



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in Mali

(UNHRC Resolution 55/25)

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PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT

Mr. Eduardo GONZÁLES CUEVA, Independent Expert on Human Rights Situation in Mali

Mr. Eduardo GONZÁLES CUEVA is honoured to present before the UNHRC his first report as Independent Expert (IE) on the Situation of Human Rights in Mali. The IE conveys his gratitude to the UNHRC for having entrusted him with such a demanding mandate. The IE also thanks his predecessors for having followed the highest standards in their professionalism.

The IE extends its gratitude to the Government of Mali for its support in the implementation of his mandate, particularly for having accepted his [request to visit the ground](#), which took place last December. The IE further thanks the Government for having accepted that these observations be published as an addendum to his report. Aware of the challenges of any new mandate, the IE will spare no effort to develop relationships based on [honesty and transparency](#). His own experience in a country that has suffered from internal armed conflict and terrorism makes him particularly aware of the fate of the civilian populations and allows him to understand the challenges that the Mali authorities face, which is why the IE commits himself to direct exchanges and knowledge, South-South exchanges, so as to contribute to the promotion and effective protection of human rights in Mali.



Mali is a society that has been built in the history of greatness and tolerance. The **Mandan Charter**, one of the oldest constitutions in the world, articulates a vision of tolerance and respect for life and the integrity of every human being. Unfortunately, Mali is currently going through a very deep crisis, which jeopardises the noble vision of that Charter. The IE's report speaks of a **deterioration of the situation of human rights** in a security context characterised by violence that affects civilian populations, as well as a political context where the civic space is becoming increasingly limited with restrictions on freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly. However, there are **glimmers of hope**, mainly thanks to the resilience and the creativity of the people of Mali and the announcement of the government of new elections. The IE highlights some key elements of his report.

First, the multidimensional crisis has been exacerbated with **serious impact on the civilian population and the stability** of Mali and the region. Violent extremist groups, such as the JNIM, the Islamic State coming from Sahel, and other similar groups, have launched attacks, namely in the capital, Bamako, have besieged towns and have brought a complete regime of terror everywhere where they try to exercise control through murders and kidnapping, sexual violence, corporal punishment, and threats against civilian population, as well as the destruction of the civilian assets, such as fields and cattle.

The **withdrawal of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation** in Mali, also referred to as Algiers Accords, and the apparent military solution to the conflict in the north have led to increased confrontations with armed groups that had before been signatories to the Agreement and that now have been brought together and called the Azawad Liberation Front (ALF). Additionally, credible reports state that Mali's security forces and their foreign partners, which are commonly known as **Wagner**, have been part to serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian laws, such as extrajudicial execution, destruction of assets, forced displacements, and indiscriminate aerial attacks calling the lives of many victims, civilian victims.

Unfortunately, as stated in his predecessor's report, the withdrawal of MINUSMA and the rejection of the Algiers Accords could bring about an increase in violence. Additionally, the **ongoing impunity is regrettable**, which was also highlighted in his predecessor report. Whereas Mali authorities state that each allegation of violations of human rights or attack on their rights is properly investigated, the IE has no information on the progress of these investigations, in spite of the IE's request to Mali authorities. The IE is mostly concerned by the fact that certain authorities throughout the IE's visit on the ground believe that legal proceedings against members of the security forces could demoralise the army or weaken their ability to carry out combat.

Second, a **military solution to such a serious situation is insufficient**, probably inadequate. The withdrawal from the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation had been justified by Mali authorities, including during the 55th session of the UNHRC, as having been a step towards inter-Malian dialogue and more efficient internal dialogue. However, this process was not carried out in conditions of free participation, given that political party activities were suspended during the dialogue and the former signatories of the Algiers Accords were not able to participate, given that the Mali authorities had rejected the Agreement. Additionally, as participants to inter-Mali



dialogue had themselves recommended, and given that military action alone is not enough for restoring peace, we must have a dialogue among all armed Malians.

