

**STATEMENT BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR SOMALIA-CONFERENCE ON THE ROLE
OF THE AFRICAN UNION/AU MISSION IN SOMALIA (AMISOM) IN
SUPPORT OF THE IMPELMENTATION OF THE DJIBOUTI PEACE
PROCESS FOR SOMALIA
15 NOVEMBER 2010
BUJUMBURA-REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI**

Chairperson,

Your Excellency the President of Burundi,

Honourable Ministers,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me thank the African Union and AMISOM in particular for convening this important Conference. As well, our gratitude goes to the Government and the people of Burundi for hosting us here in Bujumbura. We are equally indebted to them for the commitment they have and continue to show in support of efforts to bring peace and stability to Somalia, under very difficult circumstances. At the very outset, I should on behalf of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon pay a special tribute to Burundian and Ugandan troops for their sacrifice and commitment to AMISOM.

As we are all agreed, the Djibouti Agreement remains the basis for achieving lasting peace in Somalia. The Agreement, based on the principles and spirit of the Transitional Federal Charter, sought to advance the process of political outreach and reconciliation among Somali groups. It has enunciated a clear set of priorities that the leadership of the Transitional Federal Institutions, with the support of the international community, has committed itself to carry out to ensure a successful transition, in order to return Somalia to normalcy, peace, reconciliation and the rebuilding of state institutions. Following the earlier political and security initiatives by IGAD, the African Union, has deployed AMISOM, to protect the Transitional Federal Institutions and working with the nascent TFG forces has tried to broaden the territorial space to permit the TFG to consolidate and to increase its legitimacy.

The United Nations is fully committed to supporting the peace making initiative of IGAD and African Union. For the first time, the Security Council decided to support regional peace initiatives through the assessed budget of the United Nations as well as the establishment of the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM, (UNSOA). It has mobilised bilateral and multilateral support to AMISOM and the TFG forces. Furthermore, the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) spearheads the peace process in Somalia on behalf of the international community in partnership with IGAD and the African Union. In that unity of purpose, we welcome this Conference organised by AMISOM to address critical issues in the remaining ten months of the transitional period of the current government.

Chairperson,

The United Nations, as a partner with the African Union, will continue to provide leadership and coordinate the efforts of the international community in Somalia. My office in particular, has set out a strategy that should guide the efforts of the international community, as well as support those of the leadership of the Transitional Federal Institutions. This strategy will be holistic in nature, but for purposes of our discussions here, and how we also envision working with other partners and AMISOM in particular will entail: supporting the TFIs to broaden their political base through outreach and reconciliation; supporting the TFIs to improve internal coherence and cohesion; facilitating the completion of the constitution making-process; facilitating cooperation between the TFG and regional authorities notably “Puntland” and “Somaliland”; contributing to building the capacity of the TFIs and of the Somali public administration at large; helping ensure that the end of the transitional period, as well as the election and installation of a constitutional government, take place in the best of conditions. We hope these transitional tasks will also help the Somali people at large to define the political contours of the next political dispensation after August 20th, 2011.

Chairperson,

In line with the Djibouti agreement, and consistent with UNPOS mandate, UNPOS will continue to encourage the TFG to reach out to the people of Somalia by proactively promoting inclusive intra-Somali dialogue. I believe that in partnership with the TFG, IGAD and the African Union with other partners of the peace process, we should be able to reach out to sections of armed opposition groups and persuade them to renounce violence and to join

the peace process. This outreach should also entail the promotion of dialogue with other groups at local levels, including religious leaders, traditional and clan elders, civil society, women groups, Diaspora and other Somali stakeholders, with a view to advancing national reconciliation. Using good offices to persuade “spoilers” to stop financing anti-peace activities and encouraging the full implementation of agreements reached by the TFG with groups and entities such as Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama’a and the Galkayo agreement with the Puntland administration.

The consultations around the draft constitution which are to begin soon, will provide the best opportunity for intra- Somali dialogue, political outreach, reconciliation and crafting the next political arrangements after August 2011. This process should begin simultaneous in Mogadishu, accessible parts of South Central, and the regional administrations and the various constituencies of the Diaspora.

The success of this process depends on the political will of all parties and the population at large to engage in a dialogue around the constitution consultations. It will also depend on the security umbrella provided by AMISOM, the TFG security organs and those of the regional administrations as appropriate. It is for this reason that AMISOM and the TFG forces must be expanded and enabled to secure Mogadishu soon to facilitate the implementation of the political strategy for Mogadishu and parts of South Central within the remaining timeframe of ending the transition.

Chairperson,

Whereas we are yet to reach agreement on increasing the AMISOM force strength, the imperative to do so soonest cannot be overemphasized. If we are to realistically evaluate the situation on the ground, and coupled with crucial issues we are yet to address in the time left before the end of transition, all indications are that the international community should seriously consider fully rallying behind the decisions of the regional leadership, as adopted on 15 October by the AU Peace and Security Council at its 245th meeting, that AMISOM troops should be increased.

Increased AMISOM force strength is certainly necessary to create space for the TFG forces to stabilize Somalia, especially the south central regions at the moment. A stable and secure environment in south central would enable the TFG to expand its territorial and administrative control in the country, as envisioned in the Djibouti Agreement. All efforts geared towards outreach

to those Somalis willing to renounce violence and join the peace process, as well as involvement of all Somali groups and people also require acceptable levels of security.

Chairperson,

The ability of AMISOM to assist the TFG forces stabilize the entire Somalia, not only Mogadishu, will also foster an environment where the authorities can provide the much needed humanitarian assistance to the population. More importantly, any reconstruction and the provision of basic services to the population require security. The TFG, under the Djibouti Agreement, and as an intrinsic responsibility, has to deliver on this. No peace process can be sustainable under debilitating levels of deprivation as is currently the case in Somalia.

Chairperson,

Let me conclude by stressing that experience with the Somali crisis has shown that delayed action or half measures to address the crisis comprehensively has led threats to international peace and security not only in Eastern Africa, but the whole world. The civil war has attracted international terrorism, the protracted collapse of law and order, coupled with lack of employment opportunities has given rise to piracy in the Indian Ocean and hostage taking. International criminality involving arms, drugs and human trafficking are thriving and spreading with far reaching consequence for the region and the world. The African Union through AMISOM has taken the lead in addressing these threats and challenges. AMISOM, therefore, deserves urgent and unequivocal additional support from the international community.

I thank you.