



## Security Council

Distr.: General  
23 December 2014  
English  
Original: French

---

### **Letter dated 22 December 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the declaration of the first summit of Heads of State and Government on the Nouakchott Process, held on 18 December 2014 (see annex).

In the declaration, the Heads of State and Government reiterate their commitment to the sovereignty of the Republic of Mali, its territorial integrity and the unified, republican and secular character of the Malian State.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Sékou **Kassé**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative



**Annex to the letter dated 22 December 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**First summit of the countries participating in the Nouakchott Process on the enhancement of security cooperation and the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahelo-Saharan Region**

**Nouakchott Declaration**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of Burkina Faso, Chad, Libya, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, as well as the President of the Council of the Nation of Algeria and the Minister for Defence of Côte d'Ivoire, representing the Heads of State of Algeria and Côte d'Ivoire, and the ambassadors representing the Heads of State of Guinea, Niger and Nigeria, met in Nouakchott on 18 December 2014, within the framework of the first summit of the countries participating in the Nouakchott Process on the enhancement of security cooperation and the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahelo-Saharan region, under the chairmanship of Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, Chairperson of the African Union. The African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, representing the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, participated in the Summit.
2. The summit was held in the presence of the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa, as well as his Special Envoy for the Sahel, the Special Envoy of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for the Sahel and the Special Representative of the European Union for the Sahel.
3. The summit was convened in pursuance of the recommendations of the third ministerial meeting of the countries in the region, held in Niamey on 19 February 2014, and the conclusions of the different meetings organized since the launching of the Nouakchott Process in March 2013. It reflects our collective will to address the challenges to peace and security in the Sahelo-Saharan region.
4. Our deliberations took place on the basis of the report submitted by the African Union Commission on the implementation of the Nouakchott Process and the modalities for its enhancement, as well as the recommendations of the preparatory ministerial meeting, held in Nouakchott on 17 December 2014. We seized this opportunity to consider the political and security situation in the Sahelo-Saharan region, as well as the efforts aimed at overcoming the challenges at hand and promoting lasting peace, security and stability. We also seized the opportunity of this first meeting to take stock of the efforts deployed to enhance security cooperation and operationalize the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahelo-Saharan region and to agree on the future steps to strengthen the Nouakchott Process.

### **On the overall situation in the Sahel region**

5. We welcome the results registered so far in the Inter-Malian Inclusive Dialogue, initiated in Algiers in July 2014, with the support of the mediation led by Algeria and comprising the countries of the region (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria), as well as the African Union, ECOWAS, the United Nations, the European Union and OIC. We urge the Malian parties to conclude a peace agreement when the talks resume in Algiers in January 2015 on the basis of the principles already agreed upon in the road map signed on 24 July 2014. We request all the armed groups that are signatories to the Ouagadougou Agreement to dissociate themselves from the terrorist groups. We reiterate our commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Mali, as well as to the unitary nature and the republican and secular form of the State. We are convinced that a speedy conclusion of these talks, with the signing of a comprehensive and final peace agreement, will greatly facilitate the efforts to combat terrorism and transnational organized crime in our region.

6. We welcome the significant progress made in Burkina Faso, following the events that took place at the end of October 2014, with the establishment of a transition leading to the organization of free, fair and credible elections in November 2015, and encourage the Burkinabé stakeholders to persevere in their efforts in a spirit of consensus and inclusiveness. We call upon the international community to provide all the necessary support. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of an international support group for the transition in Burkina Faso, under the joint auspices of the African Union, ECOWAS and the United Nations, and look forward to the convening of the inaugural meeting of the group during the month of January 2015.

7. We are deeply concerned about the serious crisis affecting Libya, marked by the escalation of violence and the collapse of State authority, thus posing a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the entire Sahelo-Saharan region. We reaffirm our full solidarity with the people of Libya in these trying moments of their history. We fully support the efforts undertaken by the African Union and Libya's neighbours. In this regard, we support the efforts being made by Algeria and the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to create conditions conducive to a dialogue between all the Libyan parties, with the exception of the terrorist groups recognized as such, with a view to promoting a political solution that preserves the unity, territorial integrity and stability of Libya. We note with satisfaction the convening of the inaugural meeting of the International Contact Group on Libya in Addis Ababa on 3 December 2014, and stress the central role of the Group in the coordination of international action for Libya.

8. We are also deeply concerned about the worsening of the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism in the Sahelo-Saharan region, as well as the close links that terrorist armed groups maintain with transnational organized crime, particularly drug and human trafficking, money-laundering and illicit arms trafficking. We strongly condemn the criminal attacks that the Boko Haram terrorist group continues to perpetrate in northern Nigeria and in neighbouring countries. We also note with concern that the situation in Libya has enabled terrorist groups to find sanctuaries in some parts of that country.

**On the implementation status of the Nouakchott Process and the modalities of its enhancement**

9. In the light of the foregoing, we stress that the regular meetings of the heads of the intelligence and security services of the countries of the region constitute an indispensable tool for the exchange of information and intelligence in the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime, as well as for the promotion of confidence and good neighbourliness.

10. We welcome the results recorded in the implementation of the agreed actions and call for the intensification of the efforts made. In this regard, we request that everything be done to ensure that these meetings are held every two months, as agreed, and that, as much as possible, the heads of the intelligence and security services participate in person in these meetings. We urge all the stakeholders concerned, including the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, the Sahel Fusion and Liaison Unit and the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa, in close cooperation with the African Union Commission, to pursue and intensify their efforts to exchange views and mutual assistance, as well as to implement the outstanding aspects of the operational conclusions of the meeting of the heads of the intelligence and security services.

