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**Human Rights Council**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Forty-third session**  
1–12 May 2023

## **Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Mali\***

### **Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

#### **I. Background**

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review and the outcome of the previous review.<sup>1</sup> It is a summary of 19 stakeholders' submissions<sup>2</sup> for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. A separate section is provided for the contribution by the national human rights institution that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

#### **II. Information provided by the national human rights institution accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles**

2. The National Human Rights Commission of Mali noted the attempts made to amend the Constitution in 2019 and 2022.<sup>3</sup>

3. Although progress had been made in implementing the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali,<sup>4</sup> the National Human Rights Commission drew attention to persistent challenges, particularly in connection with the representation of different communities, capacity-building for local administrations and the implementation of the law on the free administration of local communities.<sup>5</sup> It recommended continuing efforts to achieve national reconciliation for a lasting peace and restoring constitutional order.<sup>6</sup>

4. The Commission noted that several obstacles hindered the exercise of its mandate and, in particular, the mandate of the national preventive mechanism.<sup>7</sup> The Commission recommended that the State provide it with the material and financial resources that it needs to fulfil its mandate and that it amend the 2016 law establishing the Commission in order to correct its shortcomings.<sup>8</sup>

5. Despite the efforts made to combat impunity, in particular among the defence and security forces,<sup>9</sup> the Commission highlighted the lack of transparency of investigation reports, the inadequacies of the Military Court and the Court of Assizes and the lack of courts in some regions.<sup>10</sup> It recommended that Mali lift all bans on visits to conflict zones by human

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



rights organizations, routinely initiate investigations into allegations of human rights violations and abuses and publish the results and place the protection and promotion of human rights at the heart of policies for rebuilding the State.<sup>11</sup> The Commission also recommended stepping up the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, with particular attention paid to vetting.<sup>12</sup>

6. The Commission drew attention to the failure of Mali to comply with the law on the organization of the judiciary and the slowness of judicial proceedings caused by the lack of judges, court officials, and lawyers.<sup>13</sup> It recommended that measures be taken against prison overcrowding, to combat and impunity and to ensure respect for the principle of the presumption of innocence and the right to a fair trial within a reasonable time.<sup>14</sup>

7. The Commission noted that the right to vote and the electoral law had been violated during the presidential and legislative elections held in 2018 and 2020.<sup>15</sup> It recommended ensuring greater respect for individual and collective freedoms.<sup>16</sup>

8. The Commission recommended that Mali undertake a review of the judicial codes establishing slavery as an offence, extend an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences and adopt a policy, and legislative and regulatory measures, to combat slavery and a socioeconomic reintegration policy for victims.<sup>17</sup>

9. The Commission noted that there were shortcomings in the fight against gender-based violence and discrimination against women and that women were underrepresented in appointed and elected positions and were unable to access them.<sup>18</sup> The Commission recommended that Mali amend the Personal and Family Code to remove its discriminatory clauses and that it adopt legislative and regulatory measures to crack down on gender-based violence and ensure compliance with the 2015 law establishing measures to promote gender equality in access to appointed and elected positions.<sup>19</sup>

10. The Commission noted several violations of the rights of the child, including in connection with child pornography and the exploitation, sale, prostitution and recruitment of children.<sup>20</sup>

11. The Commission recommended that the State continue its efforts to ensure security of persons and their property and to redeploy the administrative authorities and basic social services throughout the country.<sup>21</sup>

12. The Commission recommended the implementation of the decree on the protection of persons with disabilities and the effective protection of persons with albinism.<sup>22</sup>

### **III. Information provided by other stakeholders**

#### **A. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with human rights mechanisms**

13. ICAN recommended that Mali ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.<sup>23</sup>

14. LIDDHA-Mali recommended that Mali promote the follow-up of recommendations made during the universal periodic review by putting in place mechanisms and ensuring the effective implementation of actions to follow-up on the recommendations.<sup>24</sup>

#### **B. National human rights framework**

##### **1. Constitutional and legislative framework**

15. According to LIDDHA, the process of drafting a new Constitution began after several unsuccessful attempts to amend it, and programme planning laws have been adopted in the areas of defence and internal security.<sup>25</sup>

16. Joint Submission 2 (JS2) recommended harmonizing the national law with the international human rights treaties to which Mali has acceded.<sup>26</sup> JS5 recommended harmonizing national law with treaties on women's rights.<sup>27</sup>

17. AI recommended harmonize the definitions of crimes under international law with those of the Rome Statute and include provisions on sexual violence in the revisions of the Penal and Criminal Procedure Codes.<sup>28</sup>

## 2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

18. Several stakeholders welcome the fact that the National Human Rights Commission was accredited with "A" Status in March 2022.<sup>29</sup> However, they also expressed concern that the Commission has not been authorized to visit some detention centres, despite it carries out the mandate of National Preventive Mechanism.<sup>30</sup> MAAT recommended allowing access to all detention facilities for unrestricted monitoring by independent international and national monitoring bodies.<sup>31</sup>

