

**REPORT OF THE CONTACT GROUP MEETING ON MALI HELD ON THE
SIDELINES OF THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF FOREIGN
MINISTERS
NEW YORK
20th SEPTEMBER 2016.**

The OIC Contact Group on Mali met at Ministerial level on 20th September, 2016 on the sideline of the Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers in New York. The meeting reviewed the latest development and the implementation of the peace process in Mali. The Meeting received a briefing from the Foreign Minister of Mali and the Secretary General. It also heard interventions from other members of the Contact Group.

During deliberations which focused on the implementation of the Algiers Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali as well as peace building in Mali, the Meeting agreed on the following:

- i.** The meeting restated its firm and principled commitment for the respect of the sovereignty, unity and the territorial integrity of Mali.
- ii.** The meeting reiterated its strong condemnation of extremism, terrorism and all forms of violence including organized crime, drug and human trafficking which continue to threaten the peace, security and stability of Mali, the Sahel and other countries in the region. It called on the international community to enhance its support for Mali to counter the menace of terrorism. It further welcomed the reinforcement of the mandate of the MINUSMA by the UNSC to contribute to the stabilization of Mali.
- iii.** The meeting recalled the signing on 15 May 2015 and 20 June 2015 in Bamako of the Algiers Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali and urged all signatories to expedite the implementation of this agreement.
- iv.** The meeting re-affirmed the OIC's full support for the Algiers Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali as one its guarantors and reiterated the determination of the Organization to actively work with the Malian parties in the critical implementation phase through its effective participation in the work of the Monitoring and Implementation Committee.
- v.** The meeting commended the progress recorded in the implementation of the peace agreement and the inclusive policies being adopted by the Government of Mali to accelerate its implementation. The meeting expressed its appreciation for the wise leadership of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and welcomed the signature of the Protocol of Understanding relating to the installation of the local Interim Administrations which will remain in place during the

transitional period in the northern regions of Mali and urged the parties to strive towards its full application.

vi. The meeting noted the fragile situation prevailing in north Mali and underscored the necessity to fully restore State authority in all parts of the country through a comprehensive and inclusive approach covering the security and development aspects and respect for the spiritual dimensions. It warned spoilers and other enemies of peace to desist from their negative activities or face severe sanctions.

vii. The meeting called on the protagonist groups and movements responsible for the violence in Kidal and environs to end all hostilities, respect the May 2014 ceasefire and engage actively in the swift implementation of the Algiers peace accord.

viii. The meeting took note of the Operational Mechanism of Coordination and the planned establishment on 15 August 2016 of the 1st Battalion in Gao for mixed patrols preceding the establishment of similar Battalions in Kidal and Timbuktu.

ix. The meeting requested the Member States, OIC financial institutions, particularly the IDB, and other international partners of Mali to provide the necessary assistance for the long term development of Mali. It also called on them to contribute massively to the socio-economic development of Mali.

x. The meeting welcomed the development projects and other forms of assistance provided by the Member States within the framework of their bilateral cooperation with Mali and strongly invited them to step up their engagement. In this regard, it tasked the Secretary General to initiate necessary actions that may lead to the creation of the Trust Fund as decided by the 12th Islamic Summit.

xi. The meeting took note of the plan of action for Mali and the Sahel proposed by the OIC Special Envoy for Africa and requested the Member States and the relevant OIC institutions to assist in its implementation as a way of contributing to peace and socio-economic development in Mali and the Sahel region.

xii. The meeting also called on the Member States, OIC institutions and Islamic NGOs to continue to extend generously humanitarian assistance in order to alleviate the suffering of the Malian IDPs and refugees including supporting the efforts of the host countries and the Government of Mali.

xiii. The meeting reiterated its call on ISESCO and IRCICA to take necessary measures in collaboration with UNESCO to restore, preserve and protect the rich Islamic cultural heritage in Mali.