

Update on women, peace and security in Mali March 28th 2023

The Informal Expert Group (IEG) of the Security Council on Women and Peace and Security discussed the situation in Mali in [February 2016](#), [September 2016](#), [May 2017](#), [June 2018](#), [May 2020](#), and [April 2021](#). This update summarizes relevant developments since that last meeting.

Developments in the Security Council and sanctions committee

The Security Council has adopted **four resolutions on Mali** since the last meeting of the IEG to extend the mandates of the peacekeeping mission, the sanctions measures, and the panel of experts, and they all included provisions on Women, Peace and Security. The **mandate of MINUSMA** as laid out in resolution 2640 (see annex) integrates gender-related elements throughout its priority tasks and calls on the Malian authorities to ensure the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in the mechanisms established to support the peace agreement, the political transition, and electoral processes, “including by meeting the quota of at least 30 percent women in all political functions and offices as defined in Mali’s legislation.” The Malian government is also called on to address threats, violence, and hate speech against women in public life, ensure their protection, and provide “evidence of progress towards completion of Agreement-related targets laid out in Mali’s third national action plan (2019-2023) for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325,” among many other WPS provisions.

The mandate of the **sanctions committee** includes sexual violence as a listing criterion as part of violations of international Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law. The Security Council has requested that the composition of the panel of experts include gender expertise and pay due regards to gender representation. The panel, which is currently made up of two men and two women, has included gender issues in great detail in its annual reports in recent years (see for example paragraphs 114-117 in [S/2022/595](#) and paragraphs 90-92 and paragraphs 122-138 in [S/2021/714](#)). These reports have highlighted the prevalence of labor and sexual exploitation of women and trafficking in persons in the context of artisanal mining in northern Mali, sexual violence against women migrants, and trends and specific incidents of conflict-related sexual violence in Gao and Ménaka, in particular.

Since April 2021, the Security Council has been briefed by **six women from civil society in Mali**. The most recent one was the target of threats and intimidation, a legal complaint against her, and social media disinformation following her engagement with the Council. The government then asked the MINUSMA Chief of Human Rights to leave the country due to his involvement in selecting civil society speakers to brief the Security Council. Eight Council Members (Albania, Ecuador, France, Japan, Malta, Switzerland, the UK, and the US) convened the Security Council to raise their concern about these developments.

The Security Council also visited Mali in October 2021, as part of a **visit** to both Mali and Niger. Although its agenda included a meeting with civil society, including women’s groups, WPS issues were not emphasized in their report.

Women’s participation in the peace process, the public sector, the security sector, and peacekeeping

Shortly after the last meeting of the IEG on Mali, the country underwent its second military coup in nine months in 2021 and postponed the agreed timelines for its transition back to civilian rule, including for

elections. In recent days, the constitutional referendum scheduled for March 19th 2023 was also postponed, after several key actors expressed their objections to the draft text. For example, the *Ligue Islamique des imams du Mali* objected to the provision on secularism as a defining character of the Malian State.

On 15 March 2023, the President Colonel Assimi Goita validated the draft constitution, which was presented to political groups and civil society on 20 March. In its preamble, the draft makes explicit reference to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to the African Charter Human and Peoples' Rights, and recognizes the need to respect human rights and, in particular, those of women, children and person living with a disability, enshrined in sub-regional, regional and agreements signed and ratified by Mali. Article 1 states that discrimination based on sex is prohibited. However, there are no other references to gender parity, gender-based violence, or other affirmative actions to promote women's rights, participation and empowerment in the draft.

On 18 December 2015, the Malian National Assembly adopted historic legislation to require that at least 30 percent of elected or appointed officials be women, after years of stagnation and even decline in women's representation in politics and the peace process. Currently, women represent:

