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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**  
**305<sup>th</sup> MEETING**  
**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**  
**22 DECEMBER 2011**

**OPENING REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR RAMTANE LAMAMRA,  
COMMISSIONER FOR PEACE AND SECURITY**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Thank you all for attending this meeting which, I know, is not at the best convenience of all of us, holding as it is a Christmas eve. Please accept the AU's appreciation for your positive call to duty, Somalia going through an exceptional situation demanding an equally exceptional response.
- This briefing is an update of that presented to the PSC at its 302<sup>nd</sup> meeting on 2 December 2011. It is meant to facilitate discussion of the progress towards the completion of the new strategic concept for AMISOM in light of the overall political and security situation in Somalia.
- The peace process in Somalia is at a very critical stage. In the more than two decades of instability, the people of Somalia have for the very first time come close to ending the violence and rebuilding their lives. As such, it is important for Africa and the rest of the international community to use every available opportunity, such as this meeting, to review the evolving developments in Somalia and come up with new innovative ideas to find a lasting solution.
- There is no doubt that continued international engagement on Somalia and support to the Somalia Transitional Federal Institutions is vital for the success of the Djibouti peace process.
- So, I would like to brief PSC members and guests on the recent political developments in Somalia and on the dire humanitarian crisis, as well as on the security and military situation on the ground. I will also introduce the discussion about the ongoing strategic

planning efforts by the African Union and partners for the next phase of AMISOM operations in Somalia.

## **I. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS**

### **(a) Renewal of Momentum in the Peace Process**

- 1) The political process in Somalia has been anchored on the Transitional Federal Charter of 2004, the Djibouti Agreement of August 2008, and, in recent months, the Kampala Accord of June 2011 and the Transitional Roadmap of September 2011.

### **(b) Implementation of the Roadmap to End the Transition**

- 2) Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to report that the Somali stakeholders, including the Transitional Federal Government, the Transitional Federal Parliament, the regional entities of Puntland, Gal-mudug, and Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a, civil society organizations, women, and the business community have made substantial progress in the implementation of the Roadmap, although there have been some challenges and setbacks along the way:
  - i. By mid-November 2011, the TFG Cabinet had appointed a 21-member technical committee to oversee the Roadmap implementation. The committee is drawn from the transitional institutions, the regional administrations of Puntland and Galmudug, Ahlu Sunna wal Jama'a, and includes representatives of the international community (AU, IGAD, UN, EAC and League of Arab States). The Technical Committee provides monthly updates to the International Community Monitoring Group (ICMG) on progress and challenges in the Roadmap implementation process.
  - ii. The Joint Security Committee (JSC) which coordinates international support to the Somali security sector was expanded in October 2011 to include representatives of the regional entities. The JSC now meets regularly in Mogadishu, a demonstration of increased confidence about the improved security conditions in the capital.
  - iii. The National Security and Stabilization Plan (NSSP) was approved by the TFG Cabinet in October 2011, after consultations with the regional entities, and submitted to Parliament for adoption. A conference on prioritizing and costing of the NSSP was held in Kenya last week, and the recommendations will be reviewed by the JSC at its next meeting.
  - iv. In an effort towards inclusivity and broader participation, a consultative conference of Somali Civil Society Organizations convened successfully in Mogadishu in November 2011 and defined the important role of civil society in the Roadmap implementation process,
  - v. Preparations for a National Consultative Conference were finalized and the Conference began on 21 December 2011 in Garowe, Puntland, for Somali stakeholders to discuss the Draft Constitution. A nine-member Committee of Experts on the Draft Constitution (which includes 3 women) was formed by the TFG. The Committee is overseeing the consultative process in coordination with the Independent Federal Constitution Committee that prepared the draft. AU, UN, IGAD and other members of the international community are serving as facilitators.

- vi. The Committee on Parliamentary Reforms has completed a progress report with a set of recommendations, including a proposal to reduce the size of the current 550-member assembly by 50 percent.
  - vii. In November 2011, the Council of Ministers appointed a Cabinet Select Committee on Election Preparation. The Committee is tasked to deliver, by 15 January 2012, draft legislation related to the establishment of an independent electoral commission, the rules governing the conduct of elections at district, regional and national level, and the laws related to the formation and registration of political parties.
- 3) Despite this encouraging trend in the Roadmap implementation process, it is well recognized by the Somali stakeholders and international partners that a lot more needs to be done. Already, some of the deadlines have been missed, and mobilization of resources remains a major challenge. With the end of the transition is merely eight (8) months away, there is an urgent need for to keep the process on track and accelerate the implementation of core task.

## **II. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION**

- 4) The humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa, particularly Somalia, remains the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. In Somalia alone, up to four million people, representing a third of the population, are in need of urgent humanitarian aid. Drought, famine, diseases, and mass displacement are among the humanitarian challenges confronting the Somali population. This situation is exacerbated by the persistent obstruction, by Al Shabaab and other armed militias, of humanitarian access to the needy population. There are presently more than 600,000 refugees in Kenya with the bulk of them Somalis. Aid agencies are predicting that the situation is expected to even worsen in 2012 and have launched a consolidated appeal of \$1.5 billion for humanitarian operation in the coming year.
- 5) Seriously concerned about the humanitarian crisis in the Horn, the AU Commission has actively engaged the international community to respond appropriately to the plight of the Somali people. The Commission has mobilized resources, on the continent as well as from other friends of Somalia, to respond to the humanitarian crisis. In this regard, the Commission took the initiative to convene a Pledging Conference, in Addis Ababa, on 25 August 2011, to mobilize resources for the victims of famine in Somalia and elsewhere in the Horn. More than US\$ 350 million dollars was mobilized and an additional \$28 million pledged 'in kind' assistance. Many more generous contributions were also made by a large number of partners.
- 6) Much as the humanitarian response by the international community has helped mitigate the sufferings of the Somali population, the current humanitarian needs in Somalia are still enormous and eclipse the available funding. In this context, I would like to reiterate the repeated calls by the African Union for the international community to accelerate efforts to fill the gap in funding for humanitarian operations in Somalia and other countries of the Horn, and to renew their commitment and support for medium- and long-term strategies for food security on the continent. It is to be noted that a number of humanitarian operations in Somalia have been restricted by security factors.

