



Security Council

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Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

Conclusions on children and armed conflict in Mali

1. During a formal meeting held on 31 March 2023, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict examined the fourth report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Mali (S/2022/856), which covers the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2022, and was introduced by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. The Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations also addressed the Working Group.

2. The members of the Working Group expressed deep concern at the increase in five of the six grave violations, which continue to be committed against children affected by armed conflict in Mali, and noted that rape and other forms of sexual violence were estimated to be highly underreported during the reporting period. They were particularly concerned by the recruitment and use of children and by the fourfold increase in the number of verified cases of abduction identified in the report. They underscored that attacks on schools in contravention of international law, the looting of supplies and the killing and abduction of school personnel were unacceptable, and encouraged the transitional Government of Mali to prioritize the operationalization of the Safe Schools Declaration, which Mali endorsed in 2018. They noted that the majority of the violations verified by the report remained unattributed, whereas most of the attributed cases were attributed to armed groups; they urged all parties to conflict to immediately cease all these violations and to release children from their ranks; and they echoed the call for the transitional Government of Mali to develop and implement a national prevention strategy with assistance from the United Nations. Members further highlighted the need for prevention and accountability for instances of the six grave violations in the reporting period. Finally, they noted the importance of allocating sufficient child protection capacity within the plan articulated for the transfer of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) tasks in accordance with Security Council resolution 2690 (2023).

3. The members of the Working Group welcomed the report of the Secretary-General. Further to the meeting, and subject to and consistent with applicable international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011), 2068 (2012), 2143 (2014), 2225 (2015), 2427 (2018) and 2601 (2021), the Working Group agreed to direct action as set out below.



Public statement by the Chair of the Working Group

4. The Working Group agreed to address a message, through a public statement issued by the Chair of the Working Group to all parties to armed conflict in Mali, including the Malian armed forces, Ansar Eddine, as part of Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM), Mouvement national de libération de l'Azawad (MNLA), as part of the Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad (CMA), as well as the Platform coalition, including affiliated groups:

(a) Strongly condemning all violations and abuses that continue to be committed against children by parties to the conflict in Mali, noting with grave concern the considerable increase in verified violations and abuses throughout the reporting period; and urging all parties concerned to immediately end and prevent all violations and abuses involving the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming of children, rape and other forms of sexual violence against children, abductions, attacks on schools and hospitals and denial of humanitarian access, and to comply with their obligations under applicable international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law;

(b) Calling upon all the parties to the conflict to further implement the previous conclusions of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in Mali ([S/AC.51/2020/11](#));

(c) Expressing serious concern about the security challenges facing the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting in Mali, which presented challenges to the verification of violations and abuses against children, and that, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General, the information contained in the report does not reflect the full impact of armed conflict on children in Mali during the reporting period, and in this regard urging parties to the conflict to ensure United Nations personnel safe and unhindered access to territories under their control, including for monitoring and reporting purposes;

(d) Commending the continued collaboration between the Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad (CMA) and the United Nations to accelerate the implementation by CMA of its action plan; welcoming the adoption in August 2021 by the two factions of the Platform coalition of armed groups of an action plan to end and prevent child recruitment and use; calling upon CMA and the Platform coalition to swiftly and fully implement the action plan and to facilitate safe, timely and unhindered access for humanitarian actors and medical personnel to the areas under their control for the purpose of delivering assistance to children, monitoring progress in the implementation of the action plan and verifying allegations;

(e) Stressing the importance of accountability for all violations and abuses against children in armed conflict; stressing that all perpetrators of the six grave violations must be brought to justice and held accountable without undue delay, including through timely and systematic investigations and, as appropriate, prosecution and conviction; and underscoring that all victims and survivors must have access to justice, as well as that all children must have access to gender-sensitive, age-appropriate, disability-inclusive, non-discriminatory and comprehensive child protection services;

(f) Noting that, on 13 July 2012, the transitional authorities of Mali referred the situation in Mali since January 2012 to the International Criminal Court, to which Mali is a State party;

(g) Underscoring that child protection provisions should be fully taken into account by all stakeholders engaged in the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, as appropriate; and calling for enhanced efforts with

regard to the implementation of the national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme required by the Agreement;

(h) Expressing deep concern at, and condemnation of, the considerable increase in the verified recruitment and use of children to fulfil various roles, noting that signatory armed groups were the main perpetrators of the recruitment and use of children; and strongly urging all parties to immediately release, without preconditions, all children from their ranks, hand them over to the relevant civilian child protection actors, and end and prevent further recruitment and use of children in line with their obligations as set out in the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict;