- 28.57 percent of the National Transitional Council (the legislative body) compared to 9.5 percent in 2013.
- 20.68 percent of ministers and delegated ministers, and 21.42 percent on average among appointed positions in the government.
- 5 percent of governors (1 woman on 20), 2.3 percent of prefects (local government), and 11.1 percent of ambassadors. Out of the new prefects appointed in July (189) and February (28), only 10 are women (appointed in July), or 4.6 percent. On February 22, 2023, 11 directors of finance and material were appointed, of which 4 were women.
- 38 percent in the Committee monitoring implementation of the Peace Agreement (CSA), an increase from 3 percent a few years and 31 percent more recently, after the addition of three more women to the 9 already in the Agreement Monitoring Committee and 12 to the four thematic sub-committees.
- 20.83 percent of the commission drafting the new constitution.
- 26.66 percent of the Independent Authority for Election Management (AIGE).
- 17.6 percent of the Independent Monitoring and Evaluation Committee following up on the recommendations from the National Dialogue. In October 2021, the transitional government appointed an organizing committee for the national dialogue and a high-level panel of 18 public figures to guide it, and women's representation reached 33 and 39 percent respectively
- 2.6 percent of women appointed by governmental decree and 8 percent among the civil servants, in the National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration-Reintegration (CNDDR)
- 20 percent in the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (CVJR)
- 0.57 percent in the Operational Coordination Mechanism (MOC)
- Earlier in 2021, the government had established a 50-member advisory committee with representatives from the government, political parties, armed groups, academia, civil society, unions, private sector, and traditional leaders to guide the political and institutional reforms of the transition. Only 20 percent of the members were women.
- 12.5 percent at the Supreme Court and 30 percent at the Constitutional Court

In December 2022, the signatory movements suspended their participation in all Agreement monitoring mechanisms, including the Committee (CSA). MINUSMA has engaged important efforts to support dialogue between the Parties and foster the resumption of the Peace Agreement mechanisms. The women

members of the CSA and its four thematical sub-committees underscored that the present blockage came over a protocol issue, condemned the lack of confidence between the Parties, and continue to advocate with the Parties for the resumption of the work of the Agreement monitoring mechanisms.

The United Nations Integrated Electoral Team (UNDP, MINUSMA and UN Women) is supporting the Government in the preparation for the elections and reforms, with a particular attention to women's engagement. This includes widespread sensitization on the electoral process and violence prevention, capacity-building sessions for thousands of potential women candidates and women leaders from the civil society, and technical assistance for electoral reforms and procedures, including the recent organization of a high-level inclusive seminar for the development of a roadmap to ensure an effective gender mainstreaming in the electoral process and political and administrative reforms.

Some provisions of the new electoral law, especially those pertaining to the majority voting system, should facilitate women's representation in parliament and compliance with the 2015-052 law on women's quota. The electoral law stipulates that candidate lists with more than 70 percent men or women are inadmissible. The United Nations Integrated Electoral Team is also supporting the government to address adequate provisions to facilitate the vote of the important number of internally displaced persons, taking into account the additional difficulties that displaced women will encounter and the need for adequate protection measures. In a context of increasing forced displacement, around 70 percent of internally displaced persons do not have identity documents, which prevents them from exercising their right to vote.

The UN also supports projects focused on women's participation through the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the UN agencies, funds, and programmes, as well as through MINUSMA's four funding streams, i.e. Community Violence Reduction (CVR), the Trust Fund for Peace and Security, quick-impact projects and programmatic funds, with generally 50 percent or more women beneficiaries. Hundreds of women are participating in the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration process, with the support of the World Bank. The Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission, where half of the over 20,000 depositions received to date have been made by women, remains one of the transitional institutions that have integrated gender issues more systematically. In light of the political developments and improved integration of women in the peace agreement monitoring committee, the UN is working on reviewing the originally conceived independent women's observatory, as well as supporting the Malian government in the implementation of the national action plan on women, peace and security, which is now moving on to its third phase. UN Women, with support from the Peacebuilding Fund, has invested for years in women's participation in peacebuilding in Mali, including through women's peace huts at the community level, working on conflict prevention, social cohesion, and economic rehabilitation. During this period, the Peacebuilding Fund has also supported UNICEF and UNDP in facilitating the effective participation of young women in the promotion of peace and reconciliation in Mali.

