

**CHARTER OF LIPTAKO-GOURMA ESTABLISHING  
THE ALLIANCE OF SAHEL STATES**

**BETWEEN:**

BURKINA FASO

THE REPUBLIC OF MALI

THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER

The Government of Burkina Faso;

The Government of the Republic of Mali;

The Government of the Republic of Niger;

Hereinafter referred to as "the Contracting Parties";

**Reaffirming** their commitment to international and regional legality, as enshrined in particular in the Charter of the United Nations, the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the Revised ECOWAS Treaty;

**Convinced** of the need to continue the heroic struggles conducted by African peoples and countries for political independence, human dignity and economic emancipation;

**Faithful to the** objectives and ideals of the Liptako Gourma States Integrated Development Authority;

**Guided by** the spirit of brotherhood, solidarity and friendship;

**Committed to** strengthening the age-old ties between their peoples;

**Committed to** the full exercise and respect of national and international sovereignty;

**Determined to** defend the national unity and integrity of their respective States;

**Considering** the multifaceted threats to the common area of the three States;

**Conscious of** the responsibility to protect civilian populations in all circumstances;

**Recalling** the natural right of States to individual or collective self-defense;

**Have agreed as follows:**

### **Article 1**

Under this Charter, referred to as the Charter of Liptako-Gourma, the Contracting Parties hereby establish between them the Alliance of Sahel States, in abbreviated form "AES".

### **Article 2**

The aim of the Charter is to establish an architecture of collective defense and mutual assistance for the Contracting Parties.

### **Article 3**

The Contracting Parties will subsequently set up the bodies necessary for the operation and subsequent mechanisms of the Alliance and will define the modalities of its operation.

### **Article 4**

The Contracting Parties undertake to combat all forms of terrorism and organized crime in the common area of the Alliance.

### **Article 5**

The Contracting Parties will also work towards preventing, managing and solving any armed rebellion or other threat to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of each of the member countries of the Alliance, giving priority to peaceful and diplomatic means and, if necessary, using force to deal with situations that threaten peace and stability.

### **Article 6**

Any violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of one or more Contracting Parties shall be considered as an aggression against the other Parties and shall give rise to a duty of assistance and relief by all the Parties, individually or collectively, including the use of armed force, to restore and ensure security within the area covered by the Alliance.

### **Article 7**

Aggression, as referred to in Article 6, also includes any attack on the defence and security forces of one or more Contracting Parties, including when they are deployed in a national capacity in a field of operations outside the Alliance territory; any attack, in any place, on the vessels or aircrafts of one or more Parties.

### **Article 8**

The Parties undertake:

- not to engage in any threat, use of force or aggression against each other or against the territorial integrity or political independence of any Party;
- not to blockade the ports, roads, coasts or strategic infrastructures of a Party by armed forces;
- not, from territory made available by one Party, to conduct attacks or aggressions against another Party or third States;

- not to allow armed groups, irregular armed forces or mercenaries from the territory of a Party to conduct attacks on a country covered by this Charter.

#### **Article 9**

The Alliance's decisions are taken unanimously by the States Parties.

#### **Article 10**

The Alliance is funded by contributions from the States Parties.

#### **Article 11**

This Charter may be open to any other State sharing the same geographical, political and socio-cultural realities, which accepts the objectives of the Alliance.

Applications for membership are accepted unanimously by the States Parties.

#### **Article 12**

Any proposal to amend this Charter is subject to unanimous acceptance of the States Parties.

The request for amendment must be notified to the other States Parties through diplomatic channels, giving three (03) months' notice.

#### **Article 13**

Any dispute arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Charter shall be settled through diplomatic channels.

#### **Article 14**

This Charter may be terminated by any Contracting Party. The Party requesting such termination must notify all other signatory Parties to the Charter by letter sent through diplomatic channels with acknowledgement of receipt and six (06) months' notice.

#### **Article 15**

This Charter shall be supplemented by additional texts, with a view to implementing the provisions set out in Article 3.

#### **Article 16**

The Parties accept the provisions of this Charter, which shall enter into force upon signature by all Parties.

**Article 17**

The Republic of Mali, designated as custodian of this Charter, shall transmit certified copies to the other States Parties.

The custodian shall receive and submit to the unanimous decision of the States Parties any new application for membership of the Alliance, in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of this Charter.

Done on.....

**For Burkina Faso  
The President of Transition,  
Head of State**

**For the Republic of Mali  
The President of Transition,  
Head of State**

**Captain Ibrahim TRAORE**

**Colonel Assimi GOITA**

**For the Republic of Niger  
The President of the National Council for  
Safeguarding the Homeland, Head of State**

**General Abdourahamane TIANI**