



Embassy of the United States of America

Dakar, Senegal

Ambassade des Etats-Unis

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**Remarks by U.S. Ambassador Janice L. Jacobs
Opening of Bissau Liaison Office
Bissau, Guinea-Bissau
July 6, 2007**

Madam Minister, esteemed guests, members of the press,

It is with great honor that I inaugurate today the Bissau Liaison Office of the United States Embassy in Dakar, Senegal. The office space and meeting rooms here are for the use of official U.S. government travelers to Bissau and our Bissau-based staff. We open this office today as the first step toward the re-opening of the United States Embassy in Guinea-Bissau.

Bilateral relations between our two countries remain strong, and our areas of cooperation are growing. Since free and fair presidential elections in 2005, Guinea-Bissau has continued to take steps to create conditions for stability, as well as democratic and economic development. The United States remains encouraged by the Government's willingness to address corruption and transparency, and we urge the Government to redouble efforts to fight drug trafficking.

In terms of assistance and cooperation, the United States continues to support demining and removal of unexploded ordnance; programs to fight HIV/AIDS; training and professionalization for select members of the military; promotion of cashew production and exportation; crop development and food security; and community development projects.

Earlier this year, our countries signed a tri-partite agreement with the Government of Brazil for capacity building and strengthening democracy in the National Popular Assembly. We continue to look for ways to fight drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau.

As we move forward with the re-opening of the U.S. Embassy, we expect the relationship to continue to grow. We hope to expand our cooperation and look for ways to work together to fight trafficking of children; improve earnings from cashew exports; and address security sector reform.

Muita obrigada.

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