Mali:
Collateral Damage of the Complex Security Challenges in the Sahel

Dr. David Zounmenou
Senior Researcher
Conflict Prevention and Risk Analysis
ISS, Pretoria
Key Points

• Crisis in the Sahel: What is at stake?
• Mali: Making Sense of the Political and Security Crises
• International Response Strategy: between procrastination and confusion
• Framing a solution to the crisis: what are the options
**French Operations**
1. Ground offensive by 21st Marine infantry
2. Air assault and combat jump at Gao
3. Combat jump at Timbuktu
4. Air assault at Kidal airport

**African Operations**
1. Burkina Faso's contingent moves into Markala
2. Niger's and Chad's contingents airlifted into Gao
3. Chad's contingent moves into Kidal
4. Niger's contingent moves into Ansongo

- Jihadist tunnels
- French airstrikes
Crisis In The Sahel: What Is At Stake?

- Perceptions of the threats is not the same among some of the major actors involved
- US: Terrorism
- France and the dilemma of its role and presence in Africa
- Algeria/Mauritania: Sahel is the dustbin of successful counter-terrorism initiative: GIA to AQMI
- Mali: someone’s else problem
  - No coherent collaborative response mechanisms
THE VULNERABILITIES IN THE REGION

- CORRUPTION & WEAK GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS
- POOR MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
- PANDEMIC DISEASES AND NATURAL DISASTERS
- RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM & RADICALIZATION
- POVERTY AND YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT
- ELECTIONS AND BAD GOVERNANCE
- NON-STATE ARMED GROUPS
- POROUS BORDERS
- LACK OF RULE OF LAW
- PROLIFERATION OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS
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SECURITY RISKS IN WEST AFRICA

- Stolen Vehicles Trafficking
- Human Trafficking
- Drug Trafficking
- Terrorism and Banditry
- Cigarette Trafficking

OIL, DIAMOND, GOLD, URANIUM, TITANIUM

CIVIL WARS AND ETHNIC VIOLENCE

PIRACY

Militancy and terrorism

Transit Zone of Natco Cartel
Making Sense of the Political and Security Crises

- Weak state authority and ungoverned spaces
- Stalled and failed democratisation processes
- Serious deficiencies in anticipating and addressing the structural bases of conflict
- Tuareg rebellion and the fallacy of marginalization
- 22 March coup: a setback for democracy
- Political and security crisis
Political Actors and Islamist Groups in Mali

- Ansar Dine
- MNLA
- AQIM
- MUJAO
- Militia
- Timbuktu
- Kidal
- Gao

Locations:
- Kayes
- Koulikoro
- Segou
- Mopti
- Sikasso

Individuals:
- President Dioncounda Traore
- P. Minister Django Cissoko
- Cpt. Amadou Hata Sanogo
International Response Strategy: Between Procrastination and Confusion

Persistent divergences in approach:
Three major handicaps compromise the effective management of the crisis in Mali
- Procrastination of the external partners
- Divergences of approaches
- Absence of a decisive leadership

The continuous political impasse provided opportunity for the Islamist groups to consolidate their control and to seek to weight in the so-called negotiation process.
“Operation Serval” and the changing dynamics of the crisis

Two sets of dynamics

Military option imposed de facto: War by default

• Reverse sequence of the initiatives leading to the Deployment of AFISMA
• UN torn between a traditional Peace Mission or a an AMISOM-type partnership with the Africa-led force AFISMA, or a UNAMID-type hybrid mission.

Political dynamics

• New configuration of power while putting on hold a serious political discontent.
Challenges

- AFISMA without a clear command and control
- Effectiveness of border control
- Fear of terrorist attacks as retaliation
- Urban warfare
- Civilian casualties
- Worsened humanitarian crisis: IDPs and Refugees
- Prolonged economic hardship
- Inter-communal violence and revenge
Liaisons dangereuses

16 janv. 2013
Attaque contre le site gazier

Mouvements des chefs jihadistes

Transport d’armes

Trafics de drogues

Zones jihadistes

Présence américaine

300 km
Framing Solution to the crisis: what are the options

– Restoring democratic governance:
– Ensure the credibility of the electoral process
– What form of reconciliation for Mali?
– What should the transition from AFISMA to UN Peace Mission take into consideration?
– Need for a regional comprehensive strategy for security and peace.
Concluding remarks

• Talks of peacekeeping troops should not distract from the fact that the crisis in Mali remains a political and governance one. The mission should therefore include a strong political mandate, in support of ongoing regional efforts by ECOWAS and the AU and the implementation of the transition road map, but also an exit strategy based on specific benchmarks for drawdown.

• A phased deployment with an initial short-term mandate focused on a few key functions could give the UN some room to better tailor the mission design and capacities based on ongoing discussions with national counterparts.

• Given the central issue of organized crime and trafficking, which made it possible for criminal groups and jihadist organizations to expand their influence in northern Mali, it should be included in early assessments and analysis, which should in turn inform the mandate.
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