

**Peace Agreement between the Dogon & Peulh communities of Bondo, Dioungani, and Koro**

**Koro Circle, Mali**

January 2021

## **Preamble**

We, the Dogon and Peulh communities of the communes of Bondo, Dioungani, and Koro, in the Koro Circle, Mali, hereinafter referred to as the Parties;

Aware that the conflict between us since 2017 is fueling the security crisis that is devastating the region;

Taking into account the results of previous reconciliation efforts led by our communities, the State, collectives, associations, and the various attempts by the High Islamic Council of Koro. Taking into account the peace agreement between the Dogon and Peulh communities of Koro signed in August 2018, following the unilateral ceasefire of Dana Amassagou facilitated by the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue and the reciprocal commitment of the Peulh community.

Determined to strengthen the first commitments agreed on during the preparatory inter-communal meetings facilitated by Monobèm de Madougou on February 23, 2020, Binédama on April 16, 2020, Anagadia on June 24, 2020, Karakindé on May 22, 2020, and Laiwaikandé on July 28, 2020, in the municipality of Madougou, which involved 107 villages in the communes of the Sangha and Dourou, and inter-communal meetings facilitated since September 2020 in Dangatène, Madougou, Toroli, and Pel;

Recalling that in the past the Dogon and Peulh communities coexisted peacefully in the Koro Circle communes of Bondo, Dioungani, and Koro, despite the tensions that have always existed between our communities concerning the management of resources natural that we share;

Aware that these tensions are exacerbated by the high level of insecurity throughout the Dogon plateau, Senno and Gondo and that the current conflict has led to the end of economic activities, mass killings in 2018, and even the restriction of the free movement of people and their goods;

Aware that the conflict involving members of our respective communities may not end immediately with the signing of this Agreement, but will require a constant commitment on our part to peacefully manage disputes;

Determined to work to improve peaceful coexistence between our communities;

Gathered in Dangatène on January 12, 2021, as part of the mediation co-facilitated since September 2020 by the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue and the Monobèm association, which brings together all the communities of the municipalities concerned;

We agree as follows:

## **Chapter I: General Points**

Article 1: With this Agreement, the Parties declare peace between them and commit to making every effort to maintain it.

## **Chapter II: Causes and consequences of the conflict**

Article 2: The Parties agree that the inter-communal conflict between them across their municipalities is the result of the following elements:

- a) Repeated attacks and looting of villages and hamlets by armed individuals;
- b) Targeted assassinations of influential figures;
- c) Massive cattle theft by both parties;
- d) Attacks and ambushes against market stalls;
- e) Embargoes on certain villages, water points, weekly markets, and the marketing of certain products (cereals, cattle, and milk),
- f) Closure of basic social services (schools, health center, distribution stores, etc.),
- g) Withdrawal of state agents and defense and security forces in all municipalities;
- h) The feeling on both sides that the neighboring community has joined forces with armed groups to attack the other;
- i) Lack of impartiality of the defense and security forces;
- j) Lack of justice after cases of extrajudicial abuses;
- k) Frustration due to unresolved or poorly resolved inter-communal conflicts on access to natural resources, etc.

Article 3: The Parties agree that the inter-communal conflict between them in their municipalities has had the following consequences since the end of 2017:

- a) The death of more than 300 people;
- b) The displacement of more than 9000 people from 2017 to 2020;
- c) The theft of 2500 heads of cattle;
- d) Embargos on the markets of Dangaténé, Bondo and Koro;
- e) Restrictions on access to cultivable land in Koro, Djoungani and Bondo;

- f) Movement restrictions between the municipalities of Koro, Bondo, and Djoungani.

### **Chapter III: Commitments of the Parties**

Article 4: The Parties jointly undertake to:

- a) Encourage community leaders to commit to peace by forgiving all past acts and by spreading messages of cohesion and appeasement;
- b) Facilitate the free movement of people and their goods throughout the three municipalities;
- c) Encourage the establishment of measures of reciprocal confidence between communities (restitution of animals, condemnation of thieves, etc.);
- d) Support and facilitate the return of all displaced persons;
- e) Encourage and facilitate market attendance by all communities;
- f) Not carry weapons in villages and towns
- g) Invite the monitoring committee to dialogue with those who act against the spirit of the Agreement;
- h) Oppose cattle theft regardless of the owner's community and facilitate the search for stolen goods and animals so that they can be returned to their owner;
- i) Not claim animals and property removed or lost during the conflict ;
- j) Facilitate the free use of natural and land resources by all communities (fields, pastures, passageways, travel stops, etc.);
- k) Encourage the return of basic social services and the circulation of NGOs in the areas affected by the agreement;
- l) Respect the habits and customs of the different communities and places of worship;
- m) Respect the moral authority of traditional religious authorities who, before the crisis, preserved social cohesion and eased social tensions.

### **Chapter IV: Recommendations addressed to the State**

Article 5: The Parties request that the State support their peace efforts in the Koro Circle communes of Bondo, Dioungani, and Koro. More specifically for the benefit of peaceful inter-communal coexistence, the Parties call on the State to:

- a) Encourage the rehabilitation of destroyed villages;
- b) With the support of partners, facilitate the return of displaced persons;
- c) Provide humanitarian, economic, and food assistance to all communities affected by the crisis for economic recovery in the area;
- d) Open a dialogue with armed groups to agree on a negotiated outcome for the young people who have renounced their weapons;
- e) Build, repair, and provide communities with basic social infrastructure (water points, health centers, seeds, schools, etc.);
- f) Help strengthen the legitimacy of traditional and religious authorities in their missions of pacification and citizen watch.

#### **Chapter V: Monitoring of the implementation**

Article 6: The Parties undertake to meet once a quarter during the first year following the signing of this Agreement to take stock of the implementation of the Agreement and, if necessary, renew and adjust the commitments.

Article 7: A Monitoring Committee will be set up, whose mission is to:

- a) Regularly update the Parties on the progress made in implementing the commitments made under this Agreement to strengthen its scope;
- b) Prevent and manage disputes between the Parties that may lead to non-compliance with this Agreement;
- c) Identify, if necessary, additional measures necessary for the inter-communal reconciliation process.
- d) Regularly update the State authorities on the progress made in implementing the commitments made under this Agreement to strengthen its scope;

Article 8: 10 members appointed by consensus to represent all of the Peulh and Dogon communities will make up the Monitoring Committee. This will be composed of 5 representatives of the Peulh community and 5 representatives of the Dogon community.

## **Chapter VI: Dispute management**

Article 9: The parties will do everything in their power to settle amicably and by negotiation any dispute arising between them, in the spirit of cooperation and friendship which underlies this peace agreement.

Article 10: In the event of a breach of the application of this Agreement or the event of a dispute relating to its interpretation, the Parties will refer the matter to the Monitoring Committee so that a consensual solution is identified and applied.

Article 11: In the event of failure to apply the solution identified in a consensual manner with the Monitoring Committee, the Parties will jointly refer to traditional and religious dispute management mechanisms.

Article 12: In the event of a serious breach of the application of this Agreement, and of a failure of all attempts at negotiation to remedy it, the Parties may terminate this Agreement. Such termination will take effect on a specified termination date. In this case, the Parties will take all necessary measures to minimize the impact of such a decision on the peace efforts already undertaken.

## **Chapter VII: Final provisions**

Article 13: The Parties sign this Agreement in 5 copies in French and will try to translate them into Fulfuldé, Dogosso, and Bamanakan for better understanding.

Article 14: This Agreement shall enter into force from the date of its signature by the Parties.

**Done in Dangatene, 12/01/2021**