



(Translated version)

**Right of reply to Algeria**

**Madam President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The delegation from Mali does not usually make use of its right of reply. However, the personal, discourteous, and condescending attacks by the Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs require me to intervene to correct the untruths that we have heard.

Showing respect for the decorum of this August Assembly and for the ideals embodied by the United Nations, the delegation from Mali will not stoop to the level of invective and personal attacks at the furthest limit of decency uttered by the Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs. In doing so, he has deliberately chosen not to say a single word about the issues that have caused unprecedented tensions between our two countries.

As far as I am concerned, I reiterate the content of Mali's statement, delivered by Major General Abdoulaye MAIGA, Prime Minister and Head of Government of the Republic of Mali, on 26 September 2025, to recall that the current tensions between our two countries stem mainly from the Algerian regime's untimely and unacceptable interference in Mali's internal affairs. The Malian people have decided to take control of their destiny and have taken ownership of their peace process.

Then came the dispute over the destruction, by the Algerian Armed and Defense Forces, of a reconnaissance and surveillance drone belonging to the Malian Armed and Security Forces, on the night of 31 March to 1 April 2025.

Few hours after this incident, the Government of Mali learned through the press of a statement by the Algerian Ministry of Defense claiming responsibility for the destruction of a drone that had allegedly violated Algerian airspace over a distance of 2 km.

In order to further investigate the matter, the Malian authorities requested that the Algerian authorities provide them with evidence to support their allegations. More than 72 hours later, no satisfactory response has been provided by the Algerian side.

Following its own investigations and based on scientific evidence issued on 06 April 2025 in the Statement No. 073, the Government of Mali has reached a conclusion: the drone belonging to the Malian Armed and Security Forces was destroyed as a result of a deliberate hostile act by the Algerian regime. This conclusion is based, inter alia, on:

1. the guilty silence of the Algerian regime and its refusal to cooperate;
2. accurate data on the aircraft's trajectory, recorded in the system, prove clearly that the aircraft never left the airspace of the Republic of Mali. Furthermore, the point where the drone's connection was lost and the location of the wreckage are both within Malian national territory.

You can understand that the allegations of a supposed violation of Algerian airspace over 2 km are absurd. Otherwise, how could the wreckage of the drone have ended up in Malian territory 9.5 km from the Algerian border if the aircraft had actually violated Algerian airspace by 2 km? The basic laws of physics make it simply impossible for a drone shot down in the air to drift 22 km.

This is clearly an act of unprecedented aggression in the history of relations between Mali and Algeria.

This hostile, unfriendly, and condescending action is further proof, if it were necessary, that the Algerian regime sponsors international terrorism in Mali and Sahel. Indeed, the destruction of the Malian drone was clearly intended to impede the neutralization of armed groups that have claimed responsibility for terrorist acts.

Faced with this clear aggression and the Algerian regime's refusal to cooperate, the Government of Mali has decided to lodge a complaint regarding this dispute before the International Court of Justice (ICJ). It is regrettable, though not surprising, that the Algerian regime has notified its refusal to accept the jurisdiction of ICJ.

As a means of defense, the Algerian regime claims to respect this international jurisdiction. It is easy to understand that this case of the Malian drone that was shot down is causing real trouble for the Algerian junta. Indeed, if the Algerian regime had respect for international justice, as it claims, it should have agreed to refer the case to the International Court of Justice to present the evidence allegedly at its disposal. This refusal is evidence not only of the Algerian regime's denial of international justice, but also of its contempt for international law. It is also an admission of its undoubted guilt to the world.

The Algerian regime's lack of transparency towards the ICJ further reinforces the argument put forward by the Malian Government regarding the destruction of its drone and constitutes further evidence of Algeria's support to armed terrorist groups.

The Government of Mali regrets that, instead of responding to proven and well-documented facts, the Algerian regime is pursuing a strategy of dodging and defamatory invective in an attempt to conceal its support to extremist groups, including the terrorist leaders targeted by the Malian drone that was shot down.

The Government of Mali condemns this blatant aggression by the Algerian regime against the Republic of Mali, which is in complete contradiction with Mali's full support to the National Liberation Front (FLN) and its effective participation in the war of independence of the brotherly, friendly, and neighboring Algerian people.

Consequently, the Government of Mali restates its call on the Algerian regime to cease its untimely and unacceptable interference in Mali's internal affairs and its support to terrorist groups that destabilize the Sahel region. The Algerian regime would do better to focus its efforts and energy on its own internal contradictions and governance challenges, which are so important and from which it is trying to divert attention.

We renew our call on the Algerian regime to change its approach, to improve its relations with its neighbors, and to work in good faith for stability, collective security, and sustainable development in the region, while respecting the sovereignty of States.

I would like to conclude by reassuring that the Government of Mali will spare no effort to defend the national territory and to ensure the protection of people and properties.

Thank you.

