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Algeria: Mali - Peace Agreement Signed in 2015, Its Implementation Still Top of Mind

Algiers — Mali, which, since 2012, had sunk into a serious situation of instability, saw the crisis that hit its northern region come to a close in 2015, following the conclusion of a Peace and Reconciliation Agreement.

After nearly a year of inter-Malian dialogue under the aegis of international mediation, led by Algeria, the antagonists in Mali completed in June 2015 the process of the signing of the Peace Agreement, now in application period under the supervision of a Monitoring Committee chaired by Algeria.

Political and military movements and armed extremist groups had sieged in March and April 2012 the North of Mali, before being ousted through an international military intervention as from January 2013.

The agreement, which has been an essential step towards the establishment of lasting peace and reconciliation in Mali, was signed last May 15 by the Malian government, the politico-military movements of northern Mali engaged in the "Platform of Algiers" and the International Mediation team, while the coordination of the Azawad Movements (CMA) officially signed the Agreement on 20 June.

The Agreement includes all the aspects to reach a final solution to the crisis, notably the political and institutional reforms, and those relating to defence and security. It also encompasses segments on the humanitarian, economic, social and legal aspects.

"I am very happy that our brothers (of the CMA) believed in peace and outstretched hand, and travelled to Bamako to sign the Peace and reconciliation Agreement in Mali," said then Mali's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon had considered that the signature by all parties now paved the way for the full application of Peace Agreement according to a fixed schedule.

Implementation of peace agreement top of mind

The Inter-Malian peace agreement was signed, but its implementation remains a major challenge so that peace be lasting in the Sahel-Saharan country.

After two meetings marked by differences over the participation of some Malian armed groups, the International Committee of Monitoring and Assessment of the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in Mali, installed just after the agreement signing by the CMA, adopted its rule of procedure during its third meeting.

The Monitoring Committee of the Agreement, chaired by Algeria held, since its installation, six meetings. The last one could not complete its works because of the terrorist attack against the Radisson Blu Hotel in Bamako

Several initiatives have been recorded as part of the implementation of the Peace Agreement, including holding intra and inter-community meetings of Anefis, the absence of major incidents on the ground, holding the Paris aid conference for Mali, the beginning of the restoration of basic social services in the North and the launch of the cantonment and deployment process of joint patrols.

Mali Ambassador to Algeria, Nainy Touré, has recently stated that the implementation of the agreement is "well on track". "We reached an interesting step in the implementation of the Peace Agreement in Mali."

Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ramtane Lamamra affirmed the respect for ceasefire by the politico-military movements, and the implementation of confidence building measures. "We noticed a positive and constructive climate," he said.

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