1. Context: The development context which prevailed in Mali until the beginning of 2012 has changed radically, following the 22nd March military Coup and the seizure of the northern regions of the country by armed groups. A period of transition followed this event, aiming at restoring peace and national unity as well as holding free and transparent elections, and allowing the country to return to constitutional order and democratic governance. As a consequence, the United Nations System had to adjust to the current situation and play a fundamental role during this period of multidimensional crisis, in both areas of humanitarian assistance and of development.

2. What is the CCAT? The Common Framework in support to the Transition (CCAT) is the common strategic framework for the UN operational activities in Mali, to be implemented during this exceptional period. It defines the collective, coherent and integrated UN response to the national priorities and needs identified. In conformity with its role and mandate, the UN Country Team (UNCT), through the CCAT, will intervene in support to Government’s efforts and priorities, in line with other external partners’ interventions, in order to address the transition’s challenges. To fulfill this role in an efficient and responsible manner, the UNCT will carry on its interventions in a way that is consistent with the spirit and the dynamics that have guided its actions in Mali over the past two years, namely, the commitment to the "Delivering As One" principle.

3. Between humanitarian and development: The CCAT positions itself strategically. Neither does it substitute itself to the humanitarian response that is underpinned by specific mechanisms, nor does it constitute a classical intervention framework for development either. It is therefore a mixed and flexible programming framework as a response to an evolving crisis situation through interventions which address both development and humanitarian issues.

This framework emphasizes the need to strengthen livelihoods and developing resilience since the survival of communities in time of crisis and their future largely depend on their resilience capacity. The crisis in the Sahel region and in Mali in particular constitutes an opportunity of deepening the current discourse on resilience and initial discussions within the UNCT have already identified common initiatives to be carried out in order to economically empower vulnerable communities and particularly women and those affected by conflict. The following are among priorities identified and agreed upon: i) Support to income generating activities and micro-finance and policies promoting employment and HIMO; ii) Reducing vulnerability of those affected by the food and nutrition crisis; iii) Strengthening capacities of national economic and financial institutions to generate resources and strengthening institutional capacity at grassroots/local level; iv) Support to basic agricultural production, agricultural value chains and provision of food aid, v) promote income generating agricultural activities (incidence on income and living conditions);
4. Areas of interventions: The CCAT consists of new interventions in line with the new context, together with relevant interventions initiated before the 22 March events, which continuation remains possible and justified (provide that adjustments are made when necessary). In the northern areas affected by the armed conflict, the UN is currently intervening through national humanitarian mechanisms. Thus, the CCAT is limited to the regions that are accessible and will expand its geographical coverage as soon as the conditions allow.

5. Implementation period: The CCAT will cover the entire transition period and even beyond (12 to 24 months) until the sociopolitical context allows the formulation of the new UNDAF. This will be the opportunity to make the junction between the two UNDAF programmatic frameworks: the 2008-2012 and the future one.

6. Objectives: Based on a quick situation analysis, the CCAT has defined its objectives, premised on the emergence of a new national context, marked by a multidimensional crisis with huge humanitarian challenges. To address these challenges and considering the relatively short timeframe of the transition period, the UNCT has identified a number of priority areas of action where it aims at bringing quick responses with significant impact. In conjunction with the emergency humanitarian response, the CCAT consist of two components: Governance and Peace Consolidation (1), and Access to Basic Social Services (2), as in table below.

6.1 Objective of Component 1: through this component, the United Nations System aims at reinforcing its interventions in the area of democratic governance with particular emphasis on the restoration of peace and security throughout its major subcomponents.

6.2 Objective of Component 2: the availability and accessibility of basic social services represents another major objective of the CCAT, with a view to avoid a drastic deterioration of the social context with a negative impact on the most vulnerable groups. This constitutes a major challenge and justifies the UNCT focus on interventions aimed at reinforcing the resilience of the of Malian populations. This approach put emphasis on the analysis of risk and vulnerability as well as on the empowerment of the local actors to take their destiny into their hands.
7. Strategies and approaches

7.1 Delivering as One:

10. Working and delivering as one, the UN will have a far greater impact on the development and humanitarian challenges that faces the country by building on its comparative advantages and programmatic synergies. The overall objective being to improve its relevance, impact, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability.

7.2 Resilience:

11. Based on an assessment of the existing mechanisms and capacities used by vulnerable social groups households to adjust to new conditions created by the crisis in the country, a resilience approach can addresses the strengthening and/or diversification of means of production and access to basic social services.

7.3 Focus on youth:

12. A joint programme on “Youth and Resilience” as an appendix to the CCAT will provide the operational framework to address the particular risks facing the youth, such as crime, religious extremism and terrorism and violence in general.

7.4 Integration into regional strategies:

13. The UN has prepared in September 2012 a UN Regional Integrated Strategy for the Sahel region. Its defines the principles and modalities of regional and inclusive response to the crisis in the Sahel which consist in supporting the countries affected to face challenges related to democratic governance, resilience, security and environment. The CCAT will be implemented in line with these strategies.