

## **Brief on India- Guinea Bissau Relations**

### **Political Relations:**

India and Guinea Bissau, for decades, have maintained warm and friendly relations. Guinea Bissau Government is generally supportive of India. There has been regular co-operation at international fora such as the United Nations and NAM. There is considerable goodwill for India both amongst the Government and the general public of Guinea Bissau. An Honorary Consulate of India in Bissau was inaugurated in May 2010. Guinea Bissau does not have a diplomatic mission in India.

### **Visits from Guinea Bissau**

President Mr. Jose Mario Vaz participated in IAFS-III from 26-29th October 2015 along with his delegation including the Foreign Minister Mr. Artur Antonio da Silva. The Guinea Bissau Minister of Energy, Industry and Natural Resources Mr. Antonio Serifo Embalo participated in Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (29 September to 2 October 2018) in New Delhi. Mr. Mamudo DJAU, Chief of Cabinet of Minister of Energy, Industry and Natural Resources of Guinea Bissau participated in CII-EXIM Bank Regional Conclave in West Africa in Abuja on 8-9 October 2018.

### **Ministerial Visits/ participations**

Ms. Teresa Alexandrina da Silva, Minister of Justice and Human Rights, participated in the 'No Money For Terror' conference in New Delhi from 18-19 Nov 2022.

Ms. Martina Moniz, Minister for Education visited India to participate in the UNESCO-India-Africa Hackathon that took place at Gautam Budhnagar from 23-25 Nov 2022.

Finance Minister of Guinea Bissau Mr. Ilidio Vieira Te participated in the Finance Ministers Session of the Voice of South Summit on 12 January 2023.

Eng. Marciano Silva Barbeiro, Minister of State for National Defence of Guinea Bissau participated in the DefExpo/India-Africa Defence Minister's Conclave held in Gandhinagar in October 2022 and in the Aero India held in February 2023 in Bengaluru.

Mr. Carlos Pinto Pereira, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities had a bilateral meeting with EAM on 23 September 2023 on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York

Mr. Issuf Balde, Minister of Energy and Industry participated in the Energy Session of the Voice of Global South Summit 2.0 held on 17 November 2023.

### **Other Visits/ Participations**

Ms. Cynthia Djenaba Evora Cassama, Director General of Culture, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports took part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> VOICE OF GLOBAL SOUTH SUMMIT on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

### **Visits from India**

Special Envoy of Prime Minister (SEPM) and Minister of State for Mines and Steel, Shri Vishnu deo Sai, visited Guinea-Bissau in September, 2015 to personally invite President Mr. Jose Mari Vaz to participate in India Africa Forum Summit III (IAFS-III).

Shri Rahul Chhabra, Secretary (Economic Relations) visited Guinea Bissau on 5-6 July 2021 when he called on President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, Deputy Prime Minister Soares Sambú, and held delegation level discussions with Ms. Udé Fati, Secretary of State for international cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **Economic and Commercial Relations**

#### **Bilateral Trade**

*Value in Million US\$*

<b>Year</b>	<b>India's Export</b>	<b>India's Import</b>	<b>Total Trade</b>	<b>Balance of Trade</b>
2019-20	8.99	124.54	133.53	115.55
2020-21	18.11	126.99	145.10	108.88
2021-22	10.61	174.34	184.95	-163.73
2022-23	9.88	169.93	179.81	-160.05

2023-24	6.98	75.19	82.17	-68.21
1024-25 (Apr-Dec)	16.21	178.97	195.18	-162.76

*Source: Export Import Database, Department of Commerce, Government of India*

Cashew crop accounts for more than 90% of export earnings of Guinea-Bissau and almost the entire cashew crop (around 98%) is exported to India for processing. The major items of India's exports to Guinea-Bissau include iron and steel, rice, pharmaceuticals, construction material, textiles, electrical machinery etc.

India's Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme is applicable for import of select commodities from Guinea Bissau. India also grants free employment and business visa to Guinea Bissauan nationals.

Embassy regularly organizes regular onsite/ online B2B / track 1.5 interactions covering sectors that hold potential to strengthen bilateral trade and economic engagement, e.g., include Food processing sector (3rd July 2020), Digital sector (24th July 2020), Education Sector (17 September 2020), Dairy sector (25th September 2020), Engineering sector (Medical Devices, auto Parts & Components, Electrical Machinery & Agricultural Machinery) (21st August 2020), and Textiles and Imitation Jewellery (25 October 2020) and Automotive Sector (November 2020). Webinars on defence cooperation (March 2021); India-Guinea-Bissau Bilateral Cooperation (April 2021); SEZs (May 2021); Space, coastal security and defence sector (Feb 2022) were the other ones organized by the Mission.

### **Development Partnership**

**Line of Credit Projects:** Guinea Bissau is a founder member of the Team-9 Initiative. Under this framework, GOI earmarked an LOC of US\$ 25 million for Guinea Bissau i.e. Line of Credit of US\$ 5 million (out of US\$ 25 million) for food processing and agricultural sector and US\$ 20 million for Rural Electrification projects.

### **Grant-in-Aid**

Under the India-Brazil-South Africa Fund, four projects have been undertaken in Guinea Bissau with a combined value of around US\$ 830,000.

India supplied 1000 tons of rice as emergency aid to Guinea Bissau in September 2018.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, India has donated a large quantity of medicines to Guinea Bissau. Honorary Consul of India handed over the medicines to Prime Minister Nuno Gomes Nabiam in August 2020. The package of medicines included hydroxychloroquine, paracetamol and other drugs which were immediately required to fight the pandemic.

The Government of India in May 2023 donated indelible ink to Guinea Bissau for the National Assembly elections held on 4 June 2023.

### **ITEC and other Capacity Building Programmes**

A special ITEC English Language Proficiency Course for 25 Guinea Bissauans was organized from 17 September – 31 October 2019.

Under ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) 8 training slots were allocated to Guinea Bissau for 2022-23 as well as 2023-24.

Under Africa scholarship Scheme of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) one slot was offered to Guinea Bissau in 2022-23 and 2023-24.

### **Cultural Relations:**

The then President of Guinea Bissau H.E. Jose Mario Vaz contributed in 2019 his thoughts for the anthology on 'What Gandhi means to me'.

All important events on the cultural calendar are celebrated enthusiastically in Guinea Bissau.

International Day of Yoga is celebrated in Bissau every year.

Bollywood dance group Dance Smith performed in Bissau on 2 February 2020.

A cultural troupe from Guinea Bissau participated in the Surajkund International Crafts Mela from 21 March – 4 April 2022.

Guinea Bissau participated in the Lusophone Cultural Week organized by ICCR in Goa from 4-6 December 2022.

### **Indian Community**

There are about 300 Indians in Guinea Bissau. However, every year during cashew crop season, 40-50 Indians visit Guinea Bissau for a few weeks to negotiate, purchase and ship the consignments of raw cashew to India

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