



One Zone-One People-One Destiny

Translated version

**Address by Major General Abdoulaye MAIGA,
Prime Minister, Head of Government of Mali,
General Debate of the 80th Regular Session of the United Nations General
Assembly.**

New York, 26 September 2025

- **Madam President of the General Assembly,**
- **Heads of State and Government,**
- **Secretary-General of the United Nations,**
- **Ladies and gentlemen,**

At the outset of my remarks, I have the honor to extend cordial greetings and convey messages from the Founding Fathers of the Confederation of Sahel States (AES), Their Excellencies Army General Assimi GOITA, President of the Transition, Head of State of the Republic of Mali, President of the Confederation of Sahel States (AES); Captain Ibrahim TRAORE, President of Burkina Faso, Head of State, and Army General Abdourahamane TIANI, President of the Republic of Niger, Head of State. Please also accept the warm greetings of the dignified people of AES, who are more committed than ever to freeing themselves from the domination of imperialism and achieving self-determination in a spirit of pan-Africanism.

By extending the best wishes of the Confederation of Sahel States for your election as President of this 80th Session of the General Assembly, Madam President, I would also like to congratulate your predecessor, His Excellency Philemon Yang of the Republic of Cameroon, for his outstanding leadership during the proceedings of the 79th session.

Finally, allow me to reiterate to the Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio GUTERRES, our appreciation for the efforts he continues to make to achieve the noble objectives of our common Organization.

- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The topic of this 80th Session of the General Assembly, namely “Better Together: Over 80 Years serving for Peace, Development, and Human Rights,” is of particular importance to the member states of the AES Confederation.

Yes, peace, mutual aid, development, and the protection of human rights remain the main objectives, indeed the reason for the existence of the United Nations. Unfortunately, these essential objectives have never been more undermined before in the world and in the Sahel in particular, mainly due to obscurantist armed groups that are instrumentalized and supported by foreign state sponsors.

The Member States of the Confederation of Sahel States are at the forefront of the fight against terrorism, which constitutes not only a real threat to international peace and security, but also, and above all, a serious attack on the very foundations of our states.

Under the leadership of our Heads of State, the Defense and Security Forces of the three countries of AES Confederation are working closely together in an unprecedented spirit of collaboration and complementarity, driven by a shared commitment and joint efforts to end

the scourge of terrorism. This new dynamic, centered on strengthening the operational capabilities of our Defense and Security Forces through massive recruitment, adequate training, and the provision of appropriate equipment, is producing encouraging results on the ground every day, confirming the relevance of our sovereign decision to join forces to fight our common enemies.

Unlike some States that have opened up transit corridors on their territory to terrorists with a view to attacking other countries, or offering their territory as a rear base, the Founding Fathers of AES, driven by a commitment to Pan-Africanism and a desire to protect the interests of their people, decided to secure their countries while preventing the spread of the threat to other African regions and even the rest of the world, thus performing a vital role in regional and global public security. There is no doubt that through their sacrifice, the valiant Defense and Security Forces of AES contribute to the security of other regions, particularly countries located on the west coast of Africa. We take this opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of the civilian and military victims of insecurity in the Sahel region.

The sovereigntist approach implemented is part of the vision promoted by the Heads of State of AES dedicated to the security of our States, following the withdrawal of international forces. Defying all predictions and far from giving up, our countries have shown ingenuity by drawing on the historical and geographical foundations and resilience of the confederated peoples who, despite more than a decade of security and humanitarian crises, continue to demonstrate exceptional strength and patriotic commitment. In short, our three countries have been able to provide a coordinated and endogenous response to this war that has been imposed on us.

I would like to reiterate here the full and complete commitment of AES Confederation to becoming a pan-African regional power, to continuing and intensifying its actions with a view to eradicating terrorism from our shared region forever., to consolidating State authority, to protecting our populations and their property, and to ensuring our prosperity.

The AES Confederation strongly restates its strong condemnation of the open and sometimes publicly expressed support of foreign State sponsors who, for imperialist reasons, destabilize our entity on the one hand by providing terrorist groups with advisers, logistical means, weapons, and ammunition, and on the other hand by granting them political support and offering them rear bases located in some neighboring countries, in violation of all international rules.

- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As distant as it may seem, the war in Ukraine and terrorism in Sahel are connected.