Mali is a vibrant country, one with remarkable cultural diversity and strong political debates. It is only through **open civic space** where everyone can enjoy their freedom of assembly, of expression, of peaceful assembly and protest, only then could the creative forces of a society be freed in order to find long-lasting peace. That's not possible in a context where **political leaders are behind bars in prison**, held in secret for weeks or months, and oftentimes subjected to torture and other ill treatment. That is not possible in a context where civil society players, journalists or human rights defenders are arrested or live under the constant threat of being arrested, and where civil society organisations have their doors shut down simply because they were enjoying their rights.

The encouraging statement made by the Government in November 2024 of having **elections** create an opportunity for open civic space. However, the electoral process will only be effective and credible if there is possible civil participation, if there is active political participation that is done freely without negative consequences.

Three, in spite of the challenges, there are **significant opportunities**. Mali is a proud country endowed with ancestral wisdom, which clearly articulated the principles of human dignity well before it was modernly done in our times. Creativity and resilience of the people of Mali are a constant source for long-lasting peace. Every layer of Mali's society have pointed out their commitment to the respect of human rights and to the promotion of justice, while expressing as well their willingness to forgive and to provide reparation.

The work of the **Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission** which concluded in 2022, provided important product recommendations which were adopted by the Mali authorities, particularly the establishment of a management authority to provide reparations to victims in Mali, as well as the creation of a centre for the promotion of peace and unity. These institutions provide remarkable opportunities for deep reconciliation.

Having announced the Charter for Peace and Reconciliation, the publication of a report of the Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission could serve as a foundation for a transforming, inclusive dialogue. The effective **operationalisation of the Reparation Authority** would meet the urgent needs of victims and could strengthen the trust between the population affected by violence and the state. The promotion of a inclusive national story by promoting peace in Mali could have an important impact in conflict resolution between communities.

The IE is further encouraged by the remarkable exemplary work done by the **National Human Rights Commission**, by the **work of the judiciary** that prosecutes those involved in crimes related to slavery by ascendance, and by teachers that continue to teach children in spite of the security risks they face, by the ongoing activism of the survivors of sexual violence related to conflict who call for effective recognition and reparation. The IE is convinced that the glimmer of hope and the vision of tolerance, which we saw eight centuries ago in Kurukan Fuga, can become a reality based on dialogue, openness, and a strict respect for sovereignty and integrity of Mali.



CONCLUDING REMARKS

Welcoming the comments made during the interactive dialogue, **Mr. Eduardo GONZÁLES CUEVA** agrees with the need for discussions on human rights in a context of professionalism and evidence. The IE has taken care to do this within the report. He also agrees with the fundamental importance of reaffirming strict respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The delegation of Mali pointed to the Reparations Authority and several delegations have mentioned the importance of **traditional justice** as a mechanism for building peace and reconciliation. On the **Reparations Authority**, the IE proposed that the state cooperate with the Authority. The IE reiterates that last Wednesday there was a side event organised by the IE himself in order to hear more about comparative experience from other countries, addressing reparations for victims while armed conflict continued. Mali has an opportunity to draw on experience from countries that have carried out reparations. The international community must support these efforts and the implementation of reparations in the Al-Faqih case and the Al-Hassan case. technical support may be provided.

As stated in his report, Mali has the advantage of being able to draw on the work of the Truth, Justice and Justice Commission. In the report of 2022, the complex and rich history of Mali was reflected. The report deserves to be published as does the Charter for Peace and Reconciliation. The Centre for Peace and Unity could launch **activities to facilitate reflection** on a shared, inclusive Malian history. This could draw on the experience of the hundreds of memory centres throughout the world. International cooperation is essential. In particular, the IE believe firmly in South-South cooperation. Mali's challenges are similar to those of many other countries of the South. The SR himself saw a similar process within a country, Peru, which suffered terrorism and internal conflict. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has jurisprudence regarding **fighting terrorism and the rights of civilians**.

