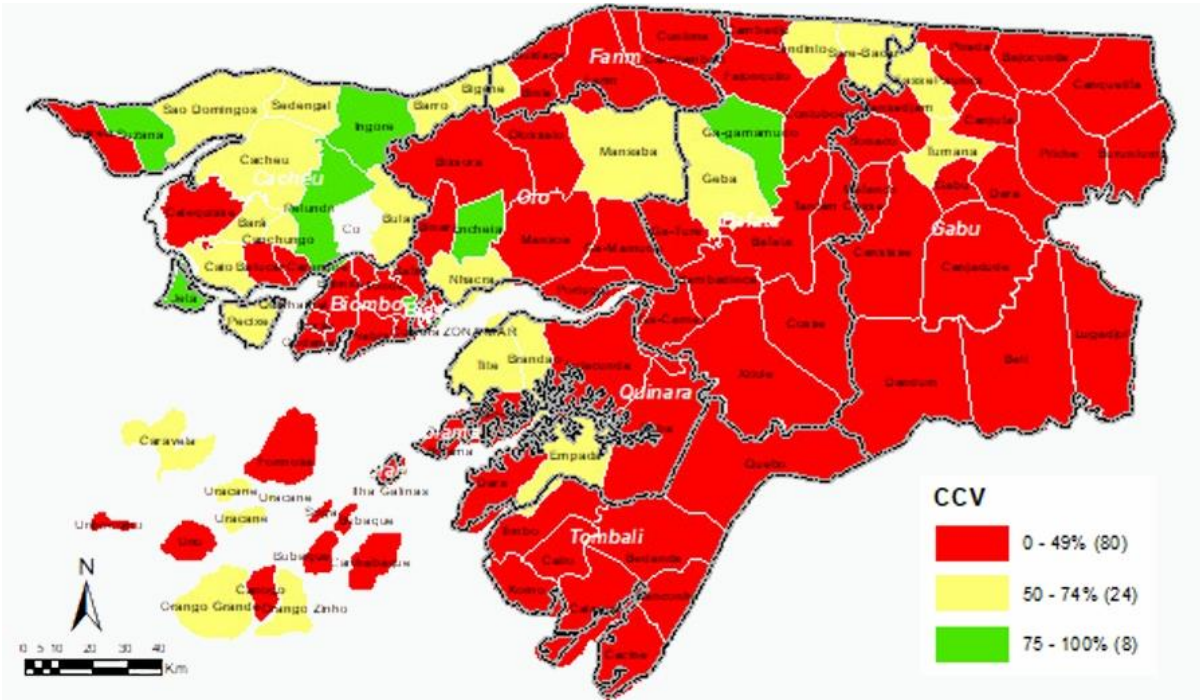


Table 33: Polio vaccination campaign, 2022

REGIÕES	Cobertura vacinal	
	Passagem 1	Passagem 2
Nacional	81	99
BAFATA	86	99
BIJAGOS	73	90
BIOMBO	90	107
BOLAMA	60	56
CACHEU	76	97
GABU	95	101
FARIM	96	99
OIO	84	97
QUINARA	94	98
SAB	63	98
TOMBALI	95	105

Table 23: Prevention of mother-to-child transmission, 2022

REGIÕES	Mulher grávida testada para o VIH	Total de Gravidas VIH+	Total de Gravidas introduzidas no TARV	Taxa (%) de despistagem do VIH	% Gravidas introduzidas no TARV
Nacional	55,640	995	828	96	83
BAFATA	10,019	185	136	101	74
BIJAGOS	575	1	1	86	100
BIOMBO	3,128	141	99	96	70
BOLAMA	262	3	7	102	233
CACHEU	6,042	26	56	97	215
GABU	9,674	78	78	96	100
FARIM	2,007	16	13	83	81
OIO	7,443	198	102	84	52
QUINARA	2,170	44	41	96	93
SAB	11,052	245	232	112	95
TOMBALI	3,268	58	63	86	109

251. Guinea-Bissau has one of the highest maternal and infant mortality rates in the world. According to the latest medical statistics for 2022, conducted with the support of the World Bank¹²⁷, there are an estimated 549 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. This number is notably higher in rural areas. However, progress has been observed since 2018, when the maternal mortality rate was recorded at 746 per 100,000 live births.

