

High Level Committee

Terms of Reference

Background

1. The Somali Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia reached an Agreement after discussions on 9 June 2008 in Djibouti. The Agreement calls for the establishment of a High Level Committee (HLC). This Committee will work to address “issues relating to the political cooperation between the Parties, Justice and Reconciliation” in conjunction with the United Nations.

Mandate

2. On the basis of the Agreement the High Level Committee (HLC) has the mandate to work on the implementation of the Agreement as stipulated in Article 9:

"A High Level Committee, chaired by the UN, should be established within fifteen (15) days of the signing of this Agreement to follow up on issues relating to the political cooperation between the Parties and concerns over Justice and Reconciliation. These issues will be discussed at a conference to be organized by 30 July 2008."

3. The mandate of the HLC shall expire on 30 November 2009.

Responsibilities

4. The Committee shall be responsible, inter-alia, for:
- Establishing liaison between the parties for the purpose of addressing cooperation on political issues in a peaceful manner;
 - Finding appropriate, peaceful solutions for the full implementation of the Djibouti Agreement;
 - Addressing at an appropriate time issues of Justice and Reconciliation in Somalia;
 - Establishing a national mechanism for humanitarian access and assistance;

- Undertaking jointly any other activities relating to improving confidence among the Somali people.

Composition

5. Chaired by the United Nations, the Committee shall consist of an agreed equal number of representatives, not higher than 15, from the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and from the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS). Each Party shall designate the head of its delegation and respective members. All delegates shall be fully committed to peacefully achieving the mandate of the HLC.

Decision Making

6. The Committee is empowered to take decisions by consensus. In case of a vote, the Chair has the casting vote. These decisions shall be approved by the decision-making bodies of the Parties.

Meetings

7. Initially, the meetings of the HLC will be held every month for two to three days in either Djibouti or Nairobi and in Somalia when appropriate. The Chair may call an extraordinary meeting when necessary.

8. The HLC may establish sub-committees to help prepare its work between sessions.

9. Any amendment to these Terms of Reference is subject to the agreement of the two Parties.

18 August 2008