There are many opportunities for **international legal cooperation**. The different national legal systems should be activated to overcome impunity. This cooperation would make it possible to identify ways to overcome organised crime, terrorism and corruption. Countries must guarantee their own capacity to exercise universal jurisdiction for the most severe human rights crimes. The ICC plays an important role in combating impunity thanks to the cases it hears. It acts in all independence and must be supported by national legal systems.

To conclude on **children**, the IE agrees with the NGOs that have take the floor that a large proportion of schools in Mali are closed because of the security situation. Approximately 600,000 children cannot attend school for this reason. There are also children orphaned by the conflict. The National Pupils of Mali organisation has made considerable efforts in this regard.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Views Expressed by the State Concerned

H.E. Mr. Mamoudou Kassogué, **Minister of Justice and Human Rights of Mali**, states that his Government takes note of the report of the IE that does not really reflect the situation Mali. Indeed, contrary to his mandate, the IE does not pay attention to the progress that has been achieved and does not propose anything specific as measures for assistance, focussing mostly



his report on simple allegations that have been collected from persons and organisations that cannot be trusted. Such an approach gives rise to legitimate questions on the relevance of mandate, and this situation will be reviewed in the weeks and months to come.

Mali is the distinguished inheritor of the concepts of the **Manden Charter of 1236**, also called the Kurukan Fuga Charter, that means that human rights and dignity of persons is at the heart of Mali's work. Mali is doing everything on a daily basis to respect and promote different projects and programmes, different sectors of activities. From a security point of situation, Mali's highly professional, multi-ethnic army has achieved significant success in the strict respect of human rights and international humanitarian law (IHL), thanks to unconditional support of the population of the country.

On the **fight against impunity and improving the legal institutional framework**, Mali stresses that the abuses of human rights and IHL related to the activities of armed terrorist groups have been always subjected to impartial investigations and very often these violations have been falsely attributed to the armed forces of Mali. Adoption of a recent criminal code and a code of criminal procedures that are focused on the protection of human rights is a strong signal in our fight against impunity. Mali recalls that its judiciary reacts to all cases of violations that have been highlighted. Mali is committed to fighting against impunity, corruption, slavery and related practises, as well as violations related to gender and violations of IHRL and IHL. The establishment of the National Directorate on Human Rights further reflects the commitment of the highest authorities of its country to promote and protect human rights.

In the framework of **political institutional reforms**, Mali highlights the adoption of the bylaws to the constitution on 22 July 2003 and the implementation of a whole constitutional framework. In order to implement this, the Government has taken several initiatives, such as speeding up the work related to collective work of political parties in the state, the propagation of the period of revision of electoral lists and other activities.

Turning to the **peace process and national reconciliation**, the implementation of resolutions, recommendations of inter-Malian dialogue and the preparation of a national charter for peace and national recolonisation, the establishment of the Centre for the Promotion of Peace are all significant steps in the strengthening of national reconciliation related to civic space, contrary to the groundless allegations of the report, the freedom of expression is enshrined and freely exercised in Mali. Today, no single journalist and no citizen of the country is in prison due to the work they carried out or because of their opinions. In this light, the **preservation of public order** and the protection of the honour and dignity of citizens that are victims is the main priority of any responsible State. To conclude, Mali will continue to respect its international commitments, cooperate with all mechanisms of human rights and the strict respect of the sovereignty and vital interests of the country. Mali will continue also to ensure the respect, promotion, protection of human rights while opposing politicisation and instrumentalization of these issues.

