



Security Council

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Letter dated 17 November 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Niger, Mohamed Bazoum (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the enclosed letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) **BAN** Ki-moon



Annex

[Original: French]

I have the honour to inform you that the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Ministers of Defence of the African States that contribute troops to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali met in Niamey, the Niger, from 3 to 5 November to discuss ways of enhancing the effectiveness of the Mission in the light of the mandate that was assigned to it under resolutions 2100 (2013) and 2164 (2014).

At the end of the meeting, I was entrusted with the task of conveying to you, for information purposes, the summary of conclusions and the recommendations of this important ministerial meeting (see enclosure).

(Signed) Mohamed **Bazoum**

Enclosure

Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Ministers of Defence of the African States that contribute troops to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali: summary of conclusions

Niamey, 5 November 2014

1. At the initiative of the Government of the Republic of the Niger, a meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Ministers of Defence of the African States that contribute troops to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) was held in Niamey, the Niger, on 5 November 2014.
2. The participants in the ministerial meeting were as follows:
 - (a) African troop-contributing countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo;
 - (b) Permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, as observers: China, France and United States of America;
 - (c) Neighbours of Mali, as observers: Algeria and Mauritania;
 - (d) European troop-contributing country, as observer: Germany;
 - (e) International and African intergovernmental organizations, as observers: African Union, Economic Community of West African States, MINUSMA, European Union, Community of Sahelo-Saharan States and Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
3. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the implementation of the mandate of MINUSMA in the light of the deteriorating security situation in northern Mali.
4. The work of the ministerial meeting was guided by the following bureau: President (Niger), First Vice-President (Chad), Second Vice-President (Nigeria) and Rapporteur (Benin).
5. The ministerial meeting, which was preceded by a meeting of military and legal experts from the African countries that contribute troops to MINUSMA, held an exchange of views on the security situation in northern Mali and on the challenges that MINUSMA had to face in carrying out its mandate. It agreed on a series of measures designed to help deal with the situation prevailing on the ground.
6. The Ministers and heads of delegations indicated their grave concern about the rising number of terrorist attacks against the defence and security forces of Mali, the international forces operating in northern Mali and the civilian population. They also expressed their appreciation for the efforts made by the Malian and international forces (MINUSMA and Barkhane) to stabilize the situation and for the sacrifices they had undergone. They deplored the loss of human life.
7. The Ministers and heads of delegations noted that the Niamey meeting was being held in a diplomatic and political context marked by two important events: the meeting of the United Nations Security Council of 10 November 2014, at which the Council would consider the situation in northern Mali and review the activities of

MINUSMA; and the resumption in Algiers, starting on 15 November 2014, of the final phase of the inter-Malian peace talks. They emphasized the necessity of taking advantage of the timing of those two events to impart new momentum to the process of stabilizing the security situation and the quest for a permanent political solution to the crisis.

8. Accordingly, and on the basis of the recommendations of the experts, the Ministers and heads of delegations agreed as follows:

(a) With regard to the Algiers process, the participants reiterated their full support for the inter-Malian peace talks and noted with satisfaction the progress made in that context. They expressed their belief that the prompt conclusion of a peace agreement would create favourable conditions for a more effective fight against terrorism and cross-border organized crime;

(b) With regard to the operational capacity of MINUSMA, the Ministers and heads of delegations called for renewed efforts to bring the Mission up to the strength authorized by resolution 2100 (2013). In addition, they requested the States Members of the United Nations to provide troops and police with adequate capabilities and equipment to enable MINUSMA to effectively fulfil its mandate. They also urged the African Union Commission to work to actively sustain the efforts of the United Nations to mobilize adequate human resources and equipment. The reinforcement should include, among other things, equipment for air mobility, clearance operations, force protection and medical evacuation. It should also result in the revision of the concept of operations, the rules of engagement and the deployment plan for MINUSMA, including the adequate rotation of contingents serving in the most difficult areas, to enhance its mobility and its coordination with other forces;

(c) With regard to the strengthening of the capabilities of the defence and security forces of Mali, the Ministers and heads of delegations emphasized the urgent need for action in that respect to enable the forces not only to defend the integrity of Malian territory but also to participate in the regional and international effort to combat terrorism;

(d) On the subject of the exchange of information and intelligence between the countries of the region in the context of the fight against terrorism and cross-border organized crime, the Ministers and heads of delegations agreed on the need to reinforce existing mechanisms, in particular the Fusion and Liaison Unit and the regular meetings of the heads of intelligence and security services in the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan region;

(e) With regard to the reinforcement of cross-border cooperation for the purpose of facilitating operations against terrorism and all types of trafficking, the Ministers and heads of delegations urged the countries concerned to put in place specific mechanisms as necessary, including joint patrols and mixed units as envisaged in the Nouakchott Process;

(f) With regard to the building of national capacity in the States of the region for the purpose of combating terrorism, cross-border crime and money-laundering, the Ministers and heads of delegations requested those States to redouble their efforts and to provide their national structures with the necessary human, material and financial resources. They also requested the relevant regional

and international organizations to facilitate the mobilization of the assistance required;

(g) With regard to the strengthening of coordination between the forces operating in northern Mali, the Ministers and heads of delegations acknowledged the necessity of greater involvement of the defence and security forces of Mali in the planning and conduct of the security operations led by MINUSMA and the Barkhane force;

(h) With regard to an enhanced ability to take action against the terrorist and criminal groups in northern Mali, the Ministers and heads of delegations advocated the establishment of a rapid-reaction force. They requested the African Union Commission to expedite consideration of this matter within the framework of the Nouakchott Process on the enhancement of security cooperation and the operationalization of the African peace and security architecture in the Sahelo-Saharan region, with a view to submitting, together with the countries of the region, detailed recommendations to the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

9. The Ministers and heads of delegations appealed to the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and to the Security Council of the United Nations to provide all the support necessary to ensure the follow-up and implementation of the measures agreed following these conclusions. In addition, they urged the United Nations Security Council to take the present conclusions into account at its meeting on 10 November 2014.

10. The Ministerial Meeting entrusted to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Niger the task of formally conveying these conclusions to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
