

**Concept Note on the Ministerial Meeting on the  
Implementation of the Agreement for Peace and  
Reconciliation in Mali  
20 September 2017, 15:30-16:00**

**BACKGROUND**

Two years after the signature of the peace agreement, when interim arrangements were foreseen to end and attention to be redirected towards preparations for the presidential elections of 2018, the peace process has fallen short of expectations, hampered by a lack of trust between signatory parties, the absence of a clear vision for the implementation of the agreement, as well as recurring clashes between signatory armed groups and deteriorating security situation in the north and the centre.

Some key provisions on interim political and security arrangements and institutional reforms have been implemented, or are underway. However, the delay in the operationalization of the mixed patrols and redeployment of the Malian Defense and Security Forces (MDSF) has led to a situation whereby terrorist groups have maintained their stronghold in northern Mali and continued to expand their influence in the centre of the country. The fragmentation of the armed groups, symptomatic of a lack of inclusiveness in the peace process, also fettered the implementation of the peace agreement and negatively impacted security and the protection of civilians. Although more than 1,000 Malian stakeholders attended the Conférence d'entente nationale, the Charter for peace, unity and national reconciliation based on its conclusions was denounced by one of the signatory parties. Following widespread mobilization against the revision of the Constitution, the Government announced that it would postpone the referendum to allow further consultations. Clashes between signatory armed groups resumed in Kidal region in June causing civilian and combatant casualties, preempting further progress in the implementation of the peace agreement, including the reestablishment of State authority in Kidal, and limiting access for humanitarian and development agencies. The absence of a shared vision for the future of the peace process, including for the participation of women and youth, is all the more worrying as the upcoming 2018 presidential elections is likely to soon dominate the Government's and other stakeholders' attention.

On 29 June, Security Council resolution 2364 (2017), which extended the mandate of MINUSMA until 30 June 2018, reiterated the need to accelerate the implementation of the peace agreement, particularly institutional and security reforms, as the only way to the gradual restoration and expansion of State authority. The resolution reaffirmed the primarily political mandate of MINUSMA, extending the good offices of the SRSG to include the electoral process. It also acknowledged that capability gaps continued to limit the Mission's ability to implement its mandate and protect United Nations personnel in what remains one of the most hostile environments for United Nations peacekeeping. Against this background of persisting delays in the political process and worsening insecurity, notably in central Mali, the peace agreement offers the only path to sustainable stability and reconciliation.

In response to spreading instability, the countries of the G5 Sahel decided to launch a Joint Force to combat terrorism, drug trafficking and human trafficking in the region. This initiative, welcomed by Security Council resolution 2359 (2017), has the potential to improve MINUSMA's operational environment and complement the Mission's efforts in support of the redeployment of the MDSF.

## **II. OBJECTIVES**

The United Nations proposes to host and co-chair with the Government of Mali and the Government of Algeria a Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, in the margins of the General Debate of the United Nations seventy-second session of the General Assembly.

Building upon the Ministerial Meeting held on 23 September 2016, the event will aim at stressing the urgency of developing a strategy and clear timelines for the implementation of the institutional and security sector reforms envisioned by the agreement until the presidential elections of 2018. The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss modalities for an enhanced and coordinated support by regional actors and international partners, including [Algeria](#), the UN, the AU, ECOWAS, the EU and bilateral partners. Furthermore, the UN will take advantage of the meeting to provide an update on the generation and deployment of military capabilities

since the MINUSMA Force Generation Conference held in May, and plans to enhance the Mission's support to the gradual redeployment of the MDSF including in the framework of the G5 Sahel Joint Force. The event will also offer the possibility to exchange on other pending aspects of the agreement, such as the operationalization of the Development Strategy for Northern Mali and transitional justice mechanisms, and to call on signatory parties to abide by international humanitarian and human rights law as well as to provide unhindered access to humanitarian and development actors.

A co-chairs' summary will be issued at the end of the meeting.

### **III. PROCEDURAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES**

The meeting will be held in Conference Room 4 at the United Nations Headquarters on Wednesday, 20 September 2017, between 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. It will be opened by the President of Mali, H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. António Guterres, with the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria, H.E. Abdelkader Messahel, as Chair of the Comité de Suivi de l'Accord, ~~the AU representative and~~ the Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, H.E. Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian, ~~the~~ Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki, the High Representative of the EU, Ms. Federica Mogherini, and the Chairman of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E. Mr. Alain de Souza who will deliver brief remarks during the opening session. Following the opening session, the event will be co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Mali, H.E. Abdoulaye Diop, together with Minister Messahel and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix.

In addition to the co-chairs, invited participants include other members of the international mediation, ~~—notably the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the European Union—~~ Security Council members and MINUSMA troop- and police-contributing countries. Other Member States and partner organizations interested in attending as observers of the meeting will be accommodated within the limits of the number of observer seats available in the meeting room.