252. The shortage of qualified health workers is significant, with one doctor for every 16,382 people and each health facility serving more than 15,000 people.

253. The World Bank is implementing the \$25 million project "Strengthening the Delivery of Maternal and Child Health Services in Guinea-Bissau". This initiative has already achieved significant results: more than 94,000 women have received antenatal care; more than one million children have been vaccinated; more than 4,000 health workers have been trained; and essential medicines and public health facilities have been made available throughout the country.

254. In Gabú and Bafatá, two large regions in eastern Guinea-Bissau, maternal and infant mortality rates are high and access to health care in rural areas is limited. In both locations, the World Bank is supporting two homes that welcome pregnant women at risk during pregnancy, to ensure that they have access to health care, medicines, and meals.

255. The World Bank project has accommodated more than 2,500 women in maternity waiting homes and supported more than 113,000 births in health facilities attended by

¹²⁷ www.worldbank.org/pt/news/feature/2025/03/10/afw-ensuring-safe-motherhood-the-impact-of-casa-das-maes-in-guinea-bissau .Consultado, última vez, dia 20/10/2025

qualified personnel. It also supports childhood vaccination, malaria treatment and training in maternal and child health.

ARTICLE 14(2)(c): Abortion

256. Guinean criminal law does not prohibit abortion, requiring that the following requirements be observed cumulatively: consent of the pregnant woman, that the abortion act be carried out in an appropriate clinical facility and that the professional who performs the act is qualified, article 112/1 and 2 CP. The guarantees of the reproductive health system in which, "women enjoy the right of access to quality services to remedy complications arising from abortion" (art. 17 of Law No. 11/2010).

257. See 5.5.(Table 37- Abortion Service, 2022) of the Statistical Yearbook of Health, 2022, page 26, attached to this report.

Table 37: Abortion services, 2022

REGIÕES	TOTAL DE ABORTOS	ABORTOS EM < 20 ANOS	NÚMERO DE MULHERES FEITO AMIU	PROPORÇÃO DE ABORTOS POR 1000 GRAVIDEZES PREVISTAS
Nacional	1,449	195	253	16
BAFATA	191	32	29	14
BIJAGOS	22	3	0	18
BIOMBO	57	8	0	12
BOLAMA	14	1	13	22
CACHEU	224	22	64	21
GABU	279	51	142	21
FARIM	60	10	0	19
OIO	148	11	0	13
QUINARA	64	8	3	17
SAB	273	32	0	12
TOMBALI	117	17	2	20

ARTICLE 15: Right to Food Security

258. The definition of food security and nutrition agreed by Member States at the World Food Conference (Rome, 1996) states that, "Food security exists when people have permanent physical and economic access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food to meet their dietary needs and dietary preferences in order to lead active and healthy lives¹²⁸".

259. According to ESAN-CPLP, the main dimensions of Nutritional Food Security - **Availability** – Refers to the existence of a sufficient quantity of food, of adequate quality, to meet the consumption needs of the population and that is provided through domestic production (agriculture, livestock, fishing), imports (including food aid), or other food supply actions; **Access** – Refers to the ability of individuals to acquire food appropriate to a nutritious diet through adequate resources. Lack of access to food can be economic, when people cannot produce their own food or buy it in the market, or physical, when there is simply no food available where it is needed for consumption; **Use** – Refers to

¹²⁸ *Estratégia de Segurança Alimentar e nutricional –CPLP,2011, págs,16, 17*

compliance with minimum nutritional requirements. It concerns the use of food through an adequate diet, drinking water, sanitation and health care to achieve a state of nutritional well-being in which all physiological needs are met; **Stability** – It refers to the availability and stable access to food and adequate nutrition throughout the year. As can be seen, the definition of food security presented above, although more recent and having already incorporated aspects that other concepts have brought to this debate (namely the human right to adequate food and the concept of food sovereignty), considers (individual) access to food as a function of the ability of individuals to "acquire"¹²⁹ it.