As a reminder, following the terrorist attack against a Malian Defense and Security Forces patrol from 24 to 26 July 2024 in Tinzawatène, in the Kidal region, Mali denounced this incident in its 2024 address here and condemned the attitude of Ukrainian officials who

publicly claimed responsibility for their participation in the terrorist attack. From this atypical behavior, we simply concluded that Ukrainian officials had unfortunately confused the international stage with the theater stage.

A year later, the situation has escalated and the Ukrainian regime has become one of the main suppliers of kamikaze drones to terrorist groups around the world. In this context, some Western States must stop supplying weapons to Ukraine, otherwise they risk contributing to the promotion of international terrorism. For others, including the French regime, which is nostalgic for colonization and concerned about its loss of influence in Sahel, support to the Ukrainian regime is part of a maneuver to divert the international community's attention to the war in Ukraine, while sponsoring terrorist groups operating in Sahel.

In accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter, on 15 August 2022 Mali requested that the United Nations Security Council convene a meeting so that my country could provide irrefutable evidence of France's support to terrorist activities. To date, the request has remained unaddressed, while their acts of sabotage continue at various levels.

It is time to act, so that those responsible for this violence are identified and brought to justice, resolutions are implemented through concrete commitments, the Sahel region is made permanently secure, and the Sahel's resources benefit the people of Sahel.

International institutions, foremost among them the UN, were created in the aftermath of World War II to protect peoples from excessive violence, destruction, and silent genocide.

It is time for global awareness to awaken and for international institutions to take responsibility by truly responding to the desperate calls of oppressed peoples who are demanding their sovereignty.

The AES Confederation reiterates its commitment to cooperate with all partner States, regional and international organizations that respect its sovereignty, its sovereign political choices, and its priorities in terms of security, the fight against terrorism, and economic and social development, within the framework of a win-win partnership to achieve the aspirations of its peoples.

- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In addition to efforts to secure the return of peace to our countries, the Governments of AES Confederation are working to implement a comprehensive and integrated strategy that includes political, economic and social development, justice, and reconciliation actions.

By choosing the path of boldness and sovereignty, the Confederation Authorities have launched groundbreaking initiatives based on endogenous development. This is a clear path that allows us to bring the added value that is essential to our economies and preserve the

dignity of our peoples. This choice, which we fully embrace, reflects our strong and unwavering commitment to taking control of our destiny.

In the same vein, we have made strategic investment policies in various priority areas such as infrastructure, energy, industrialization, and economic diversification a core part of our national and confederal priorities. Part of this dynamic is the creation of the Confederal Bank for Investment and Development, which aims to carry out confederal projects.

The Confederation of Sahel States builds its development ambitions on undeniable strengths: a large territory covering 2,800,000 square kilometers and a population of 75 million, the majority of whom are young people. In addition, it has a strong, committed and active diaspora. It also benefits from fertile land, numerous waterways, energy sources and mineral reserves that are among the largest in the world.

- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The third aspect of the topic for this 80th Session of the Assembly focuses on human rights. The AES Confederation reaffirms its commitment to respecting and enforcing international human rights law and international humanitarian law, in line with its thousand-year history of humanism and its national and international commitments.

However, we remain strongly opposed to the exploitation of human rights issues for political purposes or to destabilize our national institutions, or even our sovereign and independent States. Tired of this situation and concerned about preserving the sovereignty and dignity of the people, the Heads of State of the AES Confederation withdrew with immediate effect from the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on 22 September 2025. In addition to this withdrawal, they have expressed their desire to give priority to endogenous mechanisms of justice, in line with their societal values and in the interests of the people of AES.

We also condemn the double standards of some international actors, whose focus shifts according to their interests. These self-appointed guardians are not themselves the best examples when it comes to respecting human rights. We call on our partners to prioritize dialogue and cooperation, which remain the best tools for promoting human rights around the world.

- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As we celebrate the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, it is clear that our multilateral framework, embodied by the UN, is being challenged in an international context characterized by polarization, the gradual return of nationalism, protectionism, isolationism, and balance of power.

Despite this economic reality, the fact remains that the three major objectives set out in the Charter of the United Nations, namely peace, development, and human rights, remain relevant.

