

January 20, 2016

PEACE AGREEMENT MONITORING COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr Ramtane Lamamra, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Leader of the Mediation, an extended high-level consultative meeting of members of the Monitoring Committee for the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali stemming from the Algiers Process, took place in Algiers on January 18, 2016.

This meeting enabled a discussion of how the situation has been evolving since the Agreement was signed, and of the journey the signatory parties have taken, together with the international community, on the road to peace and reconciliation in Mali.

The participants:

1. Note with concern the persistence, multiplication and expansion of terrorist and criminal attacks on the Malian Defence and Security Forces, and on the groups party to this agreement, international troops and the civilian population; vigorously condemn these attacks, and reiterate their support for efforts to neutralise terrorist groups and criminals. Referring to the terrorist attacks in Mali and Burkina Faso, they stress the need for not only the Malian signatory parties, but also the countries of the wider region to work in unison, with the active support of the international community.
2. Reiterate their full support for the Agreement, and its complete and full implementation, while emphasising again that the Agreement is a balanced document which takes into account the legitimate preoccupations of all the parties, and that its effective implementation will lead to a sustainable solution to the crises which have affected northern Mali, and enable greater isolation of the terrorist and criminal elements.
3. Express their appreciation to His Excellency Mr Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali, as well as his government, for their ongoing support for peace and reconciliation in Mali, and note with interest and optimism the information concerning the measures and steps announced by the Malian Governmental delegation.
4. Welcome the intra and intercommunity rapprochement between the Platform and the SMA Groups, following the meetings at Anefside in September and October 2015. The participants urge the two Parties to pursue and intensify their efforts towards rapprochement, and fully commit to it, in order to achieve national reconciliation between all the sons of Mali.
5. Applaud the progress made in implementing the Agreement since its signature, in particular concerning the cessation of hostilities, while calling on all Parties to remain engaged with the peace process, in order to maintain and consolidate the achievements made to date.
6. Note the delays reported in implementing some key commitments in the Agreement, in particular those concerning the interim period, and call for an acceleration in the pace of specifying the priority actions established by the Monitoring Committee during its sixth session.

7. Recall the Malian Government's responsibility for implementing the Agreement, and the key role to be played by the other signatory Parties to it, in a spirit of co-responsibility and effective partnership for peace and reconciliation.

8. Call for greater interaction and dialogue between the Parties outwith meetings of the Monitoring Committee, to increase mutual confidence and to implement by consensus the provisions of the Agreement; and underline the importance of specific facilitation measures to this end.

9. Exhort the Parties concerned to implement as soon as possible the commitments made with regard to the composition of the monitoring mechanism for the Agreement, in the spirit of inclusivity advocated in the Agreement.

10. Also make an appeal for the financial resources needed for the proper functioning of the Monitoring Committee for the Agreement and its mechanisms, including the continued presence in Bamako of the representatives of the Parties within these bodies; as well as operationalisation of mixed patrols. They underline the importance of urgent strategic level discussions between the Malian signatory parties.

11. Encourage the international community to maintain its political, technical and financial support, in implementing the Agreement, in particular in carrying out the development programmes planned for northern Mali, so that the target populations may begin to realise the dividends of peace.

12. Are pleased to see the nomination and assumption of his functions of the new Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and Head of MINUSMA, Mr Mahamat Saleh Annadif, and thank his predecessor, Mr Mongi Hamdi, for his excellent contribution.

13. Express their gratitude to all members of the Monitoring Committee for the Agreement which is overseeing the implementation process, particularly during the most difficult episodes, and urge them to continue their efforts to build peace and reconciliation in Mali.

14. Also extend their thanks to Algeria and to His Excellency the President of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA, for his committed leadership of the mediation and of the Monitoring Committee for the Agreement, as well as their generous hospitality at the meetings held on January 17 and 18, 2016, on the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali stemming from the Algiers Process.

Algiers, January 18, 2016