

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Guinea Monthly Briefing September 2023

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#### Guinea Summary 27 September 2023

*Comité national du rassemblement pour le développement (CNRD) leader Colonel Mamady Doumbouya (2021-present) addresses the 78<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 21 September, making a passionate speech in defence of coups on the African continent. Forces Vives de Guinée (FVG), a coalition of political and civil society organisations, announces on 28 August that it will demonstrate in Conakry on 5 September, the same date on which the CNRD seized power in 2021. Finance and economy minister Moussa Cissé presents the draft amended bill – *Projet de Loi des Finances Rectificative (PLFR) 2023* – to the *Conseil national de transition (CNT)* (national transitional council). The PLFR needs to be passed to account for discrepancies – both positive and negative – between the *Loi de Finances Initiale 2023* (initial budget) and the current balance of payments.*

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#### Doumbouya defends African coups

**Comité national du rassemblement pour le développement (CNRD)** leader Colonel **Mamady Doumbouya** (2021-present) addressed the 78<sup>th</sup> **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** on 21 September, making a passionate speech in defence of coups on the **African** continent. During his address, Doumbouya implored leaders to “look to and address the deep-rooted causes” of coups and said that the putschist is not only the individual who uses arms to overthrow a regime but also those who manipulate the constitution in order to stay in power “eternally”.<sup>1</sup> This was the case in Guinea; former president **Alpha Condé** (2010-2021) amended the constitution in March 2020 to allow himself to secure a third presidential term in the October 2020 elections.<sup>2</sup> This sparked protests, led by the **Front National pour la Défense de la Constitution (FNDC)**, which ultimately left 800 people dead. A similar situation unfolded in **Gabon**, where the **Bongo** family’s 55-year rule ended on 30 August after former president **Ali Bongo Ondimba** (2009-2023), who had just been declared winner of the general election, was overthrown by his cousin, General **Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema**.

Doumbouya was also critical of the **West** and other developed countries’ approach to intervening in Africa’s political challenges, stating that Western countries categorise African countries into boxes in a way that does not help. To this point, he deplored that African countries have had the Western democracy model imposed on them and that the recent coups show that this approach does not work as it does not account for African “realities, our customs and environment” adding:

*“It is time to stop lecturing us and stop treating us with condescension like children.”<sup>3</sup>*

Doumbouya also addressed the **Cold War** era influence tactics that are still seen now, noting that the above-mentioned categorisation also includes placing African countries into spheres of influence, whether it be under the **United States, China, France, Russia** or **Turkey**.<sup>4</sup> Doumbouya cited that after he fostered better relations with Russia in the wake of the coup, France and other international powers strongly condemned him.

Doumbouya’s trip to the US was also significant for other reasons. It was only his third trip overseas, and he was the only junta leader from the region to make the trip and address the UNGA. During his

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<sup>1</sup> Africanews, 22 Sep 2023

<sup>2</sup> ARC Briefing Guinea, Sep 2021

<sup>3</sup> Le Monde, 22 Sep 2023

<sup>4</sup> DW, 22 Sep 2023

visit, on 19 September, he met with China's vice president, **Han Zheng**, to discuss various issues including the **Simandou** iron-ore project.<sup>5</sup> He also met with **Mauritania's** President **Mohamed Ould Ghazouani** (2019-present) before meeting with **Rwanda's** President **Paul Kagame** (2000-present). Kagame visited Guinea in April and the two countries have committed to deepening relations. Beyond this, Doumbouya held a meeting with the representatives of the **Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)** and UN secretary general **António Guterres**.<sup>6</sup> While Doumbouya has not overtly pursued diplomatic clout, this trip did put him above other junta leaders in the region. Furthermore, the trip has shown that Guinea remains open to relations with various nations and has not shut itself off from Western powers or chosen to align itself completely with others. This is a different approach from other juntas in the region that have adopted a strong anti-French sentiment and even anti-West sentiment, which thrusts Guinea forward as a more reliable partner.

### Demonstrations in Conakry resume

**Forces Vives de Guinée (FVG)**, a coalition of political and civil society organisations, announced on 28 August that it would demonstrate in Conakry on 5 September, the date on which the CNRD seized power in 2021.<sup>7</sup> FVC said in its announcement that its demonstration was to demand political concessions including a return to civilian rule. Territorial administration minister **Mory Conde** affirmed the authority's position via a press release on 4 September that demonstrations remain banned on public roads, however, FVC said it would still conduct demonstrations.

As expected, the junta deployed a mixture of gendarmes and **Brigade de Répression du Banditisme (BRB)** (banditry repression brigade) to quell any violence. Clashes between the security forces and demonstrators ensued, and on 6 September, FVC reported that at least three people died in clashes with the security forces during the demonstrations.<sup>8</sup> These deaths bring the number of deaths due to clashes with security forces since June 2022 to at least 30. During a funeral procession on 8 September for two of the individuals who died, clashes broke out again, with security forces gassing the procession and injuring 12.<sup>9</sup> The CNRD said on 8 September that it would carry out an investigation into the deaths of civilians during the demonstrations.<sup>10</sup>