To achieve these objectives, we need:

- **First**, a United Nations that is truly renewed, reformed, and adapted to the demands of our time. This is an essential condition for better establishing its international legitimacy and ensuring the effective implementation of its decisions. This is an opportunity to strongly reiterate that Africa has been calling for reforms for some 20 years to redress the historical injustice done to it regarding its representation within the Security Council. I hereby reaffirm the AES Confederation's full support to the common African position on this issue, as set out in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration, so that Africa can have two permanent seats and five non-permanent seats.
- **Second**, we need a United Nations that guarantees respect for international law for all. We are concerned to see blatant violations of international law around the world, with complete impunity. This 80th anniversary of the UN is an opportunity for us, as Member States, to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to a multilateral framework based on law, but not force.
- **Third**, we need strong mechanisms for monitoring and implementing the conclusions of international conferences. The evidence in this area is clear: from the creation of the UN in 1945 to the present day, we have held dozens of international conferences whose commitments have been implemented very poorly, if not at all, for the benefit of the populations we represent here. This situation must change. This is why we are calling for the reforms envisaged to address this issue, so that our respective Nations can benefit from the dividends of the commitments made under the umbrella of the United Nations.

Regarding the Confederation of Sahel States, it is ready to make its contribution for the indispensable reform of the United Nations multilateral framework.

As far as current global governance is concerned, it is becoming increasingly clear that it is no longer adapted to current and future challenges. Rather, it needs a more audacious rebuilding of international economic and financial bodies, which would benefit from taking on the issue of financing security and combating exogenous crises.

In this respect, innovative mechanisms such as the BRICS offer a constructive alternative that is more respectful of the interests of emerging and developing countries, as do African development financing initiatives, to which the Sahel countries are paying particular attention in order to break the vicious circle of dependency and over-indebtedness.

In this dynamic, Africa's concerns in terms of economic and social development must be taken into account. Africa is seen as a continent of the future, blessed with a strong youthful base, but unfortunately it faces a heavy burden of foreign debt, plundering of its resources, unequal trade, negative transfer of resources and the hazards of climate change, to name but a few of the challenges it faces.

- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the national level, Mali, in its search for lasting peace and stability and in accordance with the aspirations of its people expressed during the Inter-Malian Dialogue for Peace and Reconciliation, has adopted a Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation. Resulting from an inclusive participatory process based on dialogue and consultation between Malians from all social and professional groups and from the diaspora, the Charter embodies our determination to strengthen national ownership of the peace process in Mali. It is based on our realities, our traditional values and our endogenous mechanisms for resolving disputes, so that we can look forward to a shared and hopeful future.

On 22 July 2025, at the official handover of the Charter, His Excellency Army General Assimi GOITA, President of the Transition, Head of State of the Republic of Mali, emphasized the historic significance of this event in his remarks: “This ceremony is particularly special in that it represents a collective dream, the hope of lasting peace, social cohesion and, in short, reconciliation in our beloved homeland”.

With regard to regional concerns, I would be remiss if I did not mention the destruction of a Malian Defense and Security Forces drone aircraft on April 1, 2025 by the Algerian regime. Mali strongly condemns this aggression and has referred the matter to the International Court of Justice.

Since its independence on 22 September 1960, Mali has spared no effort for the decolonization of the African continent. As such, it has actively supported Algeria in its liberation war against the French colonial power. In view of this constant political stance in favor of pan-Africanism, added to the geographical proximity between 2 countries that share a 1300 km border, Mali has always shown a kindly regard for the brotherly Algerian people.

In contrast to this constructive approach by Mali, we will highlight 3 incongruous and incomprehensible situations that have marked recent relations between our 2 countries:

1. The cowardly and perfidious attack on the Malian Defense and Security Forces in Tinzwatène happened just a few kilometers from the Algerian border. Surprisingly, the Algerian regime heard and saw nothing, even though the terrorist act was planned on Algerian territory. What a disturbing development for a country that was designated as the African Union's champion in the fight against terrorism, but which has become, in recent years, a champion of the promotion of terrorism and an exporter of terrorists!

