

**Statement by SRSg Mahiga to the AUPSC
on Tuesday, 16 August 2011**

Madam Chairperson,

Allow me to congratulate you for being the current Chairperson of the African Union Peace and Security Council. I also thank the previous speakers for their opening remarks.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to brief members of the African Union Peace and Security Council on the latest developments in the Somalia peace process. At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the AUPSC for its pivotal support to the peace process in Somalia. I pay tribute to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and its personnel who have paid the ultimate price for peace.

I take this opportunity to highlight the close cooperation between and common purpose of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in pursuing the cause of peace in Somalia. In this regard, I would like to pay warm tribute to the role of SRCC Diarra, that of the AU High Representative, President Rawlings, and the IGAD facilitator Mr. Kirwa on the political front. Their efforts were critical in achieving the Roadmap. I look forward to working with them also in implementing this Road Map once it has been endorsed by the Consultative Meeting to be held in Somalia in early September.

The signing on 9 June 2011 of the Kampala Accord by President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan, Speaker of the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP), heralded a new phase in the peace process. The Accord ended a long-running stalemate between the Executive and the Legislature on the way forward, particularly their agreement to differ the holding of elections of the President, Speaker and his deputies by one year beginning 21 August 2011.

By deferring the elections for one year and providing for the establishment of a road-map with benchmarks, timelines and compliance mechanisms for the implementation of priority transitional tasks, among other things, the Kampala Accord has set us on a solid footing in the peace process. The Accord brings in the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority for

Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC) as integral partners in the implementation of the Accord and also provides procedural safeguards to stabilize the TFIs during the one year period.

I would like to praise the role played by President Museveni in achieving the Kampala Accord as well as his role as its guarantor. The Accord envisages the establishment of a Political Initiative comprising the Heads of States of the Region (IGAD and EAC) as well as the AU and UNPOS. This Initiative will oversee and monitor the compliance with regard to the implementation of the Road Map in a timely fashion. I look forward to the early operationalization of the Regional Initiative.

The timely manner in which the first part of the Accord has been implemented at this stage is encouraging, indeed. In a show of statesmanship, former Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed resigned his post on 19 June, twenty days ahead of the deadline provided for in the Accord. His successor, Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed, was overwhelmingly endorsed by Parliament on 28 June, five days after his appointment by President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed.

On 11 July, the Parliament overwhelmingly endorsed the Kampala Accord. On 20 July 2011, this move also reduced the previous self-extension to Parliament to one year. The new Prime Minister appointed a new Cabinet of 18 ministers, following broad-based consultations with communities and political stakeholders. The Cabinet was approved by the Parliament on 23 July and sworn in five days later. All of these developments have taken place within the time-lines stipulated in the Accord. It has been a remarkable demonstration of the much needed new spirit of cooperation and partnership between the President and the Speaker and between Parliament and the Executive. The current prevailing political atmosphere in Mogadishu augurs well for the implementation of the second part of the Kampala Accord.

Madam Chairperson,

As you are well aware, I had the opportunity to brief the Security Council on recent developments last Thursday. I am encouraged by the member states' commitment to the Kampala Accord and their readiness to address urgently the dire humanitarian situation in Somalia and the Horn of Africa as a whole.

We are about to begin the substantive work in the peace process: the implementation of the Road-map, which outlines key tasks to be accomplished within the one year ahead of us. The implementation phase begins with the adoption of the Road-map at a Consultative Meeting in Somalia on Ending the Transition, which will be held in from 4 to 6 September 2011. The Meeting will include the TFIs, local and regional administrations and other Somali stakeholders. The Preparatory Committee, chaired by UNPOS but includes AMISOM is in the process of completing its work. The adoption of the Road-map will give the people of Somalia much-needed ownership of the Roadmap and a stake in its implementation.

The Security Council has firmly stated that there is a need to engage constructively and responsibly in this meeting and stressed the importance of agreeing the road map in a timely manner. The Council also noted that future support to the Transitional Federal Institutions would be contingent upon completion of the tasks in the road map.

The signing of the Kampala Accord is an important step in the peace process. However, we must leave nothing to chance. The unequivocal support and oversight of the African Union, IGAD, the East African Community and the rest of the international community is critical. Similarly crucial is the need for the international community to provide necessary resources for the implementation of the Road-map. We must not allow the process to falter. We must all make sure that the priority benchmarks in the Roadmap are implemented and that there are consequences for willful obstruction or procrastination. Now that the security situation on the ground is improving and the whole world is seized with the humanitarian situation, there should be no excuse for not implementing the Roadmap.

