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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **U.S. Ambassador Lewis Lukens Presents Credentials to President Malam Bacai Sanha**

Lewis Lukens, Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Senegal and Guinea-Bissau presented his credentials to His Excellency President Malam Bacai Sanha in Bissau, on October 19, 2011.

Ambassador Lukens and President Sanha expressed the will of the two governments to reinforce the bilateral cooperation between the United States of America and Guinea-Bissau.

Ambassador Lukens said that the United States of America stands with Guinea-Bissau, all its citizens, and other governments around the world who peacefully work to advance the causes of democracy and respect the rule of law. He added that the U.S. Government will continue support to the reform of the security sector.

Ambassador Lukens arrived in Dakar on August 9, 2011. He is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service. Prior to his assignment as U.S. Ambassador to Senegal and Guinea-Bissau, he served as Executive Director of the State Department's Executive Secretariat.

Mr. Lukens has served in a variety of positions in the State Department and White House. He was Senior Director for Administration at the National Security Council during and after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He has served twice previously in the Department's Executive Secretariat, and worked as Special Assistant to the Director General of the Foreign Service. He was U.S. Consul General in Vancouver, Canada, from 2005 – 2008. He has also served as Executive Secretary in Baghdad, Management Counselor in Dublin, and Management Officer in Sydney. His first two tours were in Guangzhou and Abidjan.

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