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**Draft Statement by H.E.M Abdou ABARRY  
Permanent Representative of Niger to the United Nations  
(On behalf of the A3+1)**

**Security Council briefing on MINUSMA**

New York, June 14, 2021

**Mr. President,**

1. I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the A3+1, namely Kenya, Tunisia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Niger.
2. I would like to begin by thanking Mr. El-Ghassim Wane, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Mali, for his comprehensive briefing and for his efforts towards the stabilization of Mali. Our thanks go as well to Ms Fatima Maiga, President of the Coalition des Femmes Leaders Nord, Sud et Centre du Mali (NSC) for her informative presentation.
3. I also welcome the presence among us of the Permanent Representative of Mali, Mr. Issa Konfourou.

**Mr. President,**

4. On the eve of the renewal of MINUSMA's mandate, the international community's attention has been drawn by both encouraging and sometimes concerning events during the reporting period.
5. The A3+1 welcomes and appreciates the invaluable contribution that MINUSMA continues to make to the stabilization of Mali. We reiterate our support for its mandate, which is more necessary than ever at this crucial time in Mali's march towards democratization, stabilization and reconciliation.
6. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Mali.

**Mr. President,**

7. I will articulate my intervention along two aspects; : major observations and recommendations of the A3+1.

**First, with respect to the major observations:**

**On the political front:**

8. We encourage the Malians to continue their efforts to maintain their transitional path, overcome the recent turbulence and put the transition process back on

track, one of the last acts of which was the formation of a Government headed by-a civilian Prime Minister, Mr. Chogel Maiga.

9. We call on the new executive to spare no effort in pursuing, with determination, the implementation of the transitional roadmap, whose electoral calendar has already been published.
10. In this regard, it is more necessary than ever that the international community maintains its support to the transitional process until the organization of credible, inclusive and transparent elections in February 2022. This process must include the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and youth.
11. We seize this opportunity to commend the sustained commitment of ECOWAS and the crucial mediation role played by its Special Envoy and the African Union.
12. The A3+1 also commends the efforts of MINUSMA, which have constantly helped bring Malians to conciliatory positions at both the national and local levels.
13. Furthermore, we take note of the creation of the "Cadre Stratégique Permanent (CSP)" by the CMA and the Platform, in order to optimize efforts to implement the Peace Agreement and to operationalize joint mechanisms to better address the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Mali. We encourage them to focus on National Unity and Dialogue in order to advance the national reconciliation agenda.

#### **On the security front:**

14. Mali, along with other Sahelian countries, continues to be exposed to the horrors of terrorism. Additionally, the impact of uncontrolled departure of foreign fighters and mercenaries coupled with proliferation of arms from Libya highlights the urgent need for a durable and holistic solution for Sahelian.
15. Violent extremism, inter-communal violence, and transnational organized crime are on the rise and require greater attention from the Security Council. We remain concerned about the continued attacks on civilians, MINUSMA, and Malian, regional, and international armed forces.
16. In this regard, the announcement of the suspension of military cooperation by Mali's partners, including the gradual reduction of Barkhane, raises concerns for a Mali that is at a crossroads.

17. With regard to the MINUSMA adaptation plan, the results of the establishment and operationalization of the Mobile Task Force (MTF) have been convincing and encouraging.

**On the humanitarian front:**

18. The current situation in Mali and the Sahel is a source of great concern. The effects of COVID-19 and food insecurity require urgent funding for the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, of which only 14.3% of the \$563 million needed has been funded.

19. We must act urgently to save the 5.9 million vulnerable people in need of assistance in Mali as the rainy season is expected to be severe in terms of consequences if the necessary support is not provided in a timely manner.

20. This humanitarian situation, exacerbated by intercommunity conflicts and food insecurity induced by the effects of climate change, is a factor that hinders stabilization and peacebuilding efforts in Mali.

21. Therefore, the A3+1 believes that the analysis and integration of security risks related to climate change is necessary in MINUSMA's mandate.

**Mr. President,**

**In light of the above findings, I would like to make the following recommendations on behalf of the A3+1:**

22. We believe that the support that Malians so desperately need, at this juncture, must respond to the aspirations of Malians themselves, who ought to own and be the central actors of the stabilization and reconciliation process in their country. As such, it is important to readjust the international intervention, including the role of MINUSMA.

23. We call for better coordination and coherence of these interventions to maximize their effects and thus give the transition and the installation of stable democratic institutions a greater chance of success, a guarantee of the country's stability and prosperity.

24. In this context, the A3+1 encourages the Malian authorities to build on the progress made in the first phase of the transition by ensuring that the timetable for the elections is respected and the 18-month duration of the transition, in accordance with the Roadmap and the ECOWAS recommendations.
25. We also encourage them to accelerate the implementation of the provisions of the peace agreement, the protection of civilians and the dialogue process in the center of the country.
26. In addition, it should be recalled that sanctions will further complicate the already worrying security and humanitarian situation in Mali.
27. To this end, we appeal to Mali's partners to reconsider their position by reactivating their military cooperation with Mali.

In this regard, they support the recommendations and decisions of the last ECOWAS Summit on Mali.

Moreover, the decisions that the partners may have to take should not aggravate the situation in Mali or undermine the achievements of the fight against terrorism in the region.

**In conclusion:**

28. The A3+1 would like to see the next mandate of MINUSMA pay particular attention to supporting the Malian transition. For its reconstruction, the country will also need economic support.
29. Thus, the A3+1 invites all Mali's partners and the Breton Wood financial institutions to support the Malian people in this phase.
30. While appreciating the support of other partners and of MINUSMA to the Joint Force, the shortcomings of the support mechanism identified in the recent assessments of the Secretary-General and the suspension of military cooperation with Mali call for on the one hand, to grant a more robust mandate to MINUSMA and, on the other hand, to withdraw the additional task of supporting the Joint Force assigned by resolution 2391 (2017), in order to allow it to better focus on its strategic priorities, given the situation that currently prevails on the ground. A better operational and efficient formula of support such as creation of the United Nations Support Office dedicated to this regional force is of great importance and relevance.

31. Finally, the A3+1 will support the extension of MINUSMA's mandate for another year, which should be readapted to the realities on the ground, where there is insecurity, and allow it to ensure better protection of civilians and to have a better involvement in the resolution of intercommunity violence in the country.

**I THANK YOU!**