

**STATEMENT**

**43rd UPR Session of the Human Rights Council**

**on the human rights situation in Mali,**

**as delivered by Ms Anniken ENERSEN**

**Minister Counsellor, Human Rights**

Check against delivery

2 May 2023

President

Norway remains concerned about the human rights situation in Mali. Last year saw the highest number of civilian deaths in a decade. Human rights violations and abuses are not being investigated effectively; freedom of expression is under severe pressure. Grave violations against children are on the rise.

Norway recommends that Mali:

1) ensures that allegations of human rights violations and abuses are investigated and prosecuted effectively, and allows MINUSMA full access to ensure independent and impartial investigations;

2) upholds the rights to freedom of association, peaceful assembly and expression and ensures the safety of journalists, human rights defenders, and activists;

3) takes concrete steps to combat female genital mutilation and adopts criminal legislation explicitly prohibiting it;

4) ensures compliance with the conclusions agreed in the Working Group for Children and Armed Conflict;

5) ensures that no individual is subject to forced labour and hereditary slavery, in accordance with ILO Forced Labour Convention No 29.

Thank you.