### Amended state budget

Finance and economy minister **Moussa Cissé** on 11 September presented the draft amended bill – **Projet de Loi des Finances Rectificative (PLFR) 2023** – to the **Conseil national de transition (CNT)** (national transitional council). The PLFR needs to be passed to account for discrepancies – both positive and negative – between the **Loi de Finances Initiale 2023** (initial budget) and the current balance of payments.<sup>11</sup> The revenue component of the PLFR increased revenues from GNF 27.91 billion (\$3.24m) to GNF 29.02 billion (\$3.37m) while expenditure also increased from GNF 36.10 billion (\$4.2m) to 37.05 billion (\$4.31m). The PLFR also forecasts an economic growth rate of 6.1% for 2023 compared to the initial forecast of 5.7% and an inflation rate of 9.2% against initial projections of 10.3%.<sup>12</sup>

The CNT on 20 September presented a report on the proposed amendment, noting a lack of transparency regarding revenues collected by state-owned enterprises (SOEs), notably taxes collected by the telecoms regulatory authority, **Autorité de Régulation des Postes et Télécommunications (ARPT)**.<sup>13</sup> The CNT expressed concern over some other proposed changes, including a reduction in tax on certain products such as petroleum, and poor distribution of resources, noting a loss of GNF

<sup>5</sup> Jeune Afrique, 22 Sep 2023

<sup>6</sup> Jeune Afrique, 22 Sep 2023

<sup>7</sup> APA News, 28 Aug 2023

<sup>8</sup> AFP, 6 Sep 2023

<sup>9</sup> Dakar Actu, 8 Sep 2023

<sup>10</sup> APA News, 8 Sep 2023

<sup>11</sup> Guinee News, 11 Sep 2023

<sup>12</sup> Vision Guinée, 11 Sep 2023

<sup>13</sup> RFI, 21 Sep 2023

555 billion (\$64.57m) between January and August over this issue. Another example the CNT provided includes the payment of parking fines, which are not made to the treasury. The treasury, Conakry governate and security ministry have all said they do not know where the fees paid end up.<sup>14</sup>

Territorial administration and decentralisation minister **Mory Condé** addressed concerns about financial mismanagement on 15 September, noting that there will always be “*bad apples*” in an administration but that the CNRD is working to make sure people do not engage in the same corrupt practices that contributed to the CNRD seizing power.<sup>15</sup>

## Planner

Jan 2025 **Guinea** General elections

31 Mar 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** Start of exploitation at the **Simandou** iron ore project;

## Chronology

26 Sep 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinee*. **World Bank** concludes a mission to Guinea, noting progress in the country’s economic reforms as finance minister **Moussa Cissé** confirms that Guinea has asked the World Bank for support in several sectors including infrastructure, mining and energy;

25 Sep 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Human Rights Watch*. **United States**-headquartered **Human Rights Watch** reports that significant progress has been made in the 2009 stadium massacre trial, with at least 50 victims heard by judges in the presence of 11 defendants;

20 Sep 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Guinee News*. Authorities seize \$2m in cash from a passenger flying **Royal Air Maroc** over suspicions of currency trafficking;

18 Sep 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Reuters*. Reports emerge that **Australia**-headquartered **Rio Tinto** has been solely funding the preparatory work at the **Simandou** iron-ore mine as its partner, **China’s Chalco Iron Ore Holdings**, is still waiting for state approval for financing;

18 Sep 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Africa Guinee*. Transition leader Colonel **Mamadi Doumbouya** arrives in the **United States** to attend the **United Nations General Assembly** and is scheduled to give a speech on 21 September;

16 Sep 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Africa Guinee*. **French** foreign affairs ministry issues an alert noting that political demonstrations, likely to be violent, cannot be ruled out in Conakry, cautioning citizens to be extra vigilant;

13 Sep 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinee*. Technical education, vocational training and employment minister **Alpa Bacar Barry** chairs the opening ceremony of the **Guinea Fintech Week**;

8 Sep 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinee*. **Rwanda** is set to help Guinea to digitalise its procurement system;

4 Sep 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Mining Weekly*. **Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinée (CBG)**, which is 49% owned by the government, signs a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Australia’s Lindian Resources** for supply of bauxite from Lindian’s **Gaoual** project to help supplement CBG’s year bauxite production;

1 Sep 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *APA News*. Magistrates announce they will organise a demonstration for 7 and 12 September to denounce the muzzling of justice by justice minister **Alphonse Charles Wright**;

<sup>14</sup> Vision Guinee, 19 Sep 2023

<sup>15</sup> Vision Guinee, 15 Sep 2023

1 Sep 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *RFI*. Authorities amend the **Mining Code** noting that from 1 September, all mining companies will have to repatriate at least 50% of their export revenues;

1 Sep 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinee*. **Comité national du rassemblement pour le développement (CNRD)** says that the **Simandou** project is making progress and that by the end of 2023, at least 85,000 jobs will have been created;

30 Aug 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Agence Ecofin*. **Australian** mining junior **Arrow Minerals** announces it will take full control of an iron ore project located in **Simandou** north;

29 Aug 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Anadolu Agency*. Commerce minister **Joao Handem Junior** expresses Guinea's desire to launch a partnership with **Turkey**, especially in the agricultural sector;

28 Aug 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinee*. **Conseil national de la transition (CNT)** (national council for the transition) adopts the 2024-2026 multi-year budget, which forecasts economic growth of 5.8% in 2024, 6.2% in 2025 and 7.4% in 2026;

28 Aug 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Guinee News*. **Institut national de la Statistique (INS)** (national statistics institute) provides an analysis report on foreign trade between 2018 and 2022, highlighting that cocoa exports have steadily grown from GNF 56 billion (\$6.52m) in 2018 to GNF 267 billion (\$31.09m) in 2022 while cashew nut exports grew from GNF 574 billion (\$66.85m) in 2018 to GNF 785 billion (\$91.43m) in 2022;

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