Delegation from the Republic of Mali
Position Paper for the General Assembly

The topics before the General Assembly (GA) are The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament; Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System; and Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women. The Republic of Mali recognizes the need for strong multilateral cooperation and is looking forward to addressing these issues at the upcoming conference.

I. The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament

Africa has strongly developed its digital ecosystem over the past few years. Major developments have taken place, however, leading to new problems and difficulties as well. Cyber threats have become a new issue the world community has to deal with, not excluding the Republic of Mali. Terrorists use this technologies for recruitment and radicalization and as well as for financing of their activities. The international peace and security is moreover being threatened by the new challenges connected with Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV). While UAVs offer tremendous new possibilities to enable improved humanitarian aid and response rates to attacks, they can, on the other hand, be a severe hazard, especially for civilians. As they are used in Mali by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and by terrorists likewise, Mali is exposed to the potential and to the negative effects of them likewise.

Seeing on one hand the enormous chances the ongoing digital transformation in Africa may offer for society and economic development, while having in mind increased cyber-criminality including Cyber terrorism, the African Union (AU) has decided to establish the African Union Cyber Security Expert Group (AUCSEG) in January 2018. The AUCSEG addresses the mentioned hazards and gives guidance to the AU and AU policy makers regarding this issue, while having in mind each regions special necessities and dynamics. Mali has installed several drone laws, enabling positive and humanitarian usage as well. Apart from this possible civil use, UAVs are utilized by MINUSMA and other military actors and help to spot terrorist groups and aid to neutralize them. Internationally, an important step forward was the GA resolution 72/28 on the *Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament*. Research has been made by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) both on UAVs (e.g. Increasing UAV Transparency, Oversight and Accountability) and several on cyber security (e.g. Perspectives on Cyber War: Legal Frameworks and Transparency and Confidence-Building).

There are some regional and international activities concerning the dangers of new virtual technologies, however, the GA has not yet taken any concrete action to overcome these challenges. The Republic in Mali is in favor of ending this state. A resolution is needed recognizing the dangers and developing a road map on how this issue may be dealt with internationally. While some progress has been made concerning cyber security, UAVs remain unregulated by the international communities. There is a need for the UNIDIR to carry out a research program dealing accurately with how the benefits of UAVs can be secured, including both humanitarian and bellicose aspects, while exploring ways on how the international community can prevent misuse by terrorist groups. The findings of these research projects may then be included in GA resolutions, in whose genesis a first common ground of member stated needs to be found. The Republic of Mali is eager to closely work together with the other member states on these important topics.

II. Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN system

"We, in our role as leaders, have the collective responsibility to do more and to do better to make our organization even more relevant and more efficient for all. In order to do so, the UN needs reforms, guarantees of peaceful international societies, inclusive, equitable and sustainable." This was said by the Republic of Mali's President, Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta in 2018, when he held a speech in front of the GA. Therefore, to the Republic of Mali, the system of the UN is still in need of many reforms, including those on improving accountability and transparency within the UN system.

However, much has already been done over the past few years since the progress towards more transparency in the UN has started. Different GA resolutions, including resolution 63/274, guided the Secretary General towards developing a new definition on accountability and into writing an important

report on that topic. The GA itself has adopted several resolutions making it more democratic, transparent and effective, while their presidents improved their working mechanisms alike while taking oaths to veraciously exercise all functions they have been trusted with. Moreover, several internal and external oversight bodies have been established, which both monitor and evaluate the UN system and their own proposals alike. Recent development has shown that this topic still ranges high on the GA's agenda with member states collaborating closely to achieve the overall goals, leading to resolutions being mostly adopted without a vote. To underline Mali's own position in the fight against corruption and for transparency and accountability, it is important to notice that Mali ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2008 and continues its fight against corruption.

This is of the utmost importance as this fight is not yet won on all levels, not excluding UN agencies and bodies. Currently, a discussion concerning the UN system with its different bodies and its necessary adjustment to changes since World War 2 is going on. This process and this discussion must be transparent to all member states. Within the UN system it is furthermore necessary to ensure that the different oversight bodies work well together. In order to achieve that, a monthly plenary session of all oversight organs sending at least one representative may be established. This can help these bodies to avoid duplication of efforts and be informed extensively and early about ongoing issues. The Republic of Mali is pleased to have their share in the upcoming discussion and is looking forward to finding common ground with other member states on these important topics.

III. Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence Against Women

Even though women already are a focus of the international community, violence against them still occurs on a regular basis. This does not only lead to dreadful experiences women have to endure, but presents a blockade for development as well. Since it continues to be a problem in every nation in this world, the Republic of Mali is affected among other member states. In the Republic of Mali, different challenges concerning the rights of women occur. Important to mention are the ongoing female genital mutilation (FGM), the situation of women especially on the countryside, since women living there tend to suffer more often and more severely from disobedience of their rights, and the role of women in the important peace process Mali is part of. In this peace process, women´s voices are sometimes not heard loud enough, hence, their concerns are integrated into the process only slowly.

However, there already have been numerous attempts to decrease all forms of violence against women. On an international level, the member states agreed on the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (1979), which the Republic of Mali ratified in 1985. In the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda the goal number five is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls and can be seen as one of the priorities of the agenda. Multiple campaigns have been carried out during the last few years, including the UN initiated "orange day", which takes place every month. In the Republic of Mali campaigns have started as well, including those on FGM. To give more women the possibility to engage in governmental activities and to increase their chances to form governmental activities out of a feminine perspective, a law was passed to secure a quota of 30% women in all political functions and offices in Mali. Concerning women´s underrepresentation in peace proceedings, UN-Women has organized meetings for women to voice their thoughts and to find together common ground on how to increase the adherence to female perspectives in peace building activities.

In order to keep up the ongoing projects of which only a minimum has been mentioned, funding must be secured, both from the UN and from member states. Therefore member states should secure financial aids and to possibly enlarge them. This may not only lead to a better position of women and girls in developing countries, but also them developing economically to a greater extent, which could lead to a just future for all. When mounting a campaign the following aspects should be reconsidered: While addressing violence against women, the actual campaign work should be done from Malian to Malian. It should also be considered to address men more efficiently since it is mostly men who are violent against women. Men are best addressed by men directly, which is an aspect that should also be incorporated in campaigns. Moreover, women´s participation in the ongoing peace building process needs to be secured and to be stabilized. The international community may develop guidelines for involvement of women in all (UN assisted) peace building efforts, in order to make it easier for women to be involved from the beginning. The Republic of Mali is eager to work on the important topic with other member states and is confident that the international community will find further ways to improve the lives of women and girls.