

Statement by

**Ambassador Augustine P. Mahiga, Special Representative of
the Secretary-General for Somalia**

to the

United Nations Security Council

New York, 14 January 2011

Mr President,

I thank the Security Council for the opportunity to introduce the Secretary-General's report on Somalia. I will focus my statement on the developments since the issuance of the report. I take this opportunity to welcome the Presidency of Bosnia during this period. I welcome and congratulate the new members of the Security Council: South Africa, India, Portugal, Germany and Colombia.

Allow me also to thank the Council for adopting Resolution 1964 (2010) on 22 December 2010, which approved the expansion of AMISOM. In this final leg of the transition, the gains of the Djibouti Agreement, modest as they may be, remain the basis for advancing the peace process and must be consolidated.

Mr. President,

Last week, I travelled to Mogadishu where I had useful discussions with President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed. We discussed the draft Roadmap prepared by the government for ending the transition which emphasises good governance, institution building and provision of basic services to ensure its legitimacy. The draft Roadmap is being circulated for comments and refinement. We look forward to its finalisation.

For the first time, Parliament has approved a budget, and a Plan of Action for the first 100 days for each of the eighteen Ministries has also been prepared. These are unprecedented initiatives by this government which no other previous government has ever undertaken. The new Cabinet is also unique in other ways. It is lean, technocratic in profile with distinguished professional qualifications and experience among its members.

During my discussion with President Sheikh Sharif on 4 January, he reaffirmed his commitment to the Djibouti Agreement, to move forward with the transition process and to endeavour to accomplish, as much as possible, the priority tasks within the given time frame. While recognizing the importance of the constitution-making process, President Sharif is of the view that the process may not be exhaustive and inclusive enough because of the access and security limitations, especially in the South-Central part of the country. The President is keen to ensure the participation of Somaliland, Puntland, other areas of stability and the Diaspora in the Constitution consultative process.

The President recognizes the need to end the transition and to engage in open and inclusive discussions with all stakeholders using the mechanism of the High Level Committee (HLC) provided for in the Djibouti Agreement, and in the newly reactivated Coordination and Monitoring Committee (CMC). UNPOS has led extensive consultations on the composition and functions of these mechanisms and on ways to ensure effective monitoring and support to the TFG. We have reached a consensus that the HLC will essentially be a vehicle for Somali-Somali dialogue with the participation, as appropriate, of some of the guarantors of the Djibouti Agreement. The CMC will be the platform for the TFG and all its partners to discuss implementation of the Djibouti Agreement and transition issues. The discussions in coming months will focus on developing a consensus with all stakeholders on the transition and on the new political arrangements after August 2011.

Mr. President,

The constitution-making process has reached the public consultation phase. In recognition of the critical role the Transitional Federal Parliament is expected to play in the public consultations, the Independent Federal Constitution Commission (IFCC) and members of the Parliamentary Constitution Committee (PCC) held a workshop in Nairobi from 14 to 16 December to build awareness of the members of the Parliament and to deliberate ways in which Parliament could support the consultations in the constitution-making process.

In the coming weeks, UNPOS will more proactively support the Transitional Federal Government and Institutions, groups and entities that are open to a constructive dialogue and peace. As laid down in UNPOS's political strategy, we will coordinate international efforts to help the Transitional Federal Institutions create a political platform to allow as many Somalis as possible to participate in the ongoing constitutional initiative. This would provide the country with a viable alternative to the current transition.

In the meantime, stabilizing the security situation in Mogadishu is the key to opening the way for the expansion of political space by the Government forces and AMISOM beyond the capital. This will help the Government to expand its out-reach and deliver services, as well as create the political space required for the engagement of other groups starting with Mogadishu and the adjacent Benadir region. In this regard, the recent upsurge of violence by insurgents to gain control of new territories and regain areas under the TFG's control is a matter of concern. The government is seeking the assistance of the United Nations and the international community in the provision of basic social services in the areas under its control and in other parts of the country. In this regard, the expeditious implementation of Resolution 1964 is essential in order to facilitate the implementation of the political strategy and to address the humanitarian challenges in Somalia.

