

**JOINT CANADA, JAPAN, U.K., AND U.S. PRESS STATEMENT REGARDING  
SECOND-ROUND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN GUINEA-BISSAU**

The Chiefs of Mission of the Embassies of Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States accredited to Guinea-Bissau congratulate Guinea-Bissau on a successful second-round presidential election on July 26, 2009. The diplomats from the aforementioned embassies who served as international election observers believe the election to have been well-organized, well-executed and free of significant irregularities.

The governments of Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States congratulate Malam Bacai Sanha on his victory. We call on all parties, civilian and military, to fully respect the election results. In this regard, we applaud Kumba Yala's decision to accept the results and his commitment to democracy.

The governments of Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States commend the government and people of Guinea-Bissau for showing their continued commitment to democracy. Specifically, we commend the National and Regional Electoral Commissions (the CNE and CREs) for their impartial, transparent, and professional administration of both rounds of voting.

Now that the election is over, we call upon all parties to work toward a process of national reconciliation to transform Guinea-Bissau into a proud example of stability and security in the region. To that end, we urge the government of Guinea-Bissau to redouble its efforts to investigate the assassinations of the former president and armed forces chief of staff and to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice. Only by ensuring accountability will it be possible for the people of Guinea-Bissau to have the justice and peace they deserve.

Finally, we strongly encourage the government to move forward quickly with the reform of the security sector and to continue the fight against narcotics trafficking.