

Distr.: General 3 October 2000 English Original: French

Letter dated 28 September 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my letter of 3 March 2000 (S/2000/201) in which I proposed, and members of the Security Council subsequently approved (S/2000/202), the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) until 31 March 2001.

As members of the Council will recall, in his letter to me dated 3 February 2000, President Kumba Yala requested that the mandate of UNOGBIS be extended "for at least two years" to help his Government cope with the post-electoral challenges that the new realities in Guinea-Bissau present. The President recently reiterated that request in discussions with my Representative.

Bearing in mind that events in Guinea-Bissau and the situation in the entire subregion continue to require the United Nations to play a constructive role in the consolidation of peace, I propose that the mandate of UNOGBIS be extended until the end of 2001.

This extension will enable UNOGBIS, in close cooperation with other members of the United Nations system in the field, to contribute further to the consolidation of democratic gains and help Guinea-Bissau lay the foundations for lasting peace and development.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan

00-67176 (E) 031000 031000