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**Declaration by ECOWAS Heads of State and  
Government on Mali**

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**Videoconference, 28 August 2020**

1. ECOWAS Heads of State and Government convened an extraordinary session by videoconference on 28 August 2020, to review the socio-political situation in Mali.

2. It is recalled that this meeting follows the Extraordinary Summit held on 20 August 2020, in the wake of the political developments of 18 August 2020 that saw the resignation of His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic. In view of the special circumstances surrounding this resignation as the President was taken away by soldiers following a military mutiny, the Authority took key decisions and decided to immediately dispatch a fact-finding mission to Mali led by the ECOWAS Mediator, H.E. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan. The mission, comprising also the Chair of the Council of Ministers and the President of the ECOWAS Commission, was tasked with, among other things, ensuring a speedy return to constitutional order.

3. Before proceeding with the agenda, the Heads of State and Government expressed their condolences to President Alassane Ouattara following the death of Ambassador Mamadi DIANE, Special Advisor to the President of the Republic.

The Summit, thereafter, considered the report of the mission by the ECOWAS Mediator, which took place from Saturday 22 to Monday 24 August 2020, to assess the recent developments in Mali. The Summit noted that the ECOWAS delegation to Mali had several meetings, notably with President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, CNSP leadership - the military body currently running the country, the Constitutional Court and the Group of Ambassadors to Mali. The Summit also noted that representatives of the African Union and the United



Nations in Bamako, as well as the Executive Secretary of the G5 Sahel took part in the meetings.

4. After extensive discussions on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Mediator's mission report, the Summit made the following decisions:

- a) takes note of the decision of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita to resign as stated by the Mediator;
- b) welcomes the release of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita as well as the other detained government officials;
- c) recalls the responsibility of the CNSP to ensure the security of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and the other government officials;
- d) calls on the CNSP leadership to immediately begin the process for a civilian transition in consultation with the Constitutional Court as well as all relevant parties and stakeholders;
- e) The civilian transition should take into account the following considerations:
  - i) Appointment of a Transition President. He/she should be a civilian and known for his/her professional qualities as well as intellectual and moral probity and shall be responsible for leading the transition. The Transition President will not stand as a candidate in the next presidential election.



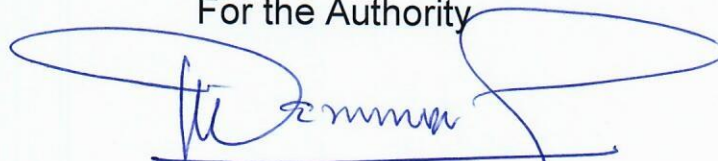
- ii) Appointment of a Prime Minister, Head of Government, also a civilian, known for his/her professional qualities as well as intellectual and moral probity, and shall head the government under the supervision of the Transition President. The Prime Minister will not also stand as a candidate in the next presidential election.
- iii) Quick establishment of a transition government to address the urgent challenges facing Mali and, in particular, to prepare the next parliamentary and presidential polls which may be combined elections.
- iv) No military body should be above the Transitional President.
- v) The political transition should not exceed twelve (12) months.
- f) Once the decisions referred to in (f) above have been implemented, the sanctions stipulated in 13 (h) and 13 (i) of the Statement by the Heads of State and Government on 20 August 2020 shall be gradually lifted. This issue will be reviewed at the next Ordinary Summit;
- g) calls for the urgent conclusion of a political transition agreement between ECOWAS and Mali and invites the African Union and the United Nations to endorse the agreement;
- h) decides to set up a Follow-up Committee consisting of the Mediator, the Chair of the Council of Ministers, the President of the ECOWAS Commission and including the Representatives of the African Union and of the United Nations in Bamako;



- i) expresses its encouragement to the Malian people and reaffirms its commitment to help Mali emerge from this situation;
- j) commends the Mediator and his team for the results achieved during their mission;
- k) expresses appreciation to President Muhammadu BUHARI for the considerable logistics support extended to the ECOWAS Mediation;
- l) decides to remain seized of the situation in Mali.

Done by videoconference this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020

For the Authority



**Mahamadou ISSOUFOU**

Chairperson of the ECOWAS Authority of  
Heads of States and Government