(i) Expressing grave concern at the deprivation of liberty of children for their association or alleged association with armed groups; noting that some children lacked valid civil documentation to prove their age; emphasizing that children who have been recruited or used by parties to the conflict, including groups designated as terrorists, and are accused of having committed crimes during armed conflicts, should be treated primarily as victims, and that detention should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time; and urging the transitional Government of Mali to comply with its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict and calling for continued implementation of the Protocol on the Release and Handover of Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups signed by the United Nations and the Government of Mali in 2013, as well as guided by the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (the Paris Principles) signed by Mali;

(j) Encouraging the transitional Government to develop a national strategy to prevent instances of the six grave violations against children and to focus on long-term and sustainable reintegration and rehabilitation opportunities for children affected by armed conflict that are gender- and age-sensitive, and inclusive of children with disabilities, including access to health care, psychosocial support, and education programmes, as well as raising awareness and working with communities to avoid stigmatization of these children and facilitate their return and reintegration, while taking into account the specific needs of girls and boys, including children with disabilities, to contribute to the well-being of children through, inter alia, education provided in a safe environment, and to sustainable peace and security; encouraging efforts towards the implementation of the national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme required by the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali; in that regard encouraging the transitional Government to ensure the implementation of the required national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, which is required by the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation, and that all programmes and justice and security sector reforms take into account the specific needs of girls and boys, including through the development of a gender-sensitive and age-sensitive process;

(k) Expressing deep concern at the continued high number of children killed or maimed, including as a direct or indirect result of reported attacks, rising intercommunal violence, crossfire during clashes among parties to conflict and incidents with explosive remnants of war or improvised explosive devices; and calling upon parties to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law, in particular the principles of distinction and proportionality enshrined therein;

(l) Expressing grave concern about incidents of rape and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated against children; noting that such acts often occurred after abduction and during association with armed groups and included forced marriage; urging all parties to take immediate and specific measures to put an end to and prevent

the perpetration of rape and other forms of sexual violence against children, including by other members to the conflict in Mali, and stressing the importance of accountability for those who commit sexual violence against children; noting with concern the difficulty to track, document and verify such violations and abuses owing to several factors, including prevailing insecurity, lack of protection for victims and survivors and witnesses, impunity, stigma, fear of reprisals, limited access to justice and sociocultural barriers, resulting in an underreporting of the prevalence of cases of sexual violence against children that may have occurred in Mali during the reporting period, and stressing the importance of providing non-discriminatory, age-appropriate and comprehensive specialized services, including psychosocial, health, legal and livelihood support and services, for victims and survivors of sexual violence;

(m) Strongly condemning attacks on schools and hospitals in violation of international law, including the destruction of infrastructure and related facilities and attacks on personnel; expressing concern at the increase in verified attacks during the reporting period; calling upon all parties to the armed conflict to comply with applicable international law and to respect the civilian character of schools and hospitals, including their personnel, as such, and to immediately end and prevent attacks or threats of attacks against those institutions and their personnel, as well as the military use of schools and hospitals in violation of applicable international law, as guided by the Safe Schools Declaration, which was endorsed by the Government of Mali in February 2018; and noting that the education and health systems remained deeply affected by the conflict, intercommunal violence and overall insecurity, depriving 519,300 children of their fundamental rights to education and basic health care;

(n) Strongly condemning instances of abduction of children related to growing insecurity and intensification of armed groups' activities, including for the purposes of the recruitment and use of children, and rape and other forms of sexual violence against children; noting with concern the fourfold increase in the number of verified cases of abduction; and urging all relevant parties to immediately release without preconditions all abducted children;

(o) Expressing grave concern at incidents of denial of humanitarian access, including attacks on humanitarian personnel and facilities that have significantly constrained humanitarian response, and restrictions on the delivery of humanitarian aid to children, and calling upon all parties to conflict to allow and facilitate, in accordance with international humanitarian law, safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access, consistent with the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, adopted in General Assembly resolution [46/182](#), as well as the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, to respect the exclusively humanitarian nature and impartiality of humanitarian aid and to respect the work of all United Nations agencies and humanitarian actors without adverse distinction.

5. The Working Group agreed to address a message to community and religious leaders, through a public statement by its Chair:

(a) Emphasizing the important role of community and religious leaders in strengthening the protection of children affected by armed conflict;

(b) Urging them to publicly condemn and continue to advocate ending and preventing violations and abuses against children, in particular those involving the recruitment and use of children, the killing and maiming of children, rape and other forms of sexual violence against children, abductions and attacks and threats of attacks against schools and hospitals, and to engage with the transitional Government, the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to support the reintegration of

children affected by armed conflict in their communities, including by raising awareness to avoid the stigmatization of these children.