19. JAI urged Mali to continue to empower relevant human rights institutions to help sustain and support its human rights situation.<sup>32</sup>

20. LIDDHA-Mali recommended that Mali make use of the recommendations of the ad hoc commissions established to bring about institutional and democratic reforms.<sup>33</sup>

## C. Promotion and protection of human rights

### 1. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

#### *Equality and non-discrimination*

21. AI, JS3 and JS5 expressed concern that discrimination based on caste and social status continued to be widespread.<sup>34</sup>

22. COMADE found it regrettable that there was insufficient protection for persons with albinism and recommended that the regional action plan on albinism be made operational.<sup>35</sup>

23. JS2 recommended that Mali enact an anti-discrimination law establishing that discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity is a punishable offence.<sup>36</sup>

#### *Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture*

24. AI and JS5 regretted that, despite its commitments, Mali has failed to abolish the death penalty. They recommended revising the Penal Code to abolish the death penalty, ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and commuting all death sentences.<sup>37</sup> JS5 recommended that Mali relaunch consultations on the bill relating to the abolition of the death penalty and initiate a campaign to raise awareness in that regard.<sup>38</sup>

25. JS1 stated that, despite the signing of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, armed groups that are signatories to the Agreement committed serious human rights violations in 2020, including summary executions, enforced disappearances, torture and the use of child soldiers. JS1 also noted that humanitarian workers, members of the armed forces and peacekeepers had been abducted and killed by these groups.<sup>39</sup>

26. Noting that there were numerous obstacles hindering efforts to end the conflict in Mali, JS5 recommended taking a holistic approach rather than a specific security-based approach to combating insecurity. It also recommended that priority be given to protecting human rights, including women's rights, combating impunity in all its forms, re-establishing basic social services such as education and health care and restoring the bond of trust between the State and the civilian population.<sup>40</sup>

27. AI indicated that on several occasions in 2020, security forces fired at demonstrators in Bamako, Séga, Tamboura and Sikasso.<sup>41</sup> AI recommended conducting prompt,

independent and impartial investigations into the cases of unlawful killings and use of lethal force by security forces including in Kayes, Sikasso and Bamako during the 2020 protests, and where there is sufficient evidence, prosecute those allegedly responsible in fair trials,<sup>42</sup> and provide full reparation to the victims of human rights violations committed by defence and security forces between May and August 2020 in those regions.<sup>43</sup>

28. According to MAAT, incidents of torture have increased due to the presence of mercenaries who fight alongside the Malian army.<sup>44</sup> MAAT recommended that all claims of torture and other ill-treatment must be investigated promptly and thoroughly by independent bodies, and establishing an independent and confidential complaint system.<sup>45</sup>

29. MAAT and LIDDHA-Mali noted that prisons remained overcrowded, conditions of detention were deplorable, a large number of prisoners were in pretrial detention and people were often detained at unofficial locations.<sup>46</sup> JS1 recommended improving prison conditions in Mali and ensuring that the National Human Rights Commission has access to prisons and prisoners, as provided for by Act No. 2016-036 of 2016.<sup>47</sup> LIDDHA-Mali recommended easing prison overcrowding by expediting proceedings within a reasonable time and improving conditions of detention.<sup>48</sup> MAAT recommended to ensure that detention facilities meet international standards in terms, inter alia, of cell size and capacity.<sup>49</sup>

#### *International humanitarian law*

30. LIDDHA-Mali reported that, between 2018 and 2022, the civilian population, including women and children, were greatly affected by the ongoing armed conflict,<sup>50</sup> particularly in the central and northern regions, where a number of armed groups were active.<sup>51</sup> MAAT recommended take all necessary measures to protect civilians including the implementation of maximum caution by all law enforcement units when conducting operations to avoid direct or indirect targeting of civilians.<sup>52</sup>

#### *Human rights and counter-terrorism*

31. JAI and MAAT indicated that in response to attacks by armed groups, security forces have responded with counterterrorism operations that have allegedly resulted in arbitrary arrests, summary executions, torture, and other ill-treatment. JAI recommended increased investigations and prosecutions, in accordance with international standards, for security forces or actors who allegedly violate international criminal law.<sup>53</sup> MAAT recommended that Mali comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law when taking measures to combat terrorism.<sup>54</sup>

32. AI stated that on several occasions, dozens of civilians had also been killed by Malian army forces. In March 2022, Malian soldiers, accompanied by mercenaries besieged the village of Moura and killed hundreds of people, most of them civilians. AI added that Malian authorities prevented MINUSMA from accessing Moura and conducting its investigations there.<sup>55</sup> AI recommended ensuring army forces and their allies respect international humanitarian law and human rights.<sup>56</sup>