In recognition of this goal, the United Nations is increasing its efforts to develop a coherent and integrated support to the Somali institutions, including through establishing a light footprint in some parts of Somalia. The last months saw regular interactions between UNPOS, UNSOA and UN Country Team at both senior and working level to ensure greater coherence and coordination.

As we move forward, it is essential that the conditions of service for UN personnel in Somalia be reviewed and improved in order to attract staff members to serve in this challenging and dangerous environment. I intend to take this matter up with the relevant bodies of the United Nations, and would welcome the support of Council members.

Mr President,

The increase in troop strength will provide AMISOM with much needed additional personnel to fully implement phase I of military operations and gain full control of Mogadishu. UNSOA is working closely with AMISOM to ensure that the logistics package for the additional 4000 troops is made available once the deployments begin.

However, as Council Members are aware, critical gaps remain in the UN support package to AMISOM. In particular, the reimbursement of Contingent-owned Equipment (COE) and self-sustainment costs are not covered under the logistical support package. It is essential for the success of the Mission that these costs are fully covered from contributions by Member States to the UN Trust Fund in support of AMISOM. In addition, AMISOM faces significant equipment shortfalls which limit its ability to achieve the mandated tasks. AU Member States may also require assistance in mobilizing the specialized enabling

units that are required for this Mission. While commending Member States for the bilateral support so far extended to the troop contributing countries, I appeal for more assistance to narrow the equipment shortfalls, as well as training and further support for the specialized enabling units.

I am also pleased to report that there is increased awareness by AMISOM of the need to protect civilians in conflict areas. AMISOM has also accepted responsibility to investigate civilian casualties caused by its troops.

Mr. President,

The Government faces the daunting task of building an army and other security organs in the middle of a conflict. There is an immediate need to mentor and establish a command and control structure by training a capable officer corps. The continued lack of a command structure affects the discipline and morale of the troops. Two countries in the region have made offers to train both commissioned and non-commissioned officers for Somalia. I appeal to our partners to support these offers. I thank all those who have contributed bilaterally and through the Trust Fund to support the Somali security institutions, particularly the police which will be key to developing the sector.

In addition, the issue of receiving and rehabilitating defectors requires immediate attention. I encourage action by the Transitional Federal Government to receive the growing number of fighters who are defecting from the ranks of the insurgents. As a matter of priority, we are initiating and seeking to coordinate an inter-agency response to the issue of defectors. I ask the international community to support these efforts to weaken the insurgents.

Mr. President,

The unfolding severe drought situation in Somalia is cause for serious concern as the short rains have failed in most parts of the country. Already, two million people are affected, and the number is expected to rise as water supplies dwindle, livestock is decimated and internal displacement escalates. To support the drought-affected population, the United Nations Country Team in Somalia released USD 4.5 million from the Common Humanitarian Fund for emergency response, focusing on water, sanitation, nutrition and health, and called on all parties to facilitate humanitarian access. A further USD 15 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has also been allocated for the drought response as the number of affected is likely to increase. WFP's food pipeline will be depleted in three months' time. It is facing an acute funding shortfall of USD 40 million.

Mr President,

In our efforts at UNPOS to address the issue of piracy, I held constructive discussions with the UN envoy on piracy, Mr. Jack Lang, whose report will be out soon. At UNPOS we have established a task force on Piracy to support international and regional efforts to combat piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia. However, UNPOS still needs additional capacity to enable it to play a meaningful role in this area. We shall seek to pursue a comprehensive counter-piracy approach through the pillars of deterrence, prosecution and root-causes on land. We intend to begin by reactivating the Kampala Framework of cooperation between the TFG, Puntland and Somaliland.

Finally, Mr. President, let me express my deep gratitude to the international community for its continued support for Somalia in its quest to achieve durable peace and stability.

Thank you.