Views Expressed by State Delegations

Ghana jointly with the African Group welcomes the delegation of Mali, led by the Minister of Justice and Human Rights, and thanks the IE for the presentation of his reports on the human rights situation in Mali. The African Group regrets the situation in Mali continues to be a cause for



concern, given the complexity of the challenges related to terrorism and transnational organised crime, with their attendant asymmetrical and indiscriminate attacks against the Malian armed forces and civilian population, particularly in the centre and north of the country. In this regard, the African Group welcomes the initiatives taken by the Government of Mali, despite this difficult context, to strengthen the crisis recovery process and significantly improve the human rights situation in the country through the continuation of political reform, significantly the review of the Charter of Political Parties, the implementation of the recommendations of the National Refoundation Conference, the promulgation of the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, the completion of the territorial and administrative organisation, and the strengthening of the fight against corruption and impunity. The African Group hopes that these various initiatives will contribute to the return to constitutional order in accordance with the directives of the President of the Transitional Government issued on 27 November 2024, requesting the Government to create the necessary conditions for the organisation of the transparent and peaceful relations.

Morocco reiterates its full support to the efforts of the Malian authorities to establish peace and security throughout the country, which continues to face a worrying security situation marked by attacks against civilians, local elected officials and security forces by violent extremist groups as well as unidentified armed individuals. Morocco remains concerned about the impact on civilian populations of the continuing deterioration of the security situation in the country fuelled by the persistence of intercommunity and the intercommunity conflicts committed to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Mali. Morocco welcomes the efforts of the Malian government to create the necessary conditions for the organisation of transparent and peaceful relations. In that context, Morocco encourages the Malian government in its work on peaceful coexistence of communities, in particular launching of the operation of a charter of peace and national reconciliation organisation, National Week of Reconciliation, as well as the adoption of the draft law on traditional authorities. In conclusion, Morocco reaffirms the importance for the international community to provide Mali with necessary logistical and financial resource to help the country gradually restore the presence and authority of the state as well as basic social services throughout the national territory.

Spain thanks the IE for his reports and notes that Mali is facing a multidimensional crisis in which the security situation continues to be very fragile and human rights abuse and violations committed against civilian population persist in the main victims, which are women and children. Spain shares the IE's concern about the impunity that fuels future violations and urges the country to ensure accountability for the recurrent attacks against the civilian population. Spain highlights the role of the UNHRC and its mechanisms. Spain also considers it essential that respect for IHRL and IHL be guaranteed. Moreover, the restoration of the constitutional order requires the holding of elections in which the general will of Malian people is freely expressed and Spain therefore invites the authorities to present a credible electoral calendar in order to establish the necessary conditions for free and inclusive elections. To end the transition, it is key to ensure the full exercise of the freedom of expression association and peaceful assembly, as well as to reverse the measures that have been reducing civics in base and hindering the legitimate work of crucial civil society actors as defenders and journalists. Spain asks how could the international community contribute more effectively to the democratic strengthening of



Malian institutions in order to improve the protection of human rights and promote democratic values and the rule of law.

Burkina Faso takes note with interest of the IE's report and praises the very appreciable efforts of the Malian governments that have been presented by the Minister of Justice despite terrorist attacks, efforts to restore lasting security throughout the territory of the country. In particular, Burkina welcomes the joint efforts made together with the conglomeration of Sahel countries to guarantee a secure environment conducive to the exercise of human rights by all populations in this common sub-regional space. Burkina also notes with satisfaction the successful organisation in 2024 of the various phases of inter-Malian dialogue for peace and reconciliation, which aims to enable the Malian people to use indigenous mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution in order to find consensual solutions to the problems of Malians. To this end, Burkina hopes that tangible results will be achieved in the implementation of the recommendations resulting from these meetings. In conclusion, Burkina urges the international community to support in a more sincere way the efforts of Mali, all of that with full respect to its sovereignty.

Taking note of the IE's report and the comments made by Mali, **Egypt** praises the efforts taken by the Malian authorities to combat terrorism and ensure stability in the country and defend human rights. Egypt encourages the Government to continue its cooperation with human rights mechanisms and also to support the efforts of the international community to make progress in that area. Egypt reiterates its position on the importance to support mechanisms for technical cooperation and capacity-building in the country. These are essential tools that make it possible to promote national efforts to promote human rights and ensure that the economic, social situation remains stable. All of this should be done on the basis of constructive dialogue in response to national priorities.