33. According to AI, some proceedings for “terrorism” as defined by Malian law have involved serious violations of the rights of the suspects and defendants, including illegal detention and incommunicado, torture and ill-treatment; lack of a defence lawyer ; inability of the suspect to appeal to a judge before referral to the Court of Assizes and hasty trials or trials in absentia.<sup>57</sup>

34. According to JS5, notwithstanding the moratorium on the death penalty, the use of the death sentence under legislation passed in July 2008 to combat terrorism remained a concern.<sup>58</sup>

#### *Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law*

35. AI indicated that the Law of National Concord promulgated in 2019 seriously undermined the right of the victim of the conflict to truth, justice and transparency, and fostered impunity by providing amnesties for certain crimes committed during the conflict.<sup>59</sup> According to JS5, two other amnesty laws adopted in 2021 (No. 2021-046 and No. 2021-047) have fostered impunity and undermined civilians’ and victims’ trust in the justice

system.<sup>60</sup> AI and JS5 recommended revising the 2019 National Concord Law by clarifying the temporality and the list of crimes that could be subjected to amnesty, in order to ensure respect for the right to justice and truth for victims of serious human rights violations and abuses.<sup>61</sup>

36. AI and JS5 recommended ensuring that all persons suspected of responsibility for serious abuses or violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in the context of the conflict are prosecuted through the ordinary courts and tried in proceedings that meet fair trial standards, without recourse to the death penalty.<sup>62</sup> AI and JS5 also recommended that, as part of the reform of the Code of Military Justice, the jurisdiction of the military courts be strictly limited to military offences and that offences committed by military personnel against civilians be clearly excluded from their jurisdiction.<sup>63</sup>

37. JS5 found it regrettable that the Malian justice system lacked human, material and financial resources and that this promoted impunity.<sup>64</sup> JS3 and JS5 recommended ensuring the independence of the judiciary by removing all political intervention into judicial proceedings.<sup>65</sup>

38. Plan International recommended strengthening the fight against impunity, especially for alleged perpetrators of sexual violence.<sup>66</sup> JS5 recommended activating mechanisms to expedite the processing and adjudication of cases involving conflict-related sexual violence.<sup>67</sup>

39. LIDDHA-Mali recommended speeding up efforts to effectively implement the law on reparations for victims of the crisis and the process of adopting the law on compensation for victims of serious human rights violations. It also recommended establishing independent bodies to manage reparations and remembrance and adopting a law to protect victims and witnesses.<sup>68</sup>

40. LIDDHA-Mali reported that Mali was facing a sociopolitical and security crisis against a backdrop of corruption and bad governance.<sup>69</sup>

*Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life*

41. JS4 stated that following the military coups in 2020 and 2021, media freedoms have generally deteriorated with several arrest of journalists.<sup>70</sup> Several domestic laws and regulations restrict freedom of expression, such as the Cyber-criminality Law (2019),<sup>71</sup> and Internet shutdowns were deployed on a number of occasions between 2018 and 2020 to crackdown on political opponents and civil society activists.<sup>72</sup> JS4 recommended guaranteeing freedom of the press, and media pluralism, including by ending the practice of internet shutdowns and blocking of social media platforms; ensuring that restrictions to the internet are consistent with fundamental human rights standards; repealing criminal defamation; and enacting a comprehensive access to information law, in line with Mali's international legal obligations.<sup>73</sup>

42. AI welcomed that in 2018, Mali promulgated a Law on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.<sup>74</sup> However, it indicated that in 2021, several high-profile figure had been indicted, harassed and intimidated, based on their public comments on the political situation in Mali.<sup>75</sup> AI and JS4 recommended ending the harassment and intimidation of individuals who express their opinions on the governance of Mali, in public or with the press; revising the Cybercrime law and the press law to guarantee the right to freedom of expression, bringing the law into conformity with international human rights standards.<sup>76</sup>

43. JS1 found it regrettable that human rights defenders continue to be subjected to human rights violations, including torture; cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; and arbitrary arrest and detention.<sup>77</sup> According to JS1, it was troubling that human rights defenders were still obliged to obtain a professional card or identification badge, especially since Malian law did not define the terms and criteria for obtaining and issuing such cards and badges.<sup>78</sup> JS1 and LIDDHA-Mali recommended that Mali ensure a safe working environment for human rights defenders by effectively implementing the law on human rights defenders, its implementing decree and its protection mechanism. They also recommended that civil society be adequately represented in the mechanism.<sup>79</sup>

44. ECLJ and ADF International recommended ensuring equal enjoyment of freedom of expression or belief to all persons without discrimination of any kind.<sup>80</sup>

*Right to privacy*

45. According to JS4, from 2017, recordings and intimate videos or photos of activists critical to the government, political opponents and former administration officials who had fallen out with the regime were leaked on social media platforms to discredit them. However no one has so far been held accountable.<sup>81</sup>

*Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons*

46. JS3 regretted that the system of descent-based slavery persisted in Mali, resulting in the widespread denial of human rights to people of slave descent, who had been forced to work without pay, subjected to physical and psychological violence and suffered pervasive discrimination.<sup>82</sup>

47. AI, JS3 and JS5 expressed concern that no specific national law criminalising slavery in Mali has been adopted despite the fact that Mali supported that recommendation in its previous UPR, and regretted that law enforcement responses to cases of descent-based slavery remain inadequate.<sup>83</sup> As a positive step, JS3 noted that in November 2021, the Minister of Justice pledged to pass a law criminalising slavery.<sup>84</sup>

48. JS3 also noted evident legislative and political blockages to justice and fair trials for slavery cases;<sup>85</sup> and expressed concern at attacks against anti-slavery activists,<sup>86</sup> and at the lack of access to birth certificates and identity documents for the so-called “slaves”.<sup>87</sup> Several stakeholders recommended facilitating birth registration for all citizens including descent-based slavery and taking measures to identify and support those experiencing descent-based slavery throughout the process.<sup>88</sup>

49. Various stakeholders recommended that Mali adopt and enact legislation on the criminalisation and prevention of slavery, including descent-based slavery, imposing penalties that are commensurate with the gravity of the crime; work with anti-slavery organisations to provide training on descent-based slavery and human rights to judicial personnel, including prosecutors; investigate and sanction incidences of interference, intimidation and reprisal involving victims of slavery during their engagement with the justice system; provide people who have experienced slavery and related human rights violations with protection, psychosocial care and assistance; support victims of descent-based slavery who have been forcibly displaced with the process of returning to their villages of origin, or resettling in a safe location; and undertake, in collaboration with civil society, a comprehensive human rights education and awareness raising programme at the national and local level on descent-based slavery, with the aim of changing attitudes, behaviours, and beliefs that normalise slavery.<sup>89</sup>

50. JS3 and JS5 recommended ensuring that assets confiscated from slaves by their so-called “masters” or traditional authorities and chiefs be returned and that former “slaves” be guaranteed the right to enjoy such assets and the right to own property.<sup>90</sup>

51. AI recommended criminalizing debt bondage and assimilated practices in the Criminal Code.<sup>91</sup>

*Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work*

52. Plan International recommended the development and strengthening of digital education through direct instruction in innovative and technical subjects and a focus on practical instruction leading to qualifications, in particular preparing students to work in agriculture and as entrepreneurs.<sup>92</sup>

*Right to an adequate standard of living*

53. Plan International noted that the unprecedented food crisis that Mali had experienced in 2021 had worsened and that women and girls were the most affected and exposed to the negative consequences of food insecurity, such as sexual exploitation.<sup>93</sup> JS5 stated that chronic malnutrition affected more than a quarter of children in Mali.<sup>94</sup> LIDDHA recommended that Mali recognize the rights to food, water and sanitation as constitutional rights by providing for them in the new Constitution<sup>95</sup> and that it increase subsidies provided to institutions that care for vulnerable groups.<sup>96</sup>

54. Plan International recommended mobilizing more resources to expand care for acute malnutrition and ensuring a holistic/integrated and multisectoral response to assist the most vulnerable people.<sup>97</sup>

*Right to health*

55. According to ADF International, the already fragile healthcare system had weakened over the last years, resulting in further restrictions on access to quality health-care, particularly reduced in the southern regions of Mali.<sup>98</sup> JS2 recommended strengthening the effectiveness of national health programmes.<sup>99</sup>

56. UPR-BCU indicated that sexual and reproductive health services have been disrupted, having a direct impact on adolescent pregnancy and marriage.<sup>100</sup> Plan International recommended developing projects to promote and protect sexual and reproductive rights by providing accessible gender- and age-sensitive services.<sup>101</sup> ADF recommended improving healthcare infrastructure, access to emergency obstetric care, midwife training, and resources devoted to maternal health.<sup>102</sup>

*Right to education*

57. JS5 and BCN noted that the critical shortage of funding for education combined with attacks on schools had resulted in an alarming dropout of children, and girls were at higher risk of dropping out of school early, as they were expected to marry young. The stakeholders regretted the big number of schools remaining closed.<sup>103</sup>

58. BCN noted that, while education is free in Mali, many children still do not attend class due to high ancillary education costs. BCN further stressed that accessibility to secondary schools was limited for poor children in rural areas, since secondary schools were mostly private and located in urban areas.<sup>104</sup> BCN recommended finding alternatives to closed schools and increasing the budget on education; improving access and quality of education for all, particularly in rural areas; taking measures to ensure the right to education in emergencies and conflict situations; and increasing the enrolment rate to the primary schools among the children.<sup>105</sup>

59. Plan International recommended establishing a programme to rehabilitate partially damaged school infrastructure and to create temporary shelters to replace schools that have been completely destroyed.<sup>106</sup>

