

Address by His Excellency Army General Assimi GOITA, President of the Transition, Head of State, on the occasion of the new year's greetings ceremony with the diplomatic and consular corps and international organizations.

- **Prime Minister, Head of Government;**
- **President of the National Transitional Council;**
- **Presidents of the Institutions of the Republic;**
- **Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;**
- **Members of the Government;**
- **Dean of the Diplomatic Corps;**
- **Heads of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts;**
- **Representatives of International Organizations;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Thank you, Ambassador of the Russian Federation and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, for the good wishes you have just expressed on behalf of your colleagues accredited to Mali.

Thanks to Allah, the Almighty, we have entered a new year. On this occasion, I wish each and every one of you happiness and fulfillment.

May 2026 be a year of constructive dialogue, sincere cooperation, and partnerships based on mutual respect for our relations. I would also like to ask you to kindly convey my wishes for health, peace, and prosperity to the highest authorities of your respective countries and institutions.

**Dean of the Diplomatic Corps,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The year 2025 was a period of intense geopolitical tensions, economic and humanitarian crises for the world, exacerbated by the weakening of multilateralism. These problems increased the vulnerability of states. In this unstable environment, Mali, which has not been spared, has chosen to redefine itself. We have established a clear path forward, one of sovereignty and responsibility. Our country has chosen dignity, respect, freedom in its strategic choices, and independence.

This reorientation is based on a simple conviction. Mali is a friend to all those who wish to be friends, provided they respect its principles, strategic choices, and vital interests.

From now on, our partnerships will be built on a sincere basis, without tutelage, without injunctions, and without exploitation. This is how we have diversified our cooperative relationships and assumed responsibility for our choices. In this regard, I welcome the numerous accreditations granted to Ambassadors and Representatives of international institutions, as well as the strengthening of political dialogue. This reflects renewed interest in our country and in the confederal zone.

Mali remains open to maintaining responsible relations with States and organizations that respect our sovereignty and contribute, in good faith, to the fulfillment of the aspirations of the valiant Malian people.

**Dean of the Diplomatic Corps,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The progress made in the area of security is the result of a sustained national effort, based on the strengthening of our armed and security forces, the adaptation of our systems, and the commitment of our combatants.

We are facing an asymmetrical, harsh, long, and sometimes silent war, to which we are responding with responsibility, tact, and discipline.

Given these challenges, our Defense and Security Forces are firmly committed to protecting our people and further promoting the return of the State and basic social services throughout the country. That is a meaningful victory. A victory for access to education, health care, justice, economic and cultural activity, as well as the free movement of people and their property.

At this time, I pay tribute to all the civilian and military victims who lost their lives as a result of human acts of barbarism. I express our deepest sympathy to the bereaved families and our solidarity with the wounded victims. The Malian nation will not forget any sacrifice.

The Confederation of the Alliance of Sahel States is an endogenous, coordinated, and structured response to the challenges of the confederal zone. Through our coordinated actions, we are building collective security based on solidarity, trust, integration, and operational effectiveness. AES is not just a slogan. It is a Sahel response to Sahel challenges. It is also a credible and audible voice of our peoples on the regional and international stage.

**Dean of the Diplomatic Corps,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Mali knows that security is not only won on the battlefield, but also in the field of communication. Disinformation, manipulation, smear campaigns, and media intimidation have become tools of pressure against AES countries.

These actions are coordinated by foreign sponsors in order to weaken, break collective morale, and fracture society. Thus, these disinformation campaigns constitute a form of political violence, a method of subjugation, and, in their effects, another form of terrorism.

Our response will remain strong and calm. It will be based on national cohesion, the strength of our institutions, transparency in public action, and citizens' access to reliable information. We will not yield to fear or confusion. We will counter fabricated narratives with the truth of the facts, and attempts at division with the unity of the nation.

**Dean of the Diplomatic Corps,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Transitional Government is continuing its mission of rebuilding, in accordance with the aspirations expressed by Malian people. Rebuilding means adapting to socio-cultural realities and putting the State back at the service of the public interest. Rebuilding means strengthening justice, improving governance, fighting corruption, and restoring trust between those who govern and those who are governed. Rebuilding also means modernizing the administration, securing the economic space, and creating the conditions for lasting stability.

This approach is in line with our strategic guiding principles, the **Mali Kura n'etasira ka bén san 2063 ma** vision, and the National Strategy for Emergence and Sustainable Development 2024–2033. Our ambition for the future we have set for ourselves is clear: a reconciled, stable, fair and prosperous Mali.

With this in mind, we attach particular importance to human capital, youth, education, health and the promotion of values. Because sovereignty cannot be sustained or promoted without well-educated citizens, social cohesion and confidence in the future.

To this end, we have declared 2026-2027 as the Year of Education and Culture in order to further enhance our cultural heritage and ensure competitiveness in a rapidly changing world.

**Dean of the Diplomatic Corps,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As far as economy is concerned, our goal remains to build endogenous solutions. This requires better utilization of our resources, transparent governance in strategic sectors, and a gradual transformation of our productive capacity.

In a context marked by energy and logistical tensions, Mali is focusing on anticipation, energy sovereignty, and securing supply chains. Efforts in these areas will continue steadily.

We also remain open to useful investments that create jobs, comply with national rules, and promote skills transfer. Mali welcomes partners who come to build, not those who come to dictate and divide. It encourages projects that strengthen its sovereignty, not those that perpetuate its dependence.

**Dean of the Diplomatic Corps,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Mali remains committed to the principles of the United Nations Charter, respect for the territorial integrity of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and the peaceful settlement of disputes. We remain available to contribute to any sincere initiative based on listening to peoples and respecting States.

In this regard, I welcome the dialogue initiatives undertaken with several partners, including those who now wish to rebuild their relations with Mali on a basis of mutual respect. Mali is not closing any doors. The basic principles of its cooperation are now known to all and enshrined in its constitution.

**Dean of the Diplomatic Corps,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I therefore invite you to join us in strengthening the spirit of shared responsibility. The Sahel needs sincerity, consistency, and concrete action. It does not need analysis or ready-made solutions. It needs fair partnerships, respectful support, and a clear understanding of the root causes of instability.

Mali, in all its greatness and diversity, will continue with serenity and determination its process of rebuilding for the well-being of its people. We will continue to defend our territory, build a strong and confident State, and protect our social cohesion. We will do so with the States of the AES Confederation and our sincere partners and friends.

I renew my best wishes to each and every one of you. May 2026 be a year of peace, brotherhood among peoples, and shared progress.

May Allah bless Mali and protect the Malian people!
Thank you.