

TALKING POINT

Briefing of the Group of officers of US Army

Let me welcome you, General and Officers for visiting us to the Mission of the Republic of Mali to the United Nations.

My name is Cheick Sidi DIARRA, and this is Mr. Issa KONFOUROU, Counsellor I want to thank you all for the interest you have shown for my Country, Mali. Our special thanks to Colonel Mangara for succeeding in drawing your interest on to Mali. We are proud of him and of the image he gives of our Army.

I- Presentation of Mali

Geography

Size: 1241.000 Square km twice the size of Texas (20.000 square km of water: 2 rivers, Niger and Senegal)

Boundaries: Algeria (North East 1,376 km), Burkina Faso (South: 1000 km), Guinea (South West: 858 km), Cote d'Ivoire (South: 532 km), Mauritania (North West: 2237 km), Niger (South East: 821 km), Senegal (West: 419 km)

Cost line: 0 no maritime access (Landlocked)

Climate: Subtropical in the South; Sahel (Savana) in the center and arid in the North (2/3 of the territory)

History

- Empire of Ghana; 4th Century (or Ouagadou Capital Koumbi Saleh current Mauritania)
- Empire of Gao: 6th Century
- Empire of Mande 13th century Soundiata Keita – 14th Century: Kankou Moussa Pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324: gold and a long caravan
- Timbuktu created in 1070: Center of Islam Civilization. It hosted one of the most famous Islamic Universities of those days
- Djenne : Founded in 11th Century
- Kingdom of Kenedougou, Segou
- Colonial era: 1892-1960

- Autonomy 1958 (French constitutional referendum): Name: French Sudan
- 1959: Federation with Senegal- Political differences shattered federation in 1960
- September 22, 1960: independence under the Republic of Mali. Severed ties with French Community
- 1st President: Modibo Keita, made the choice of Socialist system of economy, communitarianism as a social system and one-party state as political system
- 2nd President: Moussa Traoré overthrew the Keita regime in November 19, 1968
- On 26 March 1991, another overthrew Moussa, opening a transitional period. General Amadou Toumani Touré, as transitional President until 8th June 1992
- In 1992: New Constitution adopted by referendum
- June 8, 1992: Alpha Oumar Konaré was sworn in as the elected President- after 2 mandates of 5 years not renewable, Mr. Konaré left office on June 8, 2002
- June 8, 2002: Amadou Toumani Touré was sworn in as elected President

People

- Population: 11.000.000
 - * 0-14 years: 47,2% (2,7 male; 2,6 female)
 - * 15-64 years: 49,8% (2,7 millions male, 2,9 female)
 - * 65 years 3% (160.000 male, 184.000 females)
- Growth rate: 2,97
- Sex ratio: 0,96 male / 1 female
- Infant mortality 119,63 / 1000 very high
- Life experience: 47,39 years (2002)
- HIV: 1,7% adult
- Ethnic groups: Mande 50% (Bambara, Malinké, Soninké), Peul 17%, Songhaï 6%, Touareg and Moor 10% other 5%
- Religion: Muslim 90%, indigenous beliefs, Christian – But the State is Secular
- Language: French (official), Bambara 80% other
- Literacy: 51%

Institutions

Executive Branch

- President of the Republic, Head of State (maximum 2 mandates of 5 years)
- Cabinet headed by a Prime minister, named by the President
- Public administration

Legislative Branch

One (1) chamber, National Assembly of 147 representatives called Deputés- a legislature is a 5 years term, renewable.

Parliament is multipartite system of representation.

The parliament can dismiss the Cabinet.

The President can dissolve the parliament.

Judiciary Branch

Supreme Court: highest in the hierarchy except constitutional Court. It has a Criminal Branch, and administrative branch and an accounting branch

Constitutional Court: has competence in ensuring that law and regulations and elections are in conformity with constitution, Judges are named for 9-year term.

Consultative Branch

- Economic, social and cultural Council: is a consultative organ composed of people of all professional background. It brings the perception of different professions in the policy making process.
- Council of collectivities: members are elected from different regions (provinces) of the Country to advise the Cabinet on issues pertaining to local development.

Economy

- 80% of Malians are employed in farming, herding or fishing. Cotton, rice, sorghum, cassava are major food products.
- Industry is mainly oriented in transforming and processing farm commodities.
- Livestock is the most important in the Sub-region.
- Gold Mine has become the 1st source of income since 2001. It represented in 2001 more than 50% of foreign income.
- Cotton comes in second.
- Remittances from Malian Diaspora come in 3rd.
- International assistance and aid.

II- Mali and the United Nations

On September 28, 1960 Mali has become member of the United Nations.

Beside proclaiming our independence, accession to the United Nations is the first international action taken by Mali. It shows the strategic interest our leaders had toward the United Nations.