60. COMADE recommended setting up a mobile school system that could move around with nomadic populations in the north and with displaced persons and refugees.<sup>107</sup>

*Cultural rights*

61. Plan International recommended promoting and protecting native languages and supporting basic education in these languages.<sup>108</sup>

*Development, the environment, and business and human rights*

62. According to JAI, Mali was highly vulnerable to climate change, since a high percentage of the population depended on rain-fed agriculture;<sup>109</sup> and extreme weather events have contributed to internal displacement.<sup>110</sup> Natural resource-based conflicts were taking place in Central and Southern Mali.<sup>111</sup> JAI recommended taking measures to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events and helping communities adapt to climate change impacts, including by sustained investment and enforcement of climate-smart agriculture; increasing social and institutional support systems; and increasing accessible education, including adult education for all.<sup>112</sup>

63. JAI recommended that Mali prioritise sustainable management of natural resources to ensure that there is no over-exploitation of these resources, and to prevent conflict over such resources; and invest in improved management of natural resources in order to increase food security, public health, and for economic livelihood.<sup>113</sup>

## 2. Rights of specific persons or groups

### *Women*

64. Several organizations expressed regret at the persistence of gender-based violence, including killings and sexual violence exacerbated by the armed conflict, and at the lack of a specific law criminalizing gender-based violence.<sup>114</sup>

65. According to UPR-BCU, as a result of the COVID-19 lockdowns, girls increased exposure to sexual violence and unwanted pregnancy, and many did not return to education.<sup>115</sup>

66. MAAT recommended organizing training activities aimed at eliminating gender-based violence, including for the armed forces,<sup>116</sup> and ensuring that crisis centers are properly equipped and accessible to provide the victims of sexual violence with the necessary physical and mental treatment, legal assistance, recovery and rehabilitation.<sup>117</sup>

67. JS5 noted shortcomings in combating impunity for sexual violence, particularly as a result of the political negotiations leading to the signing of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali and pressure from religious movements.<sup>118</sup> COMADE recommended resuming adoption of the preliminary bill on gender-based violence and periodically producing statistics on this subject covering the whole of the country.<sup>119</sup>

68. JS5 recommended activating mechanisms to expedite the processing and adjudication of cases involving conflict-related sexual violence and adopting a more workable law on legal aid for victims.<sup>120</sup>

69. Several organizations expressed concern that women and girls continued to be subjected to harmful cultural practices. They noted that Mali had one of the highest world rates on Female Genital Mutilation.<sup>121</sup> They recommended adopting a specific law criminalizing Female Genital Mutilation, and raising awareness among the population on the harmful impact of this practice.<sup>122</sup> MAAT recommended collaborating with the United Nations to develop a national prevention strategy regarding Female Genital Mutilation.<sup>123</sup>

70. Several organizations found it regrettable that discriminatory provisions remained in national law, including provisions relating to inheritance and the age of marriage, and that domestic violence had not been established as an offence. They recommended repealing all discriminatory provisions in legislation; harmonizing the 2011 Code of Persons and the Family with the international law, in particular with the CEDAW Convention; and promoting gender equality.<sup>124</sup>

### *Children*

71. Plan International noted that the situation of children and young persons, especially girls, was of great concern owing to the crisis in the country.<sup>125</sup> According to MAAD, the recruitment of children and the killings and mutilations of children considerably increased in 2019.<sup>126</sup>

72. JAI recommended criminalizing the recruitment of children, investigating and prosecuting perpetrators; raising awareness on the imperative need to protect children at the community level; and addressing the root causes of child soldier recruitment, such as poverty, grievances, and survival.<sup>127</sup> Several organizations recommended finalizing the revision process of the Child Protection Code, and criminalizing the recruitment and use of children, including those between the ages of 15 and 17.<sup>128</sup>

73. COMADE recommended diversifying the measures taken to effectively fight against child recruitment in Mali and equipping services with appropriate resources to enforce laws prohibiting the recruitment of children by armed groups.<sup>129</sup> Plan International recommended implementing programmes for the integration of children who have left armed groups and to ensure that care is provided to girl victims of gender-based violence.<sup>130</sup>

74. GPEVAC regretted that corporal punishment of children was still lawful, despite the fact that Mali had accepted the recommendations made by treaty bodies and during first UPR cycle to prohibit this practice.<sup>131</sup> It recommended that Mali intensify its efforts to enact a law to clearly prohibit all corporal punishment of children, in every setting of their lives.<sup>132</sup>



75. Several stakeholders were concerned at the high rate of child marriage in Mali, disproportionately affecting girls. They recommended raising the legal age of marriage for girls to 18 years and continuing efforts to put in place laws prohibiting child marriage.<sup>133</sup> UPR-BCU recommended implement the Multisectoral Strategy for the Abandonment of Child Marriage, and conducting, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, awareness raising and education programmes aimed at addressing the negative implications of child marriage, targeting community and religious leaders.<sup>134</sup>

