

## **Statement by SRSg Mahiga to the Joint Security Committee**

**Nairobi, 7 August 2010**

Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to welcome you to this meeting of the Joint Security Committee today. This is the first time that I am co-chairing a meeting of this Committee early in my tenure as SRSg. I bring to you and the TFI's as whole greetings and good wishes from the Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki Moon. He has instructed me to work in close partnership with the African Union, IGAD and the rest of the international community. I look forward to working with all of you to advance the Somali peace process. I would also like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Ambassador Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, for the dynamism with which he guided the work of the Committee.

At the outset, let me congratulate His Excellency President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and Honourable Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, for completing the task of reshuffling the Cabinet which brought in five new Ministers from the Ahlu Suna Wal Jamaa group. It took time and generated an atmosphere of suspense inside and outside Somalia, but it finally happened. The Ahlu Suna Wal Jamaa brings with it a significant consistency, territory and a sizable army. The TFG can use these assets to strengthen its outreach and influence in and outside Mogadishu especially in the South West.

The biggest challenge to the TFG is political. It is on how to reach out and connect with the population in order to win credibility, legitimacy and support from the grass root populations. Winning the hearts and minds is fundamental. The Somali people are in desperate needs of basic services such as water, health, education and employment starting with the TFG enclave in Mogadishu and in the other areas in the South West. The international community is ready to help the TFG fulfil this important part of governance.

We are mindful of the importance of political reconciliation in this peace process and the need for inclusiveness which has to be reflected in composition of the government. At the same time, the government has to exercise a judicious balance between political inclusiveness and technocratic performance by providing basic services to the population starting in the limited space of Mogadishu. In order to perform these functions, the government has to build core competencies around the Ministries as part of institution building tasks. His Excellency the President has already identified key Ministries which need to be built. The international community is ready to respond and support this important undertaking in strengthening the governance capacity of the TFG in those priority areas.

These political and administrative objectives ought to be pursued concurrently with a security and stabilization strategy with immediate medium and long term goals. This Joint Security Committee is the forum provided for by the Djibouti Agreement to address the Security needs in order to respond appropriately to the political agenda of the Transitional Federal Government. In this regard, we look forward to an early convening

of the High Level Political Committee which was also provided for in the Djibouti Agreement.

The Joint Security Committee was established to promote coordination and cooperation between the Somalis and the international community on all issues relating to security in Somalia. Since its formation, the Committee has played an important role in deliberating on key security issues. While we have made progress in trying to put in place security structures in Somalia, much more still needs to be done. There are daunting challenges before us. Integration of various militias loyal to the TFG, including those from the Ahlu Sunna wal Jamaah is one such challenges. Training is another. Whether it takes place in Somalia or outside, are issues we have to grapple with and resolve.

While a lot of work and effort is going into training both the Somali security forces and police, we still need mechanisms for the harmonization of that training, and also to ensure that those who are trained, are paid regularly so that they have an incentive to remain committed to their profession. In addition to pay, they have to be provided with other support, for instance, medical support and adequate equipment, like in any other proper police or military structure; this will boost their morale and enhance their loyalty to the TFG. We also have to look at, in the long term, working with the TFG to help it generate its own revenues so that it can take over the responsibility of paying salaries to its police and military personnel.

Above all, we need to see how we can put a credible security structure in place, which includes an effective system of command and control. Senior levels of command have to be supported by properly trained staff officers. We need well-trained platoon, company and battalion commanders, backed by good non-commissioned officers (NCOs), who are the backbone of any military force. On higher levels, we need to see how the Somali security forces can function closely with AMISOM. There is the issue of mentoring and joint command that also has to be addressed.

The military structure has to be supported by good intelligence and coordinated through a functioning Ministry of Defence. Similarly, the Ministries of National Security and Interior need to be supported. These various security Ministries also have to start to work together in a coherent fashion, with a clear and comprehensive strategy. In this context, the international community would like to see an early finalization of the National Security and Stabilization Plan and a National Security Strategy in a coherent and workable form. We recall that at the Jeddah meetings of the International Contact Group the TFG had presented some elements of the strategy, but there has not been a follow up in its implementation. The international community is also looking to the Somali Government to activate its forces and to extend its authority to all parts of Mogadishu, as a first step. The Somali people need to see that they have a government that can protect them including avoiding civilian casualties during combat operations. This is essential for the credibility of the TFG in the eyes of its own people.

In terms of the rule of law, capacity building of the police and the military are only component parts of such security sector developments. One can say that Somalia will

been able to develop its security sector when justice reaches the door of the people and TFG is able to provide the citizens with law and order, security of life, property, justice, corrections, and human rights. These are the essentials for the government not only to gain legitimacy but also the trust and confidence of its citizens as well the international community.

These undertakings call for institutional rebuilding of the security sector within an overall national strategy for the development of police, military justice, corrections and human rights. It is also important for the creation of conditions when humanitarian aid can safely reach the people who are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance including those in IDP camps and eventually to create conditions for the safe and dignified return of refugees from neighbouring countries.

The TFG's efforts to promote security must also fit in an overall vision for outreach and reconciliation. Security is critical to peace in Somalia, but as I have pointed out earlier, efforts to promote security must work in tandem with other efforts to restore peace and normalcy to Somalia through active political initiatives.

All these various initiatives call for a coordinated approach by all actors and stake holders. The Djibouti Agreement has already provided for this. The Djibouti process is predicated on simultaneous progress on peace, security, and reconstruction and development. All these three pillars are mutually supportive and we need to work towards greater coherence between them. The Djibouti framework also calls for greater coherence and coordination on security itself and that was the reason for establishing this Committee. We need to coordinate and consolidate all our various efforts under the umbrella of the Joint Security Committee and the Djibouti Agreement.

While I urge the Government of Somalia to do more, I take this opportunity to thank our partners and donors for their significant overall attention and contribution to the Somali peace process. However, I need to appeal to them to ensure that stipends to police and military personnel are paid regularly and on time. On our part in the UN system, we also need to rationalize our administrative systems to ensure efficiency and timeliness in disbursing the payments. I also request members of the international community to provide more equipment to the Somali security sector and to help build credible security structures in a country where the state has not functioned for nearly twenty years.

Today, as we are left with barely a year before the transition comes to an end in August 2011, it has become urgent that we map the way forward on security issues. Stabilizing the security situation in Somalia is imperative if the Government is to make progress in the implementation of the various transitional tasks. The insurgents have taken the initiative on the propaganda war on the issue of civilian casualties while they continue to terrorize the civilians, launching attacks on AMISOM from civilian position and are now taking the war beyond the borders of Somalia. At this juncture, let me pay tribute to the African Union for deploying AMISOM which has heroically protected the TFG as it presides over the Somalia Peace process. I also pay tribute to IGAD Heads of State and

Governments for their political commitment and leadership and persistence in facilitating a solution to the Somali problem.

Before I conclude, I need to add one personal note. Before coming to work on Somalia, I was heavily involved in New York on the issue of Protection of Civilians. This is an issue very close to my heart. I would like us to pay due attention to this subject and consider ways of put in place mechanisms that best serve to protect civilians caught up in the conflict, and not only in Somalia but also the victims of the recent terrorist attack in Kampala, Uganda. I therefore request the participants to stand and observe a minute of silence for the victims of the terrorist attack on July 11, in Kampala which the Al-Shabab claimed responsibility.

Once again, I thank you for coming and I look forward to fruitful discussions, which I am sure will further the cause of peace, security and stability in Somalia.

I thank you