In central and northern Mali, local "peace and reconciliation agreements / survival pacts" championed by violent extremist groups undermine women's rights, as these groups seek to remove women from the public sphere and exclude girls from schools altogether, gradually imposing Sharia law. Reportedly, local branches of terrorist groups, such as Jama'at Nusrat ul-Islam wal-Muslimeen (JNIM), affiliated with Al-Qaeda, and the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS), exclude women from public space. However, women try to participate behind the scenes as advisers to advocate for a softer interpretation or more lenient enforcement of the religious rules entrenched in the more formal agreements.

MINUSMA also promotes women's participation in its own ranks and staff, as well as gender expertise.¹ Women in MINUSMA represent 26 percent of civilian staff, 5 percent of the military, 28 percent of

¹ MINUSMA's Gender Affairs Advisory Unit has 7 budgeted posts, led by one P-5, and the Office of the Women's Protection Advisor has 6 budgeted posts, also led at P-5 level.

individual police officers, and 14 percent of formed police unit personnel. UNPOL and the Malian Security Forces carry out joint sensitization activities in schools and communities, including on prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and the participation of women in the security sector. As part of larger efforts to make its engagement with local populations more effective, MINUSMA had initiated several construction and upgrading projects for military and police camps with higher proportions of women and for the benefit of women (e.g. prefabricated accommodations, water and sanitation facilities, laundry units, indoor and outdoor recreational and welfare areas, perimeter wall and security gate installations, bunkers, expansion of accommodations and sanitary infrastructure, etc.), with the support of grants from the Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations. MINUSMA is also the first UN peace operation having two women leading its police component (the Police Commissioner and Deputy). In 2022, Chief Warrant Officer Alizeta Kabore Kinda, a UN Police gender focal point in MINUSMA deployed to Ménaka region, received the UN Woman Police Officer of the Year Award, in recognition to her successful efforts to encourage victims of sexual and gender-based violence to report their cases and to receive medical care, expand the number of girls in schools, and reduce child marriage. Inclusion of a gender perspective in evaluation processes, job interviews and consideration for extension of tour of duties of police officers are also best practices from the Mission.

Conflict-related sexual violence and violence against women and girls

In 2022, the security situation continued to deteriorate in Mali, especially in central and northern regions. The panel of experts of the sanctions committee reports that violence against women is often used or threatened by terrorist groups to force communities into submission or displacement. In Gao and Ménaka, communities have received threats of kidnapping of women, rape, or forced marriage unless they leave their villages, and close to a third of all displaced women in the town of Gao may have experienced sexual and gender-based violence during and after displacement. Mass abductions of girls by armed groups continue to be reported, including the kidnapping of 21 girls in Ségou as recently as January 2023. In Gao, extremist elements allegedly abducted girls during wedding ceremonies and raped them.

Despite widespread insecurity, which impeded humanitarian access and reporting, between January to December 2022, MINUSMA verified 98 cases of conflict-related sexual violence affecting 85 women and 13 girls. Humanitarian service providers registered CRSV cases against 392 women and 294 girls, including 65 cases of rape resulting in pregnancy, and 37 children born of rape. As part of the monitoring grave violations against children, the United Nations also verified incidents of rape and other forms of sexual violence affecting 39 girls. The perpetrators were members of armed groups, as well as members of militia and self-defense groups, members of the Malian Defence and Security Forces (MDSF) and foreign security personnel.

The UN continued to support the transitional authorities on the action plan for the implementation of the 2019 Joint Communiqué to address conflict-related sexual violence, as well as non-State armed groups and their own unilateral communiqués, such as the CMA. Although new one-stop centres were established in existing health facilities in 2022, access to multisectoral services remains severely limited, especially for survivors in remote areas. During the reporting period, 92 per cent of survivors were unable to access safe shelters, while 42 per cent were unable to obtain medical support. In areas under the control of non-state armed groups, conflict resolution mechanisms are managed by the relevant NSAG, with reports of survivors being forced to marry their perpetrators being commonplace. Moreover, in some locations such as in Gao region and Menaka, it was reported that some religious leaders exert pressure on both police and the survivor, often creating obstacles to filing a complaint with the police. Moreover, survivors who made statements during the latest public hearing of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (CVJR) in Bamako in June 2022 reported that they experience stigma, psychological suffering and economic distress that severely affect their families, and the four emblematic cases, involving 145 victims of conflict-related sexual violence from northern Mali, remain pending before the courts since 2013. Nevertheless, the

transitional Government has also pledged to investigate the violations of international humanitarian and human rights law documented in 2022.