Togo thanks the IE for the report on the situation of human rights in Mali and praises the significant progress observed by the IE during his last visit to Mali. As part of this progress, Togo highlights the presidential decision requiring the Government to create the necessary conditions for organising transparent and peaceful elections to ensure an end to the transition to protect the civilian populations from armed terrorist groups, the decision to set up mechanisms for transitional justice and strengthen the fight against impunity and to promote adequate funding for reparation to victims of the crises in Mali, signing a decrees that gives collective grace to numerous detainees, both civilian and military, and the launching that has been announced by the Ministry of Justice on 11 December, 2024, of the Charter for Human Rights in order to improve a better understanding of human rights by the population. In this perspective, Togo reiterates its full readiness to work together with regional and international partners to ensure that Mali is a peaceful, stable, and democratic country on the path of harmonious development.

Belgium thanks the IE for his report and reiterates its support for the mandate. Belgium is very pleased with the levels of cooperation between transition authorities with the independent expert, as seen from the most recent visit to Mali. Belgium is particularly concerned in the face of growing number of violations and multidimensional nature of the violation of human rights. It urges extremist groups and Malian authorities and other armed groups to abstain from any form of violence, especially against civilians. The shrinking of civic space cannot be ignored. The UK



deplore numerous restrictions imposed on organisations of civil society working in different areas, including in the area of development cooperation. The work of civil society actors, human rights defenders, and the political opposition should be preserved and supported to guarantee a sustainable stabilisation of a country while respecting human rights. Belgium also shares the observation made by the IE related to causal links between the escalate of violence against human rights and the generalised impunity in the country. In this respect, Belgium asks whether it would be possible to identify best practises to work together with the National Human Rights Commission in Mali in terms of preparing reports and collecting information on violations of human rights in order to combat impunity.

Closely monitoring developments in Mali, **Russia** supports the steps taken by the country's leadership to continue the political process in order to normalise the domestic political situation. At the same time, Russia notes that the humanitarian situation in Mali remains difficult due to political instability and continued terrorist threats. The question of refugees and IDPs remains very urgent. More than 120 refugees from Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mauritania, as well as about 430,000 IDPs, are putting additional strain on Mali's already fragile economy. In this regard, the statistics of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) are alarming, according to which more than 7 million Malians, or 32 per cent of the population of the country, are in need of humanitarian assistance. The situation in the field of food security remains no less difficult. Thus, according to the World Food Programme, more than 1 million people suffer from hunger. In these conditions, Russia continues to provide humanitarian support to Mali. Russia calls on international partners to also step up their assistance to this African country without imposing borrowed value systems, imposing any conditions, or exerting pressure on the human rights track.

Noting the IE's report, **China** stresses that the security and stability of Mali not only concern Mali itself, but also have great implications for the Sahel region and beyond. China always supports the principle of 'African solutions to African problems' and supports Mali to enhance communication with regional organisations such as ECOWAS to force, to converge forces and steadily advance the transition process. China appreciates Mali's efforts to promote economic and social development, combat terrorism and human trafficking, and legislate to protect the rights of vulnerable groups. Significant progress has been made in promoting and protecting human rights. The international community should fully respect its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, and provide constructive human rights technical assistance based on the wishes of the government and continue to provide humanitarian aid without any political conditions. China is ready to work with the international community to play a constructive role in promoting stability and development in Mali.

Senegal takes note of the report of the IE and praises the continued commitment of Malian authorities to work towards improving the human rights situation in the country, reflected in their cooperation with the independent expert. Senegal is also pleased with the creation of the authority for managing reparations for victims of human rights violations and the Centre for the Promotion of Peace and Unity in Mali that will contribute to the restoration of peace, security, and social cohesion in the country. Senegal also takes a positive view of the efforts taken by the Malian Government to ensure effective presence of the state services throughout the territory, which will create the necessary conditions for the exercise of human rights. Finally, Senegal



encourages the Malian authorities to continue their cooperation with human rights organisations in the area of human rights. They also have to focus an approach that is based on consensus and is constructive.