Madam Chairperson,

The recent and unexpected withdrawal from Mogadishu of the extremist Al-Shabaab insurgent group has opened up a considerable opportunity in the peace process and an immediate injection of resources to the various players on the ground is of vital importance.

The insurgents' sudden withdrawal from Mogadishu has compelled us both in the international community and the TFIs to revise our plans from a longer-term perspective to those immediate measures intended to safeguard the territorial gains. Of immediate concern is the need to avoid a vacuum in the areas vacated by the insurgents. To

ensure the protection of civilians basic administrative structures and law and order enforcement measures must be put in place as a matter of urgency to avoid warlords and their militias from taking advantage of the situation.

Although Al-Shabaab has described the retreat as a tactical manoeuvre following which it will wage a different kind of war, the truth remains that Al-Shabaab has retreated from Mogadishu. I would like to pay tribute to the forces of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the TFG, as well as those allied to it. The withdrawal by Al-Shabaab is a culmination of steady pressure these forces have steadily brought to bear on the insurgents.

While the withdrawal of the insurgents from the capital is positive, we must remain fully aware that we have not yet won the war in Mogadishu. Al-Shabaab is likely to employ asymmetrical, hit-and-run terrorist tactics, such as suicide bombings. Indications are that some of the insurgents simply 'melted away' by mingling with the residents of Mogadishu. These remnants of the insurgency, therefore, present a continuous challenge.

I am pleased to inform the Council that the TFG's National Security Council (NSC) met last week and developed a "Mogadishu Security Plan", by which the Government is defining its priorities as well as its resource requirements. The NSC decided that the Somali Police Force (SPF) will occupy the areas vacated by the insurgents. Additional international efforts and funding to speed up building the capacity of the Police are therefore critical. Separately, steps are being taken to accelerate the adoption of the National Security and Stabilization Plan, which will be incorporated in the Roadmap.

As the Somali police deploys in the recently recovered areas, also the deployment of AMISOM police personnel and equipment must be expedited and if possible be augmented, so that they complement the efforts of the Somali police in filling the vacuum.

In UNPOS, we are revising our planning assumptions from a time-frame of 18 months to the immediate. We are now planning for an expanded UN presence inside Somalia, rather than a 'light footprint'. The enhanced presence of the United Nations civilian personnel in Mogadishu will need an additional protection force.

When I briefed the Security Council I stressed the immediate imperative to augment the resources and enhance the capabilities of AMISOM, in particular the key

enablers such as logistics, engineers, aviation and unexploded ordinance disposal. In addition, the swift deployment of the outstanding 3000 AMISOM troops along with appropriate equipment and enhanced capabilities is critical to consolidate recent gains on the ground. I have urged the Security Council, in my briefing last week, to help with expediting their deployment.

I commend the deployment of the AU civilian component which began even before the withdrawal of Al-Shabaab. We in UNPOS have also begun to establish our presence, which will be significantly augmented in the months to come. I have also urged the Council to consider the deployment of a separate guard force, under AMISOM command, to protect the expanding UN and international presence in Mogadishu. This is the same request I put before you as well.

Unfortunately, significant gaps in the UN support package to AMISOM still exist. I have repeated my appeal to the Security Council to consider expanding the support package for AMISOM to cover some of the critical categories of self-sustainment. This is particularly important as the AMISOM Force Commander faces a dilemma over the deployment of his forces to a much larger area of operation without the key enablers and the mandated additional forces.

Madam Chairperson,

The ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa, which has resulted from the ongoing drought, has reached dramatic dimensions. The situation in Somalia is so critical that it has triggered a population displacement, as people move within the country and across the borders in search of food and other basic amenities for survival. Three new regions have recently been declared as famine areas, and other regions are on the verge of following suit. Ongoing fighting has compounded the situation by either blocking or disrupting humanitarian assistance delivery services.

On 25 June, I participated in a high-level ministerial meeting on the humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa, which the Food and Agriculture Organization hosted in Rome, Italy. The outpouring of support for the victims of the drought and the pledges made during the meeting were very encouraging and will be followed-up urgently in order to address the immediate humanitarian needs of the affected population. The Deputy Secretary-General will participate in the upcoming AU sponsored pledging conference on 25 August next week.

There will be also be another pledging conference for NGOs in the Gulf in early September and another one on the margins of the General Assembly in New York on 24 September 2011. We must continue to work together for the benefit of all Somalis.

Thank you.