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**Statement by Ambassador Abdou ABARRY,
Permanent Representative of Niger to the United Nations
On behalf of A3 and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
On the G5-Sahel joint force**

New York on November 12, 2021

Thank you, Mr. President,

I would like, on behalf of the A3+1, namely Kenya, Tunisia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Niger, to thank Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary General for Peace Operations, for his presentation.

We also thank the Permanent Representative of Chad, H.E. Ms. Aziza Baroud for her participation in today's briefing on behalf of the current Chair of the G5 Sahel, and

Mr. President,

The importance and usefulness of the G5-Sahel Joint Force is no longer in question as a tool in the fight against terrorism and other forms of criminality that are rampant in the Sahel region, particularly in the face of the resurgence of attacks by Armed Terrorist Groups against civilian populations, the latest of which occurred on November 2 in western Niger.

The A3+1 condemns these cowardly and barbaric attacks on defenseless civilians and extends its condolences to the people and government of Niger for this latest tragedy.

In light of this situation, we welcome the increase in the number and pace of Joint Force operations, which are becoming more and more successful, as well as the operationalization of its police component. The execution of Operations, code-named "SAMA" and "Serres d'Aigles," are an encouraging illustration in this regard.

This deterioration in the security situation, the reduction in the number of Barkhane Force and Chadian contingent elements in the Central Sector, and the expected flow of combatants and small arms due to the withdrawal of foreign combatants from the Libyan theater, highlight the urgency and

necessity for the G5-S Force, MINUSMA, and allied international forces to make adjustments to better secure the population from the activities of armed groups.

Mr. President,

The A3+1 take note of the report of the Secretary General under review and his letter dated October 4, 2021 on options for supporting the Joint G5-Sahel Force (FC G5-S).

We fully share the Secretary General's conviction that the creation of a UN Support Office dedicated to the G5-S CF remains the most appropriate option, as it has the advantage of providing the Force with predictable funding, strengthening its operational planning capacity, and providing it with a Human Rights Protection Framework.

In view of the multiple challenges mentioned above, which the Joint Force must face, it is no longer time for procrastination as to the support options of the international community for the G5-Sahel countries, which have and continue to demonstrate a strong commitment and political will to fight terrorism and transnational organized crime, which, moreover, constitute serious threats to peace and international security.

The A3+1 welcomes the fruitful exchanges that the members of the Security Council had with the authorities and the Commander of the G5-Sahel Force during their recent visit to Mali and Niger. We hope that the lessons learned from these meetings will have helped to dispel the few reservations expressed by some delegations about the option of setting up the Support Office dedicated to the Joint Force.

Mr. President,

The A3+1 welcome the crucial support provided by MINUSMA to the Joint Force, including in Mali, in the context of the stabilization and gradual restoration of the authority of the State and the integrity of its territory, particularly in the center and north of the country.

With respect to the implementation of the Human Rights Compliance Framework, the significant progress made by the Joint Force in developing and implementing the Human Rights and IHL Compliance Framework is to be commended, including the establishment of the Mechanism for Identification, Monitoring and Analysis of Civilian Casualties (MISAD) and the integration of provost components into all combatant units of the Joint Force, as noted by the Secretary General in his report. In this regard, the A3+1 commend the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for their support to the Force in this area.

Mr. President,

Given the complexity of the challenges faced by Sahelian states, the response to insecurity must not only be military force; it must be holistic. As we have repeatedly emphasized, there is a relationship between development and security in this region where these phenomena interact with each other in a feedback loop. It is therefore crucial to address the root causes of insecurity in order to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region. In this regard, a coherent and coordinated implementation of UN System interventions, in support of national governments' efforts in the areas of socio-economic development, will be fundamental.

We therefore call on all development partners of the G5 Sahel countries to keep their commitment to fill the funding gap of the Development and Security Strategy (DSS) and its Priority Investment Program (PIP), which focuses on governance, resilience, security, and infrastructure.

Mr. President,

Due to the combined effects of insecurity and climate change, the humanitarian situation in the Sahel has also deteriorated with just under 30 million people in need of protection according to the United Nations. Intensified efforts to address the needs of these vulnerable people are necessary if we are to avoid creating a breeding ground for the recruitment of youth by armed terrorist groups.

In conclusion, and as stated by the UN Secretary General in his latest report on the issue, "the international community has a moral obligation and shared responsibility to support the G-5 Sahel member states in their commendable efforts to bring peace and sustainable development to the region. They have shown their political will and commitment by setting up the Joint Force to combat this terrorist threat, which is of concern to all humanity.

I thank you.