

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COOPERATION AMONG THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL, THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA ON LEGISLATIVE STRENGTHENING IN GUINEA-BISSAU**

The Governments of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, and the United States of America (henceforth the "Governments"),

Wishing to assist the people of Guinea-Bissau in their efforts to promote democratic institutions in Guinea-Bissau;

Noting that the Government of Guinea-Bissau has welcomed assistance to enhance its efforts to build and strengthen democracy in Guinea-Bissau;

Considering that this Memorandum does not bind any of the Governments to provide funds, the provision of which will be subject to the domestic requirements of the contributing Government;

Further considering that the Government of the United States, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has provided a grant to the National Democratic Institute (NDI) to develop a project for strengthening legislative capacity in Guinea-Bissau;

Further considering that the Government of Brazil, through the Brazilian Cooperation Agency and in partnership with the INTERLEGIS program and other public institutions, has decided to initiate a project for strengthening legislative capacity in Guinea-Bissau;

Wishing to ensure that the Governments' efforts are complementary and provide maximum benefit to Guinea-Bissau;

Building on recent discussions between the governments regarding the development of programs to strengthen legislative capacity in Guinea-Bissau, a needs assessment conducted by NDI and a joint stakeholders meeting;

Bearing in mind that this Memorandum is intended to provide a general framework and express the intent of the Governments;

Noting that this Memorandum is not intended to create obligations binding under international law;

Hereby express their intention to cooperate in the following terms:

Information Exchanges

The Governments intend to the extent feasible, to keep each other mutually informed of their respective actions within the scope of the legislative capacity strengthening project. The Governments intend to create an advisory committee to promote National Popular Assembly (ANP) ownership of the program.

Point of Contact

The Government of the United States appoints the Political Officer, U.S. Embassy Dakar, in conjunction with the Program Manager of the USAID West Africa Regional Office in Accra, Ghana, as its primary coordinator for communications regarding the legislative capacity strengthening project;

The Government of Brazil appoints the Division of Africa II and the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation of the Ministry of External Relations as its primary coordinators for communications regarding the legislative capacity strengthening project;

The Government of Guinea-Bissau appoints the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and the Communities as its primary coordinator for communications regarding the legislative capacity strengthening project;

Each primary coordinator will serve as the focal point of contact for the purpose of providing information regarding actions taken by the Government that designated him or her.

Principles Guiding Cooperation

In discussing the most effective manner to reach project objectives contemplated in this Memorandum, the Governments intend to take into consideration the following principles:

- a) the views expressed by ANP representatives;
- b) special circumstances making it more appropriate for one of the Governments to carry out a particular task (e.g., language or legislative restrictions);
- c) human resources and materials available in the State where specific activities are being conducted are to be used whenever possible; and
- d) sharing of program documentation.

Meetings

Representatives of the Governments intend for project technical coordinators to meet in Guinea-Bissau as necessary to review the needs assessment, meet with stakeholders and coordinate each Government's contributions in the areas of legislative strengthening.

The Governments affirm their support for the establishment and functioning of an advisory committee, which should meet on an as needed basis to provide advice to the pilot project.

Completion of Pilot Project

At the completion of the pilot project, the representatives of the Governments intend to meet in order to assess the level of success of the activities conducted. This Memorandum will terminate upon completion of the pilot project.

Any future cooperation projects are to be the subject of a separate Memorandum of Understanding to be prepared and implemented in accordance with the legal framework of each Government.

This Memorandum will take effect on the date of signature.

Any Government may terminate this Memorandum at any time by giving the other Governments written notice.

Termination by the Government of Brazil or by the Government of the United States will not affect implementation of this Memorandum by the remaining Governments.

Done in Washington, DC, on the 30th day of March, 2007.