

Following the N'Djamena Summit in February 2021, the partners of the Coalition for the Sahel adopted a roadmap setting out their joint commitments for the fight against terrorism, security, stabilization and development in the Sahel in a logic of mutual accountability and political alignment (the “spirit of N’Djamena”). Partners agreed on the need for a civil and political surge to consolidate the results of the military surge and to complement them with a stabilization and development approach. These commitments were the subject of an initial report detailing the progress made and the challenges faced, which was presented to the partners of the Coalition.

Based on that report, on March 9, 2022, the Ministers of the Coalition for the Sahel requested an update of the N'Djamena roadmap that is adapted to the changed regional and operating context. Ministers also reaffirmed the will of partners to pursue their joint commitments, in line with the declaration of several Heads of State and Government members of the Coalition who met in Paris on February 16, 2022. These commitments were also endorsed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance in Madrid, on April 4, 2022.

Major political and security developments in the Sahel have deeply affected the underlying conditions of our collective action. This has led some partners to adapt the focus of their engagement, calling for a strategic rethink. The coups d’Etat and ongoing transitions in Mali, Chad and Burkina Faso hampered the implementation of the civil and political surge and of the roadmap more broadly. The announcement of the Malian authorities on May 15, 2022, to withdraw from the G5 Sahel and its bodies, including the Joint Force, and their ongoing engagement with foreign mercenaries, have further called into question the spirit of N'Djamena and the ability to effectively pursue the fight against terrorism on Malian soil.

At the same time, attacks by terrorist groups in the Sahel are increasing. The humanitarian situation is deteriorating due to ongoing conflicts, the severe food crisis and the effects of climate change. Reports of human rights abuses perpetrated by national armed forces and affiliated mercenaries in Mali indicate a risk of increasing ethnically based and communal conflicts, while the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation resulting from the Algiers process has stalled. In addition, incursions by terrorist groups are spreading to the countries of the Gulf of Guinea creating a risk of instability in the broader West African region. The situation is further compounded by the destabilizing effects of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, resulting in soaring food and commodity prices.

Given these challenges, regional and international cooperation is crucial more than ever in order to address the root causes of instability. In our collective action, Coalition partners commit to implementing the roadmap with a renewed focus on: the promotion of inclusive and open societies; the protection of civilian populations; compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights; as well as enhanced cooperation to address regional and cross-border issues.

A strong buy-in from all concerned partners and operational realism is needed if joint actions are to succeed. The current update is an opportunity to better take into account national specificities and enhance the link between national policies and joint actions undertaken within the Coalition framework. The roadmap's timetable extends over the next 12 months, with many of the objectives requiring sustained and continuous engagement beyond that.

## **Pillar 1 – Fight against terrorism**

- 1.1. Based on national efforts with the support of international partners, continue the fight against terrorist groups active in the Sahel, in particular those affiliated to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State, with the aim of improving the security situation and protection of civilians in strict compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights law.
- 1.2. Continue planning and conducting joint operations in order to: (i) prevent any new terrorist establishment in areas that have become vulnerable; (ii) create an environment free of armed terrorist groups where humanitarian, stabilization and development efforts can be implemented.
- 1.3. With respect to the G5 Joint Force, countries in the region will carry out operations as far as technically and politically possible. Partners will adapt their engagement according to a strategic review of the Joint Force.
- 1.4. Intensify the sharing of real-time intelligence between the various security actors in order to guarantee a rapid response on the ground. Strengthen support to the G5 Sahel Intelligence Fusion Centre in Niamey.
- 1.5. Strengthen coordination between military and civilian stabilization actors from the planning phase onwards in order to allow a better synchronization of interventions and thus make it possible to re-establish the presence of the State and its services more quickly and effectively without compromising the space for humanitarian action.
- 1.6. Given the expanding terrorist threat, strengthen dialogue and coordination between Sahel countries and their neighbours, particularly those in the Gulf of Guinea within the framework of ECOWAS and the Accra Initiative.

## **Pillar 2 - Capacity building of national defense and security forces and the G5 Joint Force**

- 2.1. On the basis of national policies, strengthen the Defense and Internal Security Forces of the Sahel States, when political and security circumstances and legal conditions are met, by: (i) strengthening their operational capacities; (ii) supporting local ownership of Sahel state structures in undertaking structural governance reforms, in particular human resource management, meaningful participation of women and financial transparency; (iii) strengthening the interoperability of services; (iv) reinforcing efforts to protect civilians and improve trust between the population and Defense and Internal Security Forces.
- 2.2. On the basis of the review of the G5 Joint Force mentioned in paragraph 1.3, initiate a discussion on the future of the Joint Force, in terms of its configuration, structure, requirements and efficiency, in order to ensure the availability of an effective regional military tool to respond to regional security threats. This discussion will take into account recent political and security developments in the region, including the decision by the Malian transition authorities to withdraw from the organization. In parallel, initiate a discussion on the configuration and efficiency of other G5 security related structures.
- 2.3. Ensure compliance with human rights and international humanitarian law through the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Compliance Framework programme, the Casualty and Incident Tracking and Analysis cell (CITAC/MISAD) and other relevant regional and national programs.
- 2.4. Establish and strengthen regional, national and local mechanisms for civil-military coordination with humanitarian actors. More broadly, encourage decision-makers to engage with civil society, notably with women, young people and vulnerable communities, on issues relevant to security and defense forces operations in order to respond to their expectations and ensure the protection of civilians.
- 2.5. Reduce the risks and effects of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) as well as the proliferation of small arms and light weapons that harm populations and Defense and Internal Security Forces, by enhancing national capacities and involving relevant national and international actors and by supporting demining and arms-control projects.
- 2.6. Ensure that the procurement of equipment includes a joint identification of needs, definition of technical requirements, timelines for delivery, monitoring and follow-up.

