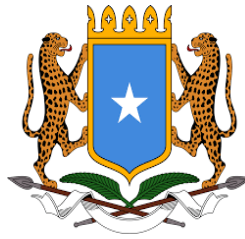


Jamhuuriyada Federalka Soomaaliya
Ergada Joogtada ah ee Qaramada
Midoobey - New York



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

جمهورية الصومال الفيدرالية
البعثة الدائمة لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Statement by

H.E Mr. Abukar Dahir Osman
Ambassador Permanent Representative
of the Federal Republic of Somalia
to the United Nations
on Thursday, October 19th, 2023
at
“Briefing on Somalia”

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin, Sir, to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month. I thank African Union’s Special Representative to Somalia, Mohammed El-Amine Souef and UN Special Representative of the Secretary General to Somalia for their briefing.

In the Council’s last meeting on Somalia, my President Dr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud highlighted the strides made by Somalia in months under his leadership. The government has actively worked towards consensus with Federal Member states and made important progress through the convening of six National Consultative Council meetings.

During these meetings, key agreements were reached on fiscal policies, electoral processes, and security arrangements. Reconciliation efforts in Galmudug and Southwest State have resulted in a renewed spirit of cooperation and unity. These agreements ensure that all stakeholders have a voice in the decision-making process going forward.

This unity of purpose has guided us as we strive to liberate areas, from al Shabab's control and combat terrorism that has afflicted our nation. The

Somali National Armed Forces, together with local communities and international partners, continue to conduct successful operations against Al-Shabaab leading to the recovery of many towns and villages. Since August 2022, over 600km of ground has been liberated. We remain vigilant, ensuring that the gains we have achieved are not reversed.

Despite the commendable success achieved in maintaining Phase 1 drawdown by the Somali Security Forces, it is imperative to recognize that the Forward Operating Bases earmarked for Phase 2 differed significantly. The unforeseen turn of events necessitated a thorough reorganization to ensure we maintain our momentum in countering the threat of Al-Shabaab. Before embarking on the next drawdown phase, comprehensive security planning for the population centers surrounding the Forward Operating Bases slated for collapse or handover is imperative. We firmly believe that such planning should be methodically tailored to suit the distinctive security dynamics of each area, ensuring a seamless security transition.

Excellencies, times have changed. So as Somalia. As President Mohamud passionately expressed, "Let me make it clear; Somalia, in 2023 is not the same as Somalia in 1992." It's crucial for the global community to acknowledge this transformation and the advancements we've made as well as the new realities on the ground. The ongoing enforcement of the arms embargo restricts Somali Armed Forces' capabilities. We call again to lift the arms embargo imposed on Somalia since 1992.

In addition to these considerations, we must also address the pressing logistical concerns and resource gaps confronting the Somali Security Forces. As the Somalia National Armed Forces undertakes increased responsibilities, there is an increasing demand for logistical support. While the existing logistics support is undeniably crucial, it falls short due to the ongoing escalated operational tempo in countering Al-Shabaab. During the technical pause, the Federal Government of Somalia, in conjunction with our partners, shall conduct a comprehensive reassessment of the operational needs of the Somalia National Armed Forces. This reassessment aims to essentially ensure

that our Armed Forces are endowed with the requisite financial and logistical resources to effectively pursue our transition priorities.

On the economic area, we have worked to fulfill the criteria and frameworks laid out by international institutions and by the end of this year, our nation's debt is in the process of being absolved. This is more than just a fiscal reset; it's a testament to our dedication to reform, governance, and macroeconomic stability. This brings me to the mandate of UNSOM, which is currently being negotiated by Council members.

It is imperative that the Special Political Mission UNSOM transition to United Nations Country Team presence to align with the reality of Somalia today not ten years ago and focus its efforts on assisting the FGS in its articulated long term development priorities.

On the situation in Northern Somalia, I'm pleased to report that situation in Laascaanood is calm, thanks to the tireless work of SSC-Khaatumo Administration, who have recently visited the Capital, Mogadishu. We welcome the establishment of SSC-Khaatumo interim administration and request from UNSOM and International Partners to follow FGS policy led by the Ministry of Interior, Federalism and Reconciliation in that regard. We are extending local governance to the newly established administration and addressing urgent humanitarian needs in Laascaanood. Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs, and Reconciliation is undertaking efforts to build the foundation for national reconciliation and peaceful dispute resolution in Laascaanood and surrounding SSC region.

In conclusion,

Our journey has been challenging but the tangible advancements have been witnessed across sectors demonstrate our resilience, determination, and the unwavering spirit of the Somali people. Through our combined efforts, we will overcome the threat posed by Al Shabab and moving closer to attaining sustainable peace and prosperity for Somalia.