260. Guinea-Bissau has adopted the Charter of Agrarian Development Policy; National Agricultural Investment Programme; National Food Security Programme; National Plan for Food Security and National Policy on Nutrition. These are national instruments, as well as Article 11 of the ICESCR and Article 29/1 CRGB contribute to the promotion of food security.

261. The National Food Security Programme (PNSA) was approved in 2008. Some measures were implemented, while others were delayed by various constraints. Recently, the PNSA was integrated into the National Agrarian Investment Plan (PNIA). The governance mechanism for food security is ensured by the Agrarian Policies Office of the Ministry of Agriculture.

262. The main vulnerable groups affected by hunger: children, pregnant women, small farmers, families headed by women. These groups are located in the regions of Quinara, Bolama, Oio, Biombo and Cacheu.

263. The difficulty in achieving the right to food is related in particular to the following: worrying levels of poverty, food insecurity and nutritional insecurity; high dependence on external aid, particularly in budgetary terms; lack of an institutional framework and institutional limitations in terms of human and financial resources and low level of social participation.

264. In this regard, the Government will make an effort and progressively create the necessary conditions as far as possible to achieve this objective, in particular the most vulnerable groups (pregnant women, children, etc.).

ARTICLE 16: Right to decent housing

265. There is no explicit provision in the Constitution of the Republic that enshrines the right to housing, nor is it explicitly in the ACHPR. The Resolution of the Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights with reference ACHPR/Res.231 (LII) 2012, issued in a specific context, combats illegal evictions and the protection of vulnerable groups.

266. Housing is recognised as a fundamental concern and has featured in successive government programmes. Cooperation between Guinea-Bissau and China has supported the construction of housing for male and female veterans of the liberation struggle. The Tenancy Law also protects tenants against eviction without judicial proceedings.

¹²⁹ *Ibidem*, pág.18

267. The 2030 Plan developed by the City Council and UN-Habitat and approved in 2019 may address some housing problems in the capital. Housing conditions in the regions, however, remain inadequate.

ARTICLE 17: Right to a positive cultural context

268. The CRGB enshrines that in article 17 that - It is a fundamental imperative of the State to create and promote favourable conditions for the preservation of cultural identity, as a support for national conscience and dignity and a stimulating factor for the harmonious development of society. The State preserves and defends the cultural heritage of the people, whose enhancement must serve progress and the safeguarding of human dignity.

269. The right to education is implicit in Article 24 of the CRGB, a general principle, and in Article 16 in the following terms: "Education aims at the formation of man. It must remain closely linked to productive work, provide for the acquisition of qualifications, knowledge and values that allow citizens to integrate into the community and contribute to its incessant progress", and, in the terms of paragraph 2, that "The State considers the elimination of illiteracy as a fundamental task".

270. To coordinate public action, the Government created a department responsible for culture, called the Ministry of Culture and Sports. The department undertakes to develop the national culture policy to better structure its intervention and strengthen the economic and social impact and effectiveness of the sector.

271. Guinea-Bissau became a member of *UNESCO* on 1 November 1974, of *WIPO* in 1991 and, since that date, has ratified the following international conventions on culture:

- a) Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, of 1886, as amended in 1979, ratified by Guinea-Bissau on 22 July 1991;
- b) Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, of 1972, ratified by Guinea-Bissau on April 21, 2005;
- c) Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage of 2001, ratified by Guinea-Bissau on 21 April 2008;
- d) Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2003, ratified by Guinea-Bissau on 21 April 2008;
- e) The revised Bangui Agreement¹³⁰ was signed by Guinea-Bissau in 2015, with the aim of establishing a uniform regime for the protection of literary and artistic property and industrial property among the 17 Member States.

