



Bamako, Ouagadougou, 8th August 2023

N° - 002- MAECI/MAECRBE

Your Excellency, Mr. Chairperson,

On 26 July 2023, the people of Niger decided, responsibly and peacefully, without any bloodshed, to take their destiny into their own hands and to exercise full sovereignty before history.

Subsequently, the support of the people of Niger for the events that occurred has continued to grow, notably through peaceful demonstrations in support of the new Niger authorities.

Despite this clearly expressed popular will, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in a total breach of international legality and legitimacy, opted for coercive measures, including the use of armed force, against a sovereign country.

The motive for this aggression, disguised as a military intervention under the guise of restoring democracy, poorly conceals the agendas of foreign powers ready to compound an already precarious security situation, due, it should be recalled, to a similar precedent in 2011, which caused the collapse of the Libyan State and the destabilisation of the Sahel region. To date, the responsibilities of this military operation have still not been assumed, while the Sahel States continue to suffer the harmful consequences, particularly the proliferation of terrorist groups and their corollary of circulation of weapons of all kinds in the region.

Also, per Joint Statement n°001 dated 31 July 2023, the Transitional Governments of Burkina Faso and the Republic of Mali clearly warned of the consequences, for the stability of the sub-region, and even beyond, of a military intervention against Niger and the Niger people. As neighbouring States concerned by the situation in a sisterly country, Mali and Burkina reiterate their strong condemnation of any military intervention by ECOWAS or any other international force, which would violate the sovereignty of the State of Niger. The persistence of the sub-regional organisation in this unproductive or even counter-productive approach would lead to the break-up of ECOWAS.

His Excellency Mr. Willy NYAMITWE
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Burundi to the African Union
Chairperson of the African Union Peace and Security Council

Addis-Ababa

The Transitional Governments of Burkina Faso and the Republic of Mali appeal to the wisdom of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, the permanent decision-making body of the African Union for conflict prevention, management and resolution, and central pillar of the African Peace and Security Architecture, to prevent, by all means at its disposal, armed action against a sovereign State, the consequences of which would be unpredictable.

We know that the Peace and Security Council will take the required measures to avoid, in addition to the deterioration of the security situation with the rise and spread of terrorist groups, a humanitarian tragedy, which would add to the difficulties of a population legitimately waiting for support to face the many challenges it is confronted with.

We reiterate our commitment to finding solutions exclusively through diplomacy and negotiation, which are the only ways to guarantee peace and stability in Niger and the region.

We request that you bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Peace and Security Council and publish it as an official document of the Council.

Please accept, **Your Excellency, Mr. Chairperson**, the assurances of our highest consideration.

(Signed)

Olivia Ragnagnewendé ROUAMBA
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation
and Burkinabè Abroad of Burkina Faso

(Signed)

Abdoulaye DIOP
Minister of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation
of the Republic of Mali