Developments in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of
the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office
in Guinea-Bissau

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2404
   (2018), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Integrated
   Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) until 28 February 2019 and
   requested that I report every six months on the situation in Guinea-Bissau and on
   progress made in the implementation of the resolution and the mandate of
   UNIOGBIS. The report also provides an update on key political, security, human
   rights, socioeconomic and humanitarian developments in Guinea-Bissau since my

II. Major developments

A. Political situation

2. Political manoeuvring intensified during the reporting period, in particular
   following the official launch of voter registration on 19 September. The inclusive
   Government led by Prime Minister Aristides Gomes faced several challenges in
   fulfilling its primary goal of organizing the legislative elections. The political parties
   of Guinea-Bissau argued repeatedly over the technical and legal aspects of voter
   registration and the electoral calendar, trading accusations of attempting to either rig
   the elections or deliberately delay the process. Some political parties questioned the
   transparency and credibility of the electoral process and called for the Prime
   Minister’s dismissal. As a result of the political and technical obstacles encountered,
   the legislative elections could not be held on 18 November 2018.

3. While regular dialogue on the electoral process conducted among Prime
   Minister Gomes, the National Electoral Commission, the Technical Support Office
   for the Electoral Process, political parties, civil society, the media and religious
   leaders managed to reduce tensions, the political atmosphere nevertheless remained
   unpredictable and marred by mistrust among the main political actors. The situation
   was further complicated following the decision of the Prosecutor General, on
   2 December, to halt voter registration and investigate three technicians of the