¹³⁰ *Acordo que institui a OAPI (Organização Africana de Propriedade Intelectual, de 02 de março de 1977)*

f) The Statute of the Pan-African Intellectual Property Organisation was adopted in 2016, which requires signature and ratification, through Article 23 of that Statute. Guinea-Bissau has not signed or ratified yet.

272. At the legislative and regulatory level, Guinea-Bissau adopted Decree No. 28/87, on the obligation to legally deposit in the INEP library, and Decree No. 17/89, on the preservation of national archives.

273. In 2021, the Council of Ministers adopted the Law on Cultural Events, the object of which is the cultural spectacle defined as "the artistic activity organised in a defined space, covered or not, open to the public, where the public representation or performance of artistic or literary works is carried out". It covers: Dance, music, theatre, cinema.

ARTICLE 18: Right to a healthy and sustainable environment

274. The Kampala Convention states that States Parties shall prevent, where possible, displacement caused by projects carried out by the public or private sector; ensure that public and private actors shall explore all possible alternatives, based on information and consultation with persons likely to be forcibly displaced; and shall carry out socio-economic and environmental impact assessments of development projects prior to implementation. Guinea-Bissau is a State Party to the Kampala Convention.

275. The Convention on Access to Information, Participation in the Decision-Making Process and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention). Guinea-Bissau is a State Party to the Convention. Public participation in the environmental assessment process is also provided for in the Basic Law on the Environment, approved by Law No. 1/2011, of 2 March and in Law No. 10/2010, of 24 September, thus translating into an instrument of a fundamental nature for sustainable development that implies the participation of all citizens in the decision-making process in environmental matters. In addition, the State of Guinea-Bissau has adopted other important instruments, namely the Regulation on Public Participation in the Environmental Assessment Process (Decree No. 5/2017); Regulation on Environmental and Social Impact Studies (Decree No. 7/2017); Environmental Inspection Regulation (Decrees No. 9/2017); Environmental Licensing Regulation (Decree No. 8/2017).

276. Everyone has the right to live in an environment suitable for his or her health and well-being, and has the duty, both individually and in association, to protect and improve the environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

277. To defend this right and fulfil this duty, citizens must have access to information, have the right and participation in the decision-making process and have access to justice in environmental matters. In this context, the Northern Connectivity Project, **rehabilitation of the Safim-M'Pack Road** (work in progress). The public consultation was carried out from January 30 to March 31, 2024, which covered the sectors of Bula, Bigene, São Domingos, Canchungo and Bissorã, and was organised by villages. **554 people** were consulted, including **171 women** (30.87%) and **383 men** (69.13%). *in report of the study of the environmental, climate and social impact of the additional components identified in the rehabilitation framework of the Safim-M'Pack Road, final Portuguese version, 2024, page xxvi.* The purpose of this consultation falls within the scope of

Regulatory Decree No. 5/2017, on Public Participation in the Environmental Assessment Process.

278. Public participation in the preparation of generally applicable legally binding regulations and/or normative instruments is crucial.

279. The Basic Law on the Environment (Law No. 1/2011, 2nd Supplement to B.O. No. 9, of 2 March 2011); Law on Environmental Assessment (Law No. 10/2010, published in the 4th Supplement to B.O. No. 38, of 24 September 2010) and Regulatory Decrees Nos. 8, 10 and 9/2017; Framework Law on Protected Areas (Decree-Law No. 5-A/2011, Supplement to B.O. No. 9, of 1 March 2011).

280. The Constitution of Guinea-Bissau recognises the right to health as a fundamental right, and access to drinking water and adequate sanitation are seen as essential elements for the realisation of this right.

281. The right to a healthy environment is another fundamental right in the Constitution, and access to water and sanitation is crucial for the protection of this right, preventing contamination and environmental degradation.

282. That constitutional guarantee imposes on the State the obligation to adopt measures to ensure universal and equitable access to drinking water and sanitation, as well as the protection of these resources.