### **Pillar 3 - Deployment of the state, administrations and basic services in a context of stabilization**

- 3.1. Intensify, within the framework of the P3S, the civil and political surge based on an integrated stabilization approach. The surge aims at strengthening state presence that is perceived as legitimate and positive, local governance and trust between state representatives and populations. Where appropriate, the surge is implemented through: (i) rapid redeployment of public officials, the provision of basic services, including justice and security; (ii) quick impact socio-economic actions; (iii) support to social cohesion; (iv) joint coordination and steering between civil and military authorities at national and local levels in order to synchronize and articulate military, security efforts and civilian stabilization efforts; (v) an inclusive approach, consulting with local populations and civil society; (vi) making use of multilateral tools such as stabilization facilities, ensuring conflict sensitivity; (vii) early coordination with development actors in order to sustain and complement the civil and political surge as well as with humanitarian actors to preserve humanitarian access.
- 3.2. Focus stabilization efforts on conflict affected areas of the Sahel defined as priorities by national and international partners, and aligned with regional, national and local stabilization strategies. This includes border areas such as the Liptako-Gourma, the Lake Chad basin and the border areas between the countries of the Sahel and the West African coast.
- 3.3. Invest in conflict prevention and resolution at community level, and in peacebuilding and social cohesion initiatives, including mediation and inter-community dialogue with a meaningful participation of women, youth and local communities.
- 3.4. Strengthen the network and territorial coverage of the Defense and Internal Security Forces of the Sahel States, where appropriate, through: (i) the construction or reinforcement of secure infrastructure; (ii) the deployment of mobile units of Defense and Internal Security Forces.
- 3.5. Strengthen judicial institutions and investigation services. This includes: (i) carrying out structural reforms of justice systems, in order to make them more inclusive and responsive to the needs of all parts of the population, including women and girls; (ii) strengthening the penal chain and in particular the specialized prosecutor's offices and judicial units; (iii) developing and supporting joint investigation teams (JITs); (iv) strengthening operational and judicial cooperation at the regional level.
- 3.6. Strengthen the fight against impunity through: (i) improved access to justice without any discrimination; (ii) the systematic opening of prompt, impartial and effective judicial and administrative investigations into allegations of human rights and international humanitarian law violations and abuses, ensuring that these lead to transparent prosecutions; (iii) continued operationalization of provost cells and support for military justice; (iv) witness protection and assistance to victims including of gender-based violence; (v) public awareness actions and communication; (vi) the strengthening of the judicial system responsible for the fight against corruption.
- 3.7. Strengthen coordination with West African coastal states to tackle instability and insecurity in border areas with Sahel countries, focusing on prevention and stabilization.

#### **Pillar 4 – Development actions**

- 4.1. Maintain and adapt support for the benefit of the populations of the G5 Sahel in a context of growing instability, insecurity and poverty, so as not to jeopardize the gains that have been made in terms of development. Respect human rights, humanitarian principles and International Humanitarian Law, including by the Defense and Internal Security Forces.
- 4.2. Provide a coordinated response to the Sahelian populations, which meets the challenges of the major food and nutrition crisis facing the G5 Sahel countries, following a peace-humanitarian-development nexus approach. Address the root causes of food and nutrition insecurity, structurally strengthen the food autonomy of the G5 countries, the resilience of populations to climate change and social safety net programs, develop synergies between the various stakeholders in the food system and with the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI), promote agroecology and agroforestry and promising value chains, including pastoral ones, which also generate sustainable employment.
- 4.3. Pursue efforts in the most fragile areas while strengthening actions in prevention zones, in order to address the root causes of instability and limit the spread of conflicts and crises. Continue to support the implementation of the civil and political surge and focus support on basic services, to strengthen the resilience of the populations by meeting their basic needs, as well as on local authorities and devolved state services to strengthen their presence and legitimacy on the ground as public service providers.
- 4.4. Favour flexible and simplified implementation procedures.
- 4.5. Support the efforts of G5 Sahel governments to implement structural reforms in favour of the rule of law and transparent, inclusive and effective governance. Formalize and intensify the dialogue on public policy reforms with the G5 Sahel states, including through the use of the Political Dialogue and Mutual Accountability Framework agreed at the 2<sup>d</sup> General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance, which will include measurable and concrete indicators.
- 4.6. Increase efforts in favour of gender equality and the defense of women's rights in the G5 Sahel countries, notably through the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.
- 4.7. Intensify support for greater socio-economic inclusion and increased participation of women and youth in political life. Allocate more resources to education, vocational training, employment and social protection for women and young people and adapt interventions in these sectors in crisis areas.
- 4.8. Provide adequate support for the mobilization and development of the Sahelian private sector, with a special focus on women and youth, agricultural value chains, business climate, access to finance, risk sharing, capacity building and innovation.