2. As announced, the Algerian regime has shot down a Malian drone purchased with its own funds, at the expense of Malian taxpayers, on the false pretext of violating their airspace. Mali is upset by the Algerian regime's physics-defying claim that an object shot down in the air is likely to travel 22 km from its point of landing and end up on Malian territory. Indeed, it is worth pointing out that the scrap from the Malian drone ended up on Malian territory, validating our arguments.
3. On 04 September 2025, the Malian government informed the public that it had filed an application before the International Court of Justice against the Algerian regime for the destruction of the drone. In a statement issued by the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 19 September 2025, we were shocked to learn of an allegation that the filing of the Malian application had been motivated by the Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs' press conference dated 13 September 2025, during which he denied that the Malian application had been lodged before the International Court of Justice.

We point out to the Minister that the filing of the application announced by Mali on September 04 never meant its automatic registration by the International Court of Justice.

Mali would like to remind that the aim of diplomacy is to defend the interests of one's country. Assuming that the Malian complaint was triggered by his press conference, the Algerian provocateur demonstrates that his vision of diplomacy is to push other states to file lawsuits against his country before international bodies, thus becoming an own goal scorer, popularly known in Mali as “Yabé”. What a disturbing story!

Mali pays tribute to the Algerian regime's Minister of Foreign Affairs. Indeed, since lies corrupt everything, he has just removed all credibility from the Algerian version of the destruction of the Malian drone. We were not at all surprised by the Algerian regime's refusal to give its consent to the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in the matter of the destruction of the Malian drone, for fear of being publicly exposed as an attacker and supporter of international terrorism.

In light of these three unusual points, Mali recommends that the Algerian junta remember this quote from Amadou Hampâté Bâ, in **Life and Teachings of Tierno Bokar: The Wise Man of Bandiagara**: “Some truths seem implausible to us simply because our knowledge does not reach them.” We invite them to seek to understand Mali and the values embodied by the Mali “Denw” (sons and daughters of Mali). Furthermore, with regard to the attacks and adversity, we will not be spectators: for every bullet fired at us, we will respond by reciprocity. For every word used inappropriately, we will respond by reciprocity.

Furthermore, the Algerian regime is urged to organize an annual international festival at Tin Zaouatine, Algeria, dedicated to the artifice of human intelligence.

From this rostrum, we call on the Algerian regime to stop supporting international terrorism and to become resolutely involved in the promotion of peace and security, in a constructive spirit, respecting the sovereignty of States.

A word to the wise is enough!

- **Madam President,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This is an opportune moment to share the opinion of a citizen, raising a Fist at the Dawn of Our Regained Sovereignty, shared by the people of the AES Confederation. Our Confederation is composed of fighting nations, a land of resistance. What we are facing is not a simple internal conflict. It is a hybrid war, supported by imperialist interests, where the enemies of peace sometimes wear ties. If the UN continues to feign ignorance, it will cease to be the sum of the world and become the passive arm of global injustice.

We are here to say this: the AES Confederation is not afraid. It will not give in. It will resist again and again.

However, the AES Confederation is giving the United Nations a historic opportunity to stand on the side of truth: to recognize that the AES people are under attack. Also, to support a Confederation that is fighting both for itself and for Africa, for the continent's stability and, indirectly, for that of the whole world.

History will judge. It will judge those who have given weapons to the forces of evil. It will judge those who looked the other way. It will judge those who have forgotten that justice is the only path to lasting peace.

The AES Confederation is not asking for charity. It calls for conscience.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Confederation of Sahel States to the values, goals and principles of the United Nations Charter.

The AES Confederation believes that we can only be “better together” if we work collectively for a multilateralism with a human dimension, based on dialogue, the rule of law, cooperation and solidarity between peoples, promoting peace and development, while respecting the sovereignty of States.

However, we cannot and must not continue to do the same thing for years to come and expect different results. There is an urgent need for reform in our existing multilateral framework, embodied by our common Organization. The celebration of the UN's 80th anniversary provides us with an historic opportunity to adapt the Organization to the realities of the day, capable of responding effectively to current and future challenges.

The AES Confederation is ready to play its role, its full role, in the search for collective responses aimed at saving future generations from the threat of war, ensuring harmonious development for all, and promoting and protecting human rights.

- May God bless the Confederation of Sahel States and protect its people from the obscurantist and destructive forces of the world!
- May God bless Mali and protect its people from the obscurantist and destructive forces of the world!
- God bless Africa and protect Africans from the obscurantist and destructive forces of the world!
- May God bless the world and protect all humanity from the obscurantist and destructive forces of the world!

Thank you for your kind attention.