



Security Council Briefing on MINUSMA, 28 August 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt

Chargé d'Affaires of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President, and I also thank SRSG Wane and Mrs. Abouya for their statements.

Malta reiterates the importance of an orderly, safe, and effective withdrawal of MINUSMA in accordance with Security Council Resolution 2690, and we express our support to the Secretary General and the work on the plan for the transfer of tasks of the Mission. We commend the swift actions already taken towards this end, while underlining the critical need in ensuring the safety and security of UN Personnel throughout the entire withdrawal process.

We further emphasise that until MINUSMA's complete departure, its freedom of movement in accordance with the Status of Forces Agreement is not negotiable. Access to any imports and exports required by the Mission for its withdrawal should not be restricted in any way.

Malta remains deeply concerned about the vacuum that may arise in the context of the Peace Agreement, in particular, the impact that MINUSMA's withdrawal will have on its implementation. We call upon the Malian Transition Government and parties to the Agreement to revive diplomatic efforts in a bid to avoid further confrontation.



We expect full cooperation from Mali in safeguarding the Peace Agreement, while also welcoming discussions between the Secretariat, UNOWAS, International Mediation and regional organisations on the new role of UNOWAS within the Agreement Monitoring Committee (CSA).

We also call on all parties to the Agreement to respect the ongoing withdrawal process and to refrain from committing any acts that could jeopardise UN personnel during this delicate stage. We denounce the recent incident in Ber earlier this month, and call for unity, peace, and stability.

Malta strongly condemns all human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law. Preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence and grave violations against children must be given a priority.

We urge the Malian Transition Government to enhance protection for women and children, especially in Central and Northern Mali, and to accelerate the implementation of the Joint Communiqué and Action Plan to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence. We also call for the swift adoption and implementation of a joint plan to prevent all six grave violations against children.

We recognise and appreciate the efforts of the UN Country Team and other UN bodies in supporting the transfer of monitoring and reporting tasks in relation to the protection of women and children.



At the same time, we underline the critical need for Malian Authorities to work together with the UN system to ensure the protection of civilians and to monitor, report and evaluate the human rights situation in the country.

We support UNOWAS and the UN Country Team in taking on tasks that were previously under MINUSMA's mandate and acknowledge the need for additional financing and resources to properly fulfil these functions.

To conclude, President, Malta reiterates its support to MINUSMA and its dedicated personnel for their steadfast commitment over the past ten years. The absence of MINUSMA in the country will require a renewed approach and commitment by the Transition Government, including the restoration of constitutional order by March 2024, which remains central in the path towards stability and peace in the country and the region.

Malta looks forward to further updates to this Council in the coming months.

I thank you.