ARTICLE 19: Right to sustainable development, including the right to property; access to land and credit

283. The **Right to Sustainable Development** in Guinea-Bissau is a concept that integrates environmental protection, economic development and social justice. In the country, this right is intrinsically linked to the management of natural resources and the livelihood of the population, which is largely dependent on agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

284. Guinean legislation, such as the **Basic Law on the Environment (Law No. 1/2011)**, lays the foundations for sustainable development. However, practical implementation faces considerable challenges, such as lack of resources, institutional fragility, and limited access to technology.

285. Sustainable development in Guinea-Bissau is also conditioned by the need to reconcile large-scale projects with the needs of local communities, ensuring that economic progress does not compromise the environment or traditional livelihoods.

Right to Property and Access to Land

286. The right to **property** in Guinea-Bissau is a complex issue. The Constitution of Guinea-Bissau recognises and guarantees the right to private property. However, land ownership is often governed by a mix of formal laws and traditional customs, which creates challenges.

Property Law:

287. Although there are laws regulating ownership, much land is held under customary regimes, where decisions about use and tenure are made by community leaders.

Access to Land:

288. Access to land for subsistence farming is critical. However, increasing demographic pressure and foreign investor interest in large-scale agricultural projects raise questions about the security of land tenure for local communities. The absence of a robust national land registry and clear conflict resolution mechanisms exacerbates this situation.

Access to Credit

289. Access to credit is an essential pillar for economic development and poverty reduction in Guinea-Bissau. However, the majority of the population, especially in rural areas, has limited or almost no access to formal banking services.

290. Law No. 9/2008¹³¹ of 26 August regulates decentralised financial systems (SFDs). Article 1 defines these as institutions whose principal purpose is to provide financial services to people who generally lack access to banks and other financial institutions regulated by banking law. By 2013, five SFDs—DIVUTEC, ADIM, NIMBA, ADI and BAMBARAM—were operating in Bissau and other regions.

291. These efforts were supported by the Programme for the Reform of Savings and Credit Institutions (PARMEC), which provided a framework for authorising and regulating microfinance institutions (MFIs). Women are described as the principal beneficiaries of microcredit because of their reliability in meeting repayment commitments. **The lead institutions** are the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Integration.

Challenges:

292. Barriers to access to credit include lack of collateral (as land is not easily hypothecated), high interest rates, and distance from banks.

293. Initiatives: Microcredit programmes and savings and credit cooperatives are available that try to fill this gap. However, the scale and impact of these programmes are limited.

The Land Law (Law No. 5/98),

294. Approved in 1998, it is the main legal instrument that regulates the use and tenure of land in the country. It establishes that land is the property of the State and the common heritage of all people. This means that no individual or entity can be the "owner" of land in the traditional sense of the term, but can have the right of private use.

¹³¹ *Alterada pela Lei n°7/2018*

295. This law recognises and guarantees the right to private use of land to all citizens, without discrimination.

296. The law recognises that rights to land and natural resources can result from both law and custom. This is a fundamental provision as it validates traditional land tenure practices, which are the form of land governance for the majority of the rural population.

297. The Law provides for the creation of land commissions at national, regional and local levels, with the aim of managing land and resolving land conflicts. The intention is that these commissions, which include representatives of the State and local communities, act as a link between the formal system and customary practices.

The General Regulation of the Land Law (Decree No. 6/2018)

298. Although the Land Law was passed in 1998, its effectiveness was limited for many years due to the lack of regulation. **Decree No. 6/2018**, which approves the **General Regulation of the Land Law**, filled this gap, making the law more functional.

299. This regulation details how it should be implemented, including:

It defines the procedures for the assignment of private land use rights through concession, whether for agricultural, livestock or urban purposes; it establishes the procedures for the mediation and resolution of land-related disputes, whether through land commissions or other State bodies; and it introduces the land tax that aims to increase the effectiveness of land use and generate revenues for the State.