Recommendations to the Security Council

6. The Working Group agreed to recommend that the President of the Security Council transmit a letter addressed to the transitional Government of Mali:

(a) Expressing grave concern at the violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict during the reporting period, including those involving the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access; noting with concern the considerable increase in the number of verified violations and abuses; also expressing grave concern at the disproportionate negative impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on children; further expressing concern at the continued military use of schools in violation of applicable international law; calling for an immediate halt to such violations and abuses; stressing the primary role of the transitional Government in providing protection and relief to all children affected by armed conflict in Mali and recalling that Mali is a State party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict; affirming that the gradual restoration and extension of State presence and authority, as well as basic social services in central Mali would contribute significantly to the stability of the country, and recognizing the importance of strengthening national capacities in that regard;

(b) Welcoming the commitment and efforts of the transitional Government of Mali for the protection of children affected by armed conflict; welcoming the collaboration between the transitional Government and the country task force to reinforce community-based mechanisms focused on the prevention of the six grave violations and the identification of and provision of care for children released from armed forces and groups, as well as to children at risk of recruitment and re-recruitment; and further encouraging the transitional Government to implement the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child with regard to the recruitment and use of children below the age of 18 in armed conflict;

(c) Welcoming Mali's advances in the implementation of the Safe Schools Declaration, including through the development of a draft bill on the protection of education from attacks, encouraging the transitional Government to adopt and implement the draft bill on the protection of education from attacks, stressing the importance of access to education and health care for all children in Mali, and calling upon the transitional Government to take appropriate steps to ensure that schools and related personnel are protected and for the repair and rehabilitation of schools damaged in the course of military operations;

(d) Stressing the importance of accountability for all violations and abuses against children in armed conflict, stressing that all perpetrators of the six grave violations must be brought to justice and held accountable without undue delay, including through timely and systematic investigation and, as appropriate, prosecution and conviction; welcoming the advances made in the transitional justice process and the promotion of children's participation therein, in particular the finalization of the draft law on the reform of the Military Code to strengthen the effectiveness of the investigation and prosecution of offences committed by the Malian Defence and Security Forces and the finalization of the terms of reference for a coordination mechanism between the transitional Government and the United Nations to follow up on allegations of such violations; expressing concern at limited progress with regard to the fight against impunity through investigations, prosecution and conviction of suspected perpetrators of grave violations against children, inter

alia, due to the security situation; calling upon the transitional Government to pursue its efforts to address the prevalence of impunity, to promote accountability by investigating and, as appropriate, prosecuting individuals accused of instances of the six grave violations against children, and by ensuring that all victims have access to justice and are provided with comprehensive, age-appropriate and gender-sensitive protection services;

(e) Expressing concern at incidents of killing and maiming of children in Mali; urging the transitional Government to take all action necessary to better protect children and prevent instances of violations; and further calling upon the transitional Government to invest in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, security sector reform, demining efforts and explosive ordnance risk education;

(f) Expressing concern at the elevated number of cases of recruitment and use of children by all parties to the conflict; calling upon the transitional Government to develop a national strategy for the prevention of instances of the six grave violations against children with the support of the United Nations, strengthening the legal child protection framework, including by finalizing the revision of the Child Protection Code, and reinforcing national systems to prevent the recruitment or use of children; urging the transitional Government to work with the United Nations to review allegations of child recruitment and use by its armed forces and to reinforce effective age assessment procedures within the ongoing reform of the security sector; and encouraging the institutionalization of child protection trainings for the Malian Defence and Security Forces;

(g) Encouraging the transitional Government to focus on long-term and sustainable reintegration and rehabilitation opportunities for children affected by armed conflict that are gender-sensitive and age-sensitive, and inclusive of children with disabilities, including access to health care, psychosocial support, and education programmes, as well as raising awareness and working with communities to avoid stigmatization of these children and facilitate their return, while taking into account the specific needs of girls and boys, to contribute to the well-being of children and to sustainable peace and security; in that regard calling upon the transitional Government to ensure that all disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes required by the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation and security sector reforms take into account the specific needs of girls and boys, including through the development of a gender-sensitive and age-sensitive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process;