In terms of prevention, MINUSMA's sustained engagement with the High Islamic Council of Mali culminated in the signing of a fatwa in January 2023 which urged the prohibition of conflict-related sexual violence, underscored the need to hold perpetrators accountable, and encouraged support from communities to survivors and children born of rape. With respect to legislative reform and reparations for victims, the transitional authorities adopted a reparation policy for victims of crises in Mali by law No. 2022/041 of September 15, 2022, establishing modalities for compensation for damages resulting from serious human rights violations, including financial support to cover medical costs as well as rehabilitation for both survivors and children born as a result of rape. With the support of UN Women, women's civil society organizations, human rights associations and women leaders formed a national platform to support the implementation of the law and of the recommendations of the CVJR, but its Final Report is still to be officially published. During the Council of Ministers of March 1, 2023, the government adopted draft texts for the creation, organization and operating procedures of the *Autorité de Gestion des Réparations en faveur des Victimes des Crises*.

In 2022, 14,264 incidents of GBV were recorded against 9,540 cases recorded in 2021, an increase of 49 percent. 55 percent of the incidents are cases of sexual violence, of which 41 percent are cases of rape. Forced marriage accounts for 8 percent of cases, psychological violence for 10 percent, denial of resources for 12 percent, and physical assault for 15 percent. MINUSMA continues the support the Malian Security Forces through mentorship with respect to handling cases of SGBV, and particularly conflict related sexual violence (CRSV). Thirty-five (35) mentoring sessions took place in 2022 where advice was given to the MSF. Regular sensitization on the importance of reporting SGBV is ongoing in the eight regions and sub-regions with MINUSMA presence to encourage the follow up of cases.

In 2023, the GBV sub-cluster estimates that 1,581,856 people will need assistance and protection from gender-based violence in Gao, Kidal, Tombouctou, Mopti, Ménaka, Ségou, and Bamako. 79 percent of women and 47 percent of men believe that it is justified for a man to beat his wife. According to data from 2018, 89 percent of women aged 15 to 49 have been subjected to female genital mutilation. 48.8 percent of girls were married before the age of 18 (and 16 before the age of 15), with disparities between rural areas (53 percent) and urban areas (36 percent). Child marriages, early unintended pregnancies and poor contraceptive use are the main causes of high fertility rates and high maternal mortality rate (325 / 100,000 as per the EDSMV 2018). These rates may have gotten worse in recent years, as hundreds of thousands of women and girls live in areas controlled by armed groups are deprived of access to schools, health centers, markets, or field, and continue to suffer sexual violence without access to justice or services. The closure of many schools² in central and northern Mali increases the risk of harmful practices such as child marriage and FGM, as well as other coping mechanisms such as prostitution and survival sex. According to the DHS (2006 and 2018), there is an increase in the prevalence of FGM in Timbuktu, among other things due to the departure of development and State actors and the displacement of populations. The panel of experts of the sanctions committee has reported the operation of trafficking networks in Gao in great detail and provided the names of the main traffickers. In 2022, the Protection cluster and the GBV Area of Responsibility raised their concern about the increase of sexual exploitation of women and girls from IDPs communities and the proliferation of brothels close to IDPs sites, especially in Gao and Mopti.

² In Mopti, 41 percent of the schools are closed, in Gao 32 percent, in Kidal 18 percent and 14 percent in Timbuktu. In some areas 100 percent of the schools are closed.

Humanitarian issues and women's socioeconomic situation

According to the World Bank the national poverty rate is estimated to have risen from 42.5 percent in 2019 to 44.4 percent in 2021, pushing an additional 375,000 people into extreme poverty. Economic growth in 2022, initially forecast at 5.2 percent, has been revised downwards to 4.2 percent. This has negatively affected tax revenues in 2022 and led to an amendment of budgetary law to reflect the budgetary deficit in 2022. These significant changes have led to important cuts in social sector budgets as compared to those of security and defense's sectors.