### **III. SECURITY AND MILITARY SITUATION**

- 7) Since mid-2011, there have been significant improvements in the overall security situation in Somalia. On 6 August 2011, strong pressure from the TFG and AMISOM forces compelled Al Shabaab extremists to withdraw from almost all of the capital Mogadishu. The TFG and AMISOM now control about 98 percent of the capital Mogadishu.
- 8) The remaining pockets of Al Shabaab extremists have now resorted to asymmetrical warfare, including increased suicide, grenade, mortar and IED attacks targeting AMISOM, TFG and defenseless civilians. AMISOM military is working closely with the TFG security authorities to further stabilize the newly liberated areas which have seen an influx of the Somali population confident of the increased security. Elsewhere in the country, TFG forces and pro-TFG militias, including Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a, have increased pressure on Al Shabaab and Hizbul Islam insurgents in the Hiran, Galgadud, Bay and Bakool, Gedo and Lower Jubba regions.
- 9) In October 2011, following series of kidnappings on Kenyan territory by suspected Al Shabaab militants from across the border in Somalia, Kenya deployed troops into Somalia. Two months down the line, the Kenyan military initiative has already contributed to weakening Al Shabaab extremists in the Middle and Lower Jubba and Gedo regions. Kenya and Somalia have since signed cooperation pacts under which the two neighboring countries have agreed to coordinate their security operations around the common objective of defeating Al Shabaab, which is recognized as a threat to regional stability and economic development.
- 10) The AU, IGAD, EAC, UN, and several other international actors have all welcomed these positive developments and emphasized the need to take full advantage of the situation to further deprive Al Shabaab of human and financial resources, expand the TFG administrative presence, and facilitate the implementation of the Roadmap.

### **IV. UPDATE ON SUPPORT AND MILITARY PLANNING**

- 11) In light of these latest developments, the Ministers of Defence of AMISOM Troop Contributing Countries and other interested countries met at AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa on 14 November 2011 to discuss the various options for consolidation, coordination and expansion of AMISOM operations in Somalia. Those discussions were informed by proposals submitted by the Chiefs of Defence (CDS) Staff of Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, who had earlier held series of technical consultations on 5 and 12 November 2011.
- 12) The decisions of the Defense Ministers' meeting were considered by the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its 19<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Summit in Addis Ababa, on 25 November 2011. The IGAD Assembly welcomed the joint security operation by Kenya Defense Forces (KDF) and TFG forces, and emphasized the need for regional solidarity and enhanced coordination between AMISOM, TFG forces, and KDF in order to successfully defeat Al Shabaab. The IGAD Assembly also called upon the Ethiopian Government to support the Kenyan, TFG and AMISOM operations, and further called upon Kenya to

consider the prospects of integrating its forces in AMISOM and to help consolidate security and stability in Somalia.

- 13) The AU Peace and Security Council (PSC), at its 298<sup>th</sup> Meeting of 17 November 2011, stressed the need for the Somali stakeholders to fully and timely honour their commitments under the Kampala Accord and the Political Roadmap, so that the political and military aspects of the ongoing efforts progress in tandem. In this respect, Council called for continued and closer collaboration among the AU Special Representative for Somalia, the IGAD Facilitator and the UN Special Representative.
- 14) As a follow up to those important decisions of IGAD and the African Union, a meeting of technical experts convened in Addis Ababa from 24 to 25 November 2011 and developed a draft Strategic Concept for the way forward. To this end, the Chiefs of Defence met on 2 December 2011 to consider the draft. At the end of their deliberations, they requested that further planning be conducted, including field visits to the areas of operations (AOR). At its 302<sup>nd</sup> meeting held the same day, the PSC endorsed a number of important recommendations and issued guidance for the refining and finalizing of the new strategic concept
- 15) In this context, a Technical Assessment Mission (TAM) was constituted, comprising experts from AU, AMISOM, United Nations, AMISOM TCCs and other interested countries. The Working Group has since been engaged in series of planning activities in Addis Ababa, Nairobi and Mogadishu. The most recent technical meeting, held in Nairobi from 16 to 17 December 2011, discussed options under consolidation, expansion and coordination. Brigadier General Baburam will be making a power point presentation on the outcomes of the TAM.
- 16) In the next stage of technical work, an assessment team undertook a field visit to the current Area of Operations of Kenya Defense Forces inside Somalia. Another team was dispatched to Mogadishu for a similar assessment to further inform the planning process.
- 17) Thereafter, the Strategic Concept was submitted to the AU leadership for consideration as a general framework within which a number of key instruments, such as a new concept of operation, a logistics concept, new rules of engagement, will soon be formulated.
- 18) In this regard, Your Excellencies, Members of the Council, I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the cooperation that the AU has so far received from all partners in the on-going process relating to the Strategic Concept for AMISOM. I would hope that similar cooperation would be forthcoming from partners and donors, once the document is adopted, to mobilize the required resources for its operationalization.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

- 19) In conclusion, I want to re-emphasize that recent positive developments in Somalia provide much encouragement that peace is finally around the corner. Nonetheless, it is important that the people of Somalia, with support of the international community, build upon the current momentum to realize lasting peace and stability.

**I thank You.**