

**Statement to the Security Council**  
**Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga,**  
**Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia**  
**New York, 14 September 2011**

Mr. President,

Please accept my congratulations on your assumption of the Presidency of the Security Council on behalf of your country, Lebanon. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the presence of the Prime Minister of Somalia, H.E. Abdiweli Mohammed Ali and the Speaker of the Transitional Federal Parliament, Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present the Report of the Secretary-General to the Council on the latest developments in the Somalia peace process. At the outset, I would like to pay tribute to this Council for its continued support to the peace process in Somalia. Since I last briefed the Council on 10 August from Mogadishu, there have been positive developments in Somalia, even as difficult times still lie ahead.

Let me begin with the humanitarian crisis which is still hitting the world headlines. On 5 September, a sixth district in Bay Region was declared a famine zone. It is in the area controlled by Al-Shabaab, and more people are at immediate risk. Assistance is now coming in from the international community. The African Union held its first ever pledging conference on 25 August 2011 and raised USD \$350 million in cash and kind, but more is needed to cover the next five months. The moral authority of this Council and the whole international community needs to be brought to bear to facilitate life-saving assistance in the famine-stricken areas of Somalia and to address the whole challenge of drought in the Horn of Africa.

On the political side, the peace process has just taken a great step forward - the game has fundamentally changed. In the spirit of the Transitional Charter and the Djibouti Agreement, the long-awaited Consultative Meeting on Ending the Transition in Somalia convened successfully in Mogadishu from 4 to 6 September. Holding the Meeting in Mogadishu was itself a notable achievement, testimony to the much improved security situation in the capital. Two months ago, the Islamist insurgency group Al-Shabaab held much of Mogadishu and threatened the rest. A week ago we held a meeting with all stakeholders at the Somali Parliament building in the heart of downtown Mogadishu. The situation remains tenuous and unstable, but I want to take a moment here to pause and pay tribute to the contribution of the African Union forces in Mogadishu and their Somali allies, the Transitional Federal Government forces whose sacrifices have made this sea change in Mogadishu possible.

Mr. President,

Let me be frank: the meeting in Mogadishu was a milestone in the peace process, but the light the Roadmap now sheds on our path forward shows clearly just how far we have to go. We have now officially launched the implementation of the transitional tasks which are to be completed in the next eleven months. This offers a

real opportunity to end the transition in a responsible and productive manner. It is different from previous efforts because this time there is a broad-based consensus and political commitment to end the transition. In addition, there are agreed upon benchmarks and timelines to be fulfilled. In UNPOS we have established a dedicated unit to manage the implementation mechanisms. The implementation will be undertaken under the close supervision of the monitoring mechanisms, both regional and international in composition.

The Consultative Meeting brought together high-level representatives of the Transitional Federal Institutions, the regional states of Puntland, Galmudug, as well as Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a, and most international partners. A follow-up meeting which will include a wide cross-section of civil society groups will be held in another location inside Somalia next month.

The constructive atmosphere also enabled UNPOS to facilitate an agreement between the regional states of Puntland and Galmudug after days of fighting at the common border in Galkacyo. The meeting immediately followed Somali Transitional Federal Government President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed's historic trip to Puntland on 28 August. It is our hope that the groundbreaking visit will herald a new chapter in relations between the Transitional Federal Government and regional administrations and set a positive tone for national reconciliation and improved outreach with a wide range of other entities and individuals across Somali civil society, both inside the country as well as in the Diaspora. This issue will be further discussed and reflected in the next constitutional consultations.

In my political advocacy for a more inclusive peace process, I have been reiterating the Statement of this Council of 11 May 2011 that those groups and individuals in the armed opposition should renounce violence and join the peace process. The changing security dynamic may help us in this regard.

Mr. President,

As we move forward on Road-map implementation, the international community must redouble its engagement and strike that most delicate of balances between inducement and compellance. Here I need to be crystal clear: the benchmarks and timelines enshrined in the Road-map will simply not be realized in the absence of the commensurate resources. Those providing oversight must play their role effectively to ensure that the implementation is done on schedule and we are looking into a range of measures to be invoked in case of non-compliance. I have consistently reminded the leadership that future assistance will be contingent upon the timely implementation of the Road-map. Ultimately, though, the Somalis need our assistance right now. The international community must immediately provide resources to the Transitional Federal Institutions and other implementing partners in order to ensure that we capitalize on the substantial political investment that has earned us all this moment of optimism and hope.

Mr. President,

The improvement in the security situation in Mogadishu is an important step towards stabilizing all of Somalia. Security is a central element of the Road-map, as a

secure environment is a precursor to the effective implementation of the other transitional tasks.

The withdrawal of Al-Shabaab from Mogadishu has offered the Government an opportunity to expand territory under its control and enhance its legitimacy by delivering services to its population. We must prevent warlords from re-emerging in Mogadishu by not allowing a security vacuum to develop. The prospect of peace and stability in Mogadishu has also attracted four hundred thousand internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing Somalia's drought-stricken areas under Al-Shabaab control. This is creating additional pressure on the still-fragile Government to provide security and support for the new arrivals. Added to this challenge is the security threat posed by the extremists who are resorting to terrorist tactics. AMISOM and the Government forces must be equipped to respond to this new threat. This will require agility, enhanced mobility, expanded surveillance and a greater tactical capability around Mogadishu and beyond. And the military plan must be accompanied by a civilian strategy to stabilize and rehabilitate Mogadishu. Together with the Transitional Federal Government and the United Nations Country Team, we have prepared the Mogadishu Stabilization Plan which requires an initial funding of USD \$5 Million. Somalis must see a tangible difference between their lives under governmental authority and their lives under Al-Shabaab.

Mr. President,

As I pay tribute to the African Union and AMISOM, I wish to recognize the presence of the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Ambassador Boubacar Diarra, and introduce the new Force Commander, General Fred Mugisha, whose dedicated leadership I also commend.

I would again like to take this opportunity to commend the Governments of Burundi and Uganda for their continued and unflinching support to AMISOM and their readiness to provide additional troops to reach the authorized strength of 12,000.

Mr. President,

The Report of the Secretary-General expresses support for the rapid deployment of a guard force as part of AMISOM. This force would provide protection for AMISOM civilians as well as UN personnel and assets, relieving pressure on the main AMISOM force and enabling it focus on its core mandate. The guard force is essential to enable my Office to facilitate the effective implementation of the Roadmap. I would, therefore, welcome the Council's support in this regard. UNPOS and UNSOA are ready to expedite the deployment of staff to Somalia, especially in Mogadishu, accommodation and logistical support is made available.

Mr. President,

As I said at the outset, this is a remarkable moment for Somalia. The situation remains fragile and dangerous but we have a golden opportunity to end the transition and stabilize Somalia. I appeal to the Council to send an unequivocal message of encouragement to the Somali leadership while simultaneously putting them on notice that there can be no return to political bickering. There will be no more extensions and

we must all work together to end the transitional period by August 2012. The seeds of hope and progress have begun to sprout, but they will need to be carefully and generously nurtured if they are to bloom into sustainable peace.

Thank you, Mr. President.