The reasons are multiples:

- to express our adherence to the goals and principles of the Charter which in it chapter XI entitled "Declaration on non autonomous territories" reaffirms the right of people to promote self determination of non-autonomous people around the world and puts on the United Nations the

responsibility to promote to self determination of non autonomous people around the world. As such, it has help colonial territories to free themselves (President Wilson of the United States in 1928: Society of Nations).

- The United Nations has been seen as a “Tribune” for small states to make their views known and their voice heard.
- It is the best place for reaching out and establishing cooperation ties with all others nations.
- Mali is willing to bear its share in international affairs by adhering to United Nations specialized agencies and Convention and treaties under the auspices of the Organization specially those aimed at preserving international peace and security.

Mali is a member of the General Assembly; it has been member of the Security Council during the biennium 1966 –1967 and 2000-2001.

It was member of ECOSOC and member of Commission on Human Right and Commission on the status of women, Commission for social development.

Principles of Mali Foreign Policy: they are same as that of Non-aligned Movement adopted in Bandung (Indonesia) in 1955.

Attachment to peaceful settlement of disputes

- In 1985: border dispute with Burkina Faso (former Haute Volta). We decided to bring the case before International Court of Justice and to abide by the sentence. We did so.
- Mali contributed in mediation in Africa since 1963 (Algeria and Morocco); Senegal-Mauritania (1989); Chad-Libya, in Republic of Central Africa.
- We contribute to peace keeping operation: Congo (current DRC) in 1960, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Guinea Bissau, Haiti
- **attachment to friendly cooperation bilateral, sub regional, regional and international**
- **attachment to non-interference in international affairs of other States**
- **policy of non alignment**
- **promoting Human right: Caucus of Community of Democracies, Human Security Network (emphasis on freedom from want and freedom from fear).**

III- Strategic choices of Mali

1- Security

Mali has a lot of concerns about its security for two main reasons:
- it shares, 7 borders of more than 8.000. Km long. This requires a lot of human and logistical means to secure.

- Mali is surrounded by many situations of crisis in the western and the northern part of our continent. It results in arm smuggling through the borders and trafficking of goods to finance war and terrorism (Cigarettes mainly, food stuff).

Mali has initiated cooperation to tackle this concerns and to promote by the same token exchanges between populations on our borders with other populations.

Bilateral level

Mali has set up Joint bilateral border committees with each of its neighbors. They meet once a year at a ministerial level (Minister in charge of homeland). They meet at level of experts as often as required (customs, polices, army, trade, public health, Youth) to share information and have joint events.

Sub-regional level

- Sahelo-Saharan States meetings: on collaboration on security and development issues.
- ECOWAS: with a mechanism of prevention of crisis and moratorium on small arms and light weapon that we intend to transform into a Convention by the end of this year.

Regional level:

- The African Union has set up the Peace and Security Council, which has its, own mechanism of prevention, management and settlement of crisis.
- African convention against terrorism adopted in Algiers in 1999.

International

Mali has adhered to all international instruments on terrorism. Mali has cooperation with the United States for training (ACRI) and equipment of the troops in order to protect our Northern borders – France also has a training program (RECAMP) with Mali

2- Economic strategy

- To promote sub-regional and regional economic integration
- Development self-sufficiency in foodstuff: better mastering water resources, only 5% off water is under control (irrigation) landscaping for agriculture.
- Promote high-income agriculture (cotton growth)

- Promote industry of transformation of commodities. Only 1% of the cotton on a total production of 600.000 T is currently transformed locally. Our target is 10% value added – It creates jobs.
- Incentives to attract more foreign direct investments
- Opening up the country by construction of roads;
- Good insertion in the intentional Trade system by building production and export capacities

- We seek to get debt alleviation. We have reached the decision point in 2000 and the completion point in 2004 to benefit from heavily indebted poor countries Initiative (HIPC) for 895 millions US dollars on a total of 3,5 billions debt burden.

- Mali has been eligible to the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) set up by the USA.

- Mali seeks to take advantage of AGOA (African Growth Opportunity Act), which has been renewed until 2015 by the US senate.

3- Social strategy

- Poverty alleviation: goals of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and national goals through National Strategy on poverty reduction (CSLP): cut by half by 2015
- Promote health of the reproduction for women
 - Fight diseases Malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS with 175 millions dollars plan
 - Promote human rights
 - Promote high standards of education and universal attendance primary school-free of charge
 - Promote the conditions of living of our diaspora in the countries where they live.

4- Environment: Policy of containment of desertification

- Promote water resources management
- Preservation of biodiversity, ecosystem
- Fight desertification
- R and D for new species of Plants that do not require a lot of water

New York, 15 octobre 2004