The **United Kingdom (UK)** thanks the IE for his report, noting that his mandate is ever more vital following the withdrawal of MINUSMA. The UK welcome the cooperation of the Malian authorities in facilitating the IE's first visit and encourage their continued collaboration. The human rights situation remains grave. Increased reports of gender-based violence and violence against children are particularly concerning. Civic space continues to shrink. Key opposition figures remain detained and civil society organisations disbanded. The UK therefore encourages authorities to create the necessary conditions for free, fair and inclusive elections as soon as possible. The UK urges the Malian authorities to further strengthen independent accountability mechanisms, including for alleged incidents committed by military personnel and Russian proxies. These actors continue to create deep-rooted insecurity for the Malian people. As reports of human rights violations and abuses persist, international accountability processes remain vital to hold perpetrators to account. The UK asks what more could the International Criminal Court do to enhance accountability under the existing referral.

Taking note of the report submitted by the IE, **Venezuela** reaffirms its position of principle on UNHRC Agenda Item 10. The latter is designed to address the country's technical assistance and capacity-building with a view to improving the human rights situation and carrying out genuine dialogue and cooperation. In this regard, it appreciates Mali's cooperation with the UNHRC and its mechanism, where the country is readying us to continue to make progress in implementation of specific measures to improve the human rights situation. Mali successfully submitted its fourth UPR for 2023, demonstrating its commitment to the mechanism, with an account of 80% of the total recommendations received. The Government made significant efforts to investigate human rights complaints of violations and strengthen human rights institutions.

Venezuela underscores the commitment of Mali to ensure progress in the year of peace and reconciliation, and urges to continue necessary cooperation to reach those objectives. It reiterates that Mali should receive cooperation and technical assistance that is required in the area of human rights with full respect to the sovereignty of the country without interference in internal affairs.

Niger takes note of the report submitted by the IE. It commends the considerable efforts made by the Malian authorities and strongly appreciates their proactive commitment to continue the fight against terrorism with a view of promoting and protecting human rights of Malian people. However, Niger regrets the persistence of terrorist attacks against civilian populations, with the main victims being women and children, as evidenced by the barbaric attacks perpetrated in the Sahel region by lawless individuals, the last and most despicable of which dates back to Friday, 21 March 2025, whereby 44 civilians were cowardly killed while praying in a mosque. Niger draws the IE's attention to the need to ensure the reliability of certain sources of information, making allegations, most of which have no other motivation than to discredit its authorities and undermine their efforts to regain territorial integrity and national sovereignty. Finally, Niger urges the international community to provide all necessary assistance to Malian authorities.



South Sudan takes note of the IE's report and commends Mali for efforts being exerted to improve the situation of human rights in the country through the continuation of political reform, despite the complexity of the challenges it faces in regard to terrorism and transnational organised crime. South Sudan further flout the Government of Mali for taking initiatives towards completion of territorial and administrative reorganisation and strengthening the fight against impunity. It calls upon the OHCHR and the international community to provide the needed technical assistance and capacity-building to enable Mali to overcome the challenges in promotion and protection of human rights and to enhance efforts of returning to constitutional order.

Thanking the IE for his report and recommendations, **Luxembourg** acknowledges the work undertaken by the Malian transitional authorities to work towards progress in the respect, promotion and fulfilment of human rights for all and everywhere in Mali, in particular with regard to the criminalisation of slavery and related practises, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, gender based violence, including FGM. Despite those efforts, the deterioration of security situation and persistent human rights violations continue to have a negative impact on civilians. Luxembourg fully subscribes to the IE's call on the traditional authorities to promote a civic space where the freedoms of expression association assembly are fully respected so that a free, fair and peaceful electoral process can be guaranteed. Luxembourg is deeply concerned by the human rights situation of women and girls in Mali, which have been strongly impacted by the deterioration of security situation and the inaccessibility of support services. It stresses that the IE has emphasised the importance of promoting a climate of transport and political dialogue conducive to appeasement and national reconciliation, as well as the constructive engagement by the international community for the benefit of the people of Mali. Luxembourg asks what specific measures would be recommendable to ensure the effective implementation of the IE's recommendations by the Malian authorities.

