



# Security Council

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## Letter dated 1 May 2024 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution [2391 \(2017\)](#), in which the Council requested me, in close coordination with the members of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel) – Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger – and the African Union, to report on the activities of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel and the support provided by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) in this regard.

I also refer to Security Council resolution [2690 \(2023\)](#), in which the Council decided to terminate the mandate of MINUSMA under resolution [2640 \(2022\)](#) and requested the Mission to “immediately start on 1 July 2023 the cessation of its operations, transfer of its tasks, as well as the orderly and safe drawdown and withdrawal of its personnel, with the objective of completing this process by 31 December 2023”. In addition, in June 2023, the tripartite agreement between the United Nations, the European Union and the Executive Secretariat of the G5 Sahel that allowed MINUSMA to provide logistical and operational support to the Joint Force as part of its mandate expired, leaving the Joint Force to face operational and logistical challenges. Lastly, on 2 December 2023, following the decision of Mali on 15 May 2022 to withdraw from the G5 Sahel and its Joint Force, Burkina Faso and the Niger jointly announced their withdrawal from the G5 Sahel, including its Joint Force. On 6 December 2023, Chad and Mauritania issued a joint statement in which they took note of and respected the sovereign decision of Burkina Faso and the Niger to leave the G5 Sahel and stated that they would “implement all necessary measures in accordance with the G5 founding convention, notably article 20”, which stipulates that the G5 Sahel can be dissolved at the request of at least three of its member States.

In the light of the end of the tripartite agreement, the withdrawal of MINUSMA and the announced dissolution of the G5 Sahel, the Secretariat is unable to fulfil its reporting obligations under resolution [2391 \(2017\)](#), namely on:

- (i) Progress in the operationalization of the Joint Force;
- (ii) International support granted to the Joint Force and possible measures to enhance its efficiency;
- (iii) Implementation of the technical agreement, including through a detailed outline of the support provided by MINUSMA to the Joint Force, an assessment of its potential impact on MINUSMA as well as the provision of benchmarks to indicate the level of operationalization of the Joint Force at which the logistical and operational support of the Mission may be gradually withdrawn;



(iv) Challenges encountered by the Joint Force and possible measures for further consideration;

(v) Implementation by the G5 Sahel States of the compliance framework and the human rights due diligence policy, as well as on ways to mitigate any adverse impact of the military operations of the Joint Force on the civilian population, including on women and children.

Therefore, I reiterate the recommendation made in my letter dated 10 November 2023 ([S/2023/865](#)) that the Security Council terminate the reporting obligations of the Secretariat under resolution [2391 \(2017\)](#).

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* António **Guterres**

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