

Statement by

Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia

to the

United Nations Security Council

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Mister President,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to present the latest report of the Secretary-General and to provide additional briefing to the Council. I thank the Council for its continued support to me and to the United Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS). I also recognize the presence of His Excellency Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, President of the Republic of Somalia, who is here to address the Council before the end of the transition in Somalia. I also thank the President and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia for the excellent working relations we have maintained in Mogadishu.

Constitution-making process

Mister President,

We are entering the most critical stage in ending the transition in Somalia by August 2012. We have made considerable advances in preparing for the end-state. We have taken significant steps in the constitution-making process for Somalia, as required by both the Mbagathi and Djibouti Agreements. The draft Constitution will be tabled before the Principals, pending its submission to a National Constituent Assembly for provisional adoption. This is essential for ending the transition and sets the stage for further deliberation on the Constitution in the post-August period, followed by a referendum to approve the final Constitution.

At the same time, we have brought together, in Mogadishu, a group of 135 Traditional Elders who will select 825 members of the National Constituent Assembly, in line with the traditional system of 4.5 clan representation. In the absence of direct elections, the Traditional Elders are the basis of legitimacy for the Constituent Assembly.

The Elders, who have been brought from all over Somalia, including the newly-recovered areas, are a symbol of national unity and commitment to ending the transition. The Elders will, furthermore, dissolve the current Parliament and proceed to select members of a new, leaner Parliament, on more merit-based criteria. The new Parliament will proceed to give us a new political leadership. Since their arrival in

Mogadishu, the Elders have engaged in a self-validation exercise on their authentic origins and representativeness. The Principal signatories will meet later this week to appoint a Technical Selection Committee to manage the Constituent Assembly and other issues related to the provisional adoption of the draft Constitution and the selection of the new Parliament.

Outreach and national reconciliation

These processes are one of the pillars of the Roadmap which will continue beyond August 2012. The inclusion of areas newly recovered from Al-Shabaab insurgents remains a top priority in political outreach and reconciliation as the TFG continues to bring more territory under its control beyond Mogadishu. Through the allied militias, supported by an expanded African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the engagement of Ethiopia, the insurgents are retreating and fast losing control of swathes of territory. The new territories bring with them a new population under Government control. However, Al-Shabaab's retreat is creating new challenges. The retreating insurgents are spilling over into the relatively stable regional states of Puntland and Somaliland from South-Central Somalia and there is an increase in asymmetrical warfare behind AMISOM lines in Mogadishu and other recovered areas.

Therefore, as Al-Shabaab retreats, the TFG must be assisted to carry out the following functions: establish local administration, which would include previously elected leaders who were displaced by the insurgents; establish political and administrative authority at the local level; and, consolidate security through local security committees. The recovery of new territory must be accompanied with the provision of basic social services, including the Rule of Law and other infrastructure, as well as economic services, as part of the peace dividend.

Mister President,

Efforts to strengthen outreach and reconciliation with the regional and emerging administrations continue. In this regard, both the TFG and Somaliland have appointed committees through which the two entities will engage in dialogue on the future of Somalia, as called upon at the London Conference in February. The two stakeholders are committed to dialogue and have sought my good offices to keep the dialogue alive as we work out the modalities, including the agenda and timing.

Security

AMISOM, for its part, is now on a more secure and predictable financial footing following the adoption and implementation of Security Council Resolution 2036. This should enable the force to project itself with greater effectiveness in the three new sectors of its operations. I would like to express my appreciation to the international community for the generous contributions it continues to make to AMISOM. In particular, I would like to mention the support of the European Union which covers the allowances of AMISOM civilian and military personnel. The United States of America has made significant contributions of equipment and supplies to AMISOM. I would also like to commend the United Kingdom, Japan and other donors who have provided generous financial contributions to the Trust Fund in support of AMISOM. Since the maintenance of international peace and security is a collective responsibility, I encourage other Member States to join these commendable efforts to support AMISOM.