Botswana agrees with the IE that the fight against impunity is the main tool for preventing the reoccurrence of serious human rights violations and abuses. Botswana is extremely concerned about the situation of women and girls in Mali who experience violations and abuses of their fundamental rights in the form of gender based violence, conflict related sexual violence and the imposition of harmful traditional practises such as female genital mutilation. Botswana is also deeply concerned by the reports that no significant progress has been observed regarding the prosecution of the alleged perpetrators of the multiple human rights violations and abuses, and therefore calls for the accountability for violations of both IHRL and IHL. In conclusion, Botswana commends Mali for the notable progress made in the fight against slavery and calls for more resources to be channelled towards enhancing the effectiveness of the judiciary as a means to facilitate fair and peaceful conflict resolution.

Kenya recognises the complex context Mali faces, including challenges presented by terrorism, political polarisation, security concerns and the imperative to protect and promote human rights. It acknowledges the Malian Government's efforts to restore security and implement reforms. In this regard, Kenya underscores the importance of comprehensive approach to the security crisis, addressing the interconnected challenges in security, politics, human rights, economic development. Kenya acknowledges the inter-Malian dialogue's recommendations on transitional justice mechanisms, strengthening the fight against impunity and providing adequate resources for reparations of victims. It encourages the Malian government to continue to implement these



recommendations. Kenya further urges the Malian judicial system to continue to conduct thorough investigations and prosecutions of human rights violations and abuses. Kenya firmly believes that the international community has a vital role to play in supporting Mali's efforts to strengthen human rights, promote stability and foster sustainable development through technical assistance and capacity building. This support should be provided in full respect of Malian sovereignty and in close coordination with the Malian government and its priorities.

Thanking the IE for his report, **Colombia** notes positively the willingness of the Government of Mali to facilitate and welcome the visit of the IE, which took place in December 2024. Colombia recognises the efforts made by the Government of Mali, and encourages it to continue to work with the IE and OHCHR in order to overcome existing challenges in the area of human rights. Colombia knows firsthand the cost that conflict has on human rights, which is why it appreciates the cooperation with the UN human rights system. Colombia recognises the importance of the support from the international community. In light of this, it encourages Mali to continue to move forward with determination in providing reparation to victims as well and as in combating sexual violence related to conflict, gender based violence, and impunity, seeking any necessary assistance and cooperation it may need from the UNHRC, its mechanisms and OHCHR.

Views Expressed by Intergovernmental Organizations

The **European Union** recognises significant progress achieved in the review and revision of the Criminal Code 2024, for example, in the area of slavery, illegal trafficking of migrants, gender-based violence, FGM and fight against corruption. However, the EU is still seriously concerned by the significant rise in the number of violations of human rights, including violence based on gender-based violence and severe restrictions imposed on the civic space, incrimination of sexual relations between persons of the same sex. The EU demands that Malian authorities remove restrictions on the civic space and publish an electoral calendar to create the necessary conditions to organise inclusive, transparent and peaceful elections. The EU calls for the liberation of all persons detained for having simply exercised their rights, including the right to freedom of expression and for their attempts to promote and defend their rights. Noting that continued threats from violent extremist groups remain a major challenge, the fight against terrorism should be nonetheless carried out in conformity with international law. The EU as the Independent Expert is seriously concerned by the high number of serious violations of international human rights law that are attributed to the defence and security forces of Mali and also their foreign partners that are generally known as Wagner forces. The EU asks what could the international community do to fight impunity in Mali.

