



U.S. Embassy, Lomé

Press Release

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Visits Togo

On Tuesday, January 17 Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton visited Lomé. This was the first ever official visit to Togo of an American Secretary of State. Secretary Clinton was accompanied by a delegation including Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Johnnie Carson, President Obama's Ambassador-at-large for Global Women's Issues, Melanne Verwee, Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Donald Steinberg, Counselor and Chief of Staff to Secretary of State, Cheryl Mills, and other senior officials. Secretary Clinton was met at the Gnassingbé Eyadéma International Airport of Lomé by Prime Minister Gilbert F. Houngbo, Foreign Minister Ohin, and the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires to Togo, Mr. Simon Hankinson.

During her visit, the Secretary of State met with the President at his office in the Presidential Palace. They discussed issues of mutual international concern that will be relevant during Togo's term on the U.N. Security Council. (Togo assumes the Presidency of the Security Council in February for two months). The Secretary took note of the ongoing reconciliation and constitutional reform dialogues underway in Togo, and encouraged the government in its efforts to finalize and concretize both processes as well as to bring dissenting voices to the table in advance of national elections later this year.

The Secretary noted that she had just come from Abidjan, where Togolese peacekeepers played a crucial role in stabilizing that country. She recognized the strong partnership between Togo and the United States in preparing Togolese peacekeepers at the training center here in Lomé, and in improving Togo's maritime security.

After her meeting at the Presidency, the Secretary stopped by the U.S. Embassy to greet Embassy staff and thank them for their service.

Lomé on January 17, 2012