

Passionate Plea of Solidarity by the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) to the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)



Recalling that the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) will be convening an Extraordinary Session in Accra, Republic of Ghana, on 4 June 2022, under the chairmanship of H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana and Chairperson of the ECOWAS Authority, to review the political developments in the Republic of Mali.

The African Women Leaders Network (AWLN), launched in 2017 by the African Union Commission and the United Nations, is a movement of African women in leadership positions that mobilizes women in different sectors. The initiative aims to strengthen African women's leadership in transforming the continent, in line with the African Union aspirations and the United Nations 2030 Agenda Development Goals. It also aims to increase the recognition and weight of women's contributions to peace, sustainable development and the attainment of gender equality.

Considering its core values enunciated above, the AWLN through its Patron, Her Excellency Madam Sirleaf Johnson, recognizes the mediation efforts of ECOWAS, African Union, and the United Nations in the search for solutions to the Malian crisis. AWLN further wishes to align itself with the principles enshrined in the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and UN and AU legal instruments that apply to good governance, democracy and human rights.

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AWLN urges as follows:

Requests ECOWAS leaders to:

1. Enhance dialogue with the Malian Authorities aimed at resolving the political impasse in the country;
2. Take measures to ease the economic and financial sanctions imposed on Mali which continue to have an adverse impact on the population, specifically on women and children;

Appeal to Malian authorities to:

3. Take positive steps related to specific issues called for in negotiations with ECOWAS, which will usher in lasting peace and security,

Appeal to relevant stakeholders including development partners to:

4. Support the humanitarian efforts and assistance to the population of Mali.

AWLN wishes to express its hope for positive outcomes of the Extraordinary Session that would pave the way for an inclusive, people centred, gender equitable and lasting settlement of the Malian crisis.

The African Women Leaders Network