

**Security Council**

Distr.: General  
17 December 2013  
English  
Original: French

---

**Letter dated 16 December 2013 from the Secretary-General  
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 6 December 2013 from Sékou Kassé, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mali, forwarding the conclusions of the first ministerial meeting on the establishment of a coordination platform for the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, held at Bamako on 5 November 2013 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) **BAN** Ki-moon



## **Annex**

Further to my letter dated 18 November 2013, I have the honour to transmit herewith the conclusions of the first ministerial meeting on the establishment of a coordination platform for the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, held at Bamako on 5 November 2013 (see enclosure).

I should be grateful if you would have these conclusions circulated to members of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Sékou **Kasse**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

---

**Enclosure**

[Original: English]

**Conclusions of the first ministerial meeting for the establishment of a coordination platform of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel**

Bamako, 5 November 2013

1. The Government of Mali organized a ministerial meeting on the Sahel on 5 November 2013 with the participation of countries in the Sahelo-Saharan region and subregional, regional and international organizations as well as financial institutions. The meeting was organized on the occasion of the joint visit to the Sahel of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Presidents of the World Bank and the African Development Bank and the European Union Commissioner for Development as well as representatives of financial institutions and the following regional and international organizations: Organization of the Islamic Conference and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).
2. The aim of the meeting was to identify common security, governance, resilience and regional infrastructure priorities with a view to better articulating the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and the efforts of other multilateral and bilateral partners in the region. The meeting constitutes an important step towards the strengthening of confidence among the countries of the region and the improvement of coordination between international partners in order to effectively address multidimensional threats facing the region.
3. The participants commended the positive developments in Mali and expressed their full support to President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta for organizing the Assises nationales sur le Nordin order to initiate an inclusive national dialogue with a view to achieving peace and reconciliation in Mali. These developments are within the framework of Security Council resolution [2100 \(2013\)](#), dated 25 April 2013, and the Preliminary Agreement signed in Ouagadougou on 18 June 2013. The participants exhorted the authorities and the political parties to consult each other in order to improve the organization of the upcoming parliamentary elections.
4. They reiterated their concern as regards challenges related to peace, security and development of the Sahel region. They commended the joint visit of the United Nations, the World Bank and the African Union to the Sahel, with the participation of the African Development Bank and the European Union, which demonstrated their willingness and determination to better coordinate the implementation of their respective strategies for the Sahel and their commitment to support the efforts of the region in addressing peace and development challenges, including terrorism threats.
5. The Ministers from the Sahel countries agreed on the necessity of intensifying their efforts to tackle the structural causes of instability and fragility in the region and to strengthen the resilience of populations, communities and States of the region to address recurrent crisis. They acknowledged the need to improve the long-term integration and coordination of emergency development response mechanism plans and to devise a regional development approach focusing on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable segments of the population. In this regard, they stressed the

need to establish subregional economic governance mechanisms and early warning systems to address potential governance or resilience crisis. They expressed their commitment to intensify the cooperation and coordination among States in the Sahel, West Africa and Maghreb regions (or the Sahelo-Saharan region) with a view to developing inclusive interregional strategies to strengthen border security and carry out a collective fight against terrorist groups, stem the proliferation of weapons and reduce transnational organized criminality.

6. The Ministers expressed full support to the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, and saluted the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel and his team in this regard. The participants commended the strategies and efforts of the United Nations, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the European Union, the Islamic Development Bank and other multilateral and bilateral donors towards peace and development in the Sahel, while recognizing the need to overcome institutional hurdles. Participants also reiterated the need to further integrate development, humanitarian and security-related interventions. They encouraged their partners to set up a mechanism aimed at strengthening their coordination and mobilizing the necessary resources for the implementation of key projects for the region. This particularly holds true for regional infrastructure, which is likely to speed up growth and human development, create employment, particularly for youth, and further spearhead regional integration. In this context, they welcomed the creation by the African Development Bank of an action fund to facilitate the quick start-up of regional infrastructure projects that currently lack funding but could have quick impacts while contributing to the longer-term development of the region. They agreed on the fact that the region needs a new approach based on identified priorities and a framework that ensures accountability and results.

7. The Ministers of the Sahel countries exhorted the members of the joint delegation to work closely with the countries of the region as well as competent subregional organizations, notably ECOWAS, the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States and the Arab Maghreb Union, on the Sahel issues, and underlined the importance of strengthening the coordination among the main bilateral and multilateral partners.

8. To this end, the Ministers agreed to continue meeting every six months, with a rotational biennial presidency which has been entrusted to the Republic of Mali for the first two years. The presidency aims to ensure sustainability in tackling issues, maintain focus on important challenges facing the Sahel region, agree on common priorities for regional initiatives in the Sahel and ensure the monitoring of progress achieved, particularly through coordinated international community support.

A technical secretariat co-chaired by the United Nations and the African Union Commission will be established in a country of the Sahel. It will exceptionally comprise the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Islamic Bank for Development and all subregional organizations (the Arab Maghreb Union, ECOWAS, the Economic Community of Central African States and the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States).

Done in Bamako, 5 November 2013