



Explanation of Vote on MINUSMA Withdrawal Mandate 30 June 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Mr Darren Camilleri
Political Coordinator of Malta to the United Nations, New York

President

Malta thanks France for its extensive efforts on this file. We also thank SRSW Wane and his team at MINUSMA and pay tribute to the peacekeepers that have served the Mission since its inception ten years ago. Today we remember those who have paid the ultimate price.

Following today's adoption, Malta strongly underlines the importance of a safe and orderly withdrawal, in accordance with international obligations, such as international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and the protection of civilians. The safety of peacekeepers during the drawdown and withdrawal period is of utmost importance.

It is crucial for the drawdown, withdrawal, and liquidation to be fulfilled in full cooperation between the Malian Transitional Government and the United Nations. Cooperation should extend towards respect to the freedom of movement in accordance with the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA).



Malta urges the Malian Authorities to keep the Peace Agreement as a priority of the Transitional Government, and to give due consideration to the work and contributions offered by the UN Country Team and UNOWAS in the transfer of MINUSMA's tasks.

At the same time, we call for a renewed approach, based on concrete confidence-building measures that will help re-establish open dialogue between the signatory parties, to deliver tangible results.

Malta reiterates the importance for the Malian Transitional Government to fulfil its commitment in holding free and fair presidential elections in February next year, with the sole aim of returning to democratic rule by a civilian-led government.

We look forward to updates being shared to this Council in a timely manner.

I thank you.