



OIC/ACM-2018/MALI/REP

ANNEXE - III

**REPORT OF THE
CONTACT GROUP MEETING ON MALI**

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL SECRETARIAT, NEW YORK
24 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**REPORT OF THE
CONTACT GROUP MEETING ON MALI HELD ON THE SIDELINES OF THE
ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
NEW YORK, UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
24 SEPTEMBER 2018**

The OIC Contact Group on Mali met at Ministerial level on 24 September 2018 on the sidelines of the Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers in New York. The Meeting reviewed the latest development in Mali and the implementation of the peace process. The Meeting received a briefing from the Foreign Minister of Mali and the Secretary General. It also heard from other members of the Contact group.

During deliberations, which focused on the implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali resulting from the Algiers process, as well as peace building process in Mali, the Meeting agreed on the following:

- i. The Meeting reaffirm its strong commitment to the principles of sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Mali.
- ii. The Meeting reiterated its strong condemnation of violent extremism and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, organized crime, drug and human trafficking which continue to undermine peace, security and stability in Mali and the Sahel region and expressed its deep concern regarding the heavy losses of lives in the sub-region.
- iii. The Meeting re-affirmed the full support of the OIC as one of the guarantors for the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, resulting from the Algiers process, and reiterated the determination of the Organization to continue to actively work with the Government of Mali in the critical implementation phase through its effective participation in the work of the Monitoring and Implementation Committee and urged the Malian parties signatories of the accord to speed up the implementation process.
- iv. The Meeting noted the fragile situation in the Central and Northern regions in Mali and underscored the necessity to accelerate the restoring of State authority in all parts of the country through a comprehensive and inclusive approach.

In this regard, the Meeting commended the actions taken to accelerate implementation of the Peace Agreement, including the Prime Minister's visit to Northern regions and Kidal, the registration of 43 combatants for the mixed unit there, and the submission of lists of combatants for the Operational Coordination Mechanisms (MOC) in Timbuktu, which are encouraging signs of a potentially improving dialogue among the Malian Parties.

- v. The Meeting commended the government of Mali for the 2018 budgetary resources made available for the interim authorities of the northern regions of Mali and the

inclusive approach which was conducive to substantive discussions and paved the way to consolidate the trust between Malian stakeholders. In this context, the Meeting welcomed the first Report of the Independent Observer presented to the Monitoring Committee of the Agreement on 28th May 2018, which concluded that those steps represent meaningful progress, despite significant delays in implementing the roadmap adopted in March 2018 and, more broadly, the need to set realistic targets centered on the pillars of the agreement, which represent the core elements of sustainable peace in Mali.

- vi. The Meeting commended the Secretary General for dispatching a Joint OIC Needs Assessment Mission to Mali from 5-10 March 2018 composed of relevant OIC institutions that evaluated the security, socio-economic, development and humanitarian situation on the ground in Mali. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed the 3 years action plan ISESCO in cooperation with the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) adopted to rehabilitate the Ahmed Baba Institute in Tombouctou (a rich Islamic cultural heritage). Equally, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) plans to participate among other things, in the financing and rehabilitation of the Sevare-Gao road and the construction of the Kidal airport.
- vii. The Meeting requested the Member States and OIC financial institutions, to provide all the necessary assistance for the long term development of Mali within the framework of the OIC and overall UN Strategy for the Sahel. It also called on them to contribute massively to the socio-economic development of Mali.
- viii. The Meeting welcomed the development projects and other forms of assistance provided by the Member States within the framework of their bilateral cooperation with Mali and strongly invited them to step up their engagement at this crucial stage of the implementation of the Peace Agreement. In this regard, it reiterated its call on the Secretary General to initiate necessary actions that may lead to the establishment of the Trust Fund as decided by the 12th Islamic Summit.
- ix. The Meeting also called on the Member States, OIC institutions and Islamic NGOs to continue to generously extend humanitarian assistance in order to alleviate the suffering of the Malian IDPs and refugees including supporting the efforts of the host countries and the Government of Mali.
- x. The Meeting welcomed the Joint military operations carried out in the first quarter of this year by the G5-Sahel Joint Force to counter terrorism, transnational organized crime and human trafficking in the Sahel region. In this regard, the Meeting reiterated its condolences to the government and people of Mali for the victims of the consecutive attacks and destruction of the Headquarters of the Joint Force in Sevare and the Barkhane Force in Gao in June 2018. In this context, the Meeting welcomed the decision of the EU to finance the construction of a new Headquarters for the G5-Sahel Joint Force.

- xi. The Meeting expressed its gratitude to the countries which promised to contribute towards the operationalization of the Joint Force of G5-Sahel, notably Saudi Arabia, France, United States of America, United Arab Emirates, Turkey and the European Union and called upon them to materialize their promises. It stressed the importance of extending support by the Member States to such regional cooperation in the Sahel countries and noted that such a concrete collective action would go a long way in confronting the wave of cross- border attacks by militant and terrorist groups spreading insecurity in the region.
- xii. In this regard, the Meeting expressed support for the unanimous adoption of the Security Council Resolution 2423 (2018) dated 28th June 2018 extending for another year the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and maintaining its strategic priority to support the implementation of the 2015 Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali.
- xiii. The Meeting requested the Member States and OIC institutions to actively take part on the high level coordination donor conference scheduled on 6th December 2018 in Mauritania to mobilize resources to realize numerous priority developmental projects in the Sahel region.
- xiv. The Meeting congratulated the newly elected President of Mali and encouraged him to keep the momentum going in the implementation of the political and institutional reforms provided by the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali.