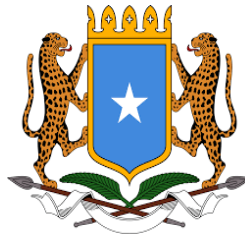


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جمهورية الصومال الفيدرالية
البعثة الدائمة لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Federal Republic of Somalia
Permanent Mission to the United Nations
New York

Statement by

H.E Mr. Abukar Dahir Osman
Ambassador Permanent Representative
of the Federal Republic of Somalia
to the United Nations
on Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023
at
“Briefing on Somalia”

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate and wish every success to the Maltese presidency of the Security Council. I also thank AU Special Representative and head of ATMIS Mr. Souef Mohamed El-Amine and Ms. Anita Kiki Gbeho, Deputy SRSG of UNSOM and Executive Director of UN-Women, Sima Bahous, for their briefing.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has further solidified his vision, underscoring a whole of government approach that places equal efforts in upholding state-building through an inclusive political settlement and long-term reconciliation process. The last few months has witnessed the achievement of many of FGS articulated priorities the political. Regular National Consultative meetings were held by the President to deepen federalism and enhance cooperation on state-building priorities. The successful conclusion of the reconciliation conference in Capital of SW, Baidoa from Jan 17 to Feb 5th is a true testament to the government’s inclusive engagement with all stakeholders to resolve outstanding issues and to build on and implement the agreements and outcomes of the NCC sessions. Somalia hosted neighboring countries Heads of States from Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Kenya in the historic Front Line States Summit in Mogadishu last month, in which they agreed to further strengthen bilateral security cooperation and final push in the regional effort to

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defeat international terrorism in Somalia. This is both timely, sensible and the only way to sustainably deliver peace and security to our region and continent given that we face a common threat. Somalia is truly grateful to all its international partners who are standing with us in solidarity in the fight against international terrorism at home.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Somali government is making demonstrable headway with its new comprehensive strategy of fighting Al-Shabaab militarily, financially, and ideologically. We have decided that enough is enough and that the international terrorist group Al-Khawarij must be comprehensively defeated once and for all.

The Somali government convened a conference in Mogadishu for more than 300 religious clerics in January this year. The clerics who came from across Somali regions and Diaspora have declared their support for the government's war against the Al-Shabaab terrorist group and ideologically challenge their violent extremism ideology.

Our people have answered our government's call to stand with us in the fight to liberate territories controlled by the terrorists' groups and they are now organically organizing and fighting alongside the Somali National Army and other security forces to make Somalia safer for their own future.

Since the last reporting period, our National Armed Forces have intensified its offensive operations against the terrorist group in the States of Galmudug and Hirshabeele and has dislodged it from many towns and villages. Despite the constrained logistical and financial resources, Somali Security Forces began to conduct clearance and target operations in Southwest State and Jubaland State. So far, all recent operations have been successful in all SNAF operational areas with critical Main Supply Routes and population centers liberated. Even though the implementation of the STP is a resource-intensive exercise, it is worth noting that the FGS has indeed successfully achieved at least 90% of the priorities and objectives outlined in the previous report that was submitted to the Council in October 2022.

Nonetheless, STP planned activities won't succeed unless the longstanding arms embargo on Somalia is fully lifted and the articulated international support is made available while restructured with proper alignment to the realities on the ground, including investment in quick impact projects in newly recovered areas.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Somalia have averted the looming famine last year. We thank donors and humanitarian agencies for their heed to their call of the Government in addressing humanitarian need of



the local population. In that regard, we stress the importance of the nexus between humanitarian and development assistance. It is crucial to work with FGS's long-term strategies that invests and support systemic transformation across long-term cycles. Furthermore, we stress utilizing country systems, which is an important component in building our state capacity to maintain security, foster economic stability and growth and deliver services. Bypassing country systems creates additional transaction costs for our government and may distract attention from the systems that govern the use of domestic resources, undermining accountability of the state.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In northern Somalia, we remain appalled by and condemn the aggression against the people of Lascaod, which have caused immeasurable human suffering, loss of life and large civilian displacement.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamed has called to put an immediate end to hostilities and to negotiate and lasting ceasefire. FGS stands ready to create the conditions for the start of an inclusive Somali owned national dialogue to resolve the conflict and thus creating the foundation for peace and stability throughout the country.

FGS underlines its duty to protect the Somali population and its responsibility to continue to provide substantial and ongoing humanitarian support to those affected by the conflict, in particular to women and children.

We call international partner to assist in immediately providing for safe, rapid, and unimpeded humanitarian access and make enabling humanitarian aid to be delivered to Lascaod population.

What is happening in Lascaod today is a crime against humanity and it is against the values of the Somali people.

There can be no impunity of indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure. Therefore, FGS is committed to investigate and hold perpetrators accountable.

