



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

African Union, ECOWAS, European Union, United Nations, African Security Sector Network and the International Organization of la Francophonie

SECURITY SECTOR REFORM JOINT NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION TO MALI

Bamako, 22 November 2015: An African Union (AU) led Security Sector Reform Joint Needs Assessment Mission (JNAM) to Mali/MISAHEL was conducted from 16 to 21 November 2015. The mission was carried out upon request from the Government of Mali and Head of the AU Mission in Mali and the Sahel (MISAHEL), and comprised of representatives from the African Union (AU), the United Nations (UN), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union (EU), the African Security Sector Network (ASSN) and the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF). The mission was led by H.E. Pierre Buyoya, High Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission (HRCC) and Head of MISAHEL.

The mission was conducted as part of the activities under the AU-UN-EU SSR Capacity Building Project in support of MISAHEL. The aim of the mission was to ascertain possible SSR assistance as part of the AU support to the stabilisation efforts in Mali, in line with the decisions of the AU Peace and Security Council. As the mission is following upon the AU-EU Joint Field Mission to Mali in February 2015 and the recent signing of the Peace Agreement, the objective was to gain a common understanding of MISAHEL's challenges concerning the effective realisation of the SSR related provisions of the Peace Agreement, to understand the current context and scope of security challenges in Mali and to assess MISAHEL's capacity to complement existing SSR assistance and enhance cooperation and coordination.

In the course of its work, the mission consulted with a wide range of national and international partners, including high-level Government officials, civil society including traditional and religious leaders, and international and bilateral partners such as the European Union, MINUSMA and ambassadors of countries deeply involved in supporting the Malian security sector.

The joint assessment team planned to organize a one day workshop for all the stakeholders to discuss the preliminary findings of the assessment and reflect on the highlighted issues before finalizing the assessment report. The workshop couldn't however, take place due to the security incidence occurred in one of the hotels in Bamako one day before the work.

The joint assessment team is now leading the process of preparing the mission report that will be shared with the Government of Mali and MISAHEL Head of Mission for their consideration on the way forward, and with the various partners for their support. The AU remains committed to work with the international community to support security sector reform as one of the key components for building sustainable peace and development in the Republic of Mali and the Sahel Region.