300. In addition, the Regulation reinforces the importance of local communities and their customs in land management, recognising their authority over the areas they traditionally occupy.

The Duality between Law and Custom

301. Despite formal legislation, land governance in Guinea-Bissau is dominated by customary law. Most land transactions, especially in rural areas, take place through informal arrangements, based on the tradition and authority of the chiefs of tabanca (village) and family lines.

302. This duality creates significant challenges, namely:

Insecurity of Tenure

The absence of formal land titles makes rural communities vulnerable to conflict and land grabbing by investors, both domestic and foreign;

Unequal Access

While formal law is gender-neutral, customary norms often restrict women's access to land. Rural women, who make up the majority of the agricultural workforce, often only

have land use rights through their husbands or paternal family, with no decision-making power or inheritance;

Conflicts

The coexistence of two land governance systems can cause disputes, particularly where rights overlap or customary decisions conflict with statutory law.

303. In summary, the Land Law and its regulation are crucial instruments for the modernisation of the land system in Guinea-Bissau. However, their effective implementation depends on the State's ability to harmonise legislation with customary practices, ensuring security of tenure for local communities and, in particular, for rural women.

ARTICLE 20: Widows' Rights

304. The principle of equality in Article 24 of the CRGB also underpins widows' rights. Both parents exercise parental authority and are responsible for the care, protection, education and maintenance of their unemancipated minor children. Under Article 1879 of the Civil Code, following the father's death, the mother represents the children, including unborn children, and administers their property.

305. Article 2018(1) of the Civil Code provides for maintenance of the surviving spouse from the income generated by the deceased spouse's estate. Maintenance encompasses food, housing and clothing under Article 2003(1). The maintenance entitlement must be registered where it encumbers immovable property or other property subject to registration.

The obligation to provide maintenance ceases if the surviving spouse remarries or becomes disqualified by conduct that the law deems to render them unworthy of the benefit.

306. With regard to succession, in the context of civil marriage, the surviving spouse is in the fourth position of classes of succession.

307. According to the study Customary Law in Force in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, conducted by the Faculty of Law of Bissau with the National Institute of Studies and Research (INEP), widows in many ethnic groups are traditionally required to leave the marital home unless they accept levirate marriage to a brother or cousin of the deceased husband. The study indicates that this customary practice, which conflicts with statutory law, is declining in urban centres.

ARTICLE 21: Right to inheritance

308. Article 14 CRGB enshrines the right to inheritance for all citizens. Despite the constitutional enshrinement, the right to inheritance of women outside formalized

marriage still remains unprotected, the reason being that the country is a society strongly influenced by traditional customs and traditions.

309. The Civil Code provides stronger inheritance protection in formally registered marriages than in customary marriages. The report states that a widow administers the household estate and receives half of the property under¹³² general community and community of acquisitions regimes. In separation-of-property regimes and customary marriages, it refers to Article 2018 on maintenance for the surviving spouse. This provision entitles the surviving spouse to maintenance from estate income, requires heirs or legatees to contribute in proportion to the value of the property received, and requires registration where the entitlement encumbers immovable or registrable movable property. The report interprets this protection as allowing a woman who lived with her husband, including where they had no children, to remain in the home and receive maintenance from the estate until her death or remarriage.

310. The report places a widow who was not formally married in the fourth class of heirs under Article 2133(d), after descendants, ascendants, siblings and their children. Article 24 of the CRGB guarantees equality without distinction of sex in inheritance from parents. In practice, limited legal awareness and customary practices may discourage women from claiming their inheritance.

ARTICLE 22: Special protection for older women

311. National legislation does not define an age at which a person is legally considered older. Civil service retirement and social security legislation nevertheless sets retirement at 60. Chapter XV, Article 12, of Decree-Law No. 12-A/94 of 28 February provides for compulsory retirement when an employee reaches that age.

312. Law No. 11/2010 requires individuals and couples to contribute to safeguarding, protecting and promoting the well-being of **the older persons**, adults, adolescents and children in their care.

