
Your Excellency, President of the Republic of Liberia,
Your Excellency, Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia
Your Excellency, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia,
Your Excellencies, Ministers of Foreign Affairs from MRU Members States,
Your Excellencies, Defense Ministers from MRU member States,
Your Excellency, Madam, Secretary General of the Mano River Union
Your Excellency, the Special Representative of the UN SG and Head of UNOWAS

1. His Excellency, Moussa Faki Mahamat, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission is grateful to the Government of the Republic of Liberia for the invitation extended to the African Union to participate in this extraordinary session of the Mano River Union, He is unavoidably absent and has asked me to deliver this message of solidarity and support as you deliberate on issues of concern to the sub-region, including on the political situation in Guinea.

2. But before I do so, please permit me on my own behalf and that of my delegation to express our profound appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Liberia for the warm welcome and generous traditional hospitality you have placed at our disposal since our arrival. Thank you very much.

3. Let me now read the message.

4. Your Excellency, President of the Republic of Liberia;
Your Excellency, Secretary General of the Mano River Union;
Your Excellencies, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Ministers of Defense of the Mano River Union member states;
Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS);
The Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of ECOWAS;
Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

5. It is a real pleasure and an honor for me to address this august assembly which is being held at a critical moment in the history of your sub-region, where, despite the efforts made by various stakeholders including governments, political actors, civil society, the private sector and inter-governmental organizations notably ECOWAS, the United Nations and of course your organization, the Mano River Union to promote good
governance, security, stability, economic growth and development, we are continuing to face security and political challenges.

6. I am therefore pleased that you have convened this meeting and brought together the most critical stakeholders, your Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Defence to rub minds with ECOWAS, the African Union and the United Nations to contribute to ongoing efforts, led primarily by ECOWAS in strengthening our collective resolve, commitments and actions as partners to promote democratic governance and regional stability through existing norms and mechanisms.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. As should be on everyone's mind, allow me here to speak primarily on the situation in the Republic of Guinea given the agenda for this meeting. Like the rest of the international community, the African Union is closely following the latest developments in Guinea with a view to actively supporting ECOWAS in that regard.

8. At the 1030th meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held on 10 September, 2021, following the unconstitutional change of government, it was decided by the PSC in accordance with the relevant AU normative instruments to suspend Guinea from participation in the activities of the Union until its return to constitutional order. In addition, the PSC decided to set up an inclusive monitoring mechanism comprising the African Union, ECOWAS, the United Nations and Guinea's partners to support the technical, material and financial efforts by the transitional authorities in accordance with the priorities of the Transition Charter.

9. Meanwhile, it is instructive to note that the Transition has shown encouraging signals, namely the publication of the Transition Charter, the opening of Guinea’s land borders with Senegal, Mali, Guinea- Bissau and Sierra Leone, consultations with the vital forces of the Nation, the appointment of a civilian Prime Minister and the formation of the transitional government. It is also encouraging to note that the new transitional authorities have taken certain actions to facilitate national reconciliation such as the release of political prisoners, meetings with regional actors, among others. These gestures ease the political and social situation in the country. At the same time, these actions indicate the will of the transitional authorities to create an environment conducive to peace, social cohesion and security favorable to the development of Guinea.

10. It is the earnest expectation of the African Union that these efforts will therefore not just continue, but will be carried out within an all-inclusive framework, one that will strengthen the foundations for a more economically vibrant, politically stable and prosperous country that will not only benefit every Guinean but also contribute to the overall peace and stability of the MRU and the greater region for that matter.

11. It is on this basis of hope and positive expectations that I would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate and reaffirm the AU’s determination and unflinching solidarity to stand shoulder to shoulder with the transitional authorities and the people of Guinea as they pursue this path to restore constitutional order, peace and stability in their country.

12. This is what H.E. Moussa Mahamat Faki, the Chairperson of the AU Commission has asked me to say to you, today, and he wishes you fruitful deliberations.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I thank you for your kind attention.