



Jamhuuriyada Soomaaliya
Ergada Joogtada ah ee Qaramada Midoobay

Permanent Mission of the Somali
Republic to the United Nations

Security Council Meeting on Somalia

Statement

by

**H.E. Mohamed Abdulahi Mohamed
Prime Minister of Somalia**

Thursday, 10 March 2011

Mr. President, Honorable Minister, and Distinguished Ambassadors,

It gives me a great pleasure to appear before this eminent body today and report to you the success the Transitional Federal Institutions including my Government have achieved during our first 100 days in office and the challenges ahead as we bring to a close the seventh year of the Transitional Federal System of governance in our nation. I come here before you today to give you an update on the progress we made, the challenges we face, and the strategies we hope to employ to mitigate these challenges.

Mr. President and Distinguished members of the Security Council,

As I mentioned in January and stipulated in the roadmap, my government's five main priorities are improving security, enhancing reconciliation, completing the transitional tasks (including the completion of our constitutional process), addressing humanitarian crises, and promoting good governance.

Mr. President,

let me begin by offering my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation on the ongoing support of the United Nations, the African Union (AU) and the International community to Somalia. This unwavering support is critical to our efforts to rid Somalia off of its sworn enemy-Alshabab, which is part of the vast global terrorist network. In particular, we are exceptionally grateful to the young men and women making up the AU troops hailing from Uganda and Burundi who have and are sacrificing their lives for Somalia. We salute and mourn those who gave the ultimate price and we are eternally grateful for their priceless sacrifice.

Mr. President,

Let me state in no uncertain terms that my Government is your committed and credible partner to defeat our two common enemies namely, Alshabab and lawlessness (i.e. piracy). Our troops and AMISOM forces are currently making tangible progress in reclaiming large territory from the enemy throughout the country including the nation's capital, Mogadishu, and its surroundings as shown in the enclosed map. As we mobilize the Somali people behind these security successes and forge ahead on our explicit roadmap in the next few months, we are confident that we will meet our objectives in bringing most of Southern Somalia under the TFG. It is our view that in meeting this objective we will be that much closer to attaining the transitional tasks set out in our Federal charter.

Mr. President,

We are in the first line of defense against two evils, the scourge of piracy and the plague of terrorism. We need to defeat these at their source and this needs cooperation and collaboration between us and the international community. Fighting these twin evils needs moral fortitude and a strong political will from us, the Somalis, and a strong commitment and support from the international community. We have to understand that the root cause and the breeding ground of both terrorism and piracy is lawlessness coupled with poverty and unemployment and soaked with fanaticism and religious indoctrination.

Mr. President,

We have recently seen the human face of piracy when four innocent Americans were killed by ruthless pirates. Our heart goes to their loved ones. The scourge of piracy cannot be defeated in the high seas. Its solution lies with bringing back the rule of law to Somalia and helping the coastal communities develop alternative means of livelihood. Moreover, not only are these two ills working in tandem, but they are learning from each other. It will not surprise us if Alqaida's agents in Somalia start hijacking tankers in the high seas and use them as deadly weapons as they did it in September 2011. Why bother with a small plane when you can capture a tanker?

Mr. President,

During the past 100 days, my new Government comprising eighteen Ministers of able technocrats from within and outside the country is changing the political landscape and is earning the respect of our citizens and our partners in the international community. We are fully and forcefully engaged in implementing good governance to improve our capacity and to realize our national roadmap including the following:

- 1) **Accountability and transparency in financial management:** We have established for the first time measures that will enhance the collection of public revenues from both the seaport and the airport of Mogadishu, the two main revenue generating Government service in the public sector and the distribution of public funds. Since then public revenue collections have improved significantly in line with the annual state budget for 2011 as approved by Parliament and the audited accounts of 2010 which have been submitted to our international partners.
- 2) **Anti-corruption Taskforce:** With twenty plus years of statelessness, corruption in Somalia became endemic and pilfering of public funds became a shameless activity. Given this, the anti-corruption taskforce is an essential and necessary deterrent measure to end the abuse and the misuse of public funds, goods and property. Members of my cabinet and I are the first signatories of this anti-corruption rules and procedures so as to send a message that this Government has a zero tolerance policy on corruption and the appalling practices of the past.
- 3) **Service Delivery:** To enhance service delivery it is essential to empower and rebuild the capacity of Government institutions so as to reach our citizens. Some of the successes achieved in this regard include those for public safety and security, new or improved public health services, opening new schools, new nighttime street lights, waste collection and cleaning and garbage collection services;
- 4) **Security Sector:** With improved street lighting and police patrols day and night, the Government controlled areas in Mogadishu are a lot safer as indicated by the growing nightlife in the streets. Another critical component in our security strategy is the ongoing reform of the services. These reform efforts are focused in providing the necessary logistics, tools and equipment as well as salaries paid on time. Mr. President, let me emphasize the urgent need to deploy the additional