The pandemic, climate-related shocks, the deterioration of the security situation, economic sanctions by ECOWAS, and the impact of the Ukraine crisis have pushed up food and fuel prices and lowered economic prospects. This has also resulted in an increase in the number of people needing humanitarian assistance: from 5.9 million in 2021, to 7.5 million in 2022, to 8.8 million in 2023. Earlier this year, the humanitarian community in Mali launched an appeal for 751 million dollars to meet the urgent needs of 5.7 million Malians, the most vulnerable among those in need. Internal displacement has almost quadrupled in the last two years, and 54 percent of them are women and girls. A further 200,000 Malians have been forced to flee the country, seeking international protection. Mali also hosts more than 60,000 refugees, including 25,000 from Burkina Faso, many of whom face continued violence in Mali, leading to multiple displacements. Refugees, IDPs and returnees often live in sub-standard conditions with limited capacity to cover basic needs, with very limited livelihood opportunities, leading to heightened protection risks, including GBV, sexual exploitation, trafficking, early marriages, and forced prostitution.

Nearly half a million children have been affected by the closure of between 1000 and 2000 schools in north and central Mali over the past 10 years. Children out of school are growing up in an environment without education, guidance and future prospects and in areas teeming with extremist actors. As of December 2022, there were 1,582 schools closed due to insecurity affecting almost 475,000 children and 9,500 teachers, although UNICEF managed to re-open some of them. In 2018, the national enrolment rate for primary schools stood at 85.8 percent for boys and 73.8 percent for girls. The alarmingly high illiteracy rate stands at 69.8 percent for women and 51.8 percent for men.

Women's participation in the economy is much lower than men's (45 percent compared to 77 percent). Most women earn half of men's wages for similar roles, and women lack access, control, and ownership of land, technology, and funds. In rural areas, where 78 percent of women live, only 8 percent have land titles. Women-owned companies represent only 14 percent of the total number of registered companies. Women are mainly involved in the informal sector.

Climate change -through its complex interaction with socioeconomic, political, and demographic factors- can compound existing drivers of vulnerability. Drought and floods impact seasonal regularity and natural resource-based livelihoods. Beyond increasing the workload of women and girls in farming and herding communities, the adverse effects of climate change lengthen the distances needed to travel to find water, firewood, and food, exposing them to risks of gender-based violence. Livelihood insecurity can increase the risk of local conflict over the access and use of natural resources, impacting broader conflict dynamics.

In general, humanitarian actors continue to ensure that at least half of the beneficiaries of humanitarian interventions are women and girls, such as in the provision of medical assistance, psychosocial counseling, food, cash transfers, or non-food items (such as dignity kits or menstrual hygiene management kits). However, only a minimal fraction of targeted women can be reached, due to lack of funding, services and access challenges in many areas of the country.

To support efforts in the domains of stabilization, security and political representation of women, MINUSMA, through its Trust Fund for Peace and Security and Quick-Impact Projects (QIPs), has helped

to create income-generating opportunities for women through vocational training, provision of equipment, resources and community centers in the North, the Center and in Bamako.

Recommendations:³

In the negotiations on the mandate renewal for MINUSMA, the Security Council should continue to prioritize Women, Peace and Security and retain the references to women, peace and security in resolution 2640 (2022), including in any reconfiguration of the mandate, and consider the following additions:

