Letter dated 6 July 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the communiqué of the forty-third session of the Follow-up Committee on the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali emanating from the Algiers process, held in Bamako on 29 June 2021 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sofiane Mimouni
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Annex to the letter dated 6 July 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

Communiqué of the Forty-third Meeting of the Follow-up Committee on the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali emanating from the Algiers Process

In implementation of the relevant provisions of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali emanating from the Algiers Process and its rules of procedure, the Follow-up Committee (CSA) held its forty-third regular meeting at Bamako on 29 June 2021, conducted by the Ambassador of Algeria to Mali, Chair of CSA. This meeting, which took place in a positive working atmosphere, was enhanced by the presence of His Excellency Mr. Choguel Kokalla Maiga, Prime Minister for the transition. In addition to making a statement, he had the opportunity to interact in a substantive and constructive manner with the representatives of the signatory movements. While reaffirming the desire of the transitional authorities to succeed in the intelligent implementation of the Agreement, which would be taken into account in the evaluation of the Transition, he stressed that it was important for the Malian people to talk to one another, as he was convinced that through dialogue they would always arrive at shared responses to their problems as long as the fundamental principles of the Republic of Mali – national unity, the country’s territorial integrity, and the republican and secular nature of the State – were preserved. The participants welcomed the commitment of the Prime Minister to do everything in his power for the prompt implementation of the Agreement and consolidate its national ownership. The important statement by the Prime Minister was added to the CSA working documents.

1. The Minister for Reconciliation, Peace and National Cohesion, with responsibility for the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation, Colonel-major Ismael Wague, gave a status report on the implementation of the commitments made at the two previous meetings. The participants noted with particular satisfaction the deployment of the third company of the battalion of the reconstituted army based at Kidal and the approval by the steering committee of the Sustainable Development Fund at its second meeting, held on 29 April 2021, of sixteen (16) development projects, nine (9) of which were for regions in the north of the country. Progress made on other topics that arose from the interactive debate on this item in the light of the detailed report by the Government and the statements by the signatory movements as well as the reports of the thematic sub-committees will be duly reflected in the summary conclusions of the meeting.

2. The participants paid tribute to the late Sidi Brahim Ould Sidatt, Chair of the CMA, assassinated in Bamako on 13 April 2021, recalling his personal commitment to the promotion of peace and reconciliation in Mali. They called on the Malian authorities to conduct a swift inquiry into this heinous crime leading to the arrest of its perpetrators and those who ordered it and bring them to justice.

3. The participants, referring to stakeholder initiatives relating to the Agreement, commended the efforts made, especially by MINUSMA, to build capacity among the women members of CSA and the establishment of the Observatory for women.

4. Some participants raised other subjects of interest to their respective movements, such as the situation in the Aguelhok area and the 3 July 2021 meeting
at Kidal launching the Permanent Strategic Framework which had recently been established.

5. The participants made a commitment to redouble their efforts to complete the implementation of the remaining commitments by taking full advantage of the international mobilization to stabilize the situation in Mali. In that regard, they agreed to make every effort to take the following concrete actions:

- before the next meeting of CSA, to operationalize the reconstituted battalions at Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal;
- to resume discussions in the near future at the decision-making level on the remaining aspects of the Defence and Security facet of the Agreement and to hold a special meeting of the CSA, on a date to be announced by the Chair of CSA, to allow the Malian parties to inform their international partners on the status of their consultations and to request their assistance, as needed;
- to examine whether, in the period between CSA meetings and with MINUSMA support, it would be possible to resume accelerated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) to achieve the goal of 3,000 troops mentioned on various occasions;
- to resume consultations toward the adoption of a draft law on territorial police;
- to begin in-depth discussions on the institutional and political reforms arising from the Agreement, the results of which would also be presented at the above-mentioned special meeting;
- to increase the participation of signatory movements in the bodies of the Sustainable Development Fund and to launch pilot projects already approved by the Fund; and
- to resume consultations with a view to the adoption of a law on the role of Cadis.

6. The participants took note of the presentation by the Human Rights Division of MINUSMA on the report of the International Commission of Inquiry for Mali. They recognized the need for structured follow-up to its recommendations, in cooperation with the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission and the support of MINUSMA and CSA, as part of efforts to coordinate promotion of the fight against impunity with promotion of national reconciliation.

7. Referring to the sixth anniversary of the signing of the Agreement, the participants underlined the need for an objective evaluation of the implementation of the Agreement, and above all a renewed commitment by all stakeholders to allow the Malian people to benefit from the dividends of their commitment to the peace process. In that regard, in order to consolidate the undeniable gains from the peace process, the following recommendations were restated:

- strengthening and restructuring of the inter-Malian framework for coordination, including holding a meeting at the decision-making level at an early date;
- updating the road map for implementation of the Agreement;
- intensification of communications activities about the Agreement, including development of a plan of action, with MINUSMA support as needed;
- strengthening the effective involvement of international mediation, including under the Pact for Peace and the thematic sub-committees for intersessional work, to help to remove possible obstacles and ensure necessary follow-up.

8. The participants called on the Independent Observer to make available to the parties a compilation of his reports accompanied by indicators that could facilitate
the establishment of an overall factual assessment of the implementation of the Agreement six years after its signing, by highlighting both actions completed to the satisfaction of the signatory parties and those still pending. The participants called on Mali’s partners to pursue their support to the peace process at this sensitive moment in the evolution of the Transition and to realize in particular the projects announced at the fifth high-level meeting of CSA.

9. The participants stressed the importance of holding regular monthly meetings of CSA in accordance with the Agreement and approved a draft calendar of meetings planned through the end of 2021. Special meetings could be convened as needed in accordance with its rules of procedure.

10. The participants agreed to make a formal report on the results of the work of CSA through the appropriate channels to the ECOWAS Commission, the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council.

11. The detailed report on the debate and conclusions of this meeting will be communicated to members of the CSA at a later date.

12. Lastly, the participants expressed thanks to MINUSMA for the support provided for the successful holding of the meeting. They congratulated Mr. El-Ghassim Wane for his appointment to the post of Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and Head of MINUSMA. They conveyed their best wishes for the success of his mission in the service of peace and stability in Mali.

Bamako, 29 June 2021