Views Expressed by Non-Governmental Organizations and UN Agencies

REFORMAF thanks the IE for his report and congratulates him on the work done. It hopes that his vision and commitment will help the country to face the challenges assailing it in human rights. REFORMAF welcomes the initiative by Mali's authorities to create an agency for management and reparations to victims. This is an important step in terms of transitional justice to recognise the truth and provide guarantees of non-recurrence. REFORMAF remains concerned by the high level of school absences because of the closure of schools in a number of regions affected by insecurity. REFORMAF ask for proposals by the IE as sustainable solutions to remedy the issue of the right to education in Mali. Another important problem is forced displacement. This reveals

the insecurity facing civilians afraid of being targeted by extremist violent groups or armed individuals. REFORMAF welcomes the progress made by Mali's Government on human rights, but it looks for more measures in order to alleviate the suffering of civilians and ensure that basic rights are upheld in the country.

Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement states that the situation in Mali remains a concern. Although there have been some political improvements with the future elections, human rights violations persist. The IE and other sources speak of intense violence, including summer executions and severe restrictions on civic space. Violence against civilians by armed groups, murders, abductions and sexual violence continue. The situation of political and civil rights is particularly alarming. The Government has taken measures that restrict basic freedoms, suspending political activities and dissolving associations. This, far from restoring peace, exacerbates tension and limits public participation which is needed for reconciliation. The security response is often disproportionate. The security forces, sometimes supported by foreigners, carry out reprehensible acts. There have not been proper investigations or prosecutions. Persistent impunity not only undermines the law but also all efforts towards stability. It is urgent to combat impunity, strengthening judicial mechanisms. Mali shall cooperate with international institutions, including the ICC, in order rapidly to address these severe human rights violations.

RADDHO thanks the IE for his report, comments and recommendations. RADDHO supports the extension of the mandate, which is essential to help the country in its transition. RADDHO welcomes the national reparations policy and the creation of the reparations agency, but its slow implementation leaves many victims waiting. RADDHO is gravely concerned regarding the ongoing restrictions on civic space and civil activities in the country. Mali continues to face security, humanitarian, institutional and human rights challenges exacerbated by conflict. Sexual violence related to the conflict is systematic, affecting displaced women in the north and centre. No reparations have been provided to survivors who denounce impunity and the absence of justice. The role of victims in the design and implementation of reparations should be at the heart of the process. They should be fully involved as co-creators of reparations to ensure that the impact is transformative. Participation is also an act of reparation itself. RADDHO would like to know what solutions the IE would propose in order for transitional justice to become operational.

Human Rights Research League is gravely concerned by the ongoing security and humanitarian crisis and the shrinking of civic space, worsened by the ongoing transition without any set time frame for a return to constitutional order. As the IE has stated in the report, organising spaces for meeting and reconciliation has taken place without participation by political parties and the opposition. Worse, members of the political opposition who have been tortured in prison are still held in detention, although the African Court of Human Rights has ordered their provisional release for medical care. It is also concerned by the ongoing severe violations of human rights and those of international humanitarian law throughout Mali, by all armed groups, often with and supported by impunity. It wishes to express support to the IE as he reminds the Malian authorities that the ICC could take up relevant matters if it decided that the Malian State did not have the ability or the readiness to carry out effective inquiries.



International Federation for Human Rights Leagues welcomes the readiness of the Malian Government to continue cooperating and the work done by the experts. It shares the conclusions of the first report on the violations within the conflict and the state of fundamental freedoms. It is concerned by the shrinking of civic space and the undermining of fundamental freedoms. Human rights defenders and other dissidents are regularly arrested and detained arbitrarily. They suffer judicial harassment, forced disappearance and abduction. A number of human rights defenders are in arbitrary detention. The UNHRC must call on the state of Mali to free all human rights defenders and drop the charges against them; end the abductions and enforced disappearances by the National Information Agency and investigate all disappearances; end the systematic criminalisation of human rights defenders; and stop dissolving associations and restore those that have been dissolved.

FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION

19 State Delegations

1 Inter-Governmental Organization

5 Non-Governmental Organizations