

**Agenda Item 155**  
**Administrative and Budgetary Aspects of the**  
**Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations**  
**MINUSMA**

**Outcome evaluation of the contribution of the United Nations Multidimensional  
Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali to the rule of law and the fight  
against impunity in Mali**  
**(A/76/698)**

**Statement to the Fifth Committee by the**  
**Under-Secretary-General**  
**for Internal Oversight Services**

**Fatoumata Ndiaye**

**9 May 2022**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished Members of the Fifth Committee,

I am pleased to introduce the report of the OIOS outcome evaluation of the contribution of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali to the rule of law and the fight against impunity in Mali (A/76/698).

Between 2017 and 2020, the period covered by the evaluation, MINUSMA operated in a challenging and volatile political and security environment. Nevertheless, the evaluation report highlights some of the achievements and processes that strengthened the rule of law and the fight against impunity during those years, including:

- Support for infrastructure development, rehabilitation and equipment;
- Support for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration;
- The establishment of a specialized judicial unit with 12 judges, more than 50 police investigators, and additional judicial staff;

- Support for reforms and legislation to formal and traditional justice for the prevention of gender-based violence;
- Support for and advocacy of judicial inspections and integrity;
- Improved prison management;
- Support for the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission; and
- Improved reporting of human rights violations.

Those achievements aside, some cross-cutting gaps were identified. Overall, there was a lack of a joint country-wide strategy for the restoration and extension of State authority, and a lack of an agreed definition of “stabilization”. Infrastructure development and capacity-building were considered to have reached points of diminishing returns and a critical review of the Mission’s comparative advantage across outcome areas would enable rebalancing of priorities.

Community perception and partner experience suggested that future interventions should balance addressing security, political, developmental and peacebuilding needs in order to establish the rule of law in a more sustainable and holistic manner. This would also be coherent with the call of the expanded summit of the Group of Five for the Sahel held in N’Djamena in March 2021 for a “civilian surge”, acknowledging the limits of military interventions.

Finally, prosecution and processing of serious crimes, including human rights violations and abuses, slightly improved, yet the overall human rights situation in the north and the centre deteriorated and impunity for such crimes persisted. In this regard, interlocutors encouraged MINUSMA to focus on enhancing the impact of its good offices, convening power and political advocacy activities.

Mr. Chairman, OIOS makes a total of eight important recommendations addressed to MINUSMA, which were identified in consultation with the Mission counterparts and external partners. The first

recommendation (the development of a joint countrywide strategy on the restoration and extension of State authorities) is overarching, requiring a whole-of-mission approach and effort to enable the implementation of the other recommendations. Subsequent recommendations touch on supporting the integrity of the judicial system, enhancing the use of good offices to further the reform processes as well as the investigation and prosecution of serious human rights violations, conducting a critical review of capacity-building efforts, strengthening collaboration with the National Commission on Human Rights and improving communication programmes to inform the population of its legal rights and obligations.

I would like to express my appreciation to the management and staff of MINUSMA and other entities that were involved in this evaluation for the assistance and cooperation that they extended to the OIOS team during the assignment.

I look forward to the dialogue that this session brings and welcome your questions.

Thank you.