(h) Expressing concern at the deprivation of liberty of children for their association or alleged association with armed groups; noting that some children lacked valid civil documentation to prove their age; welcoming the release from detention by the Malian authorities of 25 children and calling upon authorities to fully and consistently implement the Protocol on the Release and Handover of Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups and to work with the United Nations to review the cases of children whose age could not be determined and who remained detained for alleged association with armed groups; noting that if there is any doubt or margin of error, the decision should be in favour of a determination that the person is below the age of 18; emphasizing that children who have been recruited by parties to the conflict in Mali, including those groups designated as terrorist groups, and are accused of having committed crimes during armed conflicts should be treated primarily as victims; urging the transitional Government to comply with its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, in particular that the deprivation of liberty for children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period and to prioritize their reintegration, as guided by the Principles

and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (the Paris Principles), which it has endorsed;

(i) Expressing grave concern about the perpetration of rape and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated in Mali, while noting that most cases remained unattributed; strongly urging the transitional Government to take immediate and specific measures to put an end to and prevent the perpetration of rape and other forms of sexual violence against children; stressing the importance of accountability for those who commit sexual or gender-based violence against children and noting the insufficient progress with regard to the fight against impunity through the investigation of allegations and the prosecution and conviction of those responsible for sexual violence against children; calling upon the transitional Government to ensure that victims and survivors have access to the required services and assistance, as well as to justice; and welcoming the establishment of 10 integrated service centres to support multisectoral services for survivors of gender-based and sexual violence in a confidential and protective environment in Bamako and in the Gao, Kayes, Koulikoro, Mopti, Ségou and Sikasso Regions;

(j) Encouraging the transitional Government to continue strengthening the child protection legal framework by revising and adopting the national law on child protection and to adopt the draft law to establish a moratorium on the 30-day legal deadline for birth registration in order to restore children's fundamental rights related to identity and birth registration;

(k) Welcoming advances in the truth seeking, justice and reconciliation process and encouraging the transitional Government to continue supporting the measures recommended by the Malian Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission towards further promoting children's participation in the reconciliation process; and further welcoming the adoption of the national policy on reparations drafted by the Commission.

7. The Working Group agreed to recommend that the President of the Security Council transmit a letter to the Secretary-General:

(a) Requesting the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict in Mali and to ensure the preservation and transfer of the child protection data and capacity of MINUSMA, in line with Security Council resolutions [2640 \(2022\)](#) and [2690 \(2023\)](#), to the United Nations country team in the plan for the transfer of MINUSMA tasks, including through the deployment of child protection advisers, and noting that their key tasks include, in line with the Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations adopted in 2017, monitoring and reporting on grave violations and abuses committed against children and engaging in dialogue on action plans;

(b) Also requesting the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continue their efforts to further support, in line with their respective mandates, the Malian authorities in mainstreaming the specific needs of children affected by the armed conflict and the protection of their rights in all disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and in security sector reform, in establishing a joint mechanism for the review of cases of children detained on charges related to the armed conflict and association with armed groups, in conducting a screening and age assessment of the Malian Defence and Security Forces and in establishing recruitment procedures and age assessment measures to prevent underage recruitment;

(c) Further requesting the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting continues to monitor and report on the

detention of children for association with armed forces and armed groups, and that it further continues its advocacy for the release and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups and children detained on charges related to association with armed groups and prioritizes its efforts to reach out to non-State armed groups, with a view to developing action plans to end the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law, as well as rape and sexual violence, and to address other violations and abuses committed against children in Mali.

8. The Working Group agreed to recommend that the President of the Security Council transmit a letter by the Chair of the Working Group to the President of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and the Governments of the States members of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel):

(a) Welcoming the commitments made by the African Union and the States members of the G5 Sahel to peace and security in the Sahel and the protection of children affected by armed conflict, noting the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the African Union Peace and Security Council communiqué on the protection of children in conflict situations in Africa;

(b) Welcoming the cooperation between the States members of G5 Sahel and the United Nations regarding child protection issues, including through the establishment of a compliance framework as set out in Security Council resolution [2391 \(2017\)](#); and encouraging the G5 Sahel to continue to fully implement the child protection aspects contained in this compliance framework and inviting the G5 Sahel and the country task force to coordinate as appropriate;

(c) Underscoring the importance of keeping the protection of children as a priority in the planning and conduct of military operations and of transferring children associated with armed groups captured during operations to child protection actors as required by the human rights and international humanitarian law compliance framework of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel.