76. COMADE expressed concern about the persistence of child trafficking and the sexual and economic exploitation of children. It recommended providing the National Coordinating Committee on Combatting Trafficking in Persons and Similar Practices with the necessary resources, implementing the National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Similar Practices 2018–2022, adopting appropriate measures to protect children on gold mining sites and prosecuting and sentencing persons responsible for committing serious violations of the rights of the child.<sup>135</sup>

77. JS5 recommended strengthening efforts to end child labour, in particular through the national programme to combat that practice, and amending the legislative framework to ensure that the worst forms of child labour are established as offences.<sup>136</sup>

78. COMADE expressed concern about the lack of effective measures to support children in street situations and the increasing prevalence of this problem in urban centres and towns.<sup>137</sup> LIDDHA recommended strengthening the protection afforded to children living on the street and children affected by the crisis.<sup>138</sup> COMADE recommended supporting the actors who work to curb this problem and establishing public centres for the socioeconomic reintegration of vulnerable children.<sup>139</sup>

#### *Persons with disabilities*

79. LIDDHA noted that legislative measures to support persons with disabilities had been initiated. It recommended establishing a dedicated centre for children with disabilities.<sup>140</sup>

#### *Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons*

80. JS2 reported that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and other sexually diverse persons continued to be subjected to assault and abuse, including acts of sexual violence and discrimination.<sup>141</sup> JS2 recommended the establishment of a complaints mechanism and penalties for arbitrary arrests, including those of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and other sexually diverse persons.<sup>142</sup> It also recommended ensuring equal access to justice and legal protection for such persons;<sup>143</sup> raising justice officials' and law enforcement officers' awareness of their rights;<sup>144</sup> recognizing the right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly for their organizations;<sup>145</sup> including them in socioeconomic development programmes;<sup>146</sup> and punishing hate speech in the media targeted at them.<sup>147</sup>

81. JS2 expressed concern about the Minister of Justice's publicly declared intention to draft a bill establishing homosexuality as an offence.<sup>148</sup> It recommended abandoning the discriminatory bill aimed at penalizing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and other sexually diverse persons.<sup>149</sup>

#### *Internally displaced persons*

82. JAI regretted that insecurity, ethnic conflict, and intercommunal violence had resulted in thousands of persons forced to flee their homes,<sup>150</sup> and that increased extreme weather events have contributed to internal displacement.<sup>151</sup> LIDDHA-Mali reported that, with the prospect of famine on the horizon, the rights to food, water, and sanitation were under serious threat, particularly for internally displaced persons who found it extremely difficult to gain access to basic social services.<sup>152</sup>

83. Plan International expressed concern that humanitarian actors were finding it very difficult to gain access to vulnerable people, particularly in the most affected regions in the centre of the country. It recommended facilitating access for humanitarian actors and ensuring their safety and the safety of their material.<sup>153</sup>

84. JAI recommended that local authorities provide protection and assistance to those who have been forcibly displaced, by providing humanitarian assistance in the form of food, shelter, legal assistance, education, and access to new livelihoods.<sup>154</sup> JAI recommended including assessment on IDPs, in national preparedness and response efforts for both climate and non-climate emergencies, and allocating funding to uphold the human rights of these individuals.<sup>155</sup> LIDDHA recommended the adoption of a law protecting internally displaced persons<sup>156</sup>

85. JS5 reported that internally displaced children were required to change locations suddenly, which caused interruptions in their schooling that were sometimes long and traumatic and also exposed them to a greater risk of violence.<sup>157</sup> JS5 recommended the implementation of programmes to improve access to basic social services for displaced children.<sup>158</sup>

#### *Stateless persons*

86. Plan International and COMADE found it regrettable that a large number of children in Mali, particularly those in conflict-affected areas, did not have birth certificates. They recommended facilitating the civil registration of vulnerable children.<sup>159</sup>

#### *Notes*

<sup>1</sup> See [A/HRC/38/7](#), [A/HRC/38/7/Add.1](#), and [A/HRC/DEC/38/104](#).

<sup>2</sup> The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org) (one asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with A status).