## **Political and crosscutting priorities**

### **Transitions, Conflict Prevention and Mediation**

- 5.1 Work towards successful and inclusive political transitions with a view to a return to democratically elected governments and constitutional regimes in compliance with the rule of law.
- 5.2 Revive the concertation of parties on the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, resulting from the Algiers process, on the basis of the existing agreement and mechanisms. Support the full implementation of the renewed mandate of MINUSMA and fulfillment of all necessary conditions.
- 5.3 Support national dialogue, mediation and conflict resolution initiatives led by the G5 Sahel States, with a view to demobilizing and reintegrating members of non-State armed groups, including local self-defense groups and militias. These efforts will respect the constitutional order and legitimate rights of communities and victims; they will be in line with the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.
- 5.4 Strengthen dialogue between local authorities and agro-pastoral representatives and support existing initiatives, with a view to improving the equitability and sustainability of natural resource management, as well as to updating national legislation.

### **Civil Society, Human Rights and Humanitarian Action**

- 5.5 Promote and protect freedom of expression, human rights and fundamental freedoms, including for journalists and civil society actors. Strengthen the fight against disinformation.
- 5.6 Guarantee the transparency, independence and accountability of democratic institutions, such as judicial and national human rights institutions. Redouble efforts to fight corruption.
- 5.7 Strengthen the protection of vulnerable populations and reduce discrimination based on community affiliation, gender, age or disability, by increasing their participation in public life, with a view to promoting equality and inclusion. This includes greater evidence building by disaggregating data to understand the needs and inform the approach.
- 5.8 Promote the protection of civilians and the obligation under international humanitarian law to grant and facilitate safe access of humanitarian aid to populations in need, including internally displaced persons, through training and awareness-raising, civil-military coordination mechanisms and respect for humanitarian principles. Promote across all actors the respect for and understanding of neutral and impartial humanitarian actions. Apply a Do No Harm approach in all stabilization efforts.
- 5.9 Work towards the full implementation of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach as recommended by the OECD-DAC in February 2019 strengthening the links between institutional actors and civil society in order to better link urgent relief and longer-term solutions across all pillars of the Coalition.

### **Regional and International Cooperation**

- 5.10 Support the updating of the G5 Sahel Development and Security Strategy (DSS) and the Priority Investment Program (PIP).
- 5.11 Strengthen the dynamic of cooperation between the Sahel countries and their West African neighbours with a view to containing the expansion of the terrorist threat to their border areas, where necessary by supporting regional organizations (G5 Sahel, Accra Initiative, ECOWAS and the African Union). Refine areas of regional cooperation in an integrated approach.
- 5.12 Strengthen the dynamic of cooperation between the G5 Sahel countries and their neighbours in West and North Africa in order to fight illicit trafficking and any other source of financing for terrorist groups. Promote transnational cooperation between partners and relevant organizations.

## **Implementation and Monitoring Mechanisms**

- Implementing, monitoring, evaluating and updating the N'Djamena roadmap is a collective effort led by the Sahel countries, in close collaboration with international partners. Support is provided by the secretariats of the G5 Sahel, the Coalition for the Sahel, the Partnership for Security and Stability in the Sahel (P3S) and the Sahel Alliance.
- Political guidance is provided by the summits and ministerial meetings of the Coalition for the Sahel and other relevant high level meetings. These may be convened by the High Representative of the Coalition when deemed appropriate and prior to consultations with Coalition partners.
- The High Representative of the Coalition is entrusted with the mission of monitoring the implementation of the conclusions of the Summits and ministerial meetings of the Coalition as well as the commitments set out in its roadmap, in close coordination with the secretariats of the G5 Sahel, the P3S (as regards pillars 2 and 3) and the Sahel Alliance (as regards pillar 4). He maintains a dialogue with the Sahel countries and engages with the countries bordering them. In his role, the High Representative is supported by the secretariat of the Coalition for the Sahel.
- In each of the G5 Sahel countries, steering and monitoring the implementation of the N'Djamena roadmap is done at two levels: (i) at senior political level, an inter-ministerial steering and monitoring committee of the roadmap, with the participation of partners from the four pillars of the Coalition; (ii) at the technical level, a preparatory and follow-up committee. The European Union Delegations facilitate coordination among international partners across the four pillars.
- The G5 Sahel rotating Presidency, with the support of the Executive Secretary of the G5 Sahel, will organize on a semi-yearly basis a meeting of the G5 National Coordination Committees to report on efforts underway in the four pillars.
- The Secretariat of the Coalition for the Sahel, in a joint effort with the secretariats of the G5 Sahel, the P3S and the Sahel Alliance, prepares a stocktaking and review of the roadmap on a yearly basis.
- To the extent possible, civil society – including the People's Sahel Coalition – is consulted in the monitoring, evaluation and implementation of the roadmap.