



PROGRESS AND KEY RESULTS

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has supported the G5 Sahel Joint Force (FC-G5S) since 2018 with the establishment and implementation of a regulatory framework on international human rights and international humanitarian law commonly called the “Compliance Framework”. Some of the major advances registered in each of the seven pillars of the Compliance Framework to date, include the following:

Pillar 1: Selection and background check



- Supporting the development of a Protocol relating to the generation of Force personnel, approved by the Defense and Security Committee in January 2020 in Ouagadougou, which provides standards for staff selection by the various army headquarters of the G5 Sahel countries and, especially establishes:
 - minimum criteria, including the requirement of a clean criminal record, the absence of open investigations, and good conduct and discipline for each military personnel;
 - criteria aimed at increasing the number of women deployed at all levels within the FC-G5S.
- Successful advocacy for each zone to be staffed with a dedicated legal advisor and communications advisor to monitor implementation of the Compliance Framework in their areas of responsibility;
- Material support, which enabled the drawing up of maps and the acquisition of badges to better identify elements deployed to the FC-G5S and thus distinguish them from national forces.

Pillar 2: Training

The Project contributed to enhancing the army headquarters’ own capabilities to better understand, apply and enforce the elements of the Compliance Framework at the battalion level through:



- Supporting the FC-G5S and the troop-contributing countries in the conception, development and adoption of the program and a specific training plan relating to the Compliance Framework.
- Supporting the organization of pre-deployment training for members of the *Poste de Commandement Interarmées de Théâtre* (PCIAT) and the three zones, in collaboration with the RACC, EUTM, EUCAP and Barkhane.
- Organizing two advanced training courses in the law of armed conflict for senior officers from the legal and operational branches as well as the Police Component of the FC-G5S, in collaboration with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law of San Remo, the JUROPS of EMA France, ICRC and CIVIC.
- Establishing a mobile training team comprising representatives from the G5 Sahel Defense College, the army headquarters of the G5 Sahel countries, the Joint Force and partners including, among others, UNITAR, UNODC, CIVIC, and ISS.
- Organizing four training courses for trainers in the law of armed conflict and human rights for the army headquarters of Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad, which strengthened the capacity of 120 trainers, in collaboration with various partners including MINUSMA, ICRC, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, EUCAP Sahel Mali and Niger.

Pillar 3: Adoption and dissemination of Force doctrine



- Supporting the FC-G5S in establishing internal procedures and mechanisms to implement the Compliance Framework through its legal documents, while ensuring the integration of human rights and international humanitarian law standards in key documents.
- 18 documents were developed or revised as part of the implementation of the FC-G5S Compliance Framework, including the concept of operations (CONOPS), the status of forces agreement (SOFA), the rules of engagement, as well as various procedural documents, directives and instructions from the Force Commander.
- Various key principles of international law were incorporated into the legal documents of FC-G5S. For example, the principles relating to the use of force, the treatment of individuals apprehended during operations and their surrender to national authorities for legal action, the guarantee of non-execution of the death penalty by member states of G5 Sahel against those handed over to them, internal investigation procedures, and the adoption of a code of conduct and discipline.
- Finalization (in progress) of a specific directive relating to the Police Component of the FC-G5S.

Pillar 4: Integration of the requirement for the protection of civilians during planning and operations management



- Beyond the training provided (Pillar 2), the rules ensuring the protection of civilians have been integrated in a series of legal documents at the strategic, operational and tactical levels, thus reaching all levels of officers. Among others, these rules are integrated into the rules of engagement of the Force, which govern the use of force. In addition, in order to ensure that these rules for the protection of civilians are fully applied at the tactical level, a standard document on the summary of the rules of engagement and principles of international law was prepared with the purpose of annexing it to each Joint Force operational order. In the same context, the Soldier's Manual, a document containing the essential messages for the protection of civilians - easy to read and understand for the front-line infantryman - was also developed with the assistance of the Project.

Pillar 5: RETEX (After-action reviews) or an impact assessment of operations



- Two Retex were carried out in 2018 and 2019, allowing for a critical evaluation of FC-G5S military operations, focusing on the difficulties encountered as well as the concrete impact of operations carried out on the civilian populations.
- The Retex led to the identification of a series of concrete and necessary actions to improve future operations, and are the basis for a number of current Project actions, including in particular the contribution to operationalizing the FC-G5S Police Component to ensure the judicialisation of the FC-G5S' field of operations, and activities planned to improve relationships of trust and collaboration between the FC-G5S and the populations.

Pillar 6: Control mechanism and report on the conduct of operations



- In coordination with OHCHR, CIVIC is collaborating with the FC-G5S to establish the Civilian Damage Identification, Monitoring and Analysis Mechanism (CITAC or MISAD in French) within the FC-G5S. Following a series of consultations, in June 2020 the Force Commander officially established the CITAC and nominated personnel tasked with participating in its functioning going forward.

Pillar 7: Mechanisms and procedures for assigning responsibilities for human rights violations



- Supporting the operationalization of the Police Component of the FC-G5S through the development of its doctrine and training to guarantee the effective judicialisation of the field of operations of the FC-G5S.
- Supporting the preparation of instructions on the organization of internal investigations of the Joint Force in order to ensure accountability in cases of serious violations.
- Independent monitoring and follow-up by the Project on a day-to-day basis of incidents involving serious human rights violations across the five countries, in collaboration with independent sources. Several documented incidents are followed up with the Joint Force in order to establish responsibilities.
- Working with the Force on the establishment of a deconfliction mechanism that will allow for the exchange of information on violations committed by elements of the Force.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- *United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2391 (8 December 2017), 2423 (28 June 2018), 2480 (28 June 2019) and 2531 (2020)*
- *The Technical Arrangement concluded between the G5 Sahel, the European Union and the United Nations on 23 February 2018 in Brussels*

OHCHR MANDATE IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMPLIANCE FRAMEWORK PROJECT

- (1) *Provide technical support to the FC-G5S to implement the Compliance Framework*
- (2) *Strengthen the existing information monitoring and reporting framework to assess the impact of operations, commit to adjusting military operations, and address violations*
- (3) *Strengthen mechanisms as per the UN's Human Rights Due Diligence Policy as applicable to the FC-G5S*

¹ *From the French, "Retour d'expérience".*