#### *Civil society*

##### *Individual submissions:*

ADF International	ADF International, Geneva (Switzerland);
AI	Amnesty International, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
BCN	BrokenChalk, Amsterdam (Netherlands); dans la base de données “Broken Chalk” apparait comme “The Stichting Broken Chalk” ;
COMADE	Coalition Malienne pour les Droits de l’Enfant, Bamako (Mali) ;
ECLJ	The European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg (France);
End Violence	Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, New-York (United States of America);
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva (Switzerland);
IHR Council	International Human Rights Council, Chicago (United States of America);
JAI	Just Atonement Inc., New-York (United States of America);
LIDDHA-Mali	Ligue pour la Démocratie et les Droits de l’Homme en Afrique, Bamako (Burundi) ;
MAAT	Maat Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights, Cairo (Egypt);
Plan International	Plan International, Inc., Geneva (Switzerland);
UPR BCU	The UPR Project at BCU, Birmingham (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

*Joint submissions:*

- JS1 **Joint submission 1 submitted by:** International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), Geneva (Switzerland); Femmes & Droits Humains (F&DH) ; Coalition Malienne des Défenseurs des Droits Humains (COMADDH) ;
- JS2 **Joint submission 2 submitted by:** Pan-Africa ILGA (P.A.I.), Johannesburg (South Africa); Plateforme Initiative des 7 (PI7) ;
- JS3 **Joint submission 3 submitted by:** Anti-Slavery International, London (United Kingdom); Association pour la Consolidation de la paix, le développement, la protection et la Promotion des Droits Humains (TEMEDT) ;
- JS4 **Joint submission 4 submitted by:** Small Media Foundation, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); Rudi International, Goma (Democratic Republic of the Congo); ISOC Mali, Bamako (Mali) ;
- JS5 **Joint submission 5 submitted by:** dans la base de données il est écrit: Consortium Soutenir la Lutte contre l'impunité au Mali (SLIM), Bamako (Mali) ; dix OSC maliennes: Association Malienne des Droits de l'Homme (AMDH), ville (pays) ; Association de Juristes Maliennes (AJM) ; Amnesty International Mali (AI Mali) ; Anti Slavery International; Association pour la Consolidation de la paix, le développement, la Protection et la Promotion des Droits Humains (TEMEDT) ; Tribune Jeunes pour le Droit au Mali (TRIJEUD-Mali) ; Femmes et Droits Humains (FDH) ; Actions Tartit pour le Développement Durable (ATDED) ; Association pour le Progrès et la Défense des Femmes maliennes (APDF) ; et Femmes Droit et Développement en Afrique (WILDAF/Mali).

*National human rights institution:*

- CNDH Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme du Mali\*, Bamako (Mali).

- <sup>3</sup> CNDH, para. II.1.  
<sup>4</sup> CNDH, para. X.1.  
<sup>5</sup> CNDH, para. X.2  
<sup>6</sup> CNDH, para. XIV.2.  
<sup>7</sup> CNDH, para. V.2.  
<sup>8</sup> CNDH, para. XIV.2.2.  
<sup>9</sup> CNDH, para. VIII.1.  
<sup>10</sup> CNDH, para. VIII.2.  
<sup>11</sup> CNDH, para. XIV.2.  
<sup>12</sup> CNDH, para. XIV.2.  
<sup>13</sup> CNDH, para. XI.1.  
<sup>14</sup> CNDH, para. XIV.2.  
<sup>15</sup> CNDH, para. IV.2.  
<sup>16</sup> CNDH, para. XIV.2.  
<sup>17</sup> CNDH, para. XIV.2.  
<sup>18</sup> CNDH, para. VI.2.  
<sup>19</sup> CNDH, para. XIV.2.2.  
<sup>20</sup> CNDH, para. VII.2.  
<sup>21</sup> CNDH, para. VII.2.  
<sup>22</sup> CNDH, para. XIV.2.2.  
<sup>23</sup> ICAN, page 1.  
<sup>24</sup> LIDDHA-Mali, page 9.  
<sup>25</sup> LIDDHA, page 7.  
<sup>26</sup> JS2, para. 24.  
<sup>27</sup> JS5, para. 1.2.  
<sup>28</sup> AI, para. 49.  
<sup>29</sup> AI, para.4, JAI, para.7, LIDDHA page 6, JS1, 3, 8.

