



Security Council

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Letter dated 5 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon the instructions of my authorities, I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué of 5 February 2021 of the Government of the Republic of Mali, following the publication of a decision by Coordination des mouvements de l'Azaouad on the establishment of a defence and security area in Gourma (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and the annex thereto circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Issa **Konfourou**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 5 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué

The Government of the Republic of Mali hereby informs the nation and the international community of the publication on social networks of Decision No. 0011/Pdt CMA of Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad, of 29 January 2021, on the creation of a defence and security area in Gourma.

The Government recalls that the signatory parties to the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali undertook, through the adoption of the new road map of 18 December 2020, jointly to lead the reorganization and redeployment of the reconstituted armed and security forces, and the demobilization, disarmament, reintegration and integration of ex-combatants.

The above-mentioned decision therefore constitutes a breach of the ceasefire between the parties, which commits them to maintain their positions, and a flagrant violation of articles 17, 25 and 29 of the Agreement, on defence and security issues.

This unilateral decision of Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad is likely to raise questions and suspicions at a time when the parties have undertaken to hold consultations at the decision-making level to finalize the integration, at the training centres, of the last group of ex-combatants from the Operational Coordination Mechanism.

Given the situation, the Government invites the international mediation team to examine the matter in accordance with paragraphs 7 and 9 of the Pact for Peace in Mali, and invites Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad to review its position.

Consequently, the Government strongly condemns the decision, which undermines the peace process at a time when terrorist groups are renewing their attacks in the area concerned, in which Operations Maliko and Eclipse are being conducted in conjunction with partner forces, including Operation Barkhane and the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel. The decision is also likely to compromise the convincing results obtained on the ground in the fight against terrorism in Mali and the Sahel.

The Government of the Republic of Mali reiterates its steadfast determination to continue implementing the Agreement and appeals to all stakeholders to maintain high-level consultations between political and military leaders as part of that implementation, in order to remove the obstacles that continue to delay the deployment of the first units of the reconstituted army in all the regions concerned and, more generally, the achievement of the milestones established in the area of defence and security.

Bamako, 5 February 2021