



Jeddah 2017  
42<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

## Statement of the IDB Governor for the Republic of Mali

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the IDB Board of Governors  
Jeddah – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
20 – 22 Sha’baan 1438H (16 - 18 May 2017)

Original Text

(French)

Bismillahi Errahmani Errahimi

Praise be to Allah, Peace and Blessings upon Muhammad,  
the Messenger of Allah, his Kin and Companions, and the Faithful,

**Excellency the President of the Board of Governors,  
Excellencies the Governors,  
Excellency the President, Honourable Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mali and myself, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the people and Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the warm hospitality extended to the Malian delegation since its arrival in this prestigious city of Jeddah.

Allow me also to thank the President and all the staff of the Islamic Development Bank for the excellent arrangements made at this meeting.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This meeting is taking place at a time when the global economy is showing positive signs with the strengthening of the economic recovery in advanced countries and the restarting of activity in emerging and developing countries.

It is important to note that sub-Saharan Africa is also experiencing a recovery in 2017, albeit a modest one.

Mr. President, my country, Mali, achieved good economic performance in 2016 with real GDP growth rate at 5.8%, an inflation rate of -1.8%, and a growth of 6.0% in 2015. In 2017, the growth rate is expected to reach 5.3%.

Ladies and Gentlemen, these performances are achieved in an environment marked by major challenges that need to be taken up in order to achieve strong economic recovery and fulfil the commitments under the Peace Agreement.

To this end, the Government has intensified its efforts in the areas of governance and economic and structural reforms, which resulted in the restoration of the confidence of international financial institutions and the consolidation of cooperation with technical and financial partners.

The positive conclusion, a few days ago, of the latest review of the programme undertaken with the International Monetary Fund under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) is testimony to these efforts.

In the political and security areas, the Government is continuing its efforts to achieve a comprehensive return to peace in the country through the implementation of the Peace Agreement by all the stakeholders.

The Islamic Development Bank has been heavily involved in this process, with the World Bank

and the African Development Bank, carrying out the joint assessment mission for Northern Mali (JAM / Northern Mali) to identify needs for early recovery, poverty reduction, and development, three (3) months after the signing of the said agreement. In this regard, the post-conflict project of the IDB is under way.

The implementation of the Peace Agreement took a decisive step forward with the holding of the Conference of National Understanding in late March / early April 2017, the installation of the interim authorities in all northern regions of the country, the revision of the Constitution and the setting up of the Demobilization, Disarmament, and Reintegration Commission for ex-combatants.

**Mr. President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen Governors,**

Mali appreciates the financial support and technical assistance that the Islamic Development Bank Group has been providing over the past 40 years of fruitful cooperation.

By way of illustration, I would like to mention some landmark projects, among others:

- The Manantali dam;
- The Sévaré-Gao road;
- The rehabilitation of Timbuktu airport;
- The Gao Bridge;
- Participation in the financing of the construction of the dam of Taoussa;
- The supply of drinking water to the cities of Kalabancoro and Bamako from Kabala;
- Agricultural development of Djenné;
- Integrated rural development of Kita; and
- Construction of the road linking Kwala, Moudiah, Nara, and the border with Mauritania.

Within the context of this cooperation impetus, the Government of Mali would like to urge the Islamic Development Bank to speed up the financing of the following projects to support our national reconciliation efforts:

- **the construction of road and airport infrastructures in the northern regions of Mali:** the IDB is the leader of the Arab donors in mobilizing the necessary resources (section of the Sévaré-Hombori road, Kidal-frontier of Algeria), the roads Ansongo-Menaka-Anderboukane, Koro-Douentza-Timbuktu, construction of the airports of Kidal, Taoudenit, Tessalit, and Menaka;

- **Post-conflict Reconstruction Programme for the northern regions;**
- **the project to build the Sirakoro thermal power plant; and**
- **The 4<sup>th</sup> bridge of Bamako.**

**Excellency the President of the Board of Governors,  
Excellency the President, Honourable Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Before concluding, allow me to pay a heartfelt tribute to the former President of the Islamic Development Bank, **Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Ali**, who was a true friend of Mali, by constantly supporting our country in its efforts to develop socially and economically.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate the President of the Islamic Development Bank, **Dr. Bandar M. H. Hajjar** and the staff of the IDB Group for their efficiency in the management of our institution and for maintaining it at the top with the AAA rating, despite international economic and financial crises.

Thank you for your attention.

**Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu.**