



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR WEST AFRICA

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **The United Nations and INTERPOL reiterate their commitment to assist West Africa fight drug trafficking and organized crime**

**Dakar, 03 June 2014** - The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for West Africa, Mr. Said Djinnit, who is also the Chairman of the Policy Committee of the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI), and the Secretary General of INTERPOL, Mr. Ronald K. Noble, undertook yesterday a joint visit to Guinea Bissau. This joint visit was an illustration of the strong partnership between the United Nations, INTERPOL and other international stakeholders and their common commitment to assist Guinea Bissau and the region as a whole in the fight against transnational organized crime, including illicit drug trafficking.

Following a meeting with the Minister of Justice, Mr. Noble and Mr. Djinnit visited the Transnational Crime Unit of Guinea Bissau that was established within the framework of the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI) and highlighted the role of this joint initiative by entities of the United Nations (UNODC, UNDPKO, UNDP-UNOWA) and INTERPOL in implementing the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on Drugs and Crime.

The Special Representative and the Secretary General of INTERPOL also discussed other regional cross-cutting issues such as maritime insecurity, violent extremism and money-laundering with Government officials and Heads of Security agencies in Bissau.

The joint visit, which was undertaken in close consultation with José Ramos-Horta, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Guinea Bissau, provided the United Nations a renewed opportunity to commend Guinea Bissau for the successful electoral process which brought the transition period to a peaceful end. The UN looks forward to the sustained democratization of Guinea Bissau and in this regard, will continue to provide assistance as required.

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