



General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 February 2011

English only

Human Rights Council

Sixteenth session

Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by International Educational Development, Inc., a non-governmental organization on the roster

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[14 February 2011]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

The situation in Guinea**

International Educational Development, Inc. and the Association of Humanitarian Lawyers welcome the new, democratically elected government in Guinea, headed by President Alpha Condé, which came to power as a result of the run-off election in November 2010. The run-off election seems to have been carried out with relatively little violence or allegations of voter fraud. Although there had been some concerns about delays, we maintain that the delays were reasonable given the circumstances. (See our written statement A/HRC/15/NGO/71

While it is premature to evaluate in depth what changes President Condé has accomplished to date, we note sufficient stability in Guinea so that he was able to make an official visit to Angola. This stability will provide the foundation that will enable President Condé and his government to realize the progress that all Guineans expect.

We also welcome the Security Council's careful guidance and monitoring throughout the election process and urge all to study its report S/2010/614. The success of the election in Guinea indicates that the monitoring system established by the Security Council could be a useful model for other elections in volatile situations. We also appreciate all other monitors in this historic process for the Guinean people.

The path to a stable government will be slow and difficult, but it must involve processes in which all of civil society in Guinea has a stake. In our written statement A/HRC/13/NGO/38 we quoted human rights defender Thierno Sow regarding his views of fragility of the situation and the long road to achieve a democratic system. We are pleased with the tremendous progress made in just a year since his comments, yet remain cautious that the situation is still fragile. In this light, we urge the Council to follow up on its resolution 13/21 and ask again the High Commissioner for Human Rights to closely monitor events in Guinea and to present a report on progress in maintaining a rights-based reform process. We are especially interested in judicial reforms and in progress in the areas of education and health. We also encourage Special Rapporteur Sekaaggya to continue to monitor closely the situation of human rights defenders. In this regard, we also urge non-Guinean non-governmental organizations to find ways to support and promote the Guinean human rights defenders and groups.

Finally, we welcome the fact that Mr. Condé has indicated that his new government will work closely and cooperatively with the office of the High Commissioner and other UN mandate holders.

** The Association of Humanitarian Lawyers (AHL), an NGO without consultative status that also shares the views expressed in this statement. AHL researcher Lieselotte Siegenthaler assisted in the preparation of this document.