

Algiers Declaration

The representatives of the Mouvement national de libération de l’Azawad (MNLA), the Haut Conseil pour l’unité de l’Azawad (HCUA) and the Mouvement arabe de l’Azawad (MAA):

Having met in Algiers at the urging of Algeria in an attempt to align their views more closely in order to create the conditions for a successful negotiation with the Government of Mali;

Having studied in depth the political, security, humanitarian, economic, social and cultural situation in the Azawad/northern Mali, in the light of continuing developments;

Deeply concerned by the distress of the populations in the Azawad in the absence of a definitive settlement of the conflict whose effects they continue to endure;

Convinced that the tragic events which occurred in the area of Kidal on 17 and 21 May 2014 show that the efforts being made by the international community to stabilize the situation in Mali will be in vain so long as the root problem is not properly resolved, namely, by endorsing the legitimate aspirations of the populations of the Azawad;

Aware of the implications for the stability of Mali and the entire Sahel region if the current impasse continues, especially in view of the increasing involvement of international actors;

Aware also that the settlement of the conflict is likely to advance the struggle against the scourge of terrorism and related activities which are always present in the region, and to facilitate their eradication;

Convinced that the use of force has never fostered a lasting settlement of disputes;

Reiterating their firm determination to ensure that the aspirations of the populations of the Azawad are realized, through dialogue and a respect for the commitments made under the previous peace agreements, which allowed the territorial integrity of Mali to be preserved;

Desiring to enter into constructive negotiations with the Malian Government on a new and renewed form of governance that will:

1. Reflect in law and in fact the geographic, economic, social and cultural diversity of Mali and the specificity of the Azawad;
2. More fully satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the populations of the Azawad, in terms of politics and institutions, the military and security situation, and economic, social and cultural affairs;
3. Take account of the situation as it exists at the moment, locally, nationally, subregionally, continentally and internationally; and
4. Be based on effective and internationally guaranteed follow-up and support mechanisms for the implementation of the commitments to be agreed;

Expressing the desire to unify their forces and promote inter-community harmony within all components of the society of the Azawad;

Affirming the pressing need to advance the settlement efforts which are under way; and

Bearing in mind their respective courses of action; Have agreed as follows:

1. To work in good faith to consolidate the ceasefire concluded on 23 May 2014;
2. To enter into sincere and credible negotiations with the Government of Mali under the aegis of an outside mediator, at a date and place to be determined as soon as possible by mutual agreement;
3. To coordinate any action they take in reaching a peaceful and definitive settlement with the Government of Mali, with the support of the international community;
4. To continue the consultations they have begun under the aegis of Algeria, within the framework of appropriate mechanisms meeting on a regular basis, with a view to completing the harmonization of their common negotiating positions before launching the dialogue with the Government of Mali.

The movements, acknowledging the credible and constructive role Algeria has played in the efforts to promote and find a definitive way out of the crisis, have conveyed to Algeria their full confidence in its continuing efforts to that end and in its increased involvement in the search for the long-sought definitive settlement of the conflict.

The movements have assured Algeria of their full cooperation and support in its mission, welcoming the contacts it has made in that connection with its partners and urging it to maintain those contacts and if need be modify them throughout the process.

The movements have welcomed with deep appreciation the humanitarian aid offered by Algeria to assist the populations of the Azawad and have expressed the wish to receive further humanitarian aid in order to continue to meet their basic needs.

The movements convey their thanks to the President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, His Excellency Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, and to the Algerian people and Government, for the hospitality they have received during their stay in Algeria.

DONE at Algiers on 9 June 2014.

(Signed) Bilal Ag Cherif

For the Mouvement national de libération de l'Azawad

(Signed) Alghabass Ag Intalla

For the Haut Conseil pour l'unité de l'Azawad

(Signed) Sidi Brahim Ould Sidatt

For the Mouvement arabe de l'Azawad