9. The Working Group agreed to recommend that the President of the Security Council transmit a letter to the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#), and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities:

(a) Recalling paragraph 7 (b) of resolution [1882 \(2009\)](#), by which the Security Council requested enhanced communication between the Working Group and relevant Security Council sanctions committees, including through the exchange of pertinent information on violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict;

(b) Encouraging the continued sharing of relevant information by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict with the Committee and the Working Group;

(c) Encouraging the Committee to continue to consider the designation for sanctions of individuals and entities, in accordance with the rules and guidelines of the Committee.

10. The Working Group agreed to recommend the following to the Security Council:

(a) To ensure that the situation of children and armed conflict in Mali continues to be duly taken into consideration by the Council in any of its discussions concerning the situation in Mali.

Direct action by the Working Group

11. The Working Group agreed to address letters from the Chair of the Working Group to the World Bank and other donors:

(a) Encouraging donors to provide funding and assistance to support the transitional Government of Mali and relevant humanitarian and development actors in the following:

(i) Providing release and reintegration programmes for children formerly associated with armed forces and groups and training of the Malian Defence and Security Forces on the protection of children, in bolstering the education and health system, especially in northern and central Mali, in ensuring timely and appropriate care for child victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence, through facilitating the provision of services for victims, including addressing deficiencies in the criminal justice system that undermine the access of victims to justice, and improving the geographical coverage and quality of care;

(ii) Supporting disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and security sector reform to mainstream child protection and ensure that the specific needs of girls and boys affected by the armed conflict are fully taken into account at all stages of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and in security sector reform programmes;

(iii) Highlighting the importance of explosive ordnance risk education programmes for children so as to prevent the killing and maiming of children and reduce the impact of mines, unexploded ordnance, cluster munition and explosive remnants of war on children;

(iv) Appealing to donors working alongside the United Nations system to support the efforts of the transitional Government in the promotion of birth and late-birth registration as a means to prevent underage recruitment;

(v) Reiterating that the Security Council called upon regional and international partners to support, through voluntary contributions, technical assistance and advice, efforts in the establishment and implementation of the compliance framework by the States members of G5 Sahel, and encouraged all relevant partners, including relevant United Nations entities, within the framework of their respective mandates and existing resources, to support the implementation of the compliance framework and to ensure close coordination of their activities in that regard;

(vi) Fully fund appeals for child protection in the Mali humanitarian response plan and at a minimum ensure that child protection is funded at the same level as the overall appeal;

(b) Inviting donors to keep the Working Group informed of their funding and assistance efforts as appropriate; and further inviting donors to prioritize close consultation with the transitional Government of Mali.

Annex*

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mali to the United Nations

Comments of Mali on the conclusions of the meeting of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict of 31 March 2023

- There are no children in the ranks of the Malian Armed Forces, as the age of majority is required under labour regulations, and proof of the required age must be included in applications for recruitment;
- As Mali is no longer a member of the Group of Five for the Sahel, the mechanisms of that organization do not apply to it. Nevertheless, Mali remains committed to fulfilling its commitments relating to human rights, including the rights of children;
- The Malian Armed Forces are not responsible for the attacks on civilian infrastructure;
- The Malian Armed Forces do carry out operations, but they ask humanitarian organizations to inform them of their activities for coordination purposes, and to avoid areas of military operations. There are thus no obstacles to humanitarian activity in Mali; rather, there are precautionary security measures adopted by the defence and security forces in order to protect the lives of humanitarian actors from danger;
- The use of the term “impunity” is inappropriate insofar as the State, which has the primary responsibility for investigating and following up on violations regardless of the identity or status of the perpetrator, has carried out investigations, and some cases have been brought before the Assize Court, despite the security constraints affecting them;
- The report does not sufficiently highlight the Government’s efforts to protect and educate child victims of conflict, in particular the national policy for the promotion and protection of children, the helpline project for reporting and referring cases of violations against children, and steps to improve children’s education, including the establishment of accelerated centres and one-room schools in large rural centres, tutoring, and the holding of remedial courses;
- The Malian Armed Forces are accused of failing to comply with international human rights law and international humanitarian law, although these subjects are taught to them during common basic training, and other steps have been taken, such as ensuring that operational detachments are accompanied by military police officers, the assignment of legal advisers to the various commands, the development of a map of abuses allegedly committed by the Malian Armed Forces from 2018 to the present, and the holding of regular correctional and criminal hearings;
- Mali considers unnecessary the recommendation to refer cases of sexual violence to the International Criminal Court, as it has judicial institutions capable of hearing such cases. These judicial institutions simply need international cooperation to build their skills and capacities.

New York, 26 May 2023

* The present annex is being issued without formal editing.