



Mali: CMA Coalition Signs Action Plan to End and Prevent Recruitment and Use and Sexual Violence Against Children in Conflict

New York – The Coordination des Mouvements de l’Azawad (CMA), a coalition of armed movements signatory of the Algiers Peace Accord, which includes the listed Mouvement National de Libération de l’Azawad (MNLA), signed an Action Plan with the United Nations to end and prevent the recruitment and use, sexual violence and all other grave violations against children.

Earlier today, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Leila Zerrougui, signed the Action Plan in New York as a witness.

“I am pleased to see the CMA take the initiative of signing an Action Plan, which is also binding for all entities under its umbrella,” said Leila Zerrougui. “It is a welcome development because it will provide a framework to end violations attributed to armed groups and strengthen the protection of children in Mali.”

As required by *UN Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, the Action Plan includes concrete measures to end and prevent the recruitment, use and association of all children under 18 as well as actions to prevent rape, other forms of sexual violence and all grave violations against children. The agreement is binding for all members of the CMA, including the MNLA, a party listed in the annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict for the violations of recruitment and use and sexual violence against children.

“Through the Action Plan, the CMA commits to ensure the release and handover to child protection actors of all children present in the ranks of its members,” said Leila Zerrougui. “Signing an Action Plan is the beginning of a process and I look forward to its full implementation. I count on the support of the Government to facilitate this process in the best interest of the children of Mali.”



Note to editors:

*UN Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004), 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011) and 2225 (2015) on Children and Armed Conflict established measures and tools to end grave violations against children, through the creation of a monitoring and reporting mechanism, and the development of Action Plans to end violations by parties listed in the annexes of the Secretary-General's annual report on children and armed conflict.

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