4,000 AU troops approved by the Security Council to reinforce the efforts to bring peace and stability. An equally important priority for my government is the establishment of a credible and effective Disarmament, Demobilization and Rehabilitation (DDR) program. After twenty years of continuous conflict, many of our youth have not witnessed peaceful co-existence throughout their lifetime. Restoring their faith in society and Government and reintegrating them back into their communities is a long term task that we must initiate immediately. We have devised the means to welcome and assist a rising number of youth defectors from the ranks of Alshabab. To that end, we are also searching for effective means to counter the soul-destroying radicalization efforts of the insurgent groups, not just in Somalia but in Diaspora communities around the world. This is absolutely critical if we are to win the hearts and minds of our youth and secure their future.

- 5) **Constitutional Development Process:** In our quest to reform the TFG model, we have undertaken with our international partners a process that has produced a draft constitution. To expedite this further, we have now in place an independent constitutional commission, a parliamentary constitutional committee and a cabinet level Ministry that are hard at work in coordinating and finalizing the draft constitution and achieving the consensus necessary within the TFI's and the Somali public.
- 6) **Reconciliation and Outreach:** We all agree that that reconciliation and conflict resolution at the local, regional and national levels is the cornerstone for peace and security in our nation. In that spirit my Government continues to engage and facilitate the resolution of conflict through dialogue and peaceful means. This is evidenced by the achievements of the two cabinet led missions to the central regions in the last one hundred days. The first resolved the hot war between two clans in Galmudug and Puntland and the second between clans in Galmudug and Himin and Heeb. Secondly our agreement with Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a (ASWJ) is holding firm and is being implemented; and they will continue to be part and parcel of the current Government. Let me highlight again that ASWJ and TFG forces are jointly conducting security operations in many parts of the country with successful outcome.
- 7) **Humanitarian Assistance:** With the expanding security operations and a debilitating draught across the country, there is a major increase in the number of IDPs. In Mogadishu alone up to 80,000 IDP's have moved into government controlled areas. We appeal to you for urgent medical and food assistance to help the IDP's. On our part, in addition to the port and airport facilities in Mogadishu, we are opening up new corridors along our borders particularly in the central and southern parts of the country.

As is clear from the above summary of our roadmap, my cabinet and I have the will and commitment to rebuild the institutions of state so as to meet the basic requirements of our citizens.

Mr. President, we are winning the hearts and the minds of the Somali population. A recent study conducted by Mogadishu Media House, an independent local media organization released this month shows that 75% of people surveyed in Mogadishu indicated strong displeasure with Alshabab and their

extremist ideology. Of the participants 70% recognized that the TFG is making a great effort in reaching out to the regions and the opposition groups. And finally, 75% rated AMISOM and AU forces as friends of the Somali people. This is clearly a far cry from where the general public view was only a few months earlier.

On Transitional Issues:

Mr. President, the transitional period will end on August 20th, 2011. Although the seven year term of the current TFG has had its ups and downs, some progress has been achieved. Nonetheless, I am here before you today to underpin our ongoing consultations as partners with common interests in reaching a consensus on the post transitional framework.

First and foremost, as confirmed by the cabinet meeting on March 7, 2011 in Mogadishu, the executive branch has approved and adopted the following:

- 1) The formal closure of the TFG term in accordance with the charter on the 20th of August 2011;
- 2) The election of the Speaker and Deputies to be held in July 2011
- 3) The election of the President to be held in August 2011
- 4) The new government should be given ample time to fulfill the remaining transitional tasks including the ratification of the constitution and the establishment of the election commission
- 5) Parliamentary reform to commence immediately in line with the ongoing reform of the executive branch and the security sector
- 6) A caretaker Government is appointed by the new leadership to move the country to permanent statehood.

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me reaffirm our commitment to our people and to you. I state before you that we will regain our land, our identity and our dignity from the extremists. We will not compromise the interests of our nation or the future of our children. We will do what it takes to regain our status as a state that protects its borders from enemies, foreign and domestic, ends all forms of international piracy, protects its citizens, and produces a nation at peace with itself, and its neighbors.

Thank you and May God Bless.