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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1057TH MEETING

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
14 JANUARY 2022

PSC/PR/COMM.1/1057(2022)

COMMUNIQUÉ

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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 1057th meeting held on 14 January 2022, on the situation in Mali;

The Peace and Security Council,

Recalling its previous communiques and press statements on the situation in Mali and in the Sahel region, in particular Communique PSC/PR/COMM.1027(2021) adopted at its 127th meeting held on 02 September 2021; Communique PSC/PR/COMM. (1001(2021)) adopted at its 1001st meeting held on 01 June 2021; and Communique [PSC/PR/COMM. (M)] adopted at its 1000th meeting held on 25 May 2021;

Also recalling the Communique of the Sixtieth Ordinary Session of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Authority of Heads of State and Government, held on 12 December 2021, in Abuja, Nigeria and the Communique of the 4th Extraordinary Summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Authority of Heads of State and Government held on 9 January 2022 in Accra, Ghana;

Takes note of opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Amma Adomaa Twum-Amoah, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ghana to the AU and Chairperson of the PSC for January 2022 and the presentation made by H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security; ***also taking note*** of the remarks made by the High Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission and Head of the AU Mission for the Sahel (MISAHEL), H.E. Ambassador Maman Sidikou and the statements made by the Representative of the Chair of the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS), the Republic of Ghana, and H.E. Ambassador Salah Francis Elhamdi, Permanent Representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, in its capacity as a neighboring country, as well as the representative of the United Nations Office to the AU;

Mindful of the provisions of all relevant AU normative instruments, including the AU Constitutive Act; the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union; the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance; and the Declaration on the Framework for an OAU Response to Unconstitutional Changes of Government, adopted by the 36th Ordinary Session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Lomé, Togo, July 2000 (the Lomé Declaration);

Reaffirming the unwavering commitment of the AU to respect the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Mali, as well as the AU's solidarity with the people and Government of Mali.

Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council,

1. ***Endorses*** the Communique of the 4th Extraordinary Summit of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government which took place on 9th January 2022 in Accra, Ghana, which

among others, imposed additional economic and financial sanctions against Mali; ***further endorses*** Communique of the Sixtieth Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Authority, held on 12 December 2021, in Abuja, Nigeria, which reiterated the need for the Transition Authorities in Mali to respect the deadline of the elections without which additional sanctions would be imposed accordingly;

2. ***Expresses*** full support to all efforts aimed at creating the necessary conditions to foster a return to constitutional order in Mali, including the efforts of ECOWAS and the ECOWAS mediator, former Nigerian President Goodluck Johnathan;

3. ***Takes note*** of the Conclusions of the *Assises Nationales de la Refondation* which outlined important recommendations on political, institutional and security measures vital for the peace and stability of Mali; and ***calls for*** restraint and the need for all Malian stakeholders to engage in dialogue and to continue to work together within the framework of the 2015 Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Mali, which emanated from the Algiers process, as the only means to ensure an inclusive approach to address challenges facing Mali which are fundamentally structural and security related;

4. ***Expresses regret*** over the failure of the Malian Transition Authorities to abide by the originally stipulated 18 months' transitional period in line with the commitment set out in the Transitional Charter and organize free, fair and credible democratic elections on 27 February 2022 as called for by the PSC at its 1001st meeting held on 1 June 2021;

5. ***Strongly rejects*** the calendar submitted to the ECOWAS Mediator by the Malian Transition Authorities scheduling to conduct the presidential elections by end of December 2025, setting the duration of the transition for a period of five and half years which is undue elongation of the transition process in Mali; and ***stresses*** that this deems unconstitutional, impermissible, inappropriate and a grave obstruction to democratic processes in the country;

6. ***Calls on*** the Malian Transition Authorities to respect the Transition Charter and the decisions of the PSC and ECOWAS and organize free, fair and credible elections within a reasonable time to be agreed by all stakeholders; and ***underscores*** the imperative of early restoration to civilian led constitutional and democratic order, which is the fundamental roadmap to sustainable stability and development in Mali and the broader Sahel region;

7. ***Welcomes*** the proposal made by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to accompany the Republic of Mali and the ECOWAS on the salutary path of mutual understanding, and ***appeals*** to the Transitional Authorities in Mali and ECOWAS to engage together in this initiative in order to address the outstanding areas of difference with a view for facilitating the return of Mali to constitutional order within an appropriate and feasible period of time, not exceeding sixteen (16) months;

8. In this context, ***indicates*** that the implementation of the pertinent provisions of the aforementioned ECOWAS communiques will be considered by the PSC in conjunction with the outcome of the efforts to be deployed by Algeria, in accordance with paragraph 7 above;

9. In this connection, ***reiterates*** its strong condemnation on any form of Unconstitutional Change of Government in line with the cardinal AU normative frameworks including the Lomé Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa (2000), the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and ***reaffirms*** the urgency for Malian transition authorities to swiftly move towards the return to democratic dispensation;

10. ***Expresses its grave concern*** on deteriorating security situation and absence of state authority in Central Mali and ***calls upon*** all actors to ensure restoration of security and stability in the area; ***takes note*** of the meeting of the Follow-up Committee on the implementation of the 2015 Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Mali, which emanated from the Algiers process and ***reiterates*** the need for a decision-making meeting among Malian signatories to be held, to enable progress, notably on global disarmament, demobilization and reintegration based on the Government's concrete offer to integrate 26,000 combatants in the next two to three years;

11. ***Expresses deep concern*** at the increased violation of human rights and lack of effective mechanisms for the protection of civilians including women and children, ***urgently calls*** on the Government to put in place reliable and efficient mechanisms to ensure civilian protection especially within the regions;

12. ***Condemns*** the continued arrest and unlawful imprisonment of Malian Political Personalities and former leaders by the Transition Authorities and ***demands*** their unconditional release, protection of their unalienable human rights and whenever needed to undertake judicial process for those facing allegations of offenses according to the laws of the country;

13. ***Requests*** the Chairperson of the Commission to swiftly and directly engage with the Malian Transition Authorities and all stakeholders, inclusive of ECOWAS, with a view to finalizing a more practical election timetable that will be acceptable to all Malian stakeholders and which will culminate to a swift return to civilian-led government; ***also requests*** the AU Commission to immediately conduct consultations among the direct neighboring countries of Mali and to subsequently present a report on the outcome of the consultations; ***further requests*** the Chairperson of the Commission to deploy a technical assessment mission to engage with the Transition Authorities with a view to identify areas which need support in order to expedite early restoration of constitutional order;

14. ***Commends*** the United Nations Multidimensional Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and ***pays tribute*** to peacekeepers who lost their lives promoting peace, security and stability in Mali, ***while reiterating*** AU's readiness to actively collaborate with the UN in maintaining peace, stability and security in Mali;

15. ***Appeals*** to the United Nations Security Council to equally support the implementation of the ECOWAS Summit decisions and ensure adequate compliance by its institutions, and ***further calls*** on all AU Member States to support the efforts of ECOWAS until the restoration of constitutional order in Mali;

16. ***Decides*** to remain actively seized of the matter.