- Urge Malian transitional authorities to respect a strict application of the law no. 052 of 18th December 2015, with the 30 percent quota for women in elected and appointed positions, regretting that women are still significantly under-represented in national, local and regional government, and urging their meaningful participation in the transition and restoration of civilian rule, as well as any engagement with signatory or non-signatory armed groups, in line with the recommendations of the 2020 National Dialogue,
- Urge and support the Mali transitional authorities to create a conducive environment for women's rights, their protection and promotion, that prevents and addresses violence, including GBV, against women peacebuilders, human right defenders and women's organizations engaged in the political transition, electoral process, and the peace process, including through legal frameworks, and request the Mission to monitor and report on these matters.
- Call on the Malian transitional authorities to facilitate the participation of internally displaced persons and returnees, including women, in the upcoming elections and the constitutional referendum.
- Urge the transitional authorities to redouble efforts to achieve the effective implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.
- Urge the transitional authorities to ensure the participation of women, including from civil society and in forced displacement within the country, in decision-making processes related to national security and counterterrorism policies and military expenditures.
- Urge the transitional authorities to adopt and implement a law on gender-based violence, establish mechanism to facilitate the protection of GBV victims, and reinforce victims' access to justice, and request the support from UN and international partners to this end.
- Urge the transitional authorities to prioritize the cases of conflict-related sexual violence pending before the courts for a decade now, to investigate gross violations or abuses of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law, including by national armed forces, armed and militia groups and foreign security personnel, and to ensure that the law on reparations is effectively implemented and addresses the needs of survivors, including survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and those who have testified before the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission.
- Request the UN and international partners to contribute to preventing and responding to harmful practices affecting women and girls and develop innovative solutions to address these in areas where the presence of the State is limited.
- Request the United Nations and international partners to conduct gender-sensitive risk-assessments on the adverse effects of climate change and to ensure women's meaningful participation and leadership in efforts to address the impact of climate-related shocks on peace and security in Mali, including through conflict-sensitive natural resource management.

³ These recommendations are prepared by UN Women as the secretariat of the Informal Expert Group, in consultation with other UN entities.

- Request the United Nations and international partners to support programmes aimed at enhancing women's participation, protection and empowerment that will contribute to stabilization in the Centre and the North of the country.

In addition, members of the Security Council could request more detailed information from the United Nations on the women's rights situation in areas controlled by armed groups in central and northern Mali, and the potential impact of each of the options laid out in the strategic review for MINUSMA (SG Report 2023/26 of 16 January 2023), as well as the withdrawal of several troop contributing countries.

ANNEX

Relevant language in resolution 2640 (2022) extending the mandate of MINUSMA until 30 June 2023

Underlining that lasting peace and security in the Sahel region will not be achieved without a combination of political, security, peacebuilding and sustainable development efforts benefitting all regions of Mali, as well as the full, effective and inclusive implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali emanating from the Algiers process ("the Agreement"), and ensures full, equal and meaningful participation of women and youth, and welcoming in this regard the increased representation of women in the Comité de suivi de l'Accord (CSA),

Strongly condemning all violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving (...) sexual and gender-based violence, and trafficking in persons,

3. Calls upon the Malian authorities and all parties in Mali to ensure full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the mechanisms established by the Agreement to support and monitor its implementation, including by increasing the meaningful representation of women in all CSA mechanisms, operationalizing the Women's Observatory and its regional branches, and ensuring its effective implementation, and to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the Political Transition and electoral processes, as both candidates and voters, including by meeting the quota of at least 30 per cent women in all political functions and offices as defined in Mali's legislation, addressing risk of harm, including threats, violence and hate speech, and ensuring necessary protection for women in these roles, and providing evidence of progress towards completion of Agreement-related targets laid out in Mali's third national plan (2019–2023) for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), and requests the Secretary-General to pay specific attention to these points in its regular reporting on MINUSMA;

7. Calls for the inclusion within national and regional strategies of programs to prevent sexual and gender-based violence and address the stigma of it, bring justice to victims and survivors, and support their reintegration into their communities, and further calls for the views of the victims and survivors to be taken into account in the design, establishment, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these programs;

12. Urges the Malian authorities, before the end of MINUSMA's current mandate, to agree on and effectively implement a comprehensive, inclusive, politically-focused strategy which addresses the root causes and drivers of violent conflict, protects civilians, reduces intercommunal violence, and re-establishes State presence and authority as well as basic social services in Central Mali, addressing the need for extra protection for women and children in vulnerable situations and marginalized groups (...),

14. Calls on the Malian Transition Government to make tangible progress, to be monitored by a robust monitoring mechanism committed to by the Government, to achieve the Political Transition, the swift return to constitutional order and the handover of power to democratically elected civilian authorities, in cooperation with ECOWAS in order to reach agreement, by organizing free and fair elections and, as appropriate, a constitutional referendum, conducted in a transparent and inclusive manner, with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women (...),

26. Decides that MINUSMA's mandate shall include the following priority tasks:

– to support the cantonment, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed groups (...) taking into account the particular needs of women (...)