11. We reiterate the imperative need for the continuation of the capacity-building programmes for the countries of the region initiated by the African Union Commission within the framework of the Nouakchott Process, including training for the intelligence and security services. We encourage the Commission to intensify its efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for this purpose. At the same time, we pledge to leave no stone unturned to build our respective national capacities to be able to fully assume our responsibilities within the framework of the collective efforts of the region.

12. We stress the need to speed up and finalize the reflection on the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahelo-Saharan region, given that the constraints of history and geography in the Sahelo-Saharan region, as well as the contemporary political realities, compel us to adopt a collective, coordinated and concerted approach to the multiple challenges at hand.

13. Reiterating our commitment to the relevant African Union instruments, particularly the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, the Common African Defence and Security Policy, the African Union Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact, as well as the African Union Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation (Niamey Convention), we fully support the efforts to enhance security at the borders through strengthened operational cooperation modalities, such as the joint patrols and mixed units involving the defence and security forces of the countries of the region, as well as other security arrangements (customs and police cooperation centres, mutual deployment of liaison officers, binational and multinational radio frequencies, etc.), on the basis of existing experiences. These enhanced operational cooperation modalities will constitute the components of the capacity for an immediate response to crises in the Sahel. In this regard, we request the African Union Commission, in close cooperation with ECOWAS and with the support of international partners, including the United Nations, the European Union and other international stakeholders concerned, to take all the necessary measures, including the convening in Mali, at the latest in February 2015, of a meeting of

Ministers of Defence and Security and the chiefs of staff and heads of intelligence and security services of the countries of the region, to conduct the necessary studies for the establishment of these mechanisms.

14. We commit ourselves to speeding up the signing and ratification of the relevant African Union instruments to facilitate the implementation of the actions agreed upon within the framework of the Nouakchott Process.

15. We welcome the conclusions of the ministerial meeting of the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), held in Niamey on 5 November 2014, and call upon the United Nations Security Council to urgently take the necessary measures to enhance the capacity of the Mission, so as to enable it to effectively fulfil its mandate. In this respect, we express our full readiness, in consultation with the United Nations, to contribute to the strengthening of MINUSMA, in particular through the establishment within MINUSMA of a rapid intervention force with robust rules of engagement and means, along the model of the intervention brigade of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), to be deployed from within the contributing countries in northern Mali to contribute to the fight against the armed terrorist and criminal groups and to facilitate the successful completion of the stabilization efforts in that part of the country. To this end, we request the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to urgently undertake consultations with the countries in the region, as well as with the United Nations and other stakeholders concerned, including through the convening of a meeting of experts, with a view to submitting to the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, in February 2015 at the latest, concrete recommendations on the envisaged force, for adoption and transmission to the United Nations Security Council.

16. We welcome the efforts made by the member countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Benin to neutralize the Boko Haram terrorist group and express our full support for the establishment of a joint multinational task force. In this regard, and pursuant to the Peace and Security Council communiqué of 25 November 2014, we request the Commission and the countries of the region to redouble their joint efforts to mobilize the necessary international support, including the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of a resolution supporting the establishment and deployment of the joint multinational task force, as well as the establishment of a trust fund.

17. We request the Commission to take the necessary measures for the operationalization, in the course of the first quarter of 2015, of the secretariat of the Nouakchott Process in Niamey, under the leadership of the African Union Mission for Mali and the Sahel (MISAHEL). At the same time, steps will be taken to enhance the African Union's presence in the region, including the liaison office in N'Djamena and the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism.

18. We welcome the preparation by the African Union of a strategy for the Sahel region, which should foster the implementation, in the Sahelo-Saharan region, of major continental initiatives, particularly those taken within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and the mobilization of increased support for the efforts to promote lasting peace, security and stability through good governance. We urge the Commission, in consultation with ECOWAS,

the United Nations, the European Union and other international partners to accelerate the implementation of this strategy.

19. We express our deep gratitude to our partners for their invaluable assistance to our efforts to address the challenges to peace and security in the Sahelo-Saharan region. We urgently appeal to them to increase their support to the collective initiatives that our States will take, within the framework of the Nouakchott Process, to address the threat that terrorism, violent extremism and transnational organized crime pose to international peace and security.

20. We agree to organize an annual summit of the countries participating in the Nouakchott Process, in order to review regularly the collective challenges to be addressed in pursuit of our common objectives. At the invitation of President Idriss Déby Itno of Chad, the next summit will take place in N'Djamena at a date to be agreed upon through diplomatic channels through appropriate consultations.

#### **On the challenges posed by the Ebola epidemic**

21. We note that our summit is being held at a time when brotherly countries in West Africa are facing the Ebola virus epidemic with devastating consequences that have the potential to reverse the important gains recorded in the area of peacebuilding and reconstruction in those countries. We express our solidarity with the countries and people affected and appeal for the continuation and intensification of African and international mobilization to address this disaster. In this regard, we congratulate the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on her personal commitment and we welcome the establishment of the African Union Support to the Ebola Outbreak in West Africa mission and express the commitment of our respective countries to contribute to this important initiative.

#### **Vote of thanks**

22. We express our deep gratitude to our brother, President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz of Mauritania, current Chairperson of the African Union, as well as to the Government and people of Mauritania, for the generous hospitality and warm African welcome and care accorded to us throughout our stay in Nouakchott. We are also grateful to the Mauritanian authorities for all the facilities made available for the smooth running of our Summit.

Nouakchott, 18 December 2014

---