313. Older persons traditionally hold a respected position within Guinean households. They are valued for their knowledge and life, professional and educational experience. In some ethnic groups, they are also custodians of local traditional knowledge.

314. Traditional family solidarity also means that older persons generally live within households where their children or other relatives provide care, protection and support¹³³.

315. However, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union adopted the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in 2016, but Guinea-Bissau has not yet signed or ratified it.

ARTICLE 23: Special protection of women with disabilities

316. Article 25 of the Constitution recognises equality between women and men, a guarantee that also applies to women with disabilities.

The National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity, approved in December 2017, does not expressly address women with disabilities. It presents a table showing the alignment of PNIEG Objective 4 with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and also highlights the relationship between PNIEG Objective 6 and the SDGs.

317. Guinea-Bissau has not signed the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in 2018, but recognises the importance of ratifying it.

ARTICLE 24: Special Protection of Women in Distress

318. Guinea-Bissau faces serious challenges in protecting women in distress, with gender-based violence (GBV) being a systemic problem that hinders development and has deep cultural roots. Although there are laws and initiatives, such as the Law Against Domestic Violence and support projects, their implementation is weak, and the context of poverty and lack of social protection aggravates women's vulnerability. Activists and international bodies such as UNFPA and the ILO warn of the need to strengthen social protection, ensure compliance with legislation and promote women's participation in decision-making for an effective fight against violence and discrimination.

319. Guinea-Bissau has a civil protection service responsible for responding to natural and human-induced disasters. Its response capacity, however, remains limited.

D. CHALLENGES

320. The constitutional guarantee of equality between women and men entails two principles. First, the National People's Assembly and the Government, which hold legislative powers, may not enact discriminatory laws. Second, the judiciary, the executive and all other public and private entities may not discriminate in applying the law.

321. Advancing women's rights therefore requires sustained attention and continuous action to respond to developments in human rights protection.

322. A further priority is to expand awareness and progressively address customary practices that *conflict with statutory law, particularly harmful traditional practices* affecting women's health.

Gender-Based Violence

323. Violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and female genital mutilation, remains widespread and undermines poverty reduction efforts.

Socio-economic Vulnerability

324. High levels of poverty, particularly among women, hinder access to social protection and increase vulnerability.

E. CONCLUSIONS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR THE COMING YEARS

325. Guinea-Bissau has adopted laws and measures to promote equality between women and men and to combat traditional practices that have harmed, and continue to harm, women and girls. Government priorities include progressively improving access to health care, reducing maternal and child mortality, expanding girls' access to education, and promoting literacy among women and girls. Further measures are needed to ensure access to credit for income-generating activities, safe drinking water and a satisfactory environment.

Guinea-Bissau has entered no reservations to the Protocol.

326. Develop specific mechanisms to promote women's participation in decision-making in public and private companies, together with gender-sensitive career progression criteria.

327. Introduce specific temporary measures, similar to those in the Parity Law, for recruitment and career progression in the civil service, to reduce numerical disparities between women and men in public administration.

328. Adopt measures to increase women's representation in decision-making positions and ensure that their needs are taken into account.

329. Strengthen cooperation with international partners to develop and improve the social protection system.

330. Review legislation on inheritance, divorce, land tenure and ownership.

331. Progressively address customary practices that conflict with statutory law.

332. Strengthen mechanisms that support women in exercising their rights.

333. Adopt policies and measures to improve access to education and vocational training for girls and women, develop their leadership skills and advance women's empowerment, thereby strengthening their participation in economic and political leadership.

334. Strengthen the National Institute of Statistics so that it can provide the data needed to inform, design, establish baselines for and evaluate policy initiatives.

F. ANNEXES



Constituição da República.pdf



Spl. ao BO n.º 39_1991 de 3 de Outubro APROVA LEI DE GREVE.pdf



BO1492_2 MANIFESTAÇÃO PÚBLICA.pdf



Lei relativa à violência Doméstica.pdf



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