PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
496TH MEETING

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
27 MARCH 2015

PSC/PR/COMM/2. (CDXCVI)

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 496th meeting held on 27 March 2015, adopted the following decision on the Inter-Malian Peace Talks:

The Council,

1. Takes note of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the evolution of the Algiers Inter-Malian Peace Talks [PSC/PR/3. (CDXCVI)], as well as of the statement made by the AU High Representative for Mali and the Sahel and Head of the AU Mission Mali and the Sahel (MISAHEL). Council also takes note of the statements made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Mali, Algeria, as the chef de file of the Mediation, as well as by the representatives of members of the United Nations (UN) Security Council (United States of America, France, Nigeria and the United Kingdom), the UN Secretariat and the European Union (EU);

2. Reaffirms its commitment to the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Mali;

3. Recalls its previous communiqués and press statements on the situation in Mali, in particular communiqué PSC/PR/COMM. (CDXLIX), adopted at its 449th meeting held on 11 August 2014, as well as paragraph 11 of decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 559 (XXIV) on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa, adopted by the 24th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2015, urging the Government of Mali and the armed movements in the North to rapidly conclude a comprehensive peace agreement;

4. Welcomes the conclusion of the Process launched in Algiers 16 July 2014, leading to the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in Mali during the 5th phase of the Inter-Malian Peace Talks, which took place from 17 to 26 February 2015, in accordance with the Roadmap of 24 July 2014. Council looks forward to the signing of the Agreement scheduled on Malian soil in April 2015;

5. Reiterates the deep appreciation of the AU to Algeria, chef de file of the Mediation, in particular to President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, for its sustained commitment to peace and reconciliation in Mali, as well as for the sacrifices made in view of the completion of the Algiers Process;

6. Reiterates its gratitude to the other members of the Mediation Team, namely the countries of the region (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania and Niger), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the UN, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the AU and the EU, for their outstanding contribution, as well as to other concerned international actors for their support to the Algiers Process;
7. **Considers that** the Agreement emanating from the Algiers Process is a balanced compromise, taking into account the legitimate concerns of all parties, with due respect for the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Mali, as well as for the secular nature and the republican form of the State. Council stresses that the signing and the scrupulous implementation of the Agreement by all the Malian parties, with the support of the countries of the region and of the international partners, will contribute to the promotion of lasting peace, security, stability and reconciliation in Mali, acceleration of socio-economic development in the northern regions of Mali, as well as in enhancing the effectiveness of the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime both in northern Mali and in the Sahel region in general;

8. **Notes** that the Agreement emanating from the Algiers Process, drawing lessons from past experiences relating to the resolution of crises in northern Mali, provides for a robust mechanism to monitor the implementation of its provisions, particularly through the Follow-up Committee, chaired by Algeria and comprising the Government of Mali, the signatory movements and the Mediation, with the participation of other international actors, including the permanent members of the UN Security Council. Council also notes that the monitoring mechanism of the Agreement provides for the appointment by the Follow-up Committee, of an Independent Observer tasked with taking stock of the execution and assessing objectively the implementation status of the Agreement;

9. **Notes finally** that the Agreement emanating from the Algiers Process calls upon the Peace and Security Council and the UN Security Council to give their full support to the Agreement, as well as to closely monitor its implementation and, where necessary, to take necessary measures against all those who would impede its implementation;

10. **Decides**, accordingly, to give its full support to the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali emanating from the Algiers Process and, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Agreement, expresses its commitment to closely monitor its implementation and, where necessary, to take measures against all those who would impede its implementation. Council urges the Security Council and other concerned members of the international community to lend their full support to the Agreement;

11. **Expresses the appreciation of** the AU to the Government of Mali and the Movements of the Algiers Platform, for the political courage and the sense of responsibility which they demonstrated, by initialing the Peace and Reconciliation in Mali Agreement on 1 March 2015 in Algiers. Council commends, in particular, President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita for his continued commitment to a peaceful and negotiated solution to the crisis. Council encourages the Malian authorities to persevere in their commitment, including taking, diligently, all measures likely to accelerate the momentum generated by the Agreement emanating from the Algiers Process. Council urges the Malian political class and civil society to give their full support to the attainment of the objectives of the Agreement;

12. **Notes** with great disappointment that, despite the balanced character of the Agreement, the compromise accepted by the other parties for the sake of peace and
reconciliation and the exhortations of the Mediation, including during the visit undertaken to Kidal on 17 March 2015, the Coordination of Movements of the Azawad (CMA) has, so far, not yet initalied the Agreement;

13. **Urges** the CMA, in the supreme interest of the country that it affirms to represent, as well as of Mali and of the Sahel region as a whole, to initial, without delay, and to sign the Agreement emanating from the Algiers Process, on the understanding that any legitimate concern that may be raised by the CMA would be considered within the context of the implementation of the Agreement and through a continuous dialogue between the Parties, with due respect for the principles agreed upon in the Roadmap of 24 July 2014. Council **encourages** the Mediation, with the support of the international community, to continue and intensify its efforts aimed at persuading the CMA to join the Algiers Agreement, and requests it to keep the Council informed about the evolution of these efforts;

14. **Expresses its determination to take and implement**, in due course, the measures that the situation may compel against all the groups and individuals whose actions impede the implementation of the Agreement and the lasting resolution of the crisis in northern Mali, and requests the support of the UN Security Council and the larger international community;

15. **Urges** the Mediation to continue to play its rightful role in the implementation and monitoring of the implementation of the Agreement emanating from the Algiers Process, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Agreement;

16. **Appeals to the AU Member States** and the other members of the international community to provide the necessary financial and technical support for the diligent and scrupulous implementation of the Agreement, in particular with regard to the restoration of State authority, the return of refugees and the internally displaced persons, the socio-economic development of the northern regions of Mali, and the implementation of new institutional arrangements agreed upon in the Agreement;

17. **Requests** the Commission, including through MISAHEL, to fully support the implementation of the Agreement emanating from the Algiers Process and fully play its role within the framework of the Follow-up Committee. Council **calls upon** the Chairperson of the Commission to submit, within one month, a report on the modalities of an effective support by the AU and its Member States to the implementation of the Agreement. Council **expresses its appreciation** to the AU High Representative for Mali and the Sahel, for his commitment and tireless efforts in favour of dialogue and reconciliation in Mali, as well as for peace, stability and security in the Sahel in general;

18. **Expresses** its deep concern about the volatile security situation obtaining in Mali. Council **strongly condemns** the repeated attacks against the Malian army and the international forces present on the ground, as well as the terrorist attack perpetrated in the night of 6 to 7 March 2015, in Bamako, which left 5 people dead and several others wounded;
19. **Reiterates its support** to the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and **takes note** of the efforts made to strengthen it. Council **looks forward** to the outcome of the meeting of Ministers of Defence 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, which is expected to make recommendations on the follow-up of the conclusions of the Ministerial meeting of the African Troop Contributing Countries to the MINUSMA, held in Niamey, Niger, on 5 November 2014;

20. **Decides** to regularly monitor the evolution of efforts relating to the Agreement, including the signature and implementation process, on the basis of monthly reports until the month of June 2015 and, subsequently, on the basis of quarterly reports;

21. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to transmit this communiqué to the UN Secretary-General and to request that it be circulated as an official UN Security Council document, as well as to other relevant international stakeholders;

22. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.