- 30 AI, para.4, JAI, para.7, LIDDHA page 6, JS1, 3, 8.  
31 MAAT, page 8.  
32 JAI, para. 7.  
33 LIDDHA-Mali, page 9.  
34 AI, para.16, JS5, pages 3–1, JS3, page 2.  
35 COMADE, page 4.  
36 JS2, para. 25.  
37 AI, para. 5 and 53, JS5, page 13.  
38 JS5, page 13, para. 5.2.  
39 JS1, page 3, 5.  
40 JS5, page 13.  
41 AI, paras. 13–15.  
42 AI, para. 37. See also JAI, para. 22.  
43 AI, para. 38.  
44 MAAT, page 5.  
45 MAAT, page 8.  
46 LIDDHA, page 8, MAAT, pages 5 and 6.  
47 JS1, page 4.  
48 LIDDHA-Mali, page 9.  
49 MAAT, page 8.  
50 LIDDHA-Mali, page 4.  
51 LIDDHA-Mali, pages 3 and 4.  
52 MAAT, page 8.  
53 JAI, para.22, MAAT, page 7.  
54 MAAT, page 7.  
55 AI, para. 23.  
56 AI, para. 44.  
57 AI, para. 28.  
58 JS5, page 12, para. 5.1.  
59 AI, para. 10.  
60 JS5, page 11.  
61 AI, para. 48, JS5, page 12, 4.2.  
62 AI, para.50, JS5, page 12, 4.2.  
63 JS5, page 12, 4.2, AI, paras. 50.  
64 JS5, page 4.  
65 JS3, page 9 and 10, JS5 page 9. See also AI, paras. 40 and 41.  
66 Plan International, page 1 and 4.  
67 JS5, page 4.  
68 LIDDHA, page 9.  
69 LIDDHA page 4.  
70 JS4, para. 5.  
71 JS4, paras. 8–17.  
72 JS4, para. 27.  
73 JS4, page 11.  
74 AI, para. 3.  
75 AI, para. 30.  
76 AI, paras. 51 and 52, JS4, page 11.  
77 JS1, page 2A.  
78 S1, page 3, 8.  
79 JS1, page 4 and LIDDHA, page 9.  
80 ADF International, para. 30a), ECLJ, para. 13.  
81 JS4, para. 43.  
82 JS3, page 2.  
83 AI, para.12, JS3, page 3 and 5, JS5 page 8.  
84 JS3, page 4.  
85 JS3, page 5.  
86 JS3, paras. 7 and 8.  
87 JS3, page 9.  
88 JS3, page 9 and 10, AI, paras. 40 and 41, JS5 page 9.  
89 JS3, page 9 and 10, AI, paras. 40 and 41, JS5 page 9.  
90 JS3, page 9 and 10, JS5 page 9.  
91 AI, paras. 39–41.  
92 Plan International, page 4.

- 93 Plan International, page 2.  
 94 JS5, page 5, 2.1.  
 95 LIDDHA, page 9.  
 96 LIDDHA, page 9.  
 97 Plan International, page 4.  
 98 ADF International, para. 21.  
 99 JS2, para. 58.  
 100 UPR-BCU para. 30.  
 101 Plan International, page 4.  
 102 ADF International, para. 30e).  
 103 BCN, paras. 8, 19–21, JS5, page 5, 2.1.  
 104 BCN, paras. 11 and 12.  
 105 BCN, paras 25 and 32.  
 106 Plan International, page 4.  
 107 COMADE, page 7.  
 108 Plan International, page 4.  
 109 JAI, para. 8.  
 110 JAI, para.11.  
 111 JAI, para. 16.  
 112 JAI, para. 23.  
 113 JAI, para. 24.  
 114 LIDDHA, page 4, COMADE, page 4, AI, para.20, ECLJ pages 2, 4 and 5.  
 115 UPR-BCU para. 32.  
 116 MAAT, page 8.  
 117 MAAT, page 8.  
 118 JS5, page 3 and 4.  
 119 COMADE, page 4, AI, para. 43.  
 120 JS5, page 4.  
 121 ECLJ, para. 6 and 25, Plan International page 1, AI, para. 20.  
 122 ECLJ, para. 6, 25 and 37, Plan International page 1, AI, para. 20.  
 123 MAAT, page 8.  
 124 AI, para.43, UPR-BCU, paras. 22 and 37i), LIDDHA, page 8, COMADE, page 4.  
 125 Plan International, page 2.  
 126 MAAD, page 2.  
 127 JAI, para. 20.  
 128 MAAT, page 8, LIDDHA, page 8, COMADE, page 4.  
 129 COMADE, page 7.  
 130 Plan International, page 4.  
 131 GPEVAC, page 1.  
 132 GPEVAC, page 2, 1.3.  
 133 JS5, page 4, Bruken-chalk, para. 23, ECJL, paras. 9, 10 and 38, UPR-BCU, para. 6.  
 134 UPR-BCU, para. 37ii) and vii).  
 135 COMADE, pages 2 and 3.  
 136 JS5, page 6, 2.2.  
 137 COMADE, page 4.  
 138 LIDDHA, page 7.  
 139 COMADE, page 5.  
 140 LIDDHA, pages 7 and 8.  
 141 JS2, para. 19.  
 142 JS2, para. 37.  
 143 JS2, paras. 39 and 43.  
 144 JS2, para. 44.  
 145 JS2, para. 46.  
 146 JS2, para. 51.  
 147 JS2, para. 59.  
 148 JS2, para.8, 14.  
 149 JS2, para. 27.  
 150 JAI, para. 5.  
 151 JAI, para.11.  
 152 LIDDHA, page 5.  
 153 Plan International, page 1 and 4.  
 154 JAI, para. 21.  
 155 JAI, para. 21.

<sup>156</sup> LIDDHA, page 9.

<sup>157</sup> JS5, page 5, 2.1.

<sup>158</sup> JS5, page 6, 2.2.

<sup>159</sup> Plan International, page 2, COMADE, page 5.

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