At a meeting of the Joint Security Committee (JSC) held in Mogadishu on 7 and 8 May, the participants agreed on more coordination of all Somali forces and stressed the importance of integrating TFG-allied forces under a unified command. They also agreed, among other things: on the importance of the National Security and Stabilization Plan (NSSP); of putting in place an exit strategy for AMISOM; and, the need for greater coordination and cooperation in dealing with disengaged former combatants. I thank the government of Japan for

the comprehensive assistance to build the TFG police force. The security sector development of the TFG also needs greater focus on developing the justice and corrections system to strengthen rule of law institutions. There is progress in the area of promoting human rights and resources are needed in this area, including the child protection and the protection of human rights defenders and journalists.

Humanitarian

Mister President,

The humanitarian situation remains fragile in Somalia. While a rapid scale-up in aid was effective in ending famine conditions in the country, the gains are very fragile and can easily be reversed without continued assistance. I am most concerned about southern Somalia, where 70 per cent of the 2.5 million people facing a crisis are located. Humanitarian actors face great challenges in trying to reach the most vulnerable, especially as conflict escalates in parts of the southern regions and displacement rates remain high. I remind all warring factions to respect humanitarian principles. I also note with deep concern that the Humanitarian Funding Appeal for Somalia is still largely underfunded. We owe it to the most vulnerable in Somalia to ensure that they have access to assistance and that their human rights are respected.

Piracy

Mister President,

In our continued efforts to address the problem of piracy, we held a Ministerial-level meeting in London on 12 May, at which the Djibouti Code of Conduct was addressed in accordance with Article 13 of the Code, which states that: 'within two years of the effective date of this Code of Conduct.....the Participants intend to consult, with the assistance of IMO, with the aim of arriving at a binding agreement'. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for today, 15 May, when the IMO convenes a Conference on Capacity Building to Counter Piracy off the Coast of

Somalia. Tomorrow, 16 May, another meeting of the Maritime Safety Committee will be held to address the issue of the deployment of 'arms on board' commercial vessels, which is a critical aspect of our efforts. Following the London Conference Communique a comprehensive strategy against piracy is emerging, aimed at addressing the challenges on both land and sea. However, the fundamental issue remains that of establishing the Rule of Law in Somalia.

Challenges

In our efforts to complete the implementation of the Roadmap, we face a number of challenges: tight timelines and the unavailability of resources. As much as we are optimistic of completing the priority tasks of the Roadmap on time, we still have much ground to cover. However, given the requisite resources, financial, logistic and human, we can accomplish much. The lack of funding for implementing the Roadmap in the remaining three months is of serious concern to all of us, including the TFG. The Constituent Assembly is almost grinding to a halt for lack of funding.

Mister President,

The threat posed to the peace process by spoiler behaviour is real. We must deal with these elements before they succeed in undermining the peace process. These spoilers, though, feel that the end of the transition will jeopardize their privileged positions and standing in Somalia. They are, hence, employing various methods to obstruct and reverse the gains made in the implementation of the Roadmap. On 1 May, in the spirit of collaboration, UNPOS, IGAD and AMISOM issued a warning to all potential spoilers that non-compliance with or active obstruction of the Roadmap will be followed by the naming and shaming of individuals. These could subsequently be referred to the IGAD Council of Ministers with our recommendations for the immediate imposition of specific measures and restrictions, such as regional travel bans on some individuals. The effectiveness of these measures will be enhanced if they are supported by the authority of the Security Council.

Conclusion

In the remaining months before the end of the transition, it is necessary to intensify public and civic education on the peace process by harmonizing messaging contents. UNPOS is producing television, radio, print and web messaging which targets civil society groups which will be part of the National Constituent Assembly. The Principals are also encouraged to engage with the public through relevant political messaging.

Mister President,

As Somalia faces the greatest opportunity to end the transition, after so much investment by the international community and well-wishing Somalis, we must complete the tasks at hand. We must provide timely logistical and financial support to enable us to complete the implementation of the Roadmap before August this year, as well as strengthen international cooperation and coordination.

It is in this regard, that we welcome the initiative of the Government of Turkey to partner with the United Nations in convening the Istanbul international Conference early next month. This Conference will add momentum and focus attention on the Roadmap to end the transition. It will also define elements of the post-August strategy and strengthen Somali ownership of the process in partnership with the regional and international stakeholders. We look forward to this Conference.

I thank you.