-to encourage and support the full implementation of the Agreement by the Malian parties, and all relevant non-signatory actors, including by promoting the meaningful participation of civil society, including women's organizations, women peacebuilders

-to assist the Malian Transition Government, together with the UNCT, as part of a robust monitoring mechanism committed to by the Government, in the holding of free and fair elections, conducted in a peaceful environment and a transparent and inclusive manner, including regional, local, legislative and presidential elections, and, as

appropriate, of a constitutional referendum, in cooperation with ECOWAS in order to reach agreement, and with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women,

-To provide specific protection and assistance for women and children affected by armed conflict, including through Protection Advisors, Child Protection Advisors, Women Protection Advisors and civilian and uniformed Gender Advisors and focal points, as well as consultations with women's organizations, and address the needs of victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict;

-to monitor, document, conduct fact-finding missions, help investigate and report publicly and quarterly to the Security Council, on violations of international humanitarian law and on violations and abuses of human rights, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking in persons (...),

41. Requests the Secretary-General to implement the following capacities and existing obligations in the planning and conduct of MINUSMA's operations:

– to strengthen its sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response activities in line with resolution [2467 \(2019\)](#),

– to implement resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and all resolutions addressing women, peace, and security, including by seeking to increase the number of women in MINUSMA in line with resolution [2538 \(2020\)](#), taking fully into account gender considerations as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate,

44. Requests troop- and police-contributing countries to implement relevant provisions of resolution [2538 \(2020\)](#) and all other relevant resolutions on reducing barriers to and increasing women's participation at all levels and in all positions in peacekeeping;

45. Urges the Malian authorities to reinforce efforts to strengthen accountability and ensure that all those responsible for crimes involving violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving sexual and gender based violence, and human trafficking, are held accountable and brought to justice without undue delay, that progress and conclusions of investigations and trials are effectively communicated, and that all victims and survivors of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations have access to justice, and notes, in this regard, the Malian authorities' continued cooperation with the ICC, in accordance with Mali's obligations under the Rome Statute, in matters that are within its jurisdiction;

47. Reaffirms its past resolutions on the Protection of civilians in armed conflicts including resolution [1894 \(2009\)](#), Children and armed conflicts, Women, peace and security, and Youth, peace and security, calls upon all military forces operating in Mali to take them into account and to abide by international humanitarian law, international human rights law and refugee law, as applicable, recalls the importance of training in this regard;

48. Welcomes the adoption by the Malian authorities of a third action plan to implement resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#), calls on the Malian authorities to ensure its effective implementation and revision, requests MINUSMA to assist the Malian authorities in ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation, involvement and representation of women at all levels in decision-making and the implementation of the Agreement, including the security sector reform and DDR processes, as well as in reconciliation, Political Transition and electoral processes, and calls on the Malian parties to address the need for extra protection for women and children in vulnerable situations as a cross-cutting issue;

50. Urges all parties to prevent and eliminate sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, encourages the implementation of the Joint Communiqué on sexual and gender-based violence signed by the United Nations and the Government of Mali in March 2019, further encourages Malian authorities to continue to take steps towards the enactment of the draft law on prevention, prosecution and response to gender-based violence, calls upon the Plateforme armed group to implement the commitments contained in its Communiqué sur la prévention des violences sexuelles liées au conflit au Mali of June 2016 and upon the Coordination armed group to make similar commitments, and requests MINUSMA to support efforts in this regard, including supporting the provision of medical, sexual and reproductive health, psychosocial, mental health, legal and socioeconomic services to all survivors of sexual violence;

51. Urges troop- and police-contributing countries to continue taking appropriate action to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, including vetting, pre-deployment and in-mission awareness training, to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel, including through timely investigations of all allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, to repatriate units when there is credible evidence of widespread or systemic sexual exploitation and abuse by those units, and to report to the United Nations fully and promptly on actions undertaken;

57. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council every three months after the adoption of this resolution on the implementation of this resolution, focusing on:

(i) the situation in Mali, including major political and security developments, the terrorist threat, the implementation of the